

<b>DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>
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**Chairperson**

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 19th January 2026 in Dunrossness Primary School.

**PRESENT**

Aileen Brown (Chair)	Irvine Burgess	Agnes Tallack	Antonia Colvin
Dawna Phillips	Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)		

**APOLOGIES**

Fiona Mitchell	Helen Budge	Allen Sinclair
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)	Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)		

**ABSENT**

Michael Duncan (SIC)	Ana Arnett (SIC)
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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)	Sgt Andy Adams (Police Scotland)
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**25/099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Irvine declared a possible interest in the subject of the demolition of buildings at Dunrossness Primary School.

**25/100 MINUTE**

The Minute of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 was adopted on the motion of Aileen.

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## **25/101 COMMUNITY COUNCIL VACANCIES**

Dawna had previously expressed an interest in rejoining the Community Council but had been unable to attend the first meeting of the new Community Council due to a previous commitment. The members confirmed with Dawna that this was still the case and therefore unanimously agreed to co-opt her. Dawna accepted the appointment and completed the necessary paperwork, which the Clerk will forward to SIC. Helen Moncrieff had also previously agreed to rejoin the Community Council, but to date had been unable to attend a meeting in person due to personal circumstances. It was agreed to defer further discussion of this matter until the February meeting.

## **25/102 POLICE REPORT**

The Chair welcomed Sergeant Andy Adams to the meeting. The Police Report for the months of October and November 2025 had been received via email and reported as follows:

### Road Safety and Road Crime

- Dangerous Driving
- Use of Mobile Whilst Driving
- Road Traffic Collision

### Acquisitive Crime

- Fraud

### Other

- Fail to Provide Details as Suspect or Witness

Sgt Adams enquired if the members were aware of any policing points of concern in the area. Concerns were raised relating to the speed of traffic in the central Dunrossness area, particularly due to the vicinity of the school. Sgt Adams will highlight this concern to his colleagues.

## **25/103 MATTERS ARISING**

- 1) **Road Matters:** There was nothing new to report.
- 2) **Kirk Yard Bench:** There was nothing new to report.
- 3) **Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** There was nothing new to report.
- 4) **Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** There was nothing new to report.
- 5) **Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** There was nothing new to report.

25/104/1

## **25/104 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**1) St Ninian's Access Road Cattle Grids:** Jim Budge, Bigton Farm, had contacted the Community Council regarding the deteriorating condition of the two thirty plus year old cattle grids on the beach access road and enquired if the Community Council would be in a position to help financially. He had obtained a quotation of £8496 for the supply of two grids. The installation would be carried out by the farm. For interest, car counters had been installed last summer and the average number of vehicles using the road during the months of May, June and July was 138 per day! Although the Community Council would be happy to offer some financial assistance, it was agreed that unfortunately the level would be minimal due to the budget level they had available. SCBF would be another possible avenue for funding. The Clerk will contact Ana, SIC, and enquire if she is aware of any other possible sources.

**2) Community Halls Grant Scheme:** Shetland Community Benefit Scheme have opened an initial one-off grant scheme for community halls with 5 awards of up to £10,000 available. The fund will close on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Information can be found on the Community Council Facebook page and guidelines and an application form can be found on the SCBF website.

## **25/105 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND**

The Clerk reported that the form to have an additional signatory added to enable further progress with reactivating the dormant bank account had been returned to the bank and that confirmation that this is in order is the next step in the process.

## **25/106 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

**1) Rabbit Control at Levenwick Burial Ground:** Following various communications from SIC Burials Department during last year and the Community Council's assistance with identifying potential shooters to try and control the rabbits in the parks surrounding the Levenwick Burial Ground, Antonia had discussed the way forward on this matter with the SIC, as agreed at the community council's previous meeting. Antonia reported that the Burials Department had confirmed that, in addition to gassing within the Burial Ground itself as a means of trying to control the large rabbit population, they had previously had two members of staff who were trained in shooting but these staff had left, leaving a gap in the departments avenues for rabbit control. However, they are now in a position to train their own staff again and will therefore take over all responsibility for the continued controlling of rabbits in the area once again. This was welcomed by the members.

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## **25/107 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

### **Cllr Duncan reported as follows:**

**1) MRCC & SFRS:** As part of his membership of the Community Safety & Resilience Board, Cllr is 'fighting' to have suitable staff facilities available at each of the Coastguard and Fire Service sites throughout Shetland. Cllr Duncan had met with Matt Mason, SFRS Group Commander, Shetland, in mid-December and it had been agreed to extend the contracts for improvements of SFRS sites by a further month. He hopes to have more details soon.

**2) Policing:** Cllr Duncan has regular meetings with the local Chief Inspector. In the fight against drugs use in the islands, Dogs Against Drugs are a valuable asset, and with funding to keep the service going always a concern, he was delighted with the recent £30k grant from the Scottish Government.

**3) Tourist Tax:** Irvine enquired how SIC Councillors felt about the possibility of a 'tourist tax' being implemented in Shetland and would the tourist be taxed directly or the cruise ship operator. Cllr Duncan replied that during discussions, it was apparent that feelings on the subject were very mixed and no decision had been taken. Cllr Duncan replied that statements had been made that the implantation of such a tax might mean cruise ships would bypass Shetland rather than pay the tax. Agnes enquired if Lerwick Port Authority would have any say in whether the tax was imposed and would the SIC report come from the Development Department. Cllr Duncan will make enquiries on the points raised and request that a copy of any report produced be sent to the Community Council.

## **25/108 FAIR ISLE**

**1) Nurse's House:** In reply to the Community Council's letter regarding required refurbishment works to the Nurse's House, David Wagstaff, Head of Estates, NHS Shetland, had replied that works are progressing well. Contractors have been engaged and works agreed. Most of the work being done will be carried out by Fair Isle Building Company with all the highest priority internal work to be completed before the new nurse arrives at the end of January. There are then further external works which will need to be done in the spring/summer.

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## **25/109 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS**

Irvine reported that planned meetings before Christmas had to be cancelled but that he had been working on costings for some of the infrastructure shortfalls which had been highlighted. These include power packs for hubs (local shops, halls etc) which can cost in the region of £13,000 for five. Local firm Nordri, are going to check and confirm if these types (Phase 1) are adequate for the needs or would Phase 2 be required. Michael Duncan, SIC, has also researched all funding avenues specific to this type of project. Once the Dunrossness Resilience Plan is complete, it will dovetail into the Shetland-wide one.

## **25/110 LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

Antonia reported that herself and Helen Budge had undertaken the first stage of training, with more scheduled for February. The next stage in the process is for a Steering Group to be set up followed by a public meeting to gauge interest in the community.

## **25/111 CORRESPONDENCE**

**1) Adoption of Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan:** Shetland Marine Planning Partnership confirmed that the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan was adopted by Scottish Ministers in early December. The Plan can be accessed on the Scottish Government website.

**2) Christmas Wreaths and Floral Tributes:** SIC Burial Services are reminding people that if they wish to keep any Christmas wreaths and floral tributes which they have placed on graves they should make their own arrangements to remove them before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. From 1<sup>st</sup> February each year, burial ground staff begin to prepare for the grass cutting season and, where a permanent memorial exists, will collect and dispose of any non funeral related wreaths and flowers lying directly on the grass or not within suitable receptacles. Where no permanent memorial exists, they will endeavour to leave one tribute in the memorial area until such time as it significantly deteriorates.

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**25/111 CORRESPONDENCE (continued)**

- 3) **Runic Stones:** Paul Moar, Lerwick, reported that Magnus Hutchison from Whalsay, hopes to eventually create and donate a small number of Runic Stones to various locations in Shetland. Paul had suggested a possible way forward to achieve this would be to contact Community Councils and Lerwick Community Council was therefore chosen as the initial point of contact. A small presentation had been given, which had been met very favourably. The ancient Runic text which Magnus uses is based on Runic Stone(s) which were found at Cunningsburgh. There are a number of Runic styles (eg Elder & Younger Furthark) with Shetland's Runic Language coming under the 'Younger Furthark' style. A few photos of Magnus' work were attached to the email to demonstrate the workmanship and quality.

Sgt Andy Adams left the meeting at 8.20pm

- 4) **Dunrossness Primary School:** The Community Council had received an email from Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council just before Christmas reporting that the Parent Council had contacted SIC councillors with a plea to review the decision to demolish what was referred to as the "temporary classrooms" at the school. A copy of a letter detailing their concerns had also been provided. The members discussed the restricted space and resources available to the pupils and the fact that Dunrossness Primary School currently has a higher than Shetland average percentage of pupils with additional support needs. They also understood, however, that the policy in place to accommodate and support additional support needs pupils is based on the size of the school and not the actual number of pupils requiring additional support. The members agreed that a letter should be sent to the SIC Chief Executive seeking clarification and feedback on what plans, if any, the Council has to increase the space and resources at the school to maximise the pupils learning experience and aid the staff in their endeavours to provide this in the best and most positive way. The letter will also seek confirmation of the current policy in relation to additional support needs pupils and teacher/support staff ratios and point out that, if the policy is as the Community Council has been led to believe, they suggest it should be reviewed for the benefit of all concerned.

**25/112 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS**

There was no other current business for discussion.

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**25/113 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS**

- 1) Install 25 temporary accommodation cabins, new septic tank system and temporary electricity supply unit comprising 2 generators, battery pack and slave tank, land west of The Puffin Building, Fair Isle by BAM -**  
There were no objections.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 IN DUNROSSNESS PRIMARY  
SCHOOL.**