

Mr Hutcheson informed the members that they do not have a minor works budget for provision of passing places, etc. They need to have justification for the provision and they would not be able to purchase any land for this purpose. He asked that details of the area on the Vementry road where the passing place is requested should be forwarded to him and he will check it out.

The 'smiley face' 40mph signs at Bixter were welcomed by the members.

Mr Hutcheson informed the members that some 'cats eyes' are to be replaced. They often get affected by the snow clearing equipment in the winter time.

The Scottish Office require 30mph signs to be replaced by 20mph signs in Housing estates and this will be done in Marthastown and the other housing estates in Aith.

The Chairman enquired about the scanner which checks the state of the roads every year.

Mr Hutcheson explained that the A Class roads are checked every year and the B Class roads are done every 2nd year. He added that he feels that most of the westside roads are quite good and that the top of the Hill at Tresta to the burn is to be done next year.

Although outwith this CC area, it was brought to Mr Hutcheson's attention that about 20 metres of road on the left hand side of the road west of Olligarth floods with heavy rain and, due to the shape of the road and, at that particular point, it is difficult to see, especially in the dark. Mr Hutcheson agreed to have a look at the area.

Mr G Morrison brought up the winter gritting and said that the single track roads are not gritted prior to the time when the school buses have to use them e.g. Sandsound, Tumblyn, Skeld, Vementry Clousta and Gonfirth. He often gets phone calls from the schools and parents asking if they are running and the drivers do not now feel that the roads are safe for the buses to use until gritting has been done.

Mr Hutcheson said the cause is a lack of gritters and drivers.

Mr K Tulloch suggested that some of the contractors who provide the snow clearing service could be asked to take on the gritting and be provided with the required equipment.

Mr Hutcheson agreed with this suggestion and will have a look at it.

Mr E Anderson expressed concern about the speed on the Black Gaet road but Mr Hutcheson explained that this road had been designed for a 60mph speed limit. The reduction in speed limits is based on the density of population, vulnerable road users, number of artics using the road, etc

Mr C Manson asked whether paths could be made available in places like Tresta.

Cllr L Peterson suggested that it be brought to the attention of the SIC Safety dept and the Chairman suggested that it could be added to the Active Travel list.

Mr Hutcheson said that, if finance were made available through grant funding, his Dept could help to design a path.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hutcheson for attending the meeting and enlightening the members about what roadworks, etc is going on in the area and for agreeing to check up on some things for them. Mr Hutcheson thanked the members for the invitation. He then left.

BUSINESS ARISING: S&A DRAFT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN: Mrs J Fraser had been in contact with representatives from the local halls who had all agreed that the halls could be used for hubs.

Mrs S Deyell said that Ms Samantha Belokon-Dennis has recently qualified as the first and only West Mainland First Responder in association with the Scottish Ambulance Service and that she will be looking for financial help to fundraise for critical equipment.

Mr E Anderson said that, on Foula, an Emergency Bag and stock of items are held but that may be provided because it is an isolated island.

Mr K Tulloch said that asking for a grant from SSE for electrical work to make the connection of a generator to the hall possible is something that the Bixter Hall Committee is looking to apply for.

Director for SCBF: Mr James D Garrick has agreed to be a Director for this area on the Shetland Community Benefit Fund Group. SCBF will be informed.

CGS Application: Another application was received and considered. The members normally ask what fundraising the groups have already done and a message will be sent to

SCBF asking for this information and suggesting that this query should be added to the application form.

Road Matters: Clousta Road & Blind spot near Hillcrest, Clousta: As stated earlier in the meeting Mr Hutcheson advised that there is now no funding for providing extra passing places unless it can be done without purchasing additional land. It was felt that this would not be possible at this site.

Extra passing place on Vementry Road: This was also discussed earlier.

Funding: Funding details had been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

R100 Broadband Evaluation: Ducting ongoing.

Skeld Camping Bod: No date yet agreed with Ms Hazel Sutherland, Chief Executive of Shetland Amenity Trust to attend our meeting.

Wast Owre Column: Report will be sent to Ms D Nicolson each month.

Finance: Core Fund: Thanks were received from Skeld Pier for their maintenance grant and from Reawick & Dist Boating Club for maintenance grant for the Skeld Toilets.

A message was received from Mr M Duncan enclosing an on-line application form for the Community Council Core Funding 2026/27. A breakdown of planned costs is requested to illustrate how the funds will be used. The Clerk will complete the form.

Association: The next Association meeting will be held on 11 March but none of the members were available to attend.

RNID: A message was received from Ms Natasha Hamilton, RNID Co-ordinator, saying that a new RNID session will commence in Scalloway on 11 March to support people with hearing loss. Sessions are presently held in Brae, Lerwick, Mossbank, Whalsay and Unst.

PLANNING APPLICATION: The following planning application was considered and no objections were raised:-

2026/003/MAR Development of a new fish farm consisting of 10 x 120m circumference pens and a seacap feed barge at Vementry Swarbacks Minn by Ben Johnson.

VIKING COMMUNITY FUND – APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT FUND: A message was received from Mrs Eleanor Gear, Fund Manager, Shetland Community Benefit Fund giving details of the Viking Community Fund Apprenticeship Support Fund for Small Businesses. The details can be found on the SCBF website – Apprenticeships, Bursary & Training Funds - and the fund closes on 31st May 2026.

CRUISE FORWARD – MAXIMISING SHETLAND’S POTENTIAL: A Cruise event is taking place on 12 March.

COUNCILLOR UPDATE: It was suggested that the SIC Councillors who attend the Community Council meetings should have the opportunity at each meeting to give an update to the members on whatever they feel necessary.

SIC BUDGET: Cllr L Peterson said that the SIC Committees are having reviews in order to decide what financial savings will have to be made and try to find a way to make the Council more efficient.

PRE-ELECTION PERIOD: The Chairman reminded the members that, with the Scottish Local Government Elections being held in May, we will soon enter the pre-election period when we must be politically neutral.

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing reminders and information with the Community Council were received and noted.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Rankin Lounge/Peerie Hall, Aith on Monday 13 April at 7.30pm..