

This minute is UNAPPROVED until adopted at the next meeting.

Skerries Community Council (SCC)
Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm on Friday, 26th September 2025
In Skerries Community Hall

Present :

Paul James (Chair)
Marina Anderson
Janice Hughson
Marina Tait
Dianne Hughson
Frances Anderson

In attendance:

Lynsey Hall - Community Support Worker - joined through Teams link
Alistair Carmichael - MP
Lucy James - Substitute clerk, acting in lieu of Violet McQuade
Bryan Mulholland - Police Sergeant for Police Scotland - joined through Teams
Robert Thompson - Councillor for the North Isles - joined through Teams

1) Apologies

Kia James, Jilly Ash, Michael Duncan, and Violet McQuade.

Paul welcomes everyone to the meeting.

2) Declaration of Interest to any Agenda Item

Chairperson asks for any declarations of interest - interrupted by small Teams mishap - there are no declarations made.

3) Minutes of the last Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd August 2025 are approved. Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson

Lynsey Hall, Robert Thompson, Bryan Mulholland joined via Teams at 14.08pm.

4) Matters Arising

4.1 School Building

Communication has been made, it is suggested that the Chairperson contacts Maggie Sandison to ask if she can expedite the process.

4.2 Maintenance Worker

Robert aware of discussions - offers to speak to Carl Symonds. Janice Hughson suggests it would be an opportunity to bring a young family to Skerries. Lynsey Hall advises that it would be

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an idea to trial with Fetlar. Suggests Skerries after this - again, notes about talking to Carl Symonds. Robert Thompson brings up allowing them to do external work as well. Chairperson suggests specifying the job role further, whilst Robert Thompson suggests a wider approach, allowing for further detailing down the line.

- 4.3 Ferry Operators on Dogs in Ferry Lounge
Marina Tait brings up the issues of the behaviour of the dog, whether they should be on seats. Allergies also mentioned. Chairperson will ask Andrew Inkster specifically about the Skerries Ferry for clarification.
- 4.4 Seven Cars Maximum on Ferry
Group is happy to agree that it was an error on behalf of the booking office - close this as an issue

Action: Contact environmental health agency as Robert has not heard back - Chairperson to send email. Friday 17th October for them to visit Skerries.

- 5) **Scheme of Establishment — for approval**
Chairperson asks for queries - none offered. Group happy to proceed and agree signature,
- 6) **Community Council Elections**
Chairperson asks for interested parties, Diane Hughson mentions about being an associate. Has asked Jilly Ash who didn't know about the election, the group agrees there were plenty of notices. Encourage more people to stand for the position, especially younger people.
Change meetings for Saturday or Sunday is proposed by Marina A, in order to encourage membership.
Lynsey H agrees to potentially joining online.
- 7) **Events in the Hall**
Brought up by Nikki previously. Chairperson asks if the council believes this is a matter for their involvement, group responds in negative. Thanks her for raising it, but agrees it is not a Community Council matter.

8) Risks

Has been reviewed by the Chairperson, who affirms there is no need for it to change - group in agreement.

9) Issues

Chairperson notes worth involving Scottish SeaFarms issue on register to be tracked. Visiting on the 9/10th. Robert Thompson notes an agreement between SSF and CE to do further work. Robert will check with the marine plant for updates.

10) Correspondence Received

Violet has circulated information. Financing of £3000 available for projects. Chairperson asks for Islands of Small Populations group feedback. Is told it was interesting, especially Jennifer Foley's talk. Suggestion to invite Foley to the island.

11) AOCB

In terms of development, Alistair Carmichael MP discusses broadband, mobiles phones, external and internal ferries, tunnels - interested in hearing about possibilities of fish and sea farms. Chairperson affirms fish farms, but notes the difficulties of accommodation. The importance of proper engagement is brought up by C - cites the offshore windfarm situation, and how accommodation has been found, suggests that it could be the same in Skerries. Dianne brings up fishermen being historically 'bullied' as a factor in the angle of approach. Alistair suggests SSF is not a small company, should have resource to finance auxiliaries. Emphasises the importance of it being a collaborative process, not something done to Skerries.

Dianne asks about community buyout, crofts. Chairperson speaks on the opportunity to buy the island, notes that planning would need to begin early. Went through risks and benefits of reclaiming control as a community. Needs to be led by all, including Council. Encouraged group to consider the idea and how it would affect them before deciding whether to organise a meeting to further the process.

Lynsey advises on the idea of buying the island: community development work for the islands- stage one

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community buyout from landowner, she has been invited to support. There is a precedent, but would have to be through a development group. Would have to show there would be plans for the asset- tourism, business, etc. Suggested getting in contact with Community Land Scotland to create a roadmap for the process.

The group agrees that it is an avenue worth exploring. Chairperson suggests having an informal conversation about it on a wider scale, before setting a formal meeting about funding etc. Robert suggests 'community right to buy', Lynsey seconds. Eigg, two islands Robert suggests to consult on the community right to buy. Funding available through Scottish Landowners to visit groups that have done this, Lynsey notes. Chairperson suggests creating a more stable structure to the plan. Paul Harrington mentioned as a contact of interest.

Bryan asks for concerns for the police, none raised.

Chairman asks for any queries - none raised other than the issue of wifi at the pier by Marina T, to which Chairperson mentions the SDG. The SSE is also mentioned as a potential solution.

Meeting is closed at 2:54pm.

12) Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting is due to be held at 2.00pm, on Friday 7th November 2025, in Skerries Community Hall.