

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 14th Oct 2025 at 7.00 pm

at Whalsay Heritage Centre

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES
Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	
Cllr William Polson (WP) –Vice Chair	Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)
Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)	
Cllr Caroline Watts (CW)	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement	Neil Hutchinson – SIC Roads
Helen Davies (HD) – new member	Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)
Richard Hutchinson (RH) – new member	Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH)

MINUTE TAKER: Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

WELCOME: JL chaired meeting and welcomed all especially new members Helen and Richard

APOLOGIES: Apologies noted

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: JL asked if all were happy with minutes. MH approved; WP seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

Current account was shared with members by clerk. Final Accounts for Year Ending March 2025 was shared and approved by MH and seconded by WP.

1. DOG FOULING – HOULL

All discussed installations for Skaw and Houll.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

2. SYMBISTER PIER

The clerk gave a quick update and it was agreed the clerk would keep an eye on anything left to sort out and keep in touch—especially about getting Pier Road sorted and the latest on the pier CCTV.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

Proposed Works for Pier and Condition:

JL shared reply from Shetland Amenity/Hazel Sutherland regarding the Peerie Pier and Grieve House. Everyone talked about how the sites were getting worse and about safety. JL hopes that with new members onboard that this could perhaps change and further discussions needed

Action: Ongoing

3. Waiting Room and Toilets

JL asked clerk to follow up with RTH and revert back

Actions: Ongoing

4. Fire Hydrant at New Park

JL asked clerk to follow up

Actions: Ongoing.

5. FERRIES

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- **Computer Issues with Booking System**

JL discussed the proposed system that is to be implemented by next summer.

Actions: Ongoing

Parking Issues During Dry Dock Period

JL discussed that the schedule of works already released with winter weather fast approaching , what changes was being made with all. RH suggested ferry drivers being able to move vehicles as required as in the past. DA was tasked with investigating options as well designated parking during this period, and WP highlighted the importance of considering the area around Vidlin pier to ensure safe and accessible parking. DA to report back.

Actions: Clerk to follow up

- **Wi-Fi Connectivity at Terminals**

All discussed briefly the continued disruption to service within the isle and agreed to continue discussions further. Clerk asked to continue to monitor and report complaints to MP and North Isle councillors

Actions: Ongoing

- **Ferry Hires and Festive Timetables**

JL talked about the new timetable and how adding more crossings—especially over the Festive Season—will be a real plus for the community. Everyone was happy about getting more options for ferry journeys, saying it'll make it a lot easier for people to get around and take part in local activities. The group agreed it's important to shape the service around what residents actually need, so everyone feels included and supported in the plans.

POLICE MATTERS

Clerk shared report for June/July with all

6. ROADS, FENCE AT DUMP, STREETLIGHTS CYCLE & WALKING PATHS

MH asked clerk for update on installation date for bus shelter and all agreed to letter for Yvonne. Sense of urgency was expressed as school had started

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

7. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

Clerk reported back no update

ACTIONS: Ongoing

8. DENTIST

JL asked for update as dentist was currently on sick leave and expressed the needed for continued updates.

ACTIONS: ongoing

9. MAP/NEWSLETTER

JL discussed project briefly and expressed the need for the project to be completed by Clerk shared extension for 12th Jan and would welcome new ideas for next meeting

ACTION Ongoing

10. SKIPS

All discussed the cost difference between weekend and weekday and agreed to continue with weekday service as was more productive and more cost effective.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

11. HARSDALE RENOVATION

JL discussed project and request for progress of works and asked DA to report back.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

12. HERITAGE SIGN

JL shared project with members and asked clerk to assist as needed, awaiting reply from SIC

ACTIONS: Ongoing

13. Chimney replacement

JL discussed briefly regarding the concerns raised and asked for update. DA updated members that concerns have been raised and awaiting feedback. Clerk tasked with contacting DA and RTH on this matter and revert back.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

14. Traewick Issue

JL shared concerns raised by local residents regarding the replacement of cattle grid there and the length of time, it has undertaken. DA updated members and continue to raise the urgency of getting repairs undertaken quickly.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

15. Whalsay Career Show

RF provided an overview of the upcoming event scheduled for 4th December, urging all members of WCC to attend. She highlighted the importance of such events as valuable opportunities for encouraging greater participation from the wider community. JL suggested further discussions on could be a key agenda item at the next meeting.

16. Viking Genes Funding letter

JL shared letter of support and all in agreement

17. BT Outage Survey

All discussed continued disruption to service and lack of continued or improved service. JL suggested further discussions at next meeting.

ACTIONS: Clerk to continue to report

JL Thanked all for attending and hopes to see everyone at the next meeting for new members and community council.

Meeting closed at 8.29 pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 13th January 2025 @ 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.