

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chair:

Jane Haswell
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Clerk:

Gill Nadin
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Draft minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council (SWCC) held at Sandness Hall on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 7:20pm

Present: Members - Jane Haswell, Angie Nichols, David Sinclair, Andy Holt (online), Sorley Johnston (online) from 7:33pm
Leah Colyer - Community Involvement & Development Officer (online)
Clerk - Gill Nadin

Apologies: Jonathan Laing, Haydn Robertson, Jane Puckey, Cllr Liz Peterson, Michael Duncan

1. Chair's welcome

Jane Haswell chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

2. Declaration of interest – to be declared in relation to each item.

3. Police report - none received this month

4. Previous minutes and actions

Adoption of minutes from 5th May 2026 was proposed by J Haswell and seconded by A Holt.

The Clerk and Chair confirmed that all actions had been completed, except:
Re. 16.1 of 5/26 – blind summit signs on West Burrafirth road. Information being gathered to report to Roads department.

Action: Clerk to report issue to Roads department once all information available

5. Matters arising not on agenda

5.1 Re. 6.4 of 4/26 Communal bins at Kirkidale (bin lid broken).

Infrastructure Services have confirmed that replacement is scheduled.

6. Correspondence not on agenda

6.1 A Walls resident contacted the SWCC about a blocked ditch causing drainage issues and water across the road near the Health Centre. This has been reported to the Roads Department, using their online reporting mechanism. Using this system logs the report, with an email receipt.

6.2 Sandwick Community Council have contacted other CCs asking for information on how their grant funding decisions are made. The Clerk replied to them, explaining that SWCC plan to hold a special meeting to discuss all funding and finance issues in July and will reply fully following that meeting.

Draft Minutes of the June 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council subject to approval at the next meeting

- 6.3 Leah Colyer had emailed potential funding source information, and this was forwarded to members on 21/5/26
- 6.4 An email regarding Community-led local development funding was forwarded to members on 27/5/26.
- 6.5 Wayne Leask, Development Worker at OPEN, contacted SWCC to share details of a project offering training for young people in leadership, governance and finance. The aim is to build their confidence to take on leadership roles within community organisations. The project also seeks to help community organisations involve young people in their meetings. Wayne has been invited to the November SWCC meeting.

7 Finance report

The finance report was circulated before the meeting. No queries were raised, and members approved the report.

The old Bank of Scotland (BoS) account remains active. Doug Forrest and Ian Walterson completed the closure form, with all funds to be transferred to the new Virgin account once the account is closed. However, BoS has stated that there is no signature mandate for the account and requires new signatures to be submitted; this is now in progress. No current SWCC members are signatories on the old account, and there is no online access to it.

Meanwhile, SWCC total annual grant funding from SIC was paid into the old BoS account instead of the Virgin account, despite instructions to the contrary. This will be resolved once the BoS account is closed and all funds are transferred. Based on expected spending over the next few weeks, there are sufficient funds in the Virgin account for now.

- 8 **Roads** – weekly reports were forwarded. No issues raised, other than those below.
 - 8.1 The deep ditch at Forralea has been filled in. A thank you email has been sent.
 - 8.2 The outstanding roads related issues previously reported are:
 - a. *Re. 8.1 of 03/26 Papa Stour cattle grid* – this is now more urgent as one of the bars has broken. New photos are available
 - b. *Re. 8.1 of 4/26 Horse signs* as requested
 - c. *Re. 6.5 of 4/26 Light at bus stop* – also see Active Travel below
- It was agreed to re-log these issues with the SIC via the Roads Department online reporting mechanism. All future Roads issues will be reported via this mechanism, rather than emails.

Action: Clerk will re-log above issues with SIC Roads

- 8.3 *Re. 8.3 of 4/26 – Invitation of Neil Hutcheson to future SWCC meeting.*
Although any outstanding issues can be discussed with him, the main reason to invite him to a CC meeting is to discuss winter planning. It was agreed therefore to invite him to the September meeting.

Action: Clerk to invite Neil Hutcheson to September meeting

Draft Minutes of the June 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council subject to approval at the next meeting

9 Planning – nothing to discuss this month.

10 Councillor's reports

Via email, Cllr Peterson advised there was nothing specific to update on at present. She was happy to discuss anything, if anyone wants to get in touch.

11 Funding applications

11.1 SCBF application - CGS0077 - Walls and Sandness Senior Citizens Committee

The application towards total cost of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. As previous funding sources are no longer available, the committee needs additional support to ensure the event can continue. Members approved the application, recognising the event's importance to attendees and to community cohesion.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SCBF

11.2 Re. 12.2 of 3/26 - The Sandness Children's Activities Group

The group have now provided copies of their new Child Protection Policy. The previous decision was to conditionally approve the grant, pending the establishment of this policy. The members agreed that J Haswell will review these documents, and if they are adequate, the application can be approved.

Action: The Chair will review the documents and if all acceptable, the Clerk will arrange payment of the grant

12 Community Council Training Programme

12.1 This was forwarded to members on 16/5/26. There are induction sessions this month particularly for new members, with subject specific sessions in September and October. Members were encouraged to sign up for the sessions directly with the SIC following the instructions in the email.

Action: Members to sign up for appropriate sessions and Clerk to send reminder

12.2 SIC is offering a new free course on preparing for elected office in Scottish Local Government, to encourage folk to stand in upcoming SIC elections.

13 Defibrillators update

It was agreed at the last meeting that defibrillators, including the possibility of SWCC funding, would be discussed at the special meeting in July. J Haswell advised that the West Burrafirth defibrillator had been gifted by Cooke Aquaculture on the understanding that SWCC would maintain it. This defibrillator still needs to be registered. An email from Michael Duncan containing Shetland-wide defibrillator information was circulated to members on 27th May. J Haswell is also in contact with other Community Council areas about defibrillators, funding and maintenance, and all relevant information will be brought to the July meeting.

Draft Minutes of the June 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council subject to approval at the next meeting

A Holt explained that the Papa Stour defibs needs to be registered and it was agreed that the Clerk will do this, once A Holt has advised on expiry dates of battery and pads.

Action: Clerk to get information on West Burrafirth and Papa Stour defibs to enable registration

14 Active Travel update

The original Active Travel audit documents for Walls were received from Robina Barton and forwarded to members on 2nd June 2026. She also confirmed that the final audit report for Walls was due shortly. Although the bus stop light was initially thought to fall under the Active Travel process, it is not specifically mentioned in Robina's documents. Members agreed to raise it separately with the Roads Department.

Action: Clerk to log the bus stop light as an issue with Roads Department

15 AOCB

15.1 Association of Shetland Community Council meeting – 2nd July 2026.

There are 2 papers to be discussed at the ASCC meeting (included in the email forwarded to members 28/06/26) and there were discussions on how J Haswell as SWCC representative should present the members' views.

- a. Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council have proposed a Shetland convention to consider a pause in energy developments. The convention would decide whether Shetland should join other Scottish regions in asking elected representatives to support a declaration calling for a pause on further developments until a clear plan and strategy are in place. TWWCC are seeking development that is properly planned, coordinated, shaped with input from the communities most affected, and delivers a fairer return to those communities.

The TWWCC have clarified that the proposal for a temporary moratorium is directed towards MSPs Scotland-wide. Members were in favour of the proposal.

- b. Lerwick Community Council has proposed a draft response to the SIC Strategic Review raising concerns about the Council's continued overspending and the inadequacy of the current plans to address it. The draft response highlights the ongoing use of reserves and the lack of a clear, robust strategy to reduce overspending. It asks the Council to clarify what strategy is in place to bring spending under control and ensure the long-term sustainability of Shetland's finances. The SIC Chief Executive and Finance Director will attend the ASCC meeting. Members agreed that current SIC spending is unsustainable and supported the proposed draft response.

15.2 Democracy Matters: A Route Map to Reform March 2026

Members briefly discussed the Scottish Government's plan to decentralise some decision-making. Concerns were raised that this needs to be given more attention locally, as it could potentially place intolerable strain on communities if

Draft Minutes of the June 2026 Meeting of the Sandness & Walls Community Council subject to approval at the next meeting

adequate resources, including professional advice, was not planned into the "Route map". Chair to continue discussions across meetings such as ASCC. Members agreed and supported full consultation with communities and their representatives but were concerned that Community Councils might be expected to make decisions without adequate training or resources.

15.3 Shetland Partnership Plan (SPP) - Feedback

The SPP is a statutory requirement that brings together agencies and communities across Shetland to identify priorities for improving people's lives and guiding future decision-making. Its main focus is reducing inequality of outcomes in Shetland.

J Haswell attended the recent SPP session and, at L Colyer's request, provided feedback. She said it would be helpful to understand what previous consultations had found and what action had already been taken, so future priorities can build on that work. Her main concern was that organisations are expected to consult communities and individuals, but Community Councils do not have the resources to do this effectively. J Haswell will attend future SPP sessions, report back to SWCC, and seek members' input where needed. Members raised concerns about the reality of the childrens' scenarios and the cost of the process.

16 Date/Venue of Next Meeting

The date of next meeting was set for Tuesday 4th August at 7pm.
Venue – Walls Hall and TEAMS.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation

Meeting closed at 8:25pm

We welcome your contact

- Do you have any community issues or concerns you would like us to discuss?
- A safety issue or an idea for improving the area?
- Do you wish to discuss or apply for funding?

Please get in touch by email - sandnesswallsc@gmail.com



or speak directly to any member via <https://tinyurl.com/yhwa3wus>