

Draft minutes of the November 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 4th November 2025 at 7 pm at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)
M Forrest
M Macgregor
R Smith
J Puckey
J Laing
E Johnston

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chair's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present to the last meeting of this current Community Council.

2. Apologies:

M Duncan, J Haswell, C Venus, S Johnston, R Fraser, Cllr L Peterson, F Macbeath (Vice Chair)

3. Declarations of Interest

None were made at this time.

4. Police Report

The Clerk read an email that had been sent by Sgt Alexander Barry (Police Scotland) offering to deal with any police matters raised at the meeting.

5. Minutes from 7.10.25

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The adoption of the minutes from 7th October 2025 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by E Johnston.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 15 of 10/25 AOCB- General Practitioner Vacancies

The Clerk informed Members that he had not received a reply to the email he had sent Mr Chittick asking if the post of a GP for the Westside is still being advertised.

Action: The Clerk was asked to resend the email.

Re: 8.1 of 10/25 Drainage Ditch at Rear of New Road Houses

Members were informed that after the SIC Roads Department personnel had visited the site, they stated that the issue was not one that concerned their department. M Macgregor felt that the possible cause of the problem concerned a lack of adequate drainage nearer the top of the hill where a resident had cultivated the verges.

Action: The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Peterson to ask her to attempt to resolve the problem.

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

It was noted that the date indicated by Mr N Hutcheson of the Roads Department for the installation of the light at the Walls bus stop has passed without the work having been carried out. It was also noted that a covering for the ditch adjacent to the Forralea Houses has not been provided either. Both of these matters were described as public safety issues.

Action: The Clerk was asked to email Mr Hutcheson again on these matters.

Re: 8.3 of 10/25 Damaged Cattle Grid at South End of Foula Road

The Clerk stated that he had not received a response from Mr Hutcheson on this matter

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

7. Housing

No matters were raised under this heading.

8. Roads Papa Stour Cattle Grid

J Pucky described how the cattle grid adjacent to the Papa Stour School is in a dilapidated condition and needs to be repaired/replaced by spring 2026. She also stated that the wall beside the cattle grid has been damaged. She indicated that a Papa Stour resident has been tasked by the SIC to carry out basic repairs on the island when called on to do so. She felt that he would be capable of carrying out the necessary repairs to the wall.

Actions: 1- The Clerk to email the SIC Roads Department to request that remedial work be carried out on the cattle grid before spring 2026

2 – The Clerk make the Roads Department aware of the damage to the wall beside the cattle grid and request that the Papa Stour agent carry out the work.

9. Association of Shetland Community Council Meeting (8.10.25) - Chair's Report

The Chair stated that a speaker who had been scheduled to talk about defibrillators had been unable to attend. He went on to say that the main subject to be discussed was the proposed Stoura offshore wind farm on the east side of Shetland. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential impact on the local fishing industry.

10. 2025 Community Council Elections

It was noted that almost all Community Councils in Shetland had not attracted enough candidates to fill all the vacancies. The Chair made the point that it could be possible to co-opt people to fill those vacancies, and these co-opted members would have full voting rights.

11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund - CGS0052-01 – T1 CGS

The SCBF Grant application for £200 from the Westside Netball Club for equipment was unanimously approved.

Action: The Clerk to complete and submit the response form for this grant application.

12. Facebook Page for S&WCC

E Johnston stated that S Johnston is willing to take over responsibility for the Sandness and Walls Community Council's Facebook page. The Chair thanked E Johnston for all his work in maintaining the Facebook page.

13. Financial Update (See Spreadsheet)

Members acknowledged receipt of the latest S&WCC accounts spreadsheet. The Clerk stated that he had received an invoice for the hire of the Bixter Hall for a Local Place Plan meeting held in September 2024. He asked if this should be met by the Sandness and Walls Community Council. It was suggested that the Clerk email Mr Peter Mogridge and copy in the Clerk to the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council.

Action: The Clerk to forward the invoice to Mr Peter Mogridge and copy in the Clerk to the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council.

14. Correspondence (Including emails)

Reference was made to an email received from Robina Barton re: The Sandness Active Travel Audit. After a brief discussion it was agreed to forward this email to Penny Armstrong to be considered by Sandness Community Development.

Action: The Clerk to forward Robina Barton's email on the Sandness Active Travil Audit to Penny Armstrong.

15. AOCB

The Sandness Feeder bus service was discussed, and the point was made that it would benefit the users and the operator if the dial-a-ride service ran at lunch time and the regular service met the teatime Lerwick bus.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 25th November at the Sandness Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone, past and present, for their dedication to the Sandness and Walls Community Council over the 28 years during which he had been a Member. He paid tribute to the late Jim Gear from Foula and made a presentation to the Clerk who is also retiring. M Macgregor also made a presentation to the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

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