

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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 27th April 2026 via Zoom.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair) Aileen Brown Helen Moncrieff Agnes Tallack
Antonia Colvin Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)

APOLOGIES

Irvine Burgess Helen Budge Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio) Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)
Michael Duncan (SIC)

ABSENT

Dawna Phillips Allen Sinclair Ana Arnett (SIC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

26/001 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr MacGregor declared an interest in any planning matters (26/014)

26/002 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 30th March 2026 was adopted on the motion of Fiona.

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26/003 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for the months of February and March 2026 had been received via email and reported as follows:

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

- Assault

Other

- Communications Misuse

Cllr Robbie reported that he believed Police Scotland are to be cutting back on the use of drug wipes in Scotland, but not in Shetland.

26/004 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:** Robina Barton, SIC Active Travel, had replied to the Community Council's email and reported that they are keen to support integration of public transport and active travel and are currently awaiting confirmation of this financial year's funding allocation from Transport Scotland. Once further details are available regarding funding, Robina will be back in touch.
- 6) **Westvoe Lifebelt:** Helen M will investigate what has failed with regards to the lifebelt holder pole.

26/005 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

There were no grant applications for consideration.

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26/006 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

The Clerk reported that she had telephoned the bank with regards to the additional form which had been received and it had been suggested that an existing signatory should telephone the bank in order to progress this matter. The Clerk will pursue this in due course.

26/007 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

No relevant external meetings had been attended.

26/008 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

See item 26/009 below

26/009 FAIR ISLE

1) **Ferry Project:** Cllr Robbie McGregor reported that Morag Lyall, Chair of SIC Transport, plans to visit Whitby while she is on the mainland to check on progress of the construction of the new Fair Isle ferry. Fiona reported that the company building the new ferry are very good at providing the Fair Isle community with regular updates.

With reference to the progress of the infrastructure works in Fair Isle, Fiona reported that there were a few delays when the weather wasn't good, but works are progressing and the contractor's have now vacated the Observatory and moved into their own temporary accommodation.

26/010 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

There was nothing new to report.

26/011 LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Antonia reported that there is to be a meeting on 8th May regarding the next steps in creating a local place plan. Diane Cassidy of Planning Aid Scotland will be in attendance.

26/012

26/012 CORRESPONDENCE

1) **Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation:** As reported at the March meeting, Community Councils have been invited to put forward names of anyone who would be interested in serving as a director on the board of the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO). Fiona had made enquiries and now reported that nominees *do not* have to be members of the Community Council.

2) **Active Travel:** The following update had been received.

An Active Travel Strategy was developed by ZetTrans in 2019-2021. This was an important first step to help unlock funding from Scottish Government for active travel projects.

Following completion of the strategy, ZetTrans has commissioned several settlement audits. These audits help to identify local barriers to walking, wheeling & cycling and suggest solutions to these barriers. The audits were done with input from Community Councils, Community Development Groups and other representatives from e.g. local schools.

A total of 24 audits are now complete or close to completion. The audits include recommendations to improve crossing points, reduce speed limits, enhance lighting, provide drop kerbs and construct shared use paths. Progress towards implementing the recommendations has been progressed in a pragmatic way to date, based on deliverability within existing staff resources.

For example:

- A path in Gulberwick and traffic calming in Scalloway have been delivered.
- A cycle path feasibility study has been carried out between Nesbister and Weisdale.
- Design work is complete on schemes in Sandwick, Aith, Symbister and Voe, which are ready for construction subject to funding from Transport Scotland.
- Design work is underway in several more locations including Burravoe, Bressay, Hamnavoe, Hillswick and a strategic link between Lerwick and Scalloway.

The above list is not exhaustive.

26/012 CORRESPONDENCE

2). Active Travel (continued):

In the last two years, challenges have been experienced in delivery of construction projects, with lack of funding and delays in funding awards making delivery within the year-long funding window unfeasible. It is hoped that 26/27 will see more construction projects being funded in a timely manner and therefore completed.

Running parallel to this process, ZetTrans is working with SYSTRA, who undertook the audits, to create a prioritised programme from all the recommendations based on several criteria including impact and deliverability. This could also allow for similar works in multiple locations to be packaged into a single project. It is expected that the prioritisation work will be completed in 2026 and will be made available to Community Councils. This will allow Community Councils to get a clear picture of all the recommendations in their area, and where they sit in terms of priority.

It should be noted that the settlement audits can be used as a foundation for community groups to take forward individual projects themselves should they wish, bearing in mind that delivery of all recommendations by a single body could take an estimated 15-20 years. Given this timescale, it will be necessary for audits to be refreshed at intervals to ensure they reflect current need in the light of any changes within the various locations.

- 3) Dunrossness Primary School:** Neil Beattie, SIC Executive Manager Learning Estate, had forwarded a copy of a letter sent to parents and carers following recent consultation with pupils and staff at Dunrossness Primary School regarding upgrades to the school. Neil reported that, as discussed at the Parent Council meeting, once his dept receives any further feedback from parents and carers, they will collate this alongside the existing pupil and staff feedback and share it with the design team. The team will then develop an initial design proposal for the school. This initial plan will act as a starting point with further consultation with pupils and staff on the draft design before sharing it more widely with parents and carers for further comment. "This collaborative process will continue as the design develops, helping to ensure the final outcome meets the needs of the school community both now and into the future".

26/012 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 4) **Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council:** The Community Council had reported to the Parent Council that they had been in contact with the SIC requesting clarification and feedback with regards to what, if any, plans the Council have to increase the space and resources at the School and that they had received a reply advising of the Council's refurbishment plans. Sarah Green, Parent Council Chairperson, had replied thanking the Community Council for the update and reported that, while they consider the plans for improvements encouraging, they are also concerned that there is currently no budget in place for the works. She also stated that the Parent Council "relish continued communication with the Community Council on this matter" and would happily attend meetings to provide updates. A member of the Community Council was also invited to attend Parent Council meetings.
- 5) **Rabbit Control Measures, Levenwick Burial Ground:** SIC Burials had emailed with an update on the ongoing rabbit problem within the Levenwick Burial Ground. Yvonne Scott, Burial Services Officer, reported that they will be "inspecting and improving existing boundary measures where necessary. However, rabbits are still being observed both burrowing beneath and, in some cases, clearing existing barriers, which is reducing the effectiveness of current controls". Yvonne enquired if the Community Council have any contact details for any ferreters, or anyone experienced in rabbit control who may be able to assist within the burial ground. Antonia reported that a member of SIC Environmental Health Dept had informed her previously that they had contact details for a ferreter. Yvonne also asked if the Community Council could co-ordinate controlled rabbit shooting in the parks surround the burial ground. This would involve engaging appropriately licensed individuals holding valid firearm certificates and with the relevant landowner permissions in place. The members agreed that the Community Council is not in a position to undertake this responsibility. The Clerk will convey this to Yvonne.

26/013 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) **Toab Bus Shelter:** Helen M reported that the solar panel for the Toab Bus Shelter has become detached. The Clerk will report this to the SIC.

26/014 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no Planning Applications for consideration.

DRAFT MINUTE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

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There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 25th MAY 2026.**