

# Fetlar Community Council

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL**  
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)  
**On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 AT 7.45 pm**  
**(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)**

## **PRESENT**

James Rendall, Chair  
Lucy Cummings  
Mike Fogarty  
Russell Simpson

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Juliet Bellis  
Robert Thompson

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

## **Apologies**

Frances Browne SIC

### **1. Minutes of the previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> of October were circulated.  
Proposed by Lucy seconded by Russell and approved.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

None

### **3. First Meeting after and Election**

James asked Juliet to chair this part of the meeting.

#### **3.1. Elect a Chair**

Lucy proposed that James remain as Chair Russell seconded and this was approved. James resumed the Chair.

#### **3.2. If so, resolved elect a Vice-Chair**

James proposed that Mike remain as Vice-Chair Russell seconded and this was approved.

#### **3.3. Acknowledge the identity of ex-officio members.**

It was noted that Robert Thompson remains as the main SIC Councillor link.  
Alistair Carmichael is the MP ex-officio member.  
Beatrice Wishart is the MSP ex-officio member.

#### **3.4. Identify Associate members**

It was noted that there are no Associate members.

#### **3.5. Associate member eligibility for Co-option**

N/A

### **3.6. Determine the process that will be used to promote and fill the vacant seats.**

It was agreed that the vacant seat should be promoted as a co-option opportunity.

## **4. Ongoing Business**

### **3.1 Fetlar Handyman Post**

James welcomed Carl to the meeting and outlined why he thought residents were not taking up the use of the local handyman.

Carl set out the process again. Residents will approach Roy with potential work. Roy will undertake a safety check and present the potential Job to Carl for approval.

Juliet commented that what residents need to know is how much it will cost.

Carl informed that the Council rate is £40 per hour plus VAT i.e £48 per hour.

There could be adjustments based on for example standard rates for metres of grass cutting or painting.

There would be no minimum charge.

James felt that what is stopping folk making requests is not knowing what Roy can do. And all he has heard about is grass cutting.

Juliet asked, 'who do we got to'?

Carl confirmed go direct to Roy.

Carl informed that it would be better for folk to provide their own materials as costs from Council stores would have additional costs.

However, Roy would only be able to use tools provided by SIC.

Miker asked if there were any issues with Health and Safety such as working from height.

Carl felt that there could be if a task needed two people for example holding a ladder.

Lucy raised the issue of removing bulk waste.

Carl will clarify the current rate and confirmed that there was no maximum number of pickups.

Robert suggested that there could be a link up with other Northern Isles as this would increase efficiencies.

Carl confirmed that Roy's role will expand to the other Northern Isles in 2026.

Robert suggested that Community Council members generate some sample tasks for Roy as examples of costs.

Carl agreed that it would be helpful to have some rule of thumb costs.

Carl informed that he was recruiting for similar posts in Papa Stour and the Skerries.

Lucy raised the issue of blocked drainage channels creating flooded roads.

To clear would not require any specialist expertise.

After some discussion Carl suggested that it would be helpful to see some photos of the problem.

James thanked Carl for attending.

### **3.2 SIC Housing**

Lucy informed that their worker was now resident in No 8.

James had heard that No 13 previously used by SIC Ferries had been given up.

Robert Thompson has spoken to Neil Grant about the ongoing issues.

There was then some discussion about the condition of Stakkafletts pavements.

Russell informed that the vegetation held the water and that then it freezes.

It was felt that the pavements could be cleared by the handyman without a pressure washer or chemicals.

It was agreed that Chris should contact Carl and request the work is completed regularly rather than once a year.

### **3.3 Ferry Timetables**

Lucy noted that the email sent by Chris about the single vessel timetable had generated the usual bland reply.

James said it was ok for one day but not when it goes on for longer.

It was agreed that there should be joint discussions with Unst.

### **3.4 NHS**

Lucy informed that she had received a reply from the NHS with respect to the concerns raised.

They have reiterated the policies and procedures that should have been in place.

James had heard that the problems had been blamed on a locum doctor.

Mike said the reply seems to be saying there was a communication issue.

Lucy commented that the main thing is that the GP can organise a ferry to arrange care.

It was agreed that Chris should write out to residents confirming what arrangements can be put in place when residents are unwell.

### **3.5 Inter Island Transport Connectivity**

Juliet noted that the folk on Yell are still working on things to promote tunnels.

Robert informed that there is still a lot of work to be done but he expected that SIC would be choosing preferred options in 2026.

Mike asked what is happening with the main road between Gutcher and Lerwick with the existing roadworks and the rumours of more to come.

Robert believed that resurfacing will be next year but SIC is still waiting for clarity on the SSEN proposals for more work.

### **3.6 Brough Lodge**

There has been no further communication from Brough Lodge despite the promise of consultation in the autumn.

Robert had had some discussion with the previous owners. It is possible that the current owners are recognising the difficulties with the site.

He expects that the new owners won't now consult until next year.

### **3.8 Islands with Small Populations**

Juliet informed that there is a meeting tomorrow and shared the updated Issues Log asking members if this covered the issues.

Sher then asked if there was any news on Fibre Broadband installation.

Robert informed that BT has installed consumer Fibre Broadband on Unst and that had significantly improved things.

Robert will have conversations with Shetland Telecom to see if they know anything.

## **5. Finance and Administration**

### **4.1 Finance Report**

Chris shared the current bank balance of £2,893

### **4.2 Clerk Invoice**

The clerk's salary invoice was approved.

### **4.3 Community Development Fund**

It was agreed that Chris should transfer the remaining grant funds to the Community Association to support the purchase of a piano.

## **6. AOCB**

### **5.3 Post-box**

Chris has had no reply to his email to Beatrice Wishart

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 7.45.