

## **BURRA AND TRONDRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

A meeting of the above Community Council was held in the foyer of the Burra Public Hall on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at 6pm.

### **Present**

Mr. N. O'Rourke (Chairman)  
Mr. G. Laurenson  
Miss N. Fullerton  
Mrs. C. Smith  
Ms M. Garnier

### **Apologies**

Mr. R. Black  
Mr. B. Adamson  
Mr. M. Fullerton  
Cllr. C. Hughson  
Cllr. M. Lyall  
Cllr. D. Sandison

### **In Attendance**

Cllr. I. Scott  
Mrs. J. Adamson (Clerk)

### **1. Declaration of Interest – None**

### **2. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service**

The Chairman welcomed Alan Street to the meeting. Mr Street introduced himself as the Station Commander at Lerwick Fire Station. He works alongside Tony McLaughlin, who also covers Shetland, and Matt Mason, the Shetland Group Commander. He has recently joined the SFRS team on Shetland. He gave an overview of SFRS in Shetland. Incident activity remains low, and around half of their mobilisations have been classed as false alarms. There have been some instances of more serious incidents which have been brought to a successful conclusion. There have been 18 mobilisations in the last 12 months. This year they have arranged a number of training exercises which included a full emergency exercise at the airport involving police and coastguard. They have also had exercises at Sullom Voe and also Saxavord, with another planned at Tingwall airport.

One of the biggest challenges they have is recruitment and they have had some success with this recently. Scalloway now has a healthy crew of up to 10 firefighters and there are still vacancies. They would be grateful for help with getting the word out locally for recruitment. The minimum age is 18 and ideally should live within 8-10 minutes of the fire station.

The SFRS is still involved with the service delivery review programme which is a complete review of the way SFRS deliver services across Scotland. There is an ongoing consultation due to finish on 16th September and this can be found on the Scottish Fire & Rescue website. The area which is affected in Shetland is the future of Fetlar Fire Station as it has been dormant for many years. They are looking at the option of closing the station and it is under consultation just now and they are looking for public feedback.

He also pointed out that there is information on the website about fire prevention and home fire safety visits.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Street for taking the time to attend our meeting and he left at 6.20pm.

### 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were approved. They were proposed by Mhairi Garnier and seconded by Niall O'Rourke.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Active Travel Audit

No further information on this from Robina Barton.

(b) Burra Early Years – pick up/drop off sign

On the July minutes it was reported that this sign was in place but this particular sign has not yet been put up. The Clerk will chase this up.

(c) Road at Meal – white centre lines/arrows

Barrie Scobie, SIC Roads, had agreed that arrows would be painted on the road at both ends of this section between Meal and Speed's corner. This has not yet been done.

(d) BT Phone Box, Hamnavoe

Cllr. Scott had received a reply from BT. They say there is not an option to remove this phone box due to Ofcom's rules on universal service obligations and that this kiosk makes 100's of calls. The members did not think this this figure could be correct. BT also mentioned that Robert Laurenson had previously contacted them requesting it's removal/relocation and stated they had advised the community council of the approximate cost in March of this year to have it repositioned nearby. (The cost was in the region of £12,000-£20,000.) We have never been advised of this from BT and they obviously thought that Robert was writing on behalf of the Community Council when in fact he was writing on behalf of the Langsound Development Group.

BT are, however, removing the Scalloway kiosk as they say the mobile signal is good in this area so it meets the criteria for having it taken away.

The members pointed out that there is also a good mobile signal in the vicinity of the Hamnavoe phone box. The Clerk will email BT again.

**ACTION: Clerk**

(e) Multicourt lights at Hamnavoe School

The lights should now be working but this has not been checked.

(f) Bus Shelter – Burra Hall

The bus shelter has not yet been installed.

(g) Trondra bridge

The Clerk had contacted Barrie Scobie again on this and he replied saying he will get their design team to survey the tie in on the bridge and see what would be the best solution, but for reasons already mentioned, said it's never going to be a smooth transition.

(h) Bridge between West & East Burra – low dyke

This has still to be done. (Neil Hutcheson replied on 7<sup>th</sup> May stating that the rail at the bridge will take a bit longer given their contractor's workload.)

(i) Papal Stone

Val Turner had replied asking for photographs of the Papal Stone and also where we would like to see it placed. The Clerk will take photographs and send on to her.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **5. Burra & Trondra Community Council – Scheme of Arrangements**

Anne Cogle, SIC Governance & Law Service, had emailed a full and updated version of the Community Council Scheme of Arrangements which was adopted by the Council in March. The document included 6 Schedules, all of which form part of the overall Scheme. This new document covers all aspects, including the Community Council's Constitution and the Local Election Rules. This was formally adopted and signed by our Chairman.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(a) Community Council Elections 2025**

An email had been received from Anne Cogle, Governance & Law, with information on the Community Council Elections. The formal election period starts with the Notice of Election on 12<sup>th</sup> September and nominations can be validated from 15<sup>th</sup> September. The closing date for nominations is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm. The election timetable was also attached together with a copy of the nomination form. The Clerk had printed off copies and these were handed out to the members present. Further copies are available from the Clerk for anyone interested. Posters had also been printed off and these will be displayed on the noticeboard at the hall and other places.

### **(b) SCBF CGS Tier 2 Application – Burra History Group**

An application had been received from the above who are looking to remove the thatch at Easthouse croft house and replace with a temporary roof until further investigation by Historic Environment Scotland can ascertain whether maintaining a thatch roof in the long term will be possible. Other necessary repairs were also listed. The total cost of the project is £100,000. After discussion the members agreed to grant the full amount requested of £15,000.

**Action: Clerk**

### **(c) Community Council Core Funding**

The core funding totalling £11,430.53 had been received for 2025/26.

### **(d) ASCC meeting – change of date**

The ASCC meeting has been moved from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. It will be held in the Town Hall (former chamber) from 6-8pm.

### **(e) Viking Community Fund – Annual Review**

An email had been received from Eleanor Gear, SCBF Fund Manager, advising that SCBF have been reviewing the Viking Community Fund over the summer and have made some small changes. A summary document was attached giving details. Community councillors and clerks are offered the opportunity to attend a Zoom session on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September where questions can be asked about SCBF and the Viking Community Fund. (This had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.)

### **(f) Transport Scotland Community Drop-in Sessions**

Michael Duncan had sent on an email from Transport Scotland advising of in-person drop in sessions to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September in Islesburgh to have your say on the next Northern Isles Ferry Services contract commencing in 2028. A poster was attached which will go on the noticeboard.

## **6. AOCB**

### **Ragwort**

It had been reported to the Clerk that the new paths from the school had been swamped with ragwort this summer. An email has been sent to Neil Hutcheson advising of the problem.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The date of next meeting was set for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.