

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 128 961 2649

Present:	J Priest	Mrs S Deyell	M Bennett
	G Morrison	J D Garrick	A Johnston
Ex officio:	Cllr C Hughson	Cllr T Smith	Cllr S Coutts
In attendance:	PC J Henderson		
	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk		

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a roll call so that everyone knew who was there no matter in which order they signed in.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Ms D Nicolson, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES & HEADLINES: The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr A Johnston.

POLICE: The Chairman welcomed PC Jamie Henderson to the meeting and said that we appreciated his attendance.

PC J Henderson gave details of the most recent Police Report. He said that now that summer is approaching they are carrying out speed checks, including some in this area. They are also targeting motorcycles as the number of them on the road increases at this time of year.

He also said that people should be aware of the scams presently on the go.

Mr J D Garrick said there had recently been details of various cars going around Shetland with residents were being urged to sell old farm equipment, etc

PC J Henderson explained that the firm, based in England, is legitimate. They travel to this area each year so their trip here this year was classed as essential trade and they were allowed to travel by Northlink. However, he believes that they have now left the islands.

The Chairman thanked PC Henderson for his time. PC Henderson then left.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Coronavirus:** The roll out of the vaccines is progressing with many people having received their second vaccination.

Broadband: No further developments.

Mobile phone coverage: Nothing further to report.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** The Chairman asked whether there is any word of a starting date. He hoped some of the work will be done over the summer while the school bus is not travelling daily.

Mr A Johnston said he had spoken recently to Mr N Hutcheson who thought that work could possibly start around the end of May. Part of the scheme has to go out to contract and some of it is being carried out by the Roads Dept.

The Chairman thanked him for the update.

Roads Reports: The Roads Reports have been received each week and circulated to the members.

Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction: Nothing further to report.

Sign on Parkhall/Skeld road: 'Single track road Use passing places to permit overtaking' signs have been provided near Parkhall and at the junction leading to Gruting.

Viking Energy Wind Farm: Another Joint Liaison Group meeting is to be held on 20 April. An advert had been placed in the Shetland Times asking for questions to be sent to the Community Council but none had been received.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): The Chairman and Clerk had attended a further Zoom meeting on 10 March.

The first application to this Fund for this area was received for consideration. It was discussed and approved, proposed by Mr M Bennett, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

The members agreed that Mrs S Deyell will include details of this scheme on the Community Council Facebook page to encourage applications. It is provided on a first come first served basis but a suggestion was made that applications could be sought by a certain date and these could then be judged on their merit.

The Chairman asked about the timescale from when an application is lodged till the grant is received. Mr J D Garrick will check at the next meeting.

Update on grants: **Investing in Communities Fund:** The Clerk had contacted the Vice Chairman of Sandness & Walls Community Council who had agreed that consideration should be given to a bidding round. Mrs R Fraser will be asked to organise a WebEx meeting of the Invest in the West Group to discuss if and how a virtual event could be held. The Clerk will contact her.

Community Development Grant – Distribution 20/21: Letters of thanks for their grants were received from Aith Church and Walls Brownies.

Community Development Fund – Distribution 21/22: An email was received from Mr M Duncan giving details of the Community Development grants for 21/22. He states that the bidding rounds are Round 1 – 30 April, Round 2 – 28 May, Round 3 – 25 June. It was agreed to apply for a Distribution grant to help some of the groups in this area. The Clerk will discuss this with Mrs R Fraser and hopes to have an application lodged by 30 April.

Community Development Fund – Project: A £1,000 grant is also available for a project. Mrs S Deyell had received information about a project which had been suggested to her and further enquiries will have to be made. It is hoped that the application will be ready for submission for Round 2.

Supporting Communities Fund: An email was received from the Scottish Government Housing & Regeneration Research inviting us to take part in a follow-up survey. It is entirely voluntary and is in addition to the monitoring report we have already submitted.

The members agreed that, as one report has already been sent, that should be sufficient.

Community Recovery Fund: Mrs S Deyell reported that this Fund is working well with Voluntary Action Shetland.

Financial Spreadsheet: The spreadsheet was circulated and showed how the finance for the year 20/21 has been spent.

Bin at Burn of Lunklet: A double bin has been provided and it is being well used.

Funding: Various information received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

Association: Ms D Nicolson and Mr J D Garrick had represented this Community Council at the Association meeting on 9 March.

Outdoor access had been discussed and various ideas to educate the public with regard to visiting the countryside, especially at this time of year, had been discussed.

An email was received from Mr M Duncan with an update of decisions.

Community Council by-elections. Dates published on the SIC website.

Community Council Constitution – ASCC agreed proposed changes to the Community Council constitution template. Ms Anne Cogle to write to all Community Councils to seek formal agreement of the changes.

Questions for SIC Roads Service – Officials from SIC Roads Service to be invited to attend and present at next Association meeting on 8 June. Community Councils invited to submit questions by no later than Monday 10 May.

Community Council grant form - ASCC approved a Community Council grant form. To comply with Data Protection requirements and ensure standard practise across Shetland it is recommended that all Community Councils use this new grant form and procedure w.e.f. 1 April 2021. Comments on form or flowchart by no later than 9am Wednesday 31 March 2021.

As the email was received after our March meeting, the Clerk had sent a message to Mr M Duncan saying that this matter would be discussed at this meeting and that it could not be implemented at 31 March. The members did not agree that there is a need for standard practise across Shetland as each area is very individual. They also felt that the form was overcomplicated, especially considering that most of our requests are for smaller amounts. They agreed that the form we use at present is best suited to the groups we work with. However, our form will be refreshed to make sure that we can follow the public pound and we will add the Privacy Statement we received with the proposed form. This information will be forwarded to Mr M Duncan.

Clousta and Culswick phone boxes: No further details of how these items are progressing. Interest has been expressed in the Bixter phone box.

Orion Project: No further information regarding this.

Temporary Change in Planning: An update was received saying temporary changes extended to 26 April.

Update on Active Travel: An update was received from Ms Robina Barton.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION: A message was received from Ms Anne Cogle, Team Leader – Administration, regarding changes to the Community Council Constitution. She attached a copy of the Constitution with proposed amendments. The Association of Shetland Community Council agreed the proposed amendments and further agreed that the proposals be circulated to the Community Councils for consultation and agreement and noted that any comments or representations received from Community Councils will be taken into account when the report is presented to the Council on 16 June for approval.

After consideration, agreement to the changes were approved - Proposed by Mrs S Deyell, Seconded by Mr J D Garrick. Ms Anne Cogle will be informed.

CO-OPTION FORMS: A message was received from Mr M Duncan with co-option forms attached.

HJALTLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION: Hjalmland Housing Association had held a consultation which was open until 9 April asking for views on a number of proposed amendments to their Allocation Policy. None of the members had taken part.

DA VOAR REDD UP: A message was received from Ms Catrina Carter at Shetland Amenity Trust saying that this year they have decided to work in collaboration with the Marine Conservation Society with regard to Da Voar Redd Up. In order to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission there have been a number of changes to how the event is run. The focus will be on household groups cleaning beaches and coastline areas. Roadside redd ups are still part of this event but don't need registration. The event will run from 24 April – 30 April. The groups will be limited to households only and due to outsourcing the registration process Amenity Trust cannot provide the usual registration data.

A note was received from Mr M Duncan reminding us that Community Councils cannot make payments/donations to individuals or households, even if participating in Da Redd Up.

EASING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ON ISLANDS: An email was received from the Scottish Office regarding the easing of Covid-19 restrictions on islands. Although the email was dated 22 March, the response was required by 26 March and we had missed the deadline.

OPENING UP FOR TOURISM: A message was received from Mr M Duncan saying he had received a request from Mr Steve Mathieson, VisitScotland seeking responses from the Community Council with regard to easing restrictions re tourism and the general attitude of our community re receiving visitors again from within Shetland and then from Scotland, the UK and further afield.

Some felt it was too much of a risk to allow tourists in while others thought that there was as much risk of people travelling from Shetland and bringing back the virus.

A reply will be sent saying that members' views have remained fairly consistent since the last request for our thoughts and we believe that they reflect the views of our community. Whilst there is an awareness of the on-going implications of restrictions on travel outwith the islands, there is also a significant feeling that safety should be paramount with concern expressed over the opening up of Shetland to visitors at this time.

CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGNS: A request was received for 4 safety signs for positions along the road between Garths and Stiva, Aith reading 'Caution Drive slowly, Children at Play'. This request was granted – Proposed by Mr M Bennett, seconded by Mrs S Deyell. The Clerk will contact Art Machine to see how much it will cost.

SCAMBUSTER SESSION: A message was received from Mrs Sarah Johnston, Shetland Public Protection Committee offering to attend one of our meetings to present a Scambusters Session.

The members agreed that this may be helpful and a reply will be sent inviting her to one of our meetings.

PROTECTING ADULTS FROM HARM: A further email was received from Mrs Sarah Johnston suggesting that we view the video:- <https://www.safershetland.com/adult-protection> and also share it widely on social media platforms.

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER: An email was received from Mr M Duncan with information from the Council's Team Leader – Community Development, Ms June Porter.

She states that communities across Scotland can now make use of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act which aims to empower communities by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services and making it easier for them to own and manage land and buildings. Participation is at the heart of the Act, in enabling communities to get involved and have more influence over the services and decisions that affect their lives. Community Planning & Development have teamed up with SCDC (Scottish Community Development Centre) and DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) to offer free information sessions on two specific parts of the Act – Participation Requests and Asset Transfers. Further information to be received.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARE POLICY REVIEW CONSULTATION: An email was received from Ms Robina Barton, Transport Policy & Projects Officer, saying that the response deadline is 5 May.

A public consultation is on the ZetTrans website <https://www.zettrans.org.uk/about/consultations/>.

NEXT MEETING: The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 17 May 2021 (a week later than normal) at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm