

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs J Fraser
Mrs S Deyell Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
Mrs L Johnson G Morrison
Ex Officio: Cllr L Peterson Cllr M Robinson
In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Mr G Morrison who has been co-opted following the recent resignation of one of our members.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mr J D Garrick, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes and report of the meeting held on 13 January 2025, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs J Fraser.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Community Council Scheme Review:** This review is ongoing. The Clerk had sent the comments made by this Community Council to Mr M Duncan who had kindly agreed to submit them to the online survey.

Road Matters: **Skeld Brig:** The damage to the barrier at the brig at Skeld was reported to Mr N Hutcheson who had replied saying that the Roads Inspector will check the condition of the barrier next time he is in the area and the repair will be ordered from their contractor.

Extra bus shelter near Chapelside, Reawick: Still no reply.

Children at Play sign at Skeld: It was reported that the Children at Play sign at Skeld near Grindibreck is no longer there. A replacement sign will be ordered from Art Machine and a parent in the area is willing to put it in place.

Shetland Community Benefit Scheme (SCBF) Community Grant Scheme (CGS): As this Community Council now has only £32,575 annually to disburse instead of £50,000, the members feel that they can only part fund some of the applications. CGS0016-01-T2 The CGS application from the Westside Sharks Swimming Club was again discussed and a decision was made to part fund the application by awarding £500 to their Club. CGS0023-02, CGS0024-02 & CGS0025 – Applications by 1st Aith Rainbows and 1st Aith Brownies were awarded £500 each and 1st Aith Guides application was part funded by awarding them £500.

Local Place Plans (LPP): On going.

Old Overhead Power Lines near Skeetlie Road, East Burrafirth: No reply.

Funding: Funding details have been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

Marine Restoration and Enhancement Action Plan: Ongoing.

R100 Broadband Evaluation: A message was received from the R100 Broadband Evaluation Team urging everyone to take part in their survey which is available online. The deadline for the survey is 3 March..

Community Councils – Archiving documents: The Clerk has not yet given any papers for archiving to Mr M Duncan but hopes to have some for him before the end of the financial year.

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS: A number of financial applications were received and considered and the following grants awarded:-

Community Development Fund

Aith Boating Club towards Guard boat, etc £1602.07

Aith & Bixter Toddlers for trips £400.00

Aith Community Assoc towards paint, etc for toilets £672.00

Bixter Hall for plastic storage boxes £157.96

Skeld Hall for clearing trolley & hanging refuse collector £167.97

MAINTENANCE GRANTS:

Core Funding

Maintenance grants @ £150.00 per group were also agreed for

Bixter, Skeld and Aith Halls

Skeld. Aith and Tresta Boating & Fishing Piers

Skeld and Aith Toilets 8 groups @ £150 each £1200.00

SIC PLANNING ADVICE NOTE: A Planning Advice Note 14 – Delivery of Biodiversity Enhancement on Local Developments was received from SIC Planning.

TUNNEL VISION ROADSHOW DATES 2025: An email was received from Ms Beatrice Wishart MSP and Alistair Carmichael MP saying that they will once again host a week of Tunnel Vision Roadshow events to report back and listen to community views on inter-island connectivity and tunnel proposals. They plan to return to Unst, Yell, Fetlar, Bressay and Brae. More details are to follow.

UHI SHETLAND: Ms Julie Graham, Engagement Officer at UHI Shetland sent a message requesting permission to attend one of our Community Council meetings taking place in the coming months, either in person or via Teams. She wishes to have the opportunity to hear what residents think about the current offering of UHI Shetland, what could be done to better engage with local communities, what are the current training needs and what expectations we may have for potential future delivery. The information would be used to support UHI Shetland's development plans going forward by better understanding the learning needs of people in our area and communities throughout Shetland. She will be invited to our March meeting.

ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR COMMUNITIES – HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT

SCOTLAND (NORTH REGION): An email was received from Ms Alison McCrossan the new Engagement Advisor (Community) within Healthcare Improvement Scotland. She covers the North Region which encompasses Argyll & Bute, Highland, Western Isles, Orkney, Shetland and Grampian.

WINTER POP-IN AT SKELD: Another winter pop-in at Skeld Hall is to be held on Thursday 13th February.

VISITOR LEVY: An email was received from Ms Kathryn Johnson in Uist regarding the proposed Visitor Levy. Consideration of this was deferred until our March meeting.

SAFER INTERNET DAY: Safer Internet Day is 11th February and details were received from Ms Sarah Johnston highlighting “It’s Everyone’s Job to Keep People Safe Online” as part of Safer Internet Day 2025.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR SMALL CLAIMANTS OF RURAL SUPPORT: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser explained that, in partnership with the Shetland Livestock Marketing Group, SAC Consulting have recently been awarded Community Led Local Development funding to provide fully funded agricultural advisory support to those claiming Rural Support Payment in 2025. This is in response to the new Whole Farm Plan requirements and the government’s removal of subsidised advisory support for Crofts and Small Farms last year. She asked Mrs S Deyell to add these details to this Community Council’s Facebook page. Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser will forward the details to Mrs S Deyell for inclusion.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING: Mrs S Deyell is to contact Mr Matt Mayhew again regarding defib training in this area.

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing information with the Community Council were received and noted.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Bixter Community Hall on Monday 10 March 2025 at 7.30pm.