

# Fetlar Community Council

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL**  
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)  
**On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 AT 7.45 pm**  
**(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)**

## **PRESENT**

James Rendall, Chair  
Lucy Cummings  
James Smyth  
Mike Fogarty

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Juliet Bellis  
Robert Thompson

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

## **Apologies**

Frances Browne SIC  
Michael Duncan SIC

## **1. Minutes of the previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> of August were circulated.  
Proposed by Lucy seconded by James S and approved.

## **2. Declarations of interest**

James S Declared an Interest in the Community Development Fund  
Juliet Declared an Interest in the Community Development Fund.

## **3. Ongoing Business**

### **3.1 Islands with Small Populations**

Juliet recently attended the in person meeting of the Islands with Small Populations. She shared the list of attenders from the small islands but also the senior management from SIC and other agencies.

Maggie Sandison Chief Executive SIC presented a report on the SIC 5 Year Strategy. She then outlined the process to create the next Corporate Plan with a key theme of Resilience.

The meeting then split into workgroup discussions.

The workgroups came up with similar conclusions, 'Action not Words'.

Maggie Sandison is looking to meet with communities.

Chris will liaise on dates taking into account the Ferry Crew rotas.

Juliet was able to spend some time talking to Neil Grant. He assured that SIC was taking the housing situation seriously. SIC has already given up one of the Stakkafletts houses, no longer needed by ferry crews. The flat not being occupied by a resident could be problematic.

Juliet also met Brian Chittick (NHS). They discussed the potential for an emergency medical supply at the surgery with two keyholders from the First Responders. The NHS is open to the idea of letting the Nurses House. He informed that a new head of Community Nursing will be appointed soon.

There was an interesting presentation from Papa Westry.

Robert added that Maggie Sandison and other SIC leadership will be visiting all communities. He noted that the housing department is struggling with senior leadership absence,

### **3.1 Fetlar Handyman post.**

Chris has contacted Carl Symons again with no response. It was agreed that Chris should contact Roy to ask if he is happy for the community handyman role to be advertised.

### **3.2 SIC Housing**

Lucy informed that potential staff were still not being informed about availability.

### **3.3 Ferry Timetables**

SIC have introduced the new timetable with crews working two weeks on two weeks off. This had added extra sailings including Saturdays like a normal weekday.

Mike commented that it was a very positive timetable including carrying forward the 9.40 am into the winter timetable.

James R informed that there is now only one timetable.

James R that there have been teething problems tying up in Cullivoe. And that there may be a problem with the accumulation of lieu time prior to the new timetable.

Robert informed that a business case was being created for a new boat.

Juliet noted that large loads to Unst were now having to use private charters.

### **3.4 NHS**

Lucy informed that she had still not received a reply from the NHS with respect to the issues/complaint raised previously. But would try again as these are valid concerns for the community.

### **3.5 Inter Island Transport Connectivity**

It was noted that SIC are going to use Yell Sound to model issues related to the development of fixed links.

Robert affirmed that SIC is still moving on Ferry Replacements because of the lead time with tunnels.

### **3.6 Brough Lodge**

Chris had received a detailed outline of the owner's intentions.

Robert felt that it was all moving forward at a pedestrian speed. He noted that they were looking at accommodation blocks.

He also noted that they would need water and power.

Lucy expressed concern about the potential impacts on existing residents, including the impact on the road during construction. And felt that there would need to be a guarantee of reinstatement.

James S asked have the owners said what they intend to do?

Robert said it was likely to be residential.

There was then discussion about the need to think about additional housing on Fetlar for a potential workforce for the development but also for future ferry crews when the fixed links arrive. And that the time to think about that was now.

### **3.7 Roads Speeds**

No further progress.

## **4. Finance and Administration**

### **4.1 Finance Report**

Chris presented the inspected accounts.

The account balance was £1,109 in the current account and £4,004.36 in a savings account.

### **4.2 Clerk Invoice**

The clerk's salary invoice was approved.

### **4.3 Community Development Fund**

Fetlar Kirk had requested an additional £440 to install a new fuseboard to enable the new heating system as previously agreed.

This was approved.

Fetlar Museum Trust requested an additional £400 to enable digital recordings of Fetlar voices to be made available at the Interpretive Centre.

This was approved.

There was some discussion about the potential purchase of a bench with the remaining funds or relocating an existing bench.

No decision was made.

## **5. AOCB**

### **5.1 Community Council Elections**

Chris informed that to date only one person had been nominated .

### **5.2 Viking Genes**

It was agreed that Chris would write a letter of support for the Viking Genes Project.

### **5.2 Offshore Windfarm Proposals**

Lucy pointed out that the Offshore Windfarm proposals had serious implications and that the benefits wouldn't be coming to Shetland.

### **5.3 Roadworks on the way to Lerwick**

Mike expressed concern about the quality of the roads after the cable laying.

James R believes that they will be reinstated when the work is complete.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday the 20th of October at 7.45.