

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 14 July 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
Mrs S Deyell Mrs J Fraser
J D Garrick
Ex Officio: Cllr M Robinson
In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Johnson, Mr G Morrison, Cllr L Peterson, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes and report of the meeting held on 9 June 2025, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr J D Garrick.

BUSINESS ARISING: Community Council Scheme of Establishment: Following a reminder from Mr M Duncan, the SIC Community Council Scheme Code of Conduct and Standing Orders were adopted and signed by the Chairman. Copies will now be sent to Mr Duncan.

Road Matters: Skeld Brig: No further information received.

Extra bus shelter near Chapelside, Reawick: Still no reply.

Children at Play sign at Skeld: Mrs J Fraser will attend to this.

Closure of road at Garderhouse: Safety barriers are being replaced at Garderhouse and the road will be closed from 8am on Monday 14 July until 5pm on Friday 25 July and from 8am on Monday 11 August until Friday 26 September 2025. Although the road closure is a great inconvenience to the residents and visitors to the area, the members are pleased that the barriers are to be replaced as they are presently in a dangerous condition. The SIC signage at Parkhall is unclear and the Roads Dept will be contacted to request that more understandable directions be placed at the junction at Parkhall as soon as possible.

Funding: Funding details have been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

R100 Broadband Evaluation: Ducting ongoing.

Association meeting: An update on the items discussed at the meeting was received from Mr M Duncan.

Viking Energy: The Viking Operational Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2025 was received and noted.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): CGS0040-02-CGS T2 Application:

Following further information, the members agreed to grant the full amount requested.

Letter of Support for Tingwall Agricultural Museum & Heritage Centre: Letter sent.

Post box at Tresta: Mr J D Garrick reported that the Post Box is now back in place.

SIC Burial Grounds Grass Cutting: A message was received from the SIC Burial Grounds Officer giving details of the grass cutting practices in the yards and also the trial of robotic mowers in specific locations. Members agreed that the robotic method may be suitable for use in the Sand graveyard and this suggestion will be passed on to the Dept.

Marine Restoration and Enhancement: A message was received from Ms Tanya Riley thanking this Community Council for our contribution to Guiding Marine Restoration and Enhancement in the Shetland Islands project.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: The following planning consultations were considered:-

2025/157/CONSUL: Proposed removal of the public payphone at Tresta by BT Group - No objections.

2025/158/CONSUL: Proposed removal of public payphone – various by BT Group - No objections.

The following planning application was considered –

2025/185/PPF: To demolish old ruin and construct new 1½ storey dwelling house with ASHP, post and wire boundary fence and associated landscaping and drainage works at Ominsgarth, Sandsound, Bixter by Mrs Joanna Smith. Welcomed.

CLOSURE OF DALES LEES: The Dales Lees road will be closed from 30 June for at least 10 weeks. This will prove very awkward, especially for the North Isles, and will also create more traffic travelling through Brae.

SECTORAL MARINE PLAN FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY: A consultation event is being held in Lerwick Town Hall on 17 July.

SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE: A message was received from Mr Matt Mason, Group Commander in Shetland, saying they are having a public consultation exercise for 12 weeks from the end of June.

A message was also received from Tony Mclaughlin, Station Commander, currently stationed in Lerwick, who is keen to connect with local groups to explore opportunities for partnership working and gain a better understanding of the priorities and aspirations within this community. He believes that strong local relationships are essential to effective collaboration and would welcome the opportunity to meet with us to learn more about our work and discuss how we might support each other going forward.

It was agreed to invite him to our September meeting.

OYSTERPLANTS AND JUNIOR RANGERS: An email was received from Ms Becca Jackson, Natural Heritage Officer for Shetland Amenity Trust (SAT), who currently runs the Shetland Junior Rangers Project that is all about getting kids outside while also learning about the conservation that occurs across Shetland. This project is to cover both cultural and natural conservation. She says that on 5 June, they planted Oysterplants (*Mertensia maritima*) with the Junior Rangers of Aith JH School along Aith beach in partnership with Species on the Edge. Before the activity SAT and Species on the Edge spoke to a few of the local residents to gain their verbal support.

The members agreed that it is always good to encourage the young people to take part in outdoor pursuits.

NICOLE SIM: An email was received from Mr M Duncan saying that Ms Nicole Sim has joined their team at Community Planning & Development and that she will be helping with various tasks across the service going forward – including Community Council business.

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing reminders and information with the Community Council were received and noted.

NEXT MEETING: As we have a recess in August the next meeting will be held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm.