

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 June 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs J Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	J Abernethy
	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser	J D Garrick
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, Mrs L Johnson, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker, Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer and PS A Patrick.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved, subject to the following amendment :- Page 2 Active travel settlement audit meeting in Skeld – Mrs S Deyell agreed to contact him suggesting that he sets up a stall at the Skeld Flower Show should read Mrs S Deyell agreed to contact him suggesting that he sets up a stall at the Skeld Plant Sale Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr J Abernethy.

BUSINESS ARISING: Community Council Scheme Review: The Phase 2 Consultation paper was again discussed and the following comments made. A copy of the survey will be completed by the Community Council and members were encouraged to submit ones individually.

1. SIC proposes to simplify funding to Community Councils by merging existing core funding and the Community Development Fund into one new grant scheme. - Comment: Members agreed that this is a good idea.
2. SIC proposes the new funding scheme formula will be based on a fixed allocation for core costs per Community Council, with the remainder of funding linked to population levels. Comment: Agreed that there should be a fixed allocation for core costs per Community Council. However, with regard to the remainder of funding being linked to population levels, we feel that a formula needs to be agreed to allow for the fact that the cost of living and provision of services are much higher in the areas the more distant from Lerwick that you live.
3. SIC proposes that any member of a Community Council that fails to attend any Community Council meeting throughout a period of 6 months may have their membership terminated by the Community Council. At the discretion of Community Councils, a period of leave of absence for Community Council members may be granted at any meeting of the Community Council. - Comment: Agreed with this suggestion.

4. At present, Community Council membership numbers have little correlation to current population levels. Shetland Islands Council proposes to introduce population bands that will guide the minimum and maximum number of Community Councillors each Community Council will have. - Comment: Keep status quo. The Community Council members try to encourage people from all the different districts of our area to stand for election to allow a fair geographical spread of members. It has been noted recently that it is not the smaller areas which have problems in attracting candidates for the CC elections but often the more densely populated ones.
5. The current Scheme does not have a set of Standing Orders, or similar document, that details how Community Council business is to be arranged and conducted. To provide a guide for meetings and support the Chair in running meetings, Shetland Islands Council proposes to introduce Community Council Standing Orders. - Comment: Agreed.
6. The existing Code of Conduct lacks detail in certain aspects and is in need of updating. Shetland Islands Council proposes to update the Community Council Code of Conduct. - Comment: Agreed.
7. Shetland Islands Council proposes to introduce a new Youth Membership category for young people aged between 12-16 years of age. Community Councils may appoint two youth members, on the basis that they will reside within the Community Council area. Youth members would not have voting rights. - Comment: In principle we would welcome young people to the Community Council but how do we overcome the issues around Child Protection Policies, PVG checks, etc?
8. At present it is possible for elected individuals to join their local Community Council as a full member with voting rights. However this can lead to those elected individuals regularly experiencing conflicts of interest during Community Council meetings. Shetland Islands Council proposes that any individual who is elected to serve on the Shetland Islands Council, or the Scottish or UK or Youth Parliaments shall be ineligible to stand for election or to be co-opted as a voting member of a Community Council, but will be an ex-officio member. Ex-officio members are those members of a Community Council by virtue of holding another public office. This means they will still be able to attend and participate in Community Council meetings but do not have voting rights. - Comment: We do not have a problem with this.
9. It is good practise to periodically change the Chair of an organisation. Shetland Islands Council proposes that a Community Council Chair can serve a maximum of four consecutive years. On serving as Chair for the maximum period, the individual in post must step down and cannot return to the same office for a minimum period of two years. In exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Community Council, the Chair may be considered to serve beyond the maximum period of four years. Such exceptional circumstances would require a unanimous decision being passed by the Community Council voting members. - Comment: Members and clerk do not agree with this. Continuity would be lost and people considering standing for election may be discouraged from doing so if they feel they may have to take a leading role. We feel that this already happens as, at the end of a term the Chairman and Vice Chairman stand down and at the first meeting of the newly appointed Community Council, a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the new term are elected.

These comments will be sent. The Chairman reminded the members to complete individual surveys.

Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse: The Chairman reported that good progress is being made at this area.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: Contractor not yet on site.

Creating passing places: No further information about extra passing places.

'SLOW' markings on road near Cake Fridge: Hope this will be provided soon.

Signs in Aith indicating passing places: No further information on this.

Gritting of the road network: No decision yet taken.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) and Viking Community Fund: A Community Liaison Group meeting is to be held on 11 June. The Chairman and Mr J D Garrick hope to attend.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: The final meeting of this Group was held on 21 May. The details were finalised and it was agreed to split the sum remaining from the admin costs received as follows:-

Mrs S Deyell and Mrs L Fraser - £250.00 each for the extra work they did Sandness & Walls and this Community Council - £465.12 each.

Everyone agreed that, although it had been a lot of work, it had been a very worthwhile project as a number of community groups had benefitted from it and that they would be willing to do another big project in future if finance becomes available. Mrs R Fraser, Community Development and Involvement Worker had done a great job in leading the Community Councils through the minefield of forms, etc which was required. Grateful thanks to her for that.

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

Active Travel: Active travel settlement audit meeting in Skeld - Mr A Hunter, Transport Policy and Projects Assistant at Transport Planning/ZetTrans had been unable to attend the recent Plant Sale & Teas at the Skeld Hall.

Bench: Following the message sent to SSE Renewables thanking them for providing the bench a reply was received from Ms Pauline McGinty saying they are pleased that the bench is being used in a lovely spot where people can sit and enjoy the view and that she will pay it a visit next time she is near.

Da Voar Redd Up: No applications were received from groups who took part in Da Redd Up

Skeld School: Although it is too late for Skeld School, it is hoped that the need to consult with the Community Council for the area when the proposed mothballing of a school is to take place can be discussed at an Association meeting soon.

Community Development Fund – 2024/25: An application for the Community Development Fund Distribution grant has been submitted.

Remembering Together Project: The media had given details of the plaque presented to the SIC.

CC Core Funding: The SIC Core grant has been paid into the Community Council's bank account.

Association: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser volunteered to represent this Community Council at the Association meeting on 11 June.

Local Place Plans: The Clerk will register this Community Council with the Local Place Plans website.

RNID: A message was received from Ms Lisa Stewart, Development Manager for RNID – National Hearing Loss Charity within Shetland. They are providing a service on the Islands which is volunteer led and provides hearing checks for non hearing aid users, hearing aid maintenance/batteries for NHS hearing aids and information. They are looking for volunteers to help to provide the service.

Skeld Camping Bod: An enquiry will be sent to Shetland Amenity Trust asking whether any progress has been made at Skeld as to the future of the Skeld Camping Bod.

SAFETY OF LITHIUM ION BATTERIES AND E-BIKES AND SCOOTERS: A message was received from Mr R Bailey, a researcher for Lord Foster asking for support for their campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bikes and e-scooters) and their disposal.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Rankin Lounge at Aith on Monday 8 July 2024 at 7.30pm.