

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

Monday 19th JANUARY 2026 at 7.00 pm at Whalsay Heritage Centre

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES
CCLlr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	
CCLlr Caroline Watt (CW) – Vice Chair	Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)
CCLlr Helen Thomson (HT)	Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
CCLlr 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: JL welcomed all.

JL expressed gratitude and noted that several positions remain vacant. The group considered ways to continue recruitment by using posters and social media. JL encouraged everyone to contact suitable candidates and noted that new viewpoints are always welcome.

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:

At present, no further meeting dates have been confirmed beyond those already listed. Additional dates will be arranged and shared in due course as members' availability becomes clearer.

FINANCE REPORT:

During the finance report, the clerk provided members with an update on the current financial position, outlining available funds. JL led a conversation regarding possible projects that could be supported by these grants, inviting members to suggest new initiatives. The group discussed how the funds had been allocated so far and explored potential areas for future investment, with emphasis on delivering benefits to the community. Suggestions and ideas for further projects were encouraged, ensuring that opportunities for utilising the grants would be maximised.

1. DOG FOULING – HOULL

The clerk has been asked to get in touch with the school's Art Teacher to look at working together on designing new signs about dog fouling. This collaboration would let students create fun and eye-catching artwork to help spread the message and encourage local dog owners to act responsibly.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

2. SYMBISTER PIER

The clerk shared that the date for planned works at Pier Road is still not set. CCTV cameras are expected to be installed in December. Members talked about safety, especially as winter approaches, and asked for regular updates on both the road works and CCTV installation. RH asked for more information on the capability of CCTV proposed.

Members said winter could make the area riskier because of bad weather and less daylight. They agreed CCTV would help keep people safe and asked the clerk to share the installation date as soon as possible. The group also suggested checking on the situation at future meetings.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

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Proposed Works for Pier and Condition:

Everyone agreed it was important to keep an eye on things and check for any new updates, so members stay informed about progress and changes. JL raised issues about safety and consensus was Shetland Amenity needed to do more as area has been neglected.

Action: Ongoing

3. Waiting Room and Toilets

Ongoing and no update shared with group. 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

All discussed, further actions required regarding the proposed dry dock schedule have been discussed, including concerns about the lack of replacement ferries and challenges associated with maintaining and repairing aging fleets. JL shared letter received from residents, highlighting their concerns regarding the ongoing disruptions to the service. The group engaged in a discussion about the persistent lack of service improvements.

- *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*

No updates or changes. Clerk asked to follow up with RTH.

Actions: Clerk to follow up

POLICE MATTERS

Clerk shared report with all

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

Bus Shelter project more information needed, and clerk asked to follow up and shared with SIC. All discussed the roads and works needed within isle. JL asked clerk to follow with proposed plan from SIC.

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

9. MAP/NEWSLETTER

JL shared with members extension for map project until 30th Sept 2026.

ACTION Ongoing

10. SKIPS

All discussed skip hire for March, clerk to organise.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

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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 gave a short update on the chimney replacement concerns previously mentioned. We are now waiting for feedback. The clerk has been asked to contact both DA and RTH about this and will let the group know when more information is received. There are no new updates at present because of recent changes at SIC.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

14 Phone/Internet Outage Survey

The group talked about the ongoing problem of no improvements in service.

Everyone agreed that a new way or plan should be looked at to fix the repeated service issues. It was decided that this should be discussed again in more detail at the next meeting, so every idea and possible solution can be considered.

ACTIONS: Clerk to continue to report

JL Thanked all for attending

Meeting closed at 8.33 pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Thursday 26th Jan 2026, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.