

**GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGBURGH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2026
ONLINE VIA 'ZOOM' TECHNOLOGY AT 7.00PM**

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT	Mrs M Davis Mrs D Smith	Mr L Summers Ms M Gray	Mr E Semple
EX OFFICIO	Cllr R McGregor		
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes, clerk		
CHAIRPERSON	Mr C Clark		
APOLOGIES	Cllr B Peterson Mrs P Christie	Mr M Duncan	Miss K MacKay
NOT PRESENT	Cllr A Armitage	Cllr A Duncan	Mrs A Arnett

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor declared an interest in Planning, Item 12, as he is the chair of the SIC Planning Board.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th November were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr L Summers.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Hot Food Cupboard

The cupboard purchased during the pandemic for the safe delivery of hot meals to the community has been delivered to Unst for use by the UnstFest organisers. Members were pleased to hear it will be used by a local organisation.

2. POLICE REPORT

No police officers were present at the meeting as Zoom is blocked by the Police Scotland network. The Police Report for October and November had already been circulated. There were only two incidents recorded in the community council area over the time period:

A Road Safety and Road Crime of dangerous driving and a mental health incident which comes under the heading of Protecting Vulnerable People.

There were no questions for the police from members.

3. EMERGENCY PLANNING – VISIT FROM IAN TAYLOR, SIC RESILIENCE ADVISOR

Mr Taylor is attending the February meeting.

Ex-Community Councillor George Murray has spoken to one of our members and shared his intention to attend the February meeting for this item – he was responsible for creating the

initial sections of the Community Resilience Plan the Community Council has been asked to pull together.

4. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The bank statement on January 1st read £5,028.69.

All the grants were paid out – the £100 to the Cunningsburgh Under 5s, £100 to the Gulberwick Toddlers and £150 to the Gulberwick Hall – all for Christmas parties. Quarff Public Hall got £250 for their senior citizens' Christmas meal and the Royal Voluntary Service received £952 for the Christmas meal they provided.

Backpay of £184.96 was paid as was £26.60 for stationery for the LPP meeting and £60 to CASE Shetland for map printing. The thank you vouchers for the actors for the LPP film came to a total of £80 and £20 was also spent on a Tesco voucher for Cunningsburgh School to thank them for the continued use of the school for our meetings.

Cllr R McGregor passed on his thanks and appreciation for the voucher he received for his acting role.

There were no other transactions which are unusual or outwith the usual monthly outgoings

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS – GQC CC & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND (SCBF)

There were no GQC CC grant applications – the full grant budget has been allocated.

Details of a new grant available from the SCBF for Community Halls was shared again – five grants of £10,000 each are available to halls (not any other type of community building) and the closing date is mid-February. The clerk has sent the information on to the halls already. There was discussion about whether the Cunningsburgh Village Club may be eligible and it was thought they probably would be – it was agreed to share the information with them too.

There were no applications from the SCBF but everyone was encouraged to share with groups that there is money in the fund for our area to be allocated.

6. ROADS AND PATHS

East Vaxter Junction

No update at present on the pothole and large puddle here.

Clearing of Snow on Cunningsburgh Paths

An email from a member of the public asking why the paths in Cunningsburgh have not been cleared was discussed. It also mentioned the possibility of the community securing its own footpath tractor and asked for details about whether this was a viable option.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor to speak to Roads about the issues raised.

7. CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

No news since the last meeting. Cllr McGregor to contact Mr Craigie for an update.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor to contact Mr Craigie for an update.

8. GQ&C DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LOCAL PLACE PLAN AND RESILIENCE PLAN UPDATES

Local Place Plan

Mr Clark, Mrs Christie and Mrs Geddes are meeting with Planning Aid Scotland tomorrow to update them on the community consultation event held on Sunday 16th November and any subsequent action taken. Everyone is encouraged to promote the use of the Place Check Maps.

Development Group

The information received for the development of a Local Place Plan will also be used by the Development Group to identify projects which the community have communicated as important to them. There are a lot of comments that can also be collated and presented as evidence for making positive changes to road safety concerns in Cunningsburgh, and it was agreed to continue to pursue feedback for this purpose too. The Group are working on pulling data off the Place Check maps to collate.

Community Resilience Plans

There have been no responses from the local halls or the school for their input in the Community Resilience Plan. The clerk reminded the halls of the need for the information when she contacted them with news of the SCBF hall grant so it is hoped that we will have some data soon. SIC Resilience Advisor Ian Taylor is attending the next meeting and will help advise members on the plans.

9. UPDATES FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr McGregor had no further updates, reporting things had been fairly quiet because of the festive period. No written updates were received from other elected members.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Community Council Insurance Documents

SIC Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan has sent out the insurance documents for GQ&C CC. A blanket policy for all Community Councils is secured by the SIC and sent out each year.

2. Community Council Scotland Newsletter

The newsletter from Community Council Scotland had previously been shared and was read and noted. Members were directed to look at the various training opportunities provided which they are welcome to sign up for.

3. Adoption of Shetland Island Regional Marine Plan

An email dated 18th December shared the news that the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan had been adopted by Scottish Ministers.

The plan is available to access on the [Scottish Government website](#).

11. PLANNING

This agenda item is postponed until the end of the meeting so that Cllr McGregor can leave without missing any of the rest of the meeting.

12. AOCB

1. Clerk's Pay

Members agreed to award the extra couple of pennies per hour for Distant Islands Allowance agreed for local government employees.

ACTION: Clerk to award backpay and change the monthly direct debit to take into account the new pay.

2. Paperwork and Forms to SIC

Members who still have forms to return to the SIC following their appointment to the SIC are encouraged to submit them.

3. Community Council Training

There is likely to be training offered by the SIC for new Community Councillors in the coming months. The clerk will share details when she has them. The training is not mandatory but is useful.

4. Northern Isles Ferry Service – User Survey

The clerk again shared details of this survey as the closing date is coming up. Ferries Directorate in Transport Scotland have created a user survey to gather views to inform the future ferry service to Shetland and Orkney. Several members have already filled it out and encouraged others to do the same. It can be found at: [Islands Connectivity Plan | Community Needs Assessments | Transport Scotland](#)

ACTION: Anyone who would like to complete the survey to do so by the closing date of 9th January 2026.

5. Planned Power Outage by SSE in Quarff

The power is due to be off in Quarff over the next few days – half of the village one day and the other half the next day. The community is concerned about the adverse effects this could have on households as the snow is still causing disruption. Cunningsburgh School is closed to pupils, many people are unable to get out of their driveways or travel on the roads due to snow and ice and keeping houses warm with no power is difficult in winter without a powercut being during such a continued cold spell of weather.

It was agreed to write to SSE in the hope that the work can be postponed, asking for clarity on the following points at the very least –

- **Why was a full-day power outage scheduled for mid-winter**, when cold weather, short daylight hours and the likelihood of wider disruption are at their highest? Members appreciate that staffing, timetabling and operational constraints must be taken into account, but the timing does raise serious concerns.
- **Why has the work not been postponed**, given the severe weather conditions now affecting the area? Postponing planned works is not straightforward and involves many factors, but this again highlights the risks of scheduling such outages at this time of year.
- **What preparations or support measures has SSE put in place for vulnerable residents** in this community, particularly in light of the current weather and travel conditions?

ACTION: Clerk to write email to SSE as soon as possible.

6. Apologies for Next Meeting

Mr Clark will not be available for the February meeting.

11. PLANNING

----- Cllr McGregor leaves the meeting – 19:38 -----

There was only one new planning applications on the planning portal for the CC area since the last meeting. It required a comment from members:

[2025/312/PPF](#) – Demolish existing 4-bedroom house and garage, construct new storey and half, 4-bedroom house with separate garage and ASHP. Sand House/Cottage, Lower Hillside, Gulberwick, Shetland

While members did not object to this application, they had real concerns about access to the beach for the public during the work and agreed to ask for this to be taken into consideration when making a decision.

ACTION: Clerk to email in comments on the planning application.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th February 2026.

Meeting Ends – 19.40

CHAIR

15. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

February 2025 – Community CPR sessions – no answer from emergency services re date.
June 2025 – Plans for tidying up Enviroglass site and perhaps using some of the recycled glass in other projects – no update as yet.
June 2025 – Cunningsburgh school transport and road safety concerns - date for next Community Meeting not yet been set
June 2025 – pothole and puddle at East Voxter junction – still unsure if it has been fixed yet
November 2025 – Alan Street, Station Commander, Lerwick Community Fire Station didn't make meeting due to snow but planning to come in February 2025. Hoping to give more info on Community CPR sessions then too.