

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2026 AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.00PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT	Mrs M Davis	Mr E Semple	
EX OFFICIO	Cllr R McGregor	Cllr B Peterson	Cllr A Armitage (from 7.35pm)
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes, clerk		
CHAIRPERSON	Mr C Clark then Ms M Gray		
APOLOGIES	Mr L Summers Miss K MacKay	Mrs D Smith Mr M Duncan	Mrs P Christie Mrs A Arnett
NOT PRESENT	Cllr A Duncan		

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R McGregor declared an interest in Item 11 – Planning, as he is Chair of the SIC Planning Committee.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st April were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr E Semple.

1. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

Our current chair, Mrs P Christie is standing down so vice-chair Mr C Clark invited nominations for a new chair.

Mr C Clark proposed the election of Ms M Gray and Mr E Semple seconded the motion. Ms Gray accepted the position and thanked members and the clerk for their offers of support while she settles into the new role. She agreed to do it for an initial six months.

2. MATTERS ARISING

1. Enviroglass Glass Recycling Centre Clean Up of Site

No update

2. Community Benches

Cunningsburgh History Group to organise pick-up of bench from outside clerk's house for siting at their History Hut.

3. Dog Poo Bins

Feedback from the public on locations for the bins was discussed. Though several Community Councillors have already taken photos of some sites no photos were provided by members of the public so a little work needs to be done on assessing the suitability of suggested locations.

ACTION: Mr C Clark to finalise Gulberwick location, Mr E Semple to finalise Quarff location and it is hoped that Mrs D Smith and Mrs P Christie can finalise the Cunningsburgh location. Clerk to check whether Waste Services are ok to empty the bins when locations have been chosen. Hopefully the bins can be in situ before the next meeting.

3. POLICE REPORT

There was no police report available and members had no questions or comments to pass back to the police.

Cllr McGregor shared that recent figures indicate that twice as many people have been charged with driving under the influence of drugs as with driving under the influence of alcohol.

4. FINANCE

The bank statement on June 4th read £14,251.56.

The core grant from the SIC of £13,108.47 has been transferred to the bank account. The only transactions outwith the usual monthly outgoings were £40 for the VAS membership and £100 to the Gulberwick Hall for the hall hire and provision of teas and homebakes for the Local Place Plan consultation meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to finish accounts and submit to VAS for independent verification.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS – GQC CC & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND (SCBF)

There was only one grant application to the Community Council and none from the SCBF to consider.

The Cunningsburgh Parent Council requested £250 towards the Cunningsburgh Primary 7 residential trip to Unst. Members agreed to award the full amount.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the applicant and transfer the grant award.

-----Cllr A Armitage arrived – 7.35pm-----

6. ROADS AND PATHS

1. Road 'Chipping'

Cllr B Peterson was able to advise that all South Mainland roads which were on the schedule to be 'stone chipped' have now been done. Mrs M Davis remarked that the use of an escort vehicle to ensure vehicles kept to the 20mph limit through the newly chipped area was a great idea.

2. Wooden Walkway Near Gulberwick Hall

This has now been closed off to pedestrians as more boards have deteriorated but the plan is still to replace the walkway. There was no update on timescale before the meeting but the clerk is to chase it up as it is a particularly dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians or cyclists to use and members of the public have already expressed concern.

ACTION: Clerk to seek update on when the wooden walkway is to be replaced. Cllr McGregor asked to be copied in as he intends to raise it at the next appropriate meeting.

3. Active Travel Update

This is covered in the next agenda item.

4. Upper Hillside, Gulberwick Bus Shelter

An email from Colin Gair, SIC Team Leader – Asset and Network Management, Roads Service, confirmed that there is to be a bus shelter erected at the new bus layby at Upper Hillside. It is on order but has not yet arrived so may be a couple of months before it is installed.

He explained that it is expected that the Upper Hillside stops will become the default location for Gulberwick's mainline services and in time they may also look to add a bicycle shelter in the area if there is thought to be any demand.

There are currently no plans to remove the old/existing bus shelters at the south junction and Upper Langton but these will eventually 'wear' out and they probably won't look to replace them if all the proposed paths along the A970 are in place by then.

7. CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

A short update on the Cunningburgh settlement audit public consultation meeting was received from Robina Barton, SIC Transport Policy and Projects Officer at the end of March.

She explained it was well attended and over the entire seven-hour period, there was only one fifteen minute period where there was no one there. She said many issues raised reflected those picked up in the original audit however it was useful to get more understanding of the dynamics of the community, particularly in the light of the new gymnastics development, and to get a better sense of driver/pedestrian experience at some of the junctions. SYSTRA are currently working on pulling together a final updated report.

The main issues which came up were:

- *Major severance caused by the A970 main road. The speed of motorised traffic, which connects all local destinations is unattractive to walk and cycle. It has no cycling infrastructure and footways are in part narrow, obstructed or in poor condition.*
- *Crossing the A970 is also an issue, with a lack of formal crossing points along the built up section of the road, in spite of destinations and houses being located on both sides of the road and the need to cross the road to access bus stops.*
- *The speed limit at both ends of the A970 reduces by only 10mph from 60mph to 50mph when entering the village, creating uncomfortable walking conditions*
- *Poor quality environment and pedestrian connection at primary school lighting columns constantly alternating sides along A970*
- *Inconsistent provision of dropped kerbs/crossing points throughout settlement*

Cllr B Peterson said he had recently spoken to Michael Craigie, SIC Executive Manager of Transport Planning and he is handing the work over to someone else to continue but assured him that it is still being done.

Members were heartened to learn that a 40mph speed limit is being considered for Cunningburgh. News of the proposal was shared following a request from a member of the

public for vehicle-activated signs to be installed in an effort to reduce speeding, particularly on the northbound approach past the hall.

A draft plan was discussed, and members noted a gap within the proposed 40mph section. The Roads Engineer advised that this could potentially be addressed through additional signage along this stretch to discourage speeds from increasing.

Members felt that the number of changes in speed limits would be confusing and unhelpful, and questioned why a common-sense approach of introducing a continuous 40mph limit throughout the length of Cunningburgh could not be adopted.

Post-meeting clarification: Following the meeting, the Roads Engineer contacted the Clerk to clarify that there is no proposed gap in the 40mph speed limit through the village. "The gap referred to in my e-mail is a gap in the development (houses etc.) on either side of the road. The proposed limit continues through this gap but the concern is that the lack of roadside development at this point will result in increased vehicle speeds compared to the more developed lengths of road. The additional signs and road markings would be used to try and address this increase in speed."

Members also believed that the limit should be extended further north, beyond the existing 50mph section, to take account of the new garage and café operating from the former Mackenzie's shop and café building, as well as the new gymnastics facility – neither of these developments were finalised at the time of the settlement audit. The increased levels of traffic and pedestrian activity in this area, together with the likelihood of more HGV movements, were cited as further reasons for extending the proposed limit, and members hope this can be incorporated into the final scheme.

Cllr A Armitage shared a website address – www.crashmap.co.uk – which shares locations of all road accidents which there are police reports on. There is an option to pay extra to be able to access the actual police reports.

ACTION: Clerk to share member's initial thoughts on the plans for the 40mph limit with the road engineers.

8. GQ&C DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LOCAL PLACE PLAN AND RESILIENCE PLAN UPDATES

GQ&C Development Group

The bank account has been set up, a constitution has been adopted and members are working their way through creating policy documents. Mr C Clark and Mrs P Christie had today attended a networking event in Yell for development groups and Mr C Clark reported that it had been a useful event. The main issues raised were energy and how to grow and develop the groups.

Local Place Plan

All of the comments and data gathered at the three public consultation events is now with a volunteer from Planning Aid Scotland later who is analysing and presenting the data, especially using maps. When the data has been crunched the LPP document can be developed further and ideas and projects can be shared and taken forward by appropriate groups and bodies.

Community Resilience Plan

There has been no change in this since the last meeting. Two of the 'community hubs' are still to share the data on what resources they currently have – and what they may require.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with the community hubs to try to get the data required.

9. UPDATE FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllrs B Peterson and R McGregor both indicated that other than what they had already shared during the rest of the meeting, they had no further updates.

Cllr A Armitage explained he is currently working with Michael Craigie, SIC Executive Manager of Transport Planning to look at developing a ride sharing app which can be hosted by the SIC. This idea comes on the back of a successful pilot of a 7pm bus to the South Mainland which has led to the possibility of buses for other locations in Shetland leaving town at a similar time.

The app would be for anyone who has space in their car to register and allow others to share a journey, with fuel vouchers from the SIC as incentive for doing so. It is in the early stages of development just now and there was discussion about issues such as insurance, push back from taxis, and checks of drivers and passengers. Cllr Armitage admitted that it had not taken off in other places due to issues with the behaviour of some of the users of the app, but added that Shetland may have more luck due to the type of communities we tend to have here.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Association of Shetland Community Councils

The next meeting of the ASCC is on Thursday 2nd July, 6-8pm at Islesburgh. Mr Clark indicated that he could attend.

One of the agenda items is a discussion on a Moratorium on Energy Developments, proposed by Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council. An email from TWWCC chair Andrew Archer to clarify the proposal was read and noted. He said "the proposal is about getting community councillors to call on our MSPs to act. We are very well aware that SIC cannot stop what is happening and that is why action needs to be taken at national level."

SIC Councillors present agreed that it would be difficult for various reasons for the local authority to take a stand on the issue, especially if they wished to still have a seat at the table for discussions and to avoid possible fines if they took certain action, but Cllr A Armitage said while they don't have hard powers at their disposal, he thought that they maybe underestimated the 'soft power' they have. It was also noted that the SIC had twice attempted to agree on an energy strategy but that both times it had been knocked back when it got to councillors.

The results of the recent survey by the ASCC were read and noted.

ACTION: Clerk to let Mr M Duncan know that Mr Clark is attending the next ASCC meeting. Anyone else who wishes to also attend to contact Mr M Duncan directly.

Community Council Training

Members were reminded again about the timetable of training on offer and encouraged to sign up to sessions.

OPEN Project Offer of Support to Look at Guidance for Meaningfully Involving Young People at Community Council Meetings

Members read and noted the email and information sheet. They would be keen to see how other Community Councils get on with this first.

Defibrillators

The list of defibrillators in Shetland which are registered on The Circuit network has now been shared. It was agreed to try to figure out if any in our community are missed out and then to identify the owners and encourage them to sign up. The network is the one used by the emergency services when dealing with an emergency so it is important that all defibrillators are registered so the public can be directed to it when they phone 999.

Maintenance of the defibrillators is also to be encouraged as is the siting of the units outside buildings, to ensure that they are accessible even when the premises they belong to is shut.

Plans for a new defibrillator in Cunningsburgh were discussed and the clerk is to share the email received – the next step planned is to get a group of people together to progress the project.

It was noted that it would be good to have a dedicated person in Shetland whose job it was to check and maintain all defibrillators, as well as deliver CPR and defibrillator training.

A date for the CPR training offered by the Fire Service in conjunction with the Ambulance Service has not yet been set. Clerk to ask them to just select a date which works for them and she will share it, hoping as many as possible can attend.

ACTION: Members to check the defibrillator list for any missing units in our area and endeavour to contact the owners to encourage them to register – clerk will also share list on Facebook page. Clerk to contact Fire Service to finalise a date for the CPR training.

Creation of Next Shetland Partnership Plan

The next workshop for the development of the next Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for Shetland is on inequalities and will be on Thursday 25th of June. As no Community Councillors were able to go to the first session the clerk went and found it interesting.

She shared some of the discussion from the first 'setting the scene' session and will share the prompt questions via email and on the Facebook page prior to the June meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to share prompt questions and gather comments in preparation for the next session.

11. PLANNING

There was only one application in the Community Council area since the last meeting and members were required to discuss it and send any comments to the SIC planning department.

[2026/104/PPF](#) Change of use of land from rough grazing to equestrian use to form a 20 m x 40 m private outdoor riding area; install new hardstanding area and fencing; carryout associated earthworks (cut and fill) and drainage works. Crapp, Trebister, Gulberwick, Shetland, ZE2 9TX.

Members had no objections or comments.

ACTION: Clerk to email comment to SIC planning department.

12. AOCB

Apologies

Cllr A Armitage reiterated his apologies for missing recent meetings, explaining that both childcare issues and sports activities have made attending difficult. Cllr B Peterson also explained that our meetings clashed with his timetable of medical treatment. Both councillors hoped to be at more future meetings. Members all expressed how good it was to have an almost full complement of elected members present.

Meetings

The possibility of having one or two fully online meetings scheduled each year, probably in the winter, was discussed. It was hoped this might make it easier for visitors and officials to attend, as well as ease worries about travelling in the dark or poor weather. The option of moving meetings entirely online instead of postponing in poor weather was also discussed. It was agreed that hybrid meetings were not always the best experience for everyone attending so they would be avoided where possible.

Moving the meetings back to 7.30pm to make it easier for those with children to attend was also discussed.

ACTION: A 7:30pm time to be trialled for the August meeting and decisions on online meetings to be discussed then too.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th August 2026. (Then 6/10 and 17/11)

Meeting Ends – 20:50

CHAIR

14. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

February 2025 – Community CPR sessions – awaiting date from Fire Service.

June 2025 – Plans for tidying up Enviroglass site and perhaps using some of the recycled glass in other projects – no update as yet.

June 2025 – pothole and puddle at East Voxter junction – still needs sorted.