

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:
Vacant

Clerk:
Mr D Forrest
1 Kirkidale
Walls
Shetland
Tel: Walls 01595 809746
E-mail: s.wcc.clerk@btinternet.com

Draft minutes of the remote meeting of the Sandness and Walls
Community Council held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 7 pm

Present: J Haswell
S Johnston
H Robertson
J Laing
Cllr L Peterson

In attendance: J Puckey, D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Election of Chair

The Clerk opened the meeting of this recently elected Community Council. He invited nominations for the post of Chair. J Haswell was nominated by S Johnston and seconded by H Robertson. J Haswell accepted the nomination and there being no other nominations, J Haswell was elected as Chair,

2. Election of Vice Chair

The Clerk invited nominations for the post of Vice Chair. S Johnston was nominated by J Haswell and seconded by H Robertson. S Johnston accepted the nomination and there being no other nominations, S Johnston was elected as Vice Chair

3. Ex-officio Members

At the request of the Chair, the Clerk listed some of those who could attend meetings in an ex-officio role such as SIC Councillors for example.

4. Associate Members

J Puckey was invited by the Chair to explain her circumstances relating to the reason why she was no longer eligible to be an

elected member of the Community Council. The Clerk was asked to read an email he had received from A Cogle on this matter. J Haswell then proposed that J Puckey be an Associate Members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council. J Laing seconded this nomination and J Puckey accepted the nomination and arrangements were made to for the appropriate form to be completed.

5. Sandness and Walls Community Council Vacancies and the method/s by which the vacancies might be filled

After a brief discussion on the options open to the Members, the Clerk was asked to verify the number that can be co-opted. It was acknowledged that at least four people can be co-opted. The Clerk indicated that he had received a completed co-option form from Mr David Sinclair and J Puckey stated that Mr Andrew Holt had also completed a form which was being posted to the Clerk. It was also acknowledged that Mr Robert Smith had received a form and would be returning it in due course. S Johnston indicated that a Sandness resident had expressed an interest in becoming co-opted. Arrangements were made to email a co-option form to her. Given that David Sinclair had returned an application form, J Haswell proposed that he be approved as a co-opted Member. This was seconded by J Laing. It was noted that, as yet, no one has applied for the post of Clerk which will become vacant on December 5th.

Actions: 1. The Clerk to pass on D Sinclair's application form to the Chair.
2. The Clerk to email a co-option form to the Sandness resident on receipt of this person's email address from S Johnston.
3. R Smith and A Holt to complete and return application forms.

6. Apologies:

M Duncan

7. Papa Stour Ferry (Change of Time)

The Chair invited J Puckey to speak on this matter. J Puckey informed Members that, in order for two Papa Stour children to attend an event at Whiteness Primary School, it will be necessary to alter the sailing time on Sunday 14th December. She went on to say that a request has been made for one of the two annual extra ferry trips to Papa Stour to be made on Thursday 11th December. The Chair thanked J Puckey for passing on this information.

8. Funding Request for a bus hire to convey the Lerwick Brass Band to Walls for a Christmas Carol Concert

8.1 Funding Request

At the request of the Chair, the Clerk explained that, in previous years, the Community Council had met the cost of the bus hire for this event, and that it should cost approximately £300. Members unanimously approved this request.

Action: The Clerk to arrange for the invoice to be emailed to the Community Council.

8.2 Future Banking Arrangements

After a brief discussion on how best to transfer signatures for the Sandness and Walls Community Council's account, the Chair invited Members to make suggestions at the next meeting on this matter with a view to possibly changing banks.

9. AOCB

9.1 Letter of Support for Viking Genes Survey

S Johnston explained that Community Councils have been requested to write letters supporting the group responsible for this study's bid for a Shetland Community Benefit Grant. Members agreed that this should be done.

Action: The Clerk to draft and circulate the above letter for amendments/approval.

9.2 Vacant Clerk's Post

S Johnston request salary details for this post so he can pass this information on to any interested party.

Action: The Clerk to email S Johnston with the relevant information.

9.3 The Outline Business Plan for improvement to the A971 from the Murrister Quarry to Da Punds in Walls

Cllr Peterson stated that costings included in the Business Plan were being revised owing to the escalating cost of the project. She went on to say that alterations will, most likely, be made to

the plans in order to reduce costs, however, it will still become a double track road.

9.4 Housing

In response to a question on housing in the Sandness and Walls area, Cllr Peterson stated that, as far as she was aware, there are no plans by the Council to erect more social housing in the area. Cllr Peterson indicated that she is trying to persuade the SIC to sell land in the area to developers as mid-market housing. Some renovations to existing properties are in the pipeline.

9.5 Planning Consent for the Former Waas Bakery

Cllr Peterson stated that the planning consent for the former Waas Bakery was being dealt with by planning officers and would not go before the members of the Planning Committee. She was unsure as to when the officers would be addressing this matter.

10 Dates/ Venues of Next Meetings

After a brief discussion it was proposed to continue with the pattern of holding meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. It was also proposed that meetings continue to be hybrid to provide access for Members on the islands. Finally, it was suggested that, subject to availability, meetings should alternate between the Walls Hall and the Sandness Hall.

The date of the next meeting as set for Tuesday 6th January at 7pm in the Walls Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.