Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)
On Tuesday 21st April at 7.45 pm
(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT	IN ATTENDANCE
James Rendall	Robert Thompson
Mike Foggarty	Michael Duncan SIC
Lucy Cummings	Nicole Sim SIC
Russell Simpson	Juliet Bellis
	Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

Apologies

Frances Browne SIC

1. Approvals

The minutes of the meeting held on March 17th were circulated.

Proposed by Lucy, signed by Mike Foggarty and approved.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Ongoing Business

James welcomed Michael to the meeting and asked if he had any issues to raise. Michael replied that it was just a general visit and to introduce Nicole who works as a resources officer in Community Planning and Development department at SIC.

3.1. Fetlar Place Plan

Lucy reported that she understood that 10 completed questionnaires had been sent to Chris but only 8 forwarded to her. Chris will check.

There was some discussion about potential sites for additional homes adjacent to the existing Council properties.

A representative from the planning department at SIC will visit on May the 6th.

3.2. Islands with Small Populations Issues Log.

Juliet explained that the Island with Small Populations meetings raised issues of concern and these are then collated and taken up by a Council Officer Mark Ratner to discuss with senior officers at SIC.

Juliet introduced the various elements within the Issues log. (Chris had printed copies for members).

(a) Ferries

It was agreed that the biggest issue with the ferries is the delay in the return of the Geira. This has resulted in an extended single vessel (dual crew) timetable.

This has created problems with bookings as places are often pre-booked.

There have also been problems with communication about which timetable is in place.

James though it would be better if via boats went to Unst first and then back to Gutcher to take folk direct to Fetlar.

Juliet noted that SIC is still using agency staff.

(b) Health Care

There have been big issues as outlined.

GP visits have led to a formal complaint.

Juliet commented that you have to push to get a local service.

A meeting is planned for May the 1st in Yell.

(c) Connectivity

Juliet outlined the issues.

Broadband is good when it works but often doesn't

Openreach have done a survey for fibre broadband, but no one knows when it will be implemented.

Some folk are using Starlink the satellite service.

Apparently O2 are looking at a satellite option.

There is concern that some folk will be disconnected completely when the copper connection is cut off.

There is also a concern that when the power goes off so does the mobile signal for most people. EE maintains a service for 12 hrs when the power goes off.

It was agreed that the issues log needs to rate this as a higher concern.

(d) Fire Service

There has been no active service for years.

The fire station is due to close.

It appears that there is nothing that can be done.

It was noted that the fire station could be used for the ambulance.

Michael advised to 'Get out and be safe'.

(e) Housing

This goes up and down as an issue.

It was noted that SIC ferries will give up their house if it is needed.

Lucy commented that there is an ongoing concern about the delay in allocating empty properties.

It was agreed that this issue could be reduced to amber.

(f) Bulky Waste

Lucy commented that the big issue is the scrap metal mainly cars that are cluttering up the island.

Russell has met the scrap metal merchant, and he is coming to visit the island.

(g) Education

Lucy commented on the detailed response from SIC.

She felt that that this was contrary to what folk had been told previously.

Juliet had been told that one child would be enough to re-open the school.

Juliet asked if the Education department were liable for travel costs.

Lucy commented that children are not meant to travel for more than 40 minutes.

Mike wanted to know what statutory guidance had been used for the policy.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to take up the offer of a meeting.

It was noted that this discussion had dealt with other items on the agenda.

3.3. NHS

As above.

3.4. Fetlar School

As above

3.5. Ferry Timetables

As above

3.6. Fetlar Handyman

Michael has spoken to Carl Symonds who informed that there is someone interested in the post. But was waiting to clarify if the post was still needed.
James commented that the previous selection process had the option of a relief handyman who may be still interested.
It was agreed that Michael should go back to Carl to move forward on recruiting to the post.

3.7. SIC Housing

As above.

3.8. Inter-Island Connectivity

Juliet informed that there will be a meeting on the 27th of May with publicity after the local elections.
Robert commented that there will be a meeting of the Statkraft group.

3.9. Brough Lodge

Juliet confirmed that a consultation meeting is planned for Mid-May. This will be about phase 1 of the scheme. It will be Suzanne Malcomson the Architect but not the new owner.

4. Finance and Administration

4.1. Finance Report

Chris informed that the current balance was £291.02
This included the Clerk Invoice.
Michael informed that the Grant Offer letter needs to be signed.

4.2. Clerk Invoice

The clerk's salary invoice was approved.

5. AOCB

5.1. Clerk Resignation

It was noted that Chris has resigned.
It was agreed that the post should be advertised with a closing date of the 15th of May.

5.2. Ditches and Culverts

Russell noted that this issue had been removed from the recent roads report.
Lucy informed that this was about roads flooding in winter.
Michael agreed to speak to Neil Hutchinson.

5.3. Rubbish

Russell informed that the public bins are not being emptied.
Chris will inform Carl.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 26th of May instead of the 19th.