

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 2ND SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.00 pm
at Whalsay Heritage Centre

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES
Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	Cllr Caroline Watts (CW)
Cllr William Polson (WP) –Vice Chair	Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)
Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)	Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH) - TEAMS	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
	Neil Hutchinson – SIC Roads
	Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)

MINUTE TAKER: Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

WELCOME: JL chaired meeting and welcomed all.

APOLOGIES: Apologies noted

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: JL asked if all were happy with minutes. JL approved; WP seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

Current account was shared with members by clerk. Clerk confirmed receipt of grant funding

ACTIONS: Ongoing

1. DOG FOULING – HOULL

All discussed that the dog waste dispensers and additional signage have now been purchased and are currently in the process of being installed at Skaw and Houll.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

2. SYMBISTER PIER

Members discussed about fixing Pier Road, the resurfacing of Pier Road to be referred to the Roads Department for further action. JL also gave everyone the new Small Ports Assistant schedule and asked the clerk to update the group about the CCTV installation at the pier.

- Proposed Works for Pier and Condition:

All members discussed the worsening condition of the site and shared concerns about safety. They agreed urgent action is needed and asked the clerk to raise the issue with Shetland Amenity/Hazel Sutherland stressing the need for action and regular monitoring.

Action: Clerk to follow up

3. Waiting Room and Toilets

RTH updated WCC that SIC was exploring options and would revert back

Actions: Ongoing

4. Fire Hydrant at New Park

Clerk updated members about the work needed by both Scottish Waters and Ambulance Services and awaiting feedback.

Actions: Clerk asked to follow up.

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5. FERRIES

- *Computer Issues with Booking System*

RTH updated members that the new system would hopefully be implemented by next summer.

Actions: Ongoing

Parking Issues During Dry Dock Period

Ongoing no update

Actions: Clerk to follow up

- *Wi-Fi Connectivity at Terminals*

RTH advised members to escalate the unresolved Wi-Fi issue to higher authorities. Members noted local support was ineffective. The Clerk reported that a formal complaint had been submitted to BT and a reply was pending.

Actions: Ongoing

- **Ferry Hires and Festive Timetables**

Members agreed there is a clear need to allow more community hires and to add more ferry journeys during the Festive Season. They said this would better meet the community's needs, help people get around more easily, and encourage everyone to take part in community activities. The group stressed how important it is to adjust services to what people actually need, so local residents are well-served and considered in all planning. All agreed to put forward request for more ferry trips.

Actions: Clerk to follow up

6. POLICE MATTERS

No update

7. ROADS, FENCE AT DUMP, STREETLIGHTS CYCLE & WALKING PATHS

Clerk updated member on progress with bus shelter. MH asked for thank you letter to send to Yvonne Anderson in appreciation. All discussed need for pier resurfacing and asked clerk to follow up

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

8. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

ACTIONS: Ongoing

9. DENTIST

The need to continue with request for updates was discussed

ACTIONS: ongoing

10. MAP/NEWSLETTER

Clerk shared extension for project was until 12th Jan to complete

ACTION Ongoing

11. SKIPS

All discussed skip for end of Sept

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

12. HARSDALE RENOVATION

Discussion about the progress of works and asked clerk for updates on internals

ACTIONS: Ongoing

13. HERITAGE SIGN

Clerk updated awaiting reply from SIC

ACTIONS: Ongoing

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14. Chimney replacement

Local residents recently contacted WCC to express their concerns and regarding the proposed removal of chimneys in the area. Members of the council engaged in an in-depth discussion about the matter; it was agreed that a review be made. RTH was tasked with gathering further information and clarifying any uncertainties and will report back to the council with updates and recommendations on possible next steps at a future meeting.

15. New Member request

All agreed to Richard Hutchinson joining community council and suggested attendance at next meet. All discussed the up and coming elections and the need for more members

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

JL Thanked all for attending and hopes that issues discussed can be raised with appropriate parties to achieve a more effective and efficient outcomes.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 14th October 2025 @ 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.