

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)
On Tuesday 20th January 20th at 7.45 pm
(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

Mike Foggarty (Chair for the mtg)
Lucy Cummings
Russell Simpson
Julie Maguire

IN ATTENDANCE

Frances Browne SIC
Robert Thompson
Carl Symons SIC
Sgt Andy Adams Shetland Police
Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

Apologies

Juliet Bellis, James Rendall, Michael Duncan

1. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th of December 2025 were circulated.
Proposed by Lucy, seconded by Russell and approved.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Sgt Andy Adams Police Report

Andy was unable to join via Teams.

Andy joined by phone and provided a report on crime in Fetlar. There had been one reported crime recently, 'Drugs Attempt to Possess'. Most likely via the post.

Andy then informed that a new police office will soon be arriving in Yell.

He then asked if there were any concerns that the Council wished to raise.

As there were none, Mike thanked Andy for his contribution.

4. Ongoing Business

4.1. Fetlar Handyman Post Fetlar Handyman Bulk Rubbish Removal

Mike welcomed Carl to the meeting

Chris informed that the SIC Community Development Funds are fully committed for this financial year so not immediately available to fund skips.

Russell introduced the need for a bulk uplift of rubbish left throughout the island and could SIC assist.

Carl replied that fly tipping on private land is not a council responsibility.

The council could pick up rubbish collected from the beach.

Robert commented that there may be other options to be explored for large items of refuse.

Carl reminded the Council that SIC provides a bulky uplift service which is £140 for up to six items.

Mike asked if the handyman could assist with bulky items.

Carl informed that the handyman cannot do that for health and safety reasons. The Bulky Uplift service is a 2-person team.

Frances commented that some communities combine to enable a pick-up of six items.

Carl commented that practice would be acceptable.

Carl informed that there will be a consultation with island residents about recycling. SIC has been asked to explore ways of recycling more. This could include new approaches to bulky uplifts.

Community Councils will be kept informed.

4.2. Snow Clearance

Russell raised concerns about snow clearance during the recent cold spell. He noted that one of the crofters had voluntarily worked for several hours and spent his own money clearing now.

Also, that the snow clearing tractor broke down and that it had been noted that the gritter was only gritting one side of the road. And that the council snow plough when it arrived got stuck in a ditch and had to be pulled out by a local crofter.

Carl commented that he would raise the concerns with Roads Director at the next senior managers meeting.

Chris commented that he could ask him if he could reply to the email sent to him about snow clearing and to ask for an explanation as to why it took a week before the Council arrived to assist with snow clearing during which time residents were not able to access basic services and no emergency services were able to travel on the island.

There was then some discussion about making a payment to the crofter who had worked voluntarily. It was agreed that a payment of £180 should be offered on receipt of a VAT Invoice.

4.3. SIC Housing

It was noted that there is now a 1-bedroom property vacant.

SIC Ferries are still using their property.

4.4. Ferry Timetables

The community had been informed of the Single Vessel service during February due to a delayed return of the Geira.

It was noted that the timetable now included an extra mid-day service and bookings available as requested.

4.5. NHS

Chris informed that he had received no reply to the formal complaint even after a second email.

Frances will follow up.

Mike advised sending the complaint to Clinical Governance.

Russell introduced the dilemma of getting a Controlled Drug Prescription to Fetlar. The Yell surgery had informed him that it is the patient's responsibility to pick up prescriptions from Brae.

There was some discussion about the continuing issues with the NHS that still need to be resolved, including prescriptions being posted which has been agreed in principle for some time. It was agreed that the best option would be to invite NHS management to the next meeting on the 17th of February and if they can't make the meeting in March. Council members will meet up to agree the issues that need discussion.

There was some discussion about ensuring that the actions from the meeting are taken up and that having a recording of the meeting would be helpful.

Robert informed that all Council meetings are recorded on Teams.

4.6. Inter Island Transport Connectivity

Robert informed that in the Scottish Budget there was a sum of £26 million over four years to support island connectivity. This should mean that the preliminary work to prepare for tunnels could take place. It should also support replacement ferries. The new designs for the ferries should enable a faster lead time for future purchases.

4.7. Brough Lodge

No news

4.8. Islands with Small Populations

Lucy and Juliet had attended the recent community consultation on the theme of "What makes a community". There are common themes across the small islands.

Frances informed that there is space for another Fetlar representative and she will prepare a notice asking for volunteers.

5. Finance and Administration

5.1 Finance Report

Chris shared the quarterly statement.

Chris asked about the status of the Defib equipment as there are funds in the budget to cover batteries.

Lucy informed that they are in date but will probably need funding in next year's budget.

5.2 Clerk Invoice

The clerk's salary invoice was approved.

6. AOCB

Frances shared three issues.

- 6.1. Robert informed that Yell Sound is moving to the new shift system like the Bluemull Sound and this should improve timetables. Frances commented that Community Councils should be consulted about new timetables.
- 6.2. Frances informed that CLAN the cancer charity would like people to be informed about its services and will share a poster.
- 6.3. Mike informed that he had discovered that the Council tip will take scrap cars if they can be delivered to the site and have relevant documentation.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th of February at 7.45.