

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson

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Clerk

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 30th March 2026 via Zoom.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Aileen Brown	Irvine Burgess	Helen Budge
Helen Moncrieff	Dawna Phillips	Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)	
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)		
Ana Arnett (SIC)			

APOLOGIES

Agnes Tallack	Antonia Colvin	Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)
Michael Duncan (SIC)		

ABSENT

Allen Sinclair

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

25/129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1) Cllr MacGregor declared an interest in any planning matters (25/142)
- 2) Aileen Brown declared an interest in the SCBF Community Grant Scheme application (25/133/2)

25/130 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 23rd February 2026 was adopted on the motion of Helen.

25/131

25/131 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 had been received via email and reported as follows:

Road Safety and Road Crime

- Driving with No Insurance

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

- Noise Complaint (2)

Acquisitive Crime

- Theft

Protecting Vulnerable People

- Concern for Person
- Sexual Offence

25/132 MATTERS ARISING

- 1) Road Matters:** The Clerk reported that the Community Council had received a follow up email in late February from a Scatness resident regarding roads issues which she had raised previously and the Community Council had forwarded to the Roads department for their attention. The Clerk had also forwarded the latest email to the Roads Department and local councillors. Cllr Duncan had replied that he would make contact with the Roads Department later that day, but no update had been received to date. Barrie Scobbie, SIC Roads, had also replied as follows: *"I see the verge has been over run, but apart from that the rest of the road is in an acceptable condition. I am aware that there are no footways on sections of this road, but it is policy to maintain what we have, as we don't receive funding for installing footways. This would need to be addressed with the relevant elected members"*. The Clerk will request an update from Cllr Duncan ref his contact with the Roads Department on the matter and reply to the original email with Barrie Scobbie's response.
- 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. It was agreed to follow this matter up with SIC Active Travel.

25/133 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) Dunrossness Central Public Hall – To assist with the costs of replacing some old tables and chairs and also purchasing additional:**
This grant application was originally considered in August 2025 and the sum of £2437 awarded towards the cost of the project. As this was the first grant application of the financial year, the members had been cautious about awarded too large a sum at that stage but invited the Hall to re-apply for additional support later in the financial year, if necessary. Therefore, with some funds still available in the Community Council budget, it was agreed, as proposed by Irvine and seconded by Helen B, to award an additional £1259.90 towards the costs of purchasing some new 6ft folding tables.

- 2) Shetland Community Benefit Fund Tier 1 Application – Fair Isle Community Association – Funding towards costs for Shetland Blues, a Fair Isle creative community residency with CHROMA:** The Community Council members were happy to support this application. The Clerk will provide the necessary feedback to SCBF.

25/134 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

The Clerk reported that, having previously submitted a form to the Bank to add an additional signatory to the account to enable it to be reactivated, she had now received a further form to be completed.

25/135 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

- 1) Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting:** Michael Duncan, SIC had provided the below report from the ASCC meeting which was held on 10 March 2026

- **New Office Bearers**

Shayne McLeod and Andrew Archer were appointed as the new ASCC Chair and Vice Chare respectively.

25/135 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting (continued)

- **Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust**

George Smith attended from SHECT and provided a presentation on funding that is available from SHECT.

SHECT can consider applications from individual domestic applicants and registered charities towards the costs of an electricity connection. Domestic applicants can seek up to 50% of eligible costs, whereas registered charities can seek up to 75% eligible costs. Additional criteria and application form can be found on the SHECT website. SHECT meet 4 times a year to consider applications. To date, there has been very little uptake in Shetland so please share this funding opportunity to any interested individuals and registered charities with housing projects. Next deadline for applications is 14th May 2026.

- **Defibrillators Awareness Raising**

Andrew Mayhew and Daniel Mainland attended from Scottish Ambulance Service.

There are a lot of defibrillators in Shetland, but a significant percentage of them are not registered to "The Circuit" or being checked/maintained regularly. For information, "The Circuit" maps defibrillators throughout the UK. In the event of a blue light emergency, being registered to "The Circuit" ensures that emergency services can find the nearest public defibrillator if someone is in cardiac arrest.

Andrew and Daniel provided background on the current situation and agreed to share a list of the current registered defibrillators that will be shared with Community Councils in due course for checking. This awareness raising project is seeking to do the following:

- Identify all local defibrillator's locations
- Encourage the owner to register it to "The Circuit" website
- Promote the need for defibrillators to be regularly inspected
- Ensure that defibrillator batteries and pads are updated

To register a defibrillator on "The Circuit" please visit their website.

25/135 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting (continued)

- **Defibrillators Awareness Raising (continued)**

Andrew and Daniel also deliver training and are happy to attend Community Council meetings and other groups to deliver training. Andrew can be contacted as follows:

E-mail: Andrew.Mayhew@nhs.scot

It was agreed that the Community Council will put a post on the Facebook page encouraging owners of defibrillators in the area to register them as above.

25/136 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) Roads:** Cllr Bryan reported that the SIC Roads Dept will soon be starting their annual programme of surface dressing. Details of the sections affected in an area used to be provided to the relevant Community Council. Bryan will enquire if this is something which is still available.
- 2) Second Property Council Tax:** Cllr Bryan reported that the subject of second property council tax had been discussed in length last week. It had originally been hoped that the additional revenue created would enable a member of staff to be employed to assist people, who found themselves in the position of owning a second property, navigate the process of getting the property on the rental market. It had been pressed home that the employment of a 'second homes officer' was something that was very important a hopefully this is now moving forward.
- 3) Bus Services:** Cllr Alex reported that the recent expansion of the public bus service doesn't really affect the Southend as there is already a 7pm service in place for the area. Alex also reported that he had been in discussion with Michael Craigie, SIC, ref the possible development of an App which would enable travellers to engage and share journeys. The App would be developed by the SIC and, although money cannot change hands to specifically pay for journeys, there is legislation which allows money/vouchers to be used to contribute towards fuel costs.

25/137 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

- 1) **Nurse:** The new nurse took up her post approximately one month ago.
- 2) **Croft and House Available:** There is currently a croft and house available for rent in Fair Isle. Over 100 people have expressed an interest. There may also be another becoming available later in the year.
- 3) **Anderson High School Halls of Residence Flat:** Fiona had forwarded correspondence regarding the increase in rates for renting the 'weekend flat' in the AHS Halls of Residence. The flat is available to parents of children from the outer isles to use when visiting their child/children in Lerwick. Parents had recently been informed that the rate would be increasing to £144 per night. A Fair Isle parent had reported that when one of their children joined the AHS, the 20/21 Handbook stated that "Parents of outer isles such as Fair Isle and Foula are encouraged to make use of the weekend flat, to allow them to spend time together as a family" with the rate at that time being £19.80 per adult, per night. It was noted that the £144 per night rate covers exclusive use of the whole flat, which can accommodate up to 9 people, however, this was not considered to be especially helpful as it was very rare that that size of a family group would be visiting. Cllr Alex had raised the Isles concerns with Brenda Leask, SIC Education Dept who, in reply to another point raised, had stated "*with regard to the press article relating to the Halls of Residence lets, these bookings are being considered as an income generation for the Council but this consideration is for the holiday periods when the hostel is not in use by pupils.*" It was understood that, when the new charges were agreed, they would have been included in a large multi-page document which is part of the Council's annual budget setting process. Helen B believed that the agreed pricing will only be 'set in stone' for one year and therefore there will be an opportunity for re-consideration.

While the members understood the Council's need to maximise the return on an asset, the weekend flat was originally meant for the benefit of outer isles children and their parents, and it was therefore considered that they should be given first opportunity when booking the flat and at a discounted rate, with the higher rate applying to bookings made by other visitors. The Clerk will forward the Community Council's suggestion to Brenda Leask, SIC.

Cllr Alex left the meeting at 8:05pm

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25/138 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Irvine reported that Nordri have been approached for a quotation to provide a report on the proposed resilience hubs.

25/139 LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Helen B reported that Bigton is carrying out another local place plan survey this weekend at Hymhus. Lerwick have held a public meeting recently and Helen has asked for some pointers on how to run one in the Dunrossness area. Bryan suggested that Helen could also approach Sandwick Community Council for suggestions.

25/140 CORRESPONDENCE

1) Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation: The ASCC has been invited to nominate two people to serve as directors on the board of the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO). Michael Duncan, SIC/ASCC, had forwarded the letter to allow time for Community Councils to consider possible nominations in advance of the ASCC June meeting. Fiona will make enquiries as to whether nominations have to be members of the Community Council.

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

3) Westvoe Beach Lifebelt: A member of the public had reported that the Lifebelt Holder at Westvoe Beach had fallen over. The Clerk had done some research ref the lifespan of lifebelts and, although the members couldn't remember the date this lifebelt was purchased, it was concluded that it has well and truly expired. Helen B reminded the members that there is also a lifebelt at St. Ninian's Beach. Helen M suggested that these lifebelts may have been purchased as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award Scheme which both Westvoe and St Ninian's were part of. The Clerk agreed that this was most probably the case. Irvine checked online, and it appears that lifebelts are not overly expensive and it was therefore agreed that the Community Council should be in a financial position to renew these two. In the meantime, the Clerk will investigate which part of the holder at Westvoe has failed to cause it to collapse.

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25/141 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) **Community Council Meetings:** Irvine informed the members that he was finding it difficult to attend meetings on Monday evenings due to other commitments. It was agreed that alternative evenings could be considered and Helen B suggested Irvine put forward for consideration which evening would be his preference.
- 2) **Congratulations!:** On behalf of Dunrossness Community Council, Helen B congratulated Cllr Bryan Peterson on his recent appointment as Shetland Islands Council Convenor.

25/142 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no Planning Applications for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 27th APRIL 2026 VIA ZOOM.**