

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 9 December 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs J Fraser  
Mrs S Deyell Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser  
Mr J D Garrick Mrs L Johnson  
Ex Officio: Cllr L Peterson  
In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from Ms D Nicolson, Cllr M Robinson, 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 11 November 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

**BUSINESS ARISING:** **Resignation of Member:** Our member, Ms D Nicolson, who has been unable to attend for some time, has decided to resign from the Community Council and had sent a message giving this information. A reply will be sent to her thanking her for her contribution to our Community Council during her time as a Community Councillor and wishing her all the best for the future. She is still willing to add a report from our meetings and any other information to her West Owre column in the Shetland Times.

This now leaves a vacancy and the members agreed to ask Mr George Morrison from Aith if he is willing to join us for the period until the next election in November 2025. At present, we do not have a member who is resident in Aith. If he is willing, the co-option form will be signed at our January meeting.

**CC Membership:** A message was received from Ms A Cogle, SIC Team Leader – Administration, attaching details of the present CC Membership and asking for corrections. The above information will be passed on to her.

**Community Council Scheme Review:** A message was received from Mr M Duncan giving a link to the Community Council Scheme Review link on the Council website. Phase 3 consultation will remain open until 5pm on Friday 31 January 2025. Some discussion took place and it will be brought up again at our January meeting.

**Road Matters:** **Road past Garderhouse:** Still no reply from Mr N Hutcheson regarding the next phase of barrier replacement.

**Extra bus shelter near Chapelside, Reawick:** No reply yet from either Mr N Hutcheson or Mr M Craigie.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) Community Grant Scheme (CGS):** A CGS application was received from the Westside Sharks Swimming Club. Further information will be requested and this application will be considered at our January meeting.

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

**Local Place Plans (LPP):** On going.

**SSEN Transmission Events:** SSEN had held an informative panel discussion on their North Shetland Reinforcement Project on 5 December.

**Community Resilience:** No further information.

**Wreaths for Memorials next year:** To be facilitated next year.

**OLD OVERHEAD POWER LINES NEAR SKEETLIE ROAD, EAST BURRRAFIRTH:** It was reported that old overhead power lines were lying alongside the road which leads to Skeetlie. These are a trip hazard and could also prove dangerous for animals. It was agreed to contact SSE regarding this problem and request that the lines be removed as soon as possible.

**SCOTTISH GOVT CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL MARINE PLAN 2 (NMP2):** A message was received from Mr M Duncan, ASCC, advising that the Scottish Government has opened their consultation on the NMP2 Planning Position Statement with a response deadline of 28 January 2025.

**CYCLING UK:** An email was received from Mr Andrew Campbell saying he is the Shetland Development Officer for Cycling UK's Connecting Communities project which aims to provide active travel support to individuals and groups. This involves providing cycle training to all ages and e bike loans and other activities like organising bike maintenance sessions, led rides and health walks, etc. He wishes to find out what is happening in each area to see if there is anything useful he may be able to offer. This information will be placed on our CC Facebook page.

**COUNCIL TAX CONSULTATION SURVEY:** A message was received from Ms S Johnson, Senior Revenues Officer with SIC, saying that the Council Tax Consultation Survey regarding the Second Home Supplement and Long Term Empty Levy, as discussed at the recent Association meeting, is now open. The increased levies for second homes and long term empty properties were introduced on 01/04/24 and are being charged to all dwellings that meet the criteria. The purpose of this survey is to gain views on specific circumstances where they may use discretionary powers to exclude properties from the increased charges. The results of the consultation will be presented to Councillors to make a policy decision. The members were encouraged to complete the survey.

**USE OF SKELD SCHOOL:** A discussion was held regarding community use for the presently mothballed Skeld School.

**SALARY SCALE:** A copy of the SIC Salary Scale with effect from 1 April 2024 was received from Mr M Duncan.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT:** A letter of Support was requested from the Bixter Hall Management Committee who are seeking funding from the Coastal Communities Fund to upgrade the existing wind turbine at the Bixter Hall. This would mean that the heating would be much more economical to run and would be very beneficial to all who use the hall. As Bixter is a central point in the area covered by this Community Council, we use the hall for the majority of our meetings and do find it quite cold in the winter time. A letter will be sent.

**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 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm.