

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

*Chair:*

Jane Haswell  
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*Clerk:*

Gill Nadin  
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*Draft minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council (SWCC) held at Walls Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 7 pm*

**Present:** Members - Jane Haswell, Haydn Robertson (online), Jonathan Laing, Andy Holt (online), Angie Nichols, Jane Puckey (online).  
Clerk - Gill Nadin  
Jamie MacBeath – Director of Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) for SWCC  
Leah Colyer - Community Involvement & Development Officer for West Mainland, Central Mainland, Whalsay and Papa Stour

**Apologies:** Sorley Johnston, Cllr Liz Peterson, Michael Duncan, Alan Patrick (Police Scotland), David Sinclair

**1. Chair's welcome**

Jane Haswell chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone present. The Chair extended a particular welcome to L Colyer, as the new Community Involvement & Development Officer for our Community Council area, except Foula.

**2. Declaration of interest** – to be declared in relation to each item

**3. Police report** – none received.

**4. Previous minutes and actions**

Adoption of minutes from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 was proposed by A Holt and seconded by J Puckey. The Clerk and Chair confirmed that all actions had been completed, except:

*Re 10.3 of 02/26 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)*

Local promotional poster for SCBF still to be developed and posted

*Re. 13.3 of 02/26 Snow and Ice Road Clearance*

No examples of issues regarding winter roads problems received by Chair, so concerns not raised with Roads Department.

**4.1 Administrative update**

J Haswell explained plans to display meeting minutes and agendas in local public spaces – Walls shop and health centre. Arrangements were also made for displaying documents in Papa Stour's waiting room and Kirk. J Laing and A Holt agreed to help with this, and the Clerk will send them copies of the documents to display. Sandness Community Development now have a new

website and a link to the online minutes will be provided there. There is already a link to the minutes on our Facebook page, and the agenda will be uploaded ahead of meetings. Minutes are also available on the SIC Community Council page. The aim is to ensure wider reach and engagement within the local community, recognising the continued importance of hard copy displays.

## **5. Matters arising not on agenda**

### **5.1 Re. 12 of 02/26 Defibrillators - Registration and Maintenance Grants**

The Clerk had found online information about the national registration of defibrillators and Cllr Peterson had confirmed by email that this was the correct procedure to follow locally to ensure registration with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). The members agreed to offer maintenance grants towards the cost of replacement pads and batteries, emphasizing that the SWCC would not manage the devices but could support guardianship and upkeep costs. This initiative could help to support approximately 8 to 10 defibrillators within the area, and a new application form will be developed for groups and individuals to apply for the grant. Each application will be decided dependant on available funds and item costs. The SWCC would require the identification of a named Defibrillator Guardian and registration with SAS.

The grant application form and any offer will state clearly that the SWCC are only supporting reimbursement towards consumable items and hold no responsibility beyond that. The registration with SAS will support the identification of the Guardian and explains their responsibilities for testing and maintenance.

Action: Develop defibrillator maintenance grant form and promote the scheme within the local area.

Post meeting note: A policy and procedure will be developed for approval at a future SWCC meeting

### **5.2 Re. 13.1 of 02/26 Skips in Papa Stour and Foula** No progress to report on the skips in Papa Stour

## **6. Correspondence not on agenda**

6.1 A local resident has emailed to ask that Community-Led Housing (CLH) be facilitated and supported by the CC. Members discussed the need for partnership between groups and organizations, as CLH along with Local Place Plans could be important projects going forward. J Haswell is meeting Peter Mogridge this month to discuss LPPs. Peter also leads on the 'Children's Living Well Locally Plan for the Westside Mainland'. This document had been forwarded to the members, and it was agreed that it was an important piece of work that should be considered alongside CLH and LPPs. L Colyer will be working with any local groups wishing to develop plans. The members agreed to acknowledge the resident's correspondence indicating their interest and support for CLH and LPPs, without leading any initiatives at this time.

Action: Clerk will reply to the local resident to convey the above.

Draft Minutes of the March 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council  
subject to approval at the next meeting

- 6.2 Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks – Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund is scheduled to open this month, with a total value of £3m concluding in Spring 2028. The fund has two aims:
- to support groups who are looking to cut the carbon from their activities through the adoption of solar panels, battery storage, EV chargers and heat pumps
  - to help communities become better prepared ahead of severe weather which may affect the local electricity network and cause the power to go off or have other impacts
- 6.3 Email from NHS Shetland regarding new GP arrangements at the Health Centre was forwarded to members. This news was very positive, and the members agreed to send a card to the new doctors, welcoming them to the area.

Action: Clerk to send a card

## 7. Finance report

The new community council bank account is now operational. A finance report had been circulated before the meeting, and the members were happy with the format. 10% of unspent funds can automatically be carried forward, but over this requires the approval of the Shetland Islands Council (SIC). Accounts will be audited over the summer and final accounts approved by members before submission to the SIC by September. It is only then that any additional carry forward can be requested.

SIC have just confirmed that SWCC Core Funding allocation for 2026-27 will be the same as last year although an application form must now be completed, detailing a breakdown of planned costs for the year. Last year, the core funding was received into the SWCC bank account at the end of May, but the SIC hope to have it paid sooner this year.

Action: Core funding application form to be completed and forwarded to members for comment before submission

## 8. Roads

### 8.1 *Papa Stour cattle grid*

The Roads department have confirmed to J Puckey that the side wall of the grid will be repaired by the end of March and the grid bars replaced by the end of April. This information superseded more vague dates given to The Clerk over a week ago.

### 8.2 *Deep Ditch Safety Concerns*

J Haswell highlighted a significant safety issue regarding a deep ditch between the road and the new Hjaltland houses at Forralea in Walls. She had been notified of two individuals who had fallen in the ditch and sustained minor injuries. Despite previous enquiries by the Community Council many months ago, no effective solution had been implemented, prompting a renewed commitment to pursue remedial action. J Haswell has taken photos and will contact the SIC Roads department.

Draft Minutes of the March 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council  
subject to approval at the next meeting

Action: Chair to contact SIC Roads

**9. Planning** – nothing to discuss this month

**10. Councillor's reports** – Cllr Peterson unable to attend but emailed to say nothing particular to report. Chair noted that SIC budgets has been approved and an update of impact on these would be useful at next meeting.

Action: Clerk to request this update from Councillor members

**11. SCBF Director's report**

J Macbeath provided an overview of the SCBF, explaining its history, current grant schemes, and allocation processes. The Walls and Sandness area receives about £6,600 annually, which is distributed after application vetting by the fund's staff and then approval by the CC. Underspend can be carried forward.

J Macbeath highlighted the fund's uniqueness due to Shetland's geography and the involvement of CC representatives on the Fund's board. He also clarified the distinction between tiered funding levels and the process for handling Shetland-wide applications.

Anyone interested in applying for SCBF grants should be directed to the SCBF website. The full-time SCBF staff are a wealth of knowledge and can be contacted too for assistance, either by applicants or the SWCC. It is also possible for the SWCC to apply to the SCBF for funding for certain expenditure, and J Macbeath agreed to clarify the details.

J Macbeath explained that like most of the SCBF Directors, he is not a CC member, as this is preferred to keep them independent, but he is appointed by the SWCC as the Director for the area. The members all agreed that he should continue in that role, as he is happy to do so. J Macbeath then left the meeting.

**12. Funding applications**

12.1 Sandness Film Club requested a grant of £250. J Haswell and H Robertson declared an interest and the remaining members approved the request.

12.2 The Sandness Children's Activities Group requested £500 mainly for the Halloween and Christmas parties. A Nichols declared an interest in this group and withdrew from this discussion. Concern was expressed that no Child Protection Policy was in place for the group and that this would be required before funding could be given. The members agreed that the application could be conditionally approved, pending the establishment of a Child Protection Policy. The SWCC can assist in the establishment of this policy.

12.3 Sandness Hall requested a grant of £250 to upgrade IT facilities with a smart TV for online meetings and social events, which was supported.

12.4 Bob Hudson has replaced the pads on the defibrillator at the Walls toilets and requested reimbursement. The cost was £60 and this was approved. He has

Draft Minutes of the March 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council  
subject to approval at the next meeting

confirmed that he will register the defibrillator with the SAS, so the link for registration will be sent to him.

Action: Clerk to confirm above decisions with applicants and arrange payments when appropriate.

### **13. Islands with small populations representative's update**

A Holt and J Puckey confirmed that representatives from Papa Stour and Foula attend meetings with the other small outer island communities, providing opportunities to engage with department heads and discuss local issues. However, there has been a noted reduction in attendance by key officials, which impacts the usefulness of these meetings.

### **14. Unadopted roads grant**

The members reaffirmed the importance of funding for unadopted roads, which serve occupied houses. Funding of £1,500 for this purpose was allocated in 2025-26, with £1,063 spent to date. Separate allocation of £800 was made in the current budget for beach tracks and other environmental grants (including skips), of which £507 has been spent. They discussed rules around applying for such grants, including a current two-year application cycle. The CC agreed to advertise the unadopted roads grant in April 2026 to allow timely work and reimbursement within the next financial year. Applications will be open from 1st April, closing April 30th. Members also agreed to allocate the same amount in the budget in 2026-27.

Action: Unadopted roads grant to be advertised in April with closing date 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **15. Publicity and engagement**

Plans for a funding poster were discussed, emphasizing the need for clarity on available funds before public promotion. The members also discussed the importance of engaging children and teenagers, considering co-opting young people for specific issues affecting them.

### **16. Children and Teenagers Living Well Locally Plan for the Westside Mainland – discussed in 6.1 and 15 above**

### **17. AOBC**

#### **17.1 Community Ferry Runs**

J Puckey notified the member that the two community ferry runs for the year 2025-26 had not been used to date, but they were to be operated in the next few weeks to facilitate transporting children to school and freight into the island.

#### **17.2 Energy Infrastructure and Community Involvement**

J Haswell attended an online Scottish Parliament Rural Scottish Convention from Holyrood, on major energy infrastructures. The Minister for Climate Change has agreed to a forum for community councils to be involved in discussions about 'NESCO' - a National Energy Systems Operator Strategic Spatial Energy Plan. This topic was due to be discussed at the Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) meeting next week, but has been

Draft Minutes of the March 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council  
subject to approval at the next meeting

postponed until the ASCC June meeting, due to the upcoming election. J  
Haswell will continue to receive communications about the convention and  
potentially be involved in any discussions.

**18. Date/Venue of Next Meeting**

The date of next meeting was set for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm.  
Venue – Sandness Hall and TEAMS.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation

**Meeting closed at 8:30pm**

**We welcome your contact**

- Do you have any community issues or concerns you would like us to discuss?
- A safety issue or an idea for improving the area?
- Do you wish to discuss or apply for funding?

Please get in touch by email - [sandnesswallsc@gmail.com](mailto:sandnesswallsc@gmail.com)



or speak directly to any member via <https://tinyurl.com/yhwa3wus>