

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

Fiona Mitchell  
Stackhoull  
Fair Isle  
Shetland ZE2 9JU  
Tel: 01595 760314

**Clerk**

Shirley Leslie  
Ringesta  
Quendale  
Shetland ZE2 9JD  
E-mail: dunrossness.cc@gmail.com

Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 in Dunrossness Primary School.

**PRESENT**

Aileen Brown (Chair)      Helen Budge      Antonia Colvin      Helen Moncrieff

**APOLOGIES**

Fiona Mitchell      Irvine Burgess      Agnes Tallack      Dawna Phillips  
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)      Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)  
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)      Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)  
Michael Duncan (SIC)      Ana Arnett (SIC)

**ABSENT**

Allen Sinclair

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)      Sgt Alex Barry (Police Scotland)

**25/114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1) Aileen declared an interest in the correspondence (25/126/1) from SCBF ref nomination of directors.
- 2) Helen Budge declared an interest in St Ninian's Access Road Cattle Grids (25/119/1)

**25/115 MINUTE**

The Minute of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 was adopted on the motion of Aileen.

25/116

### **25/116 COMMUNITY COUNCIL VACANCIES**

Helen Moncrieff had previously expressed an interest in rejoining the Community Council but had been unable to attend the first meetings of the new Community Council. The members confirmed with Helen M that this was still the case and therefore unanimously agreed to co-opt her. Helen M accepted the appointment and completed the necessary paperwork, which the Clerk will forward to SIC. The members agreed to try and fill the remaining vacancies by means of a by-election. The Clerk will inform Michael Duncan of this decision.

### **25/117 POLICE REPORT**

The Chair welcomed Sergeant Alex Barry to the meeting. Although the Police Report for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 wasn't available, Sgt Barry could report that there had been three items reported in both December and January for the Dunrossness area.

**Sgt Barry left the meeting at 7:15pm**

### **25/118 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.

### **25/119 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

1) **St Ninian's Access Road Cattle Grids:** Following discussions at January's CC meeting, the Clerk had reported to Jim Budge, Bigton Farm, that the Community Council would be in a position to offer a small grant towards the replacement of the cattle grids and passed on the members suggestion that he also approach the Shetland Community Benefit Fund. Jim had reported back that he had contacted the SCBF but they don't give grants to individuals. He also advised that the Farm might wait until later in the year when things are quieter before replacing the grids, which will give more time to investigate funding options.

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**25/120 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND**

There was nothing new to report.

**25/121 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

**1) Public Access Meeting:** Helen M reported that she had attended a Public Access meeting at which it had been reported that some people were behaving poorly in the countryside in relation to livestock and wildlife. It is planned to try and increase public awareness as a means of tackling the poor behaviour.

**25/122 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

No Cllrs were available to provide a reported.

**25/123 FAIR ISLE**

Fiona had forwarded correspondence regarding the increase in rates for renting the flat in the Anderson High School Halls of Residence which is available to parents of children from the outer isles to use when visiting Lerwick. It was agreed to defer discussion of this matter until Fiona was available to attend a meeting.

**25/124 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS**

There was nothing new to report.

**25/125 LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

Antonia and Helen B reported that the next stage is to form a Steering Group of 3 to 5 people. It was agreed to invite a representative from Hymhus to join the steering group as it was understood they had already carried out some appropriate research for the Bigton area which would be beneficial. Helen M also agreed to join.

25/126/1

## 25/126 CORRESPONDENCE

**1) Shetland Community Benefit Fund:** Under SCBF rules, a third of SCBF directors must retire each year and the Community Council nominate someone to stand at the next AGM. The nomination can be the same person. Dunrossness Community Council's current nomination was Aileen and the members unanimously agreed to nominate her again. Aileen accepted and the Clerk will put her name forward to SCBF.

**2) Da Voar Redd Up 2026:** This year's Voar Redd Up will take place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April. Groups who participated in 2025 should have now received information regarding registration. New groups can register online at Shetland Amenity Trusts website.

**3) 'Thank you' letter:** A 'thank you' letter had been received from Boddam SWI for the grant awarded towards their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Eileen Tait reported that it had been a 'special day' with visitors from as far afield as Ollaberry and Whalsay and some of the older past members had also been able to attend.

**4) Extra Bins:** An email had been received from a member of the public regarding the provision of additional public bins in the Virkie area. Antonia reported that she had forwarded relevant SIC contact details. The members agreed that probably other areas of Dunrossness would also benefit from some additional bins and that this could be a matter investigated as part of Dunrossness' Local Place Plan, once it is up and running.

**5) Association of Shetland Community Councils:** The next meeting of the ASCC is scheduled to take place at the Town Hall (chamber) on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March between 6pm and 8pm. Helen Budge agreed that she could attend on behalf of DCC. The Clerk will also confirm with Irvine and Fiona if either of them wish to attend.

**6) Community Council Convention Round Table on the Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure on our Communities:** Andrew Archer of Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council reported that they have put forward an agenda item for an ASCC meeting, asking the ASCC to consider whether a convention of Shetland Community Council members should be held to review how we should respond to all the energy developments planned for Shetland. Andrew pointed out that, in the meantime, a 'Roundtable' at Holyrood has been organised for 24<sup>th</sup> February, which Community Council's are invited to attend (remotely is an option). Some of DCC members had requested the link to attend the meeting.

**25/126 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)**

**7) Dunrossness Primary School:** Following the Community Council's email to the SIC Chief Executive seeking clarification and feedback on what plans the Council has to increase the space and resources at Dunrossness Primary School following the recent demolition of the 'temporary' classrooms, Samantha Flaws, Director of Children's Services had replied as follows:

"Throughout the demolition period, colleagues from Assets, Commissioning and Procurement have been based within the school, spending time with staff and pupils. This has allowed them to gain first-hand insight into daily pressures and has strengthened the accuracy of the refurbishment planning now underway.

This planning includes:

Internal reconfiguration options to make more effective use of existing space, including increasing the availability of small-group and support rooms and flexible spaces.

Improving toilet provision.

Enhancing outdoor learning areas.

We will shortly begin a structured programme of engagement with parents, pupils, staff and other agencies, ensuring their experience directly shapes the refurbishment planning now underway.

Samantha had also explained how additional support for pupils learning is catered for within Shetland schools and reported that:

"Resource allocations is within the scope of our current Support for Learning Review which is underway. The review will provide the opportunity to consider if the current approach to allocating resources is helping to improve outcomes for individual children and young people with an additional support need.

The members welcomed the information provided. The Clerk will reply to Samantha stating that the Community Council would welcome being included in conversation relating to the refurbishment plans for the School. The Clerk will also reply to the Parent Council thanking them for their email and ensure that they are aware that 'refurbishment planning' for the School is underway.

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**25/127 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS**

There was no other current business for discussion.

**25/128 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS**

There were no Planning Applications for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 IN DUNROSSNESS PRIMARY  
SCHOOL.**