

# WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## *Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting*

Minute of the First Meeting of New Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 at 7.00 pm at Whalsay Heritage Centre

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
Cllr Caroline Watt (CW) – Vice Chair	Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)
Cllr Helen Thomson (HT)	Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
Cllr Richard Hutchinson (RH)	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
	Neil Hutchinson – SIC Roads
	Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)
	Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH)

**MINUTE TAKER:** Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

**WELCOME:** GI commenced the meeting by initiating the election process. HT nominated JL for Chair Person, which CW seconded, and all members unanimously agreed. For the position of Vice Chair, HT proposed CW, with RH providing the second, and once again, there was unanimous agreement.

JL expressed gratitude and noted that several positions remain vacant. The group discussed strategies to continue recruitment efforts through posters and social media. JL encouraged members to reach out to potential candidates and observed that fresh perspectives are always valuable.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies noted

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

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

### **NEW MEETING DATES:**

JL requested that members propose dates when they would be available for meetings in 2026. Due to other existing commitments, members indicated that they are only able to commit to meetings up until March. The following dates have been confirmed for upcoming meetings:

- 13 January 2026
- 24 February 2026
- 24 March 2026

It was agreed that these arrangements will be reviewed and updated at the next meeting as members' availability becomes clearer.

### **FINANCE REPORT:**

The clerk presented the current account details to all members in attendance, providing an overview of the financial position. JL led a discussion on the state of the finances, emphasising the remaining funds available. The group reviewed what the funds have been allocated towards so far. In addition, JL encouraged members to consider potential new projects that these funds could support and invited suggestions for further initiatives.

### **1. DOG FOULING – HOULL**

JL provided an overview of the projects undertaken to address dog fouling in the area. WCC discussed the possibility of introducing new signage, with the aim of raising awareness and encouraging responsible behaviour among local dog owners. It was suggested that the local school could be involved in the design of the signage, offering an opportunity for student engagement and creativity. The clerk was asked to liaise with the Art Teacher at the school to discuss collaboration on the signage design.

**ACTIONS:** Ongoing

## WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### 2. SYMBISTER PIER

Clerk provided an update on the situation at Pier Road, noting that a confirmed date for the planned works is still pending. The latest information on the installation of CCTV at the pier is that it is expected to take place in December. Members discussed safety issues in the area, especially with winter approaching, and requested ongoing updates regarding both the Pier Road works and the CCTV installation.

**ACTIONS:** Clerk to follow up

#### **Proposed Works for Pier and Condition:**

JL shared an update that user groups who frequent the sites have already been consulted regarding safety. JL raised the question of whether Shetland Amenity might need to take additional measures and invited further input from the members present.

**Action:** Ongoing

### 3. Waiting Room and Toilets

JL gave a quick update on the ongoing request for new waiting room and toilet facilities. JL pointed out that improvements are still needed and stressed that it's important to keep things moving. To help with this, JL asked the clerk to check in with RTH for any news and let everyone know if there's an update.

**Actions:** Ongoing

### 4. Fire Hydrant at New Park

Clerk updated work was in progress and no date set.

**Actions:** Ongoing.

### 5. FERRIES

#### **- New Proposed Booking System**

Clerk updated work was in progress and no date set.

**Actions:** Ongoing

#### **- Parking Issues During Dry Dock Period and Wi-Fi Connectivity at Terminals**

JL provided an update regarding ongoing matters from RTH. At present, there have been no changes or new developments to report. The situation continues as previously noted, and the group was informed that no further updates are available at this time.

**Actions:** Clerk to follow up

### **POLICE MATTERS**

Clerk shared report with all

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

JL provided an update on the ongoing bus shelter project. Members were informed that, it is anticipated that the project will be completed before the commencement of the Spring Term in January.

**ACTION:** Ongoing

### 7. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

Clerk reported back no update

**ACTIONS:** Ongoing

### 8. DENTIST

JL expressed the need for continued updates.

**ACTIONS:** ongoing

## WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### 9. MAP/NEWSLETTER

JL addressed members regarding the upcoming project deadline set for 12 January. During the discussion, JL requested assistance from the members to help ensure completion of the tasks involved. However, after considering the limited time available, it was concluded that meeting the deadline would not be feasible.

**ACTION** Ongoing

### 10. SKIPS

JL discussed with the group the possibility of arranging for one additional skip. It was proposed that this skip be scheduled for March, prior to the end of the year. The members present considered the proposal and all agreed.

**ACTIONS:** Ongoing

### 11. HARSDALE RENOVATION

JL discussed project and nothing to report back.

**ACTIONS:** Ongoing

### 12. HERITAGE SIGN

JL shared project with members and awaiting reply from SIC

**ACTIONS:** Ongoing

### 13. Chimney replacement

JL provided a brief update regarding the concerns previously raised about the chimney replacement. Now awaiting feedback. Clerk was asked with getting in touch with both DA and RTH concerning this matter and will report back to the group once further information is available. Currently, there are no updates to provide due to recent changes at SIC.

**ACTIONS:** Ongoing

### 14. Whalsay Career Show

JL invited members to participate in the upcoming Whalsay Career Show. It was noted that some members are already involved in the event through other roles or commitments. JL encouraged members to support the show in any capacity they can and welcomed the participation from the group.

### 15 Phone/Internet Outage Survey

JL shared letter received from residents, highlighting their concerns regarding the ongoing disruptions to the BT service. The group engaged in a discussion about the persistent lack of service improvements. All members agreed that a different approach or strategy should be considered to resolve the continuing service interruptions. It was suggested that this topic be revisited for further, more detailed discussion at the next meeting, to ensure all views and potential solutions are thoroughly explored.

**ACTIONS:** Clerk to continue to report

JL Thanked all for attending

**Meeting closed at 8.30 pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 @ 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.**