

**Skerries Community Council (SCC)**  
**Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**In Skerries Community Hall**

**Present:**

Paul James (Chair)  
Marina Anderson  
Janice Hughson  
Kia James  
Marina Tait

**In attendance:**

Violet McQuade - Clerk (notes)

**1) Apologies**

Frances Anderson, Jilly Ash, Lynsey Hall, Dianne Hughson, Michael Duncan and Robert Thomson

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2) Declaration of Interest to any agenda Item**

Chairperson asked for declaration of interests.

Marina Anderson declared an interest to Item 7 on the Agenda – (application for funding for Skerries Development Group).

**3) Minutes of last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, were approved.

Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson.

**4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting**

4.1 Amend the job advert

To be discussed under Item 6 on the Agenda

4.2 Contact Burial Services, re the ditch around graveyard

Paul has been in touch with Burial Services, who have agreed to send workmen clear the drains and get everything up to standard.

4.3 Contact Ports & Harbours, re Wi-Fi in the Waiting Room

Paul has been in touch with the SIC Ferry Operations. They are currently testing new equipment/services for Wi-Fi – satellite broadband. It is hoped that tests will be completed by spring/early summer 2026. SCC/SDG to await result of the tests.

4.4 Organise clearing up at the airstrip

This has been dealt with, and will be monitored in the future. It was noted that there were also problems in the West Isle.

4.5 Investigate donation/purchase of a defibrillator

Paul has sent an email to the Chief Executive, NHS Shetland. Awaiting a reply.

After a discussion was held it was agreed that, if no reply is received from NHS, it could be brought to the attention of our MSP and MP.

**5) Following Election**

5.1 Elect a Chair – Paul James was elected as Chair.

Nominated by Marina Anderson, Seconded by Janice Hughson.

Paul noted that under the new scheme he should be standing down for 12 months. He has made enquiries about this with the Community Council Liaison Officer; it has been agreed that as this is such a small group that he could stand for election to the Chair position.

5.2 Elect a Vice Chair – Janice Hughson.

Nominated by Marina Tait, Seconded by Marina Anderson.

5.3 Acknowledge and note the identity of ex-officio members (Shetland Islands Councillors, MPs, MSPs and MSYPs whose wards or constituencies fall wholly or partly within the geographical area of the Community Council) – these were identified as:

- Councillors: Robert Thomson, Duncan Anderson, Ryan Thomson
- MP: Alistair Carmichael
- MSP: Beatrice Wishart
- MSYP: Ava Williamson, and Beenie-Ann Wood

5.4 Identify if the Community Council has any existing Associate Members and, if so, agree to their continuation; - The Associate Members were identified as:

- Dianne Hughson, Jilly Ash, Kia James, Ethan Arthur.

It was agreed that those noted above were to remain as Associate Members.

5.5 Note the number of vacant seats that exist. No vacant seats.

After discussion it was agreed to invite the MSYPs to a meeting.

**6) Clerk Post**

6.1 Salary update

The new salary scales were circulated prior to the meeting. The new salary scales were approved, which is backdated. The new scale commenced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

6.2 Recruitment to post – update

To advertise in the Shetland Times would cost £200 per week. Therefore it was decided to advertise the post on social media, and Violet to circulate the advert to Skerries residents as well as the wider community. It was agreed to set the closing date as the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. The outcome of the advert to be discussed at the next SCC meeting, which is due on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Action: Paul to finish off advert and send it to Violet**

**7) Application for funding - SDG**

An application for funding has been received from the Skerries Development Group (SDG). The form was circulated prior to the meeting. The £1,000 applied for is to purchase a laptop for the SDG, as well as other equipment required to be able to conduct online meetings. The application for the full amount was approved.

**8) Funding available**

Violet reminded those present that there will still be money left in the SCC bank account for the purchase of equipment or for any projects coming up. Violet will let members know how much will be available once all ongoing costs have been taken into account.

**9) Risks**

No risks were noted.

**10) Issues**

No issues were identified.

**11) Correspondence Received**

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

## 12) AOCB

### 12.1 Bird Restoration project

A discussion was held about the emails that have recently been circulated regarding the proposed bird restoration work in Skerries. The project needs the agreement of landowners. Violet will keep the Community Council up-to-date with any correspondence about the project.

### 12.2 Consultation by Scottish Seafarms

It was noted that an email has been sent out. A consultation was held in Lerwick last week. It was agreed that everyone needs to have a chance to have their say. This is still in the early stages – any further correspondence will be circulated.

### 12.3 Query re community buyout

It was noted that this is not a Community Council matter. Nothing further to be noted on this item.

### 12.4 Skip

It was agreed to order a skip to get the white goods on the pier disposed of.

**Action – Violet to order a skip**

### 12.5 Petition to change community council status in Scotland

After discussion it was agreed to support the campaign in Scotland to bring community councils up to the same status as parish councils in England. It was noted that this is a national campaign in Scotland.

### 12.6 Meeting re salmon debris

Violet gave an update on the meeting that was held regarding the salmon debris. Notes of the meeting were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

### 12.7 Additional ferry runs approved

It was acknowledged that, after a request from the Community Council, Ferry Services have agreed to add on additional ferry runs on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### 12.8 Proposed maintenance post

In response to the possibility of getting a part-time maintenance worker in Skerries the Executive Manager, Environmental and Estates Services, has agreed to attend the next meeting of the SCC; he will be joining the meeting online. Violet asked members to think about what work the post would cover, and to come up with ideas on what they would like to be included. Violet will send the Executive Manager an invitation for the meeting, which is due to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.

### 12.9 Proposal to small changes to ferry timetable

A discussion was held on the possibility of getting changes to the ferry timetable. The proposed changes would be:

Thursday morning – change the time of leaving Skerries from 10.00 am to 9.30 am. This would give the ferry time to get to Lerwick before the Bressay ferry comes in, and also would give passengers more time in Lerwick as well as giving the ferry more time for loading up. Currently, on Thursdays, the ferry has to hang around waiting for the Bressay ferry to leave before they can get into the ramp to let passengers off.

Fridays – for the middle of the day run - change the time of leaving Skerries from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm. This would mean that whenever the Whalsay ferry is using the Vidlin ramp the Skerries ferry would be able to get into the ramp on time. Currently the Skerries ferry cannot dock while the Whalsay ferry is at the ramp, so have to hang around Vidlin Voe waiting to be able to get in to let off the passengers. Also, sometimes workers and/or the oil truck coming in to Skerries on Friday may be able to get away at 1.00 pm, instead of having to wait until 4.00 pm. This would benefit workers who may be coming in to do a small job, for example, when someone has to come in to

turn the alarm off at the school – a task that only takes a few minutes - sometimes they have to wait until the next ferry at 4.00 pm.

**Action: Violet – contact Ferry Services**

12.4 Culvert at the Burn

The culvert at the Burn is blocked with seaweed and would need to be cleared, the grating is being filled with seaweed. It was also noted that grit bins have not been filled up this year. Paul agreed to contact the Roads Department.

**Action: Paul – contact Roads Department re culvert at the Burn**

**13) Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.

The meeting concluded at 3.00 pm

**Actions:**

**Paul**

- Finish off job advert and send it to Violet
- Contact Roads Department re culvert at the Burn

**Violet**

- Order a skip
- Contact Ferry Services, re proposed changes to timetable

**Chair Signature**

Signed.....