

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 6 October 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
Mrs J Fraser Mrs L Johnson
Mrs S Deyell J Abernethy
Ex Officio: Cllr L Peterson
In attendance: Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.
Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mr J D Garrick, Mr G Morrison and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes and report of the meeting held on 8 September 2025, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs J Fraser, seconded by J Priest.

BUSINESS ARISING: Road Matters: Skeld Brig: Work on this bridge is on the Road Dept's list.

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

Children at Play sign at Skeld: Art Machine, the firm which will supply the signs, has moved their premises and Mrs J Fraser will place an order when they get settled in.

Closure of road at Garderhouse: The residents in the Reawick and Skeld area are very pleased that this stretch of road was re-opened to the public on Friday. The members agreed that a good job had been done. There still remains a couple of stretches of barriers to be replaced but that will not be done for some time yet.

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

R100 Broadband Evaluation: Ducting ongoing.

Viking Community Fund: Community Grant Scheme (CGS) Fund: A further amount relating to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was received.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENTS: The front page of the Community Council Scheme of Establishment was scanned and forwarded to Ms Anne Cogle at Admin.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Four of the present Community Councillors have decided to stand down at this election. All members are trying to encourage others to stand for election. The result of the election will be announced on Friday 21 November.

DEFIBRILLATOR ISSUES IN SHETLAND: It was agreed that the sites of the defibrillators in Shetland and also who owns them and is responsible for them should be made available. Mrs L Johnson will find out who is responsible for the one which used to be sited outside the Aith shop but which is now at Aith Pier.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS: Mrs R Fraser, SIC Community Involvement & Development Officer explained that details that details are required of what is available in each area to make sure that everyone is taken care of during emergencies, e.g. snowy weather, etc. To this end, each area will be asked to prepare a Community Emergency Plan. She circulated, as a sample, a copy of the Plan prepared by Sandness & Walls Community Council and agreed to email a template to the Clerk. It was suggested that the preparation of this document should be one of the first jobs for the newly elected Community Council after the election.

ASSOCIATION: The next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils will be held on Wednesday 8 October but none of the members were available to attend.

PAYPHONE REMOVAL: It has been decided to remove the phone box at Tresta as no member of the public is interested in purchasing it.

SSEN SHETLAND PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS: The public event scheduled to take place in the Voe Public Hall has been postponed but events are taking place in other areas throughout October.

VIKING GENES FUND LETTER OF SUPPORT: A message was received from Professor Jim Wilson thanking the Community Council for the Letter of Support which was sent.

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND (VAS) VOLUNTEERING AWARDS: A message was received from VAS asking for suggestions for their Volunteering Awards for 2025.

2026 MEETING DATES: A message was received from Mr M Duncan asking for a list of our 2026 meeting dates. The members felt they could not provide this as, following the election in November, a number of new members will join the Council and the days and dates we use at present may not be suitable to them. A list will be prepared as soon as the next Community Council is formed and will be forwarded to Mr M Duncan.

FIRST RESPONDER: A resident in this area has finished her training as a First Responder. She is now having to raise funds for her kit and the members suggested that funds could be sought from the Shetland Community Benefit Fund or from Cooke Aquaculture.

WREATHS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: It was agreed to gift a wreath to Sandsting History Group and also Aithsting History Group for Remembrance Day.

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in Bixter Community Council on 10 November 2025.