

Draft minutes of the October 2025 S&WCC Meeting subject to approval at the next meeting)

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Draft minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7 pm at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)
F Macbeath (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
R Smith
J Laing
E Johnston

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), Sgt. Bryan Mulholland (Police Scotland)

1. Chair's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies:

M Duncan, J Haswell, C Venus, S Johnston, R Fraser, M Macgregor, J Puckey, Cllr L Peterson

3. Declarations of Interest

M Forrest declared an interest in item 14 (RVS Grant Application)

4. Police Report

4.1 Community Council Police Report

Sgt Bryan Mulholland attended the meeting and spoke briefly about the most recent Community Council Police Report.

4.2 Body Worn Video Cameras

He then went on to state that police officers are attending Community Council Meetings in order to make Members aware that police in Shetland have been issued with body worn video cameras. He described how they are an asset in presenting evidence in court.

(R Smith joined the meeting via Zoom)

4.3 Local Police Issues

Sgt Mulholland asked the Members if there are any issues of concern in the community. Traffic speeding through the village and the problem of cars parking on the pavement outside Stove Cottages were discussed.

The Chair thanked Sgt Mulholland for attending the meeting and for the information he provided.

(Sgt Mulholland left the meeting.)

5. Minutes from 2.9.25

The adoption of the minutes from 2nd September 2025 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Laing.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 16.1 of 9/25 Communal Black Bag Bins at Kirkidale, Walls

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received an email from Paula Nicolson stating that the bins would be cleaned.

Re: 16.2 of 9/25 Plastic Refuse on the Dale of Walls Beach

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received an email from the Amenity Trust stating that the Amenity Trust did not have staff available to clean up a beach. However, they have offered to ask local groups to include this area in next year's Voar Redd-up.

Re: 11.2 of 8/25 Repairs to the Trinkie in Walls

The Clerk stated that he had exchanged emails with Rachel Eunson and that she was pleased to hear that the Restorative Justice Department had been asked to carry out repairs to the Trinkie

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Re: 8.2 of 9/25 Suspected Illegal use of Herbicides

The Clerk stated that he had received an email from Mr N Hutcheson (SIC Roads Department) informing the Members that the individual responsible for spraying the Herbicides had been spoken to and directed not to carry out such activities in the future.

Re: 13 of 9/25 War Memorial Wreaths (as required)

The Clerk informed the Members that he had ordered and had delivered 3 wreaths; 1 for Foula, 1 for Sandness and 1 for Gruting. The Clerk was asked to order an additional wreath for West Burrafirth.

Action: The Clerk to order a War Memorial Wreath for the West Burrafirth Chapel.

Re: 16.3 of 9/25 Lighting at the Walls Bus Stop

The Chair informed Members that Cllr Liz Peterson has discussed the installation of a downlighter at the Walls Bus Stop with Mr N Hutcheson. Mr Hutcheson indicated that he hopes to get this work carried out before the end of October.

7. Housing

No matters were raised under this heading.

8. Roads

8.1 Drainage Ditch at Rear of New Road Houses

M Forrest described how a drainage ditch that had been dug at the time when the New Road houses had been built has now become blocked resulting in some of the gardens becoming flooded. M Forrest illustrated her report with photographs that she had taken at the rear of some of the properties affected. The Chair stated that he had been informed by Cllr Liz Peterson that she had discussed the problem with Mr N Hutcheson and that he is going to investigate the matter.

8.2 Abuse of a Private Individual's Wheelie Bins

M Forrest informed the Members that the resident at No.3 Kirkidale was regularly finding such items as dog waste and drinks tins deposited in her wheelie bins which are located adjacent to the road. M Forrest asked if it could be possible to request a dedicated dog waste bin for this location. J Laing suggested that perhaps a general waste bin for public use in

this area may be the best solution. The Clerk was asked to make this request.

Action: The Clerk to email Paula Nicolson to see how the problem can be addressed.

8.3 Damaged Cattle Grid at South End of Foula Road

R Smith described how the area surrounding the cattle grid at the Hame Toon on Foula is in urgent need of repair.

Action: The Clerk to email N Hutcheson to request repairs be carried out to this cattle grid.

8.4 A971 from The Murrister Quarry to Da Punds

The Chair informed Members that Cllr Liz Peterson has discussed the progress of the Business Case for the proposed improvements to the A971 between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds. This Business Case is due go to the SIC Committee Stage in December. The Chair pointed out that Radio Shetland had carried a report describing the current fiscal deficit facing Shetland Islands Council and expressed his opinion that it is going to become increasingly difficult to proceed with any capital projects for the foreseeable future. He went on to say that the current estimate for this work has now risen considerably as had been seen with all other recent large construction projects.

9. Association of Shetland Community Council Meeting (8.10.25)

The Chair stated that a relatively short agenda was before the ASCC members for Wednesday's meeting. He pointed out that defibrillators had been on the agenda but has had to be removed because the person who was going to speak on this subject is not available.

10. 2025 Community Council Elections

There was agreement that the 2025 Community Council Election is being well advertised. The Chair noted that, to date, only 2 applications for the Sandness and Walls Ward have been submitted.

11. Re: 12 of 8/25 Planning Consultation Ref: 2025/173/PPF (Repurposing Walls Bakery)

The Chair stated that although this Community Council had already discussed this application at the August meeting and had submitted a response to the consultation which stated that members would welcome any plans for additional

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accommodation in the Walls area but were also aware that there were concerns relating to possible parking issues. He told members that he was aware of several objections which had been submitted including from SIC Roads in relation to parking issues and road safety which the applicant would need to address. He also said that he was aware of the views of some members of the local Community who would like to see the ex-bakery premises renovated and put to good use. In conclusion, the Chair told members that the consultation response already submitted by S&WCC neither recommended approval or refusal of the planning application, but it was hoped that SIC planning officers could resolve any issues to the satisfaction of all parties.

Facebook Page for S&WCC

The Chair thanked E Johnston for all his work on the Facebook page to date. E Johnston stated that he regularly shares items with Cllr Liz Peterson and vice versa.

12. Financial Update (See Spreadsheet)

Members acknowledged receipt of the latest S&WCC accounts spreadsheet.

13. RVS Grant Application

(M Forrest declared an interest in this application and left the meeting)

After a brief discussion on this request which was towards the cost of a Christmas Lunch for those who regularly attend RVS meeting in the Sandness and Walls Area, the grant was unanimously approved.

Action: The Clerk to send a Cheque to the RVS.

(M Forrest returned to the meeting.)

14. Correspondence (Including emails)

Reference was made to the Changing Places Toilets Fund email from Michael Duncan.

15. AOCB

General Practitioner Vacancies

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Members were informed of an enquiry made by someone seeking work in Shetland as a GP. This person was informed that there are no vacancies. Given the continuing use of locums on the Westside, Members were surprised to hear this. The Clerk was asked to email Mr Brian Chittick to find out if that is the case and that Shetland Health Board are no longer seeking to recruit a GP for the Westside.

Action: The Clerk to email Mr Brian Chittick to find out if the NHS in Shetland are no longer seeking to recruit a GP for the Westside Practice.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 4th November.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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