

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 29th June 2026 in Dunrossness Primary School.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Helen Budge	Helen Moncrieff	Dawna Phillips
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	Michael Duncan (SIC)		

APOLOGIES

Aileen Brown	Agnes Tallack	Antonia Colvin	Allen Sinclair
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)			

ABSENT

Irvine Burgess	Ana Horne (SIC)	Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)		

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

26/029 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor declared an interest in all planning matters
Helen Budge declared an interest in Planning Application 2026/101/PPF

26/030 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 27th May 2026 was adopted on the motion of Fiona.

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26/031 POLICE REPORT

No Police Report was available.

26/032 MATTERS ARISING

- 1) **Road Matters:** There was nothing new to report.
- 2) **Kirk Yard Bench:** Helen B, Helen M and the Clerk will construct the plinth.
- 3) **Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** There was nothing new to report.
- 4) **Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** Helen B offered to survey the gate and report back on its condition.
- 5) **Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** There was nothing new to report. The Clerk will contact Robina Barton, SIC for an update.
- 6) **Westvoe Lifebelt:** Helen M reported that she had checked the lifebelt holder at Westvoe and that the pole it was erected on appears to have corroded at the base, resulting in it collapse. Alternative options for reinstating the pole were discussed and Helen B will progress this. Once the pole is reinstated, new lifebelts for both Westvoe and St. Ninian's will need to be purchased.

26/033 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

There were no financial matters for discussion.

26/034 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

There was nothing new to report.

26/035 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

No relevant external meetings had been attended.

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26/036 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) **Roads:** Cllr Robbie McGregor reported that a 40mph speed limit is to be installed through Cunningsburgh. Cllr Robbie will have more details for the next Community Council meeting.
- 2) **Hockey Pitches:** Cllr Robbie enquired if the members had any information from the local Hockey scene in relation to their views on the preferred location of the Shetland hockey pitch. Cllr Robbie had recently voted for it to be sited in Lerwick and wanted to make sure he was supporting the views of his constituents accurately. Helen B reported that the consensus had been for some time that the pitch at Brae was handy for players from the outer isles, but the Southend players felt it was a long distance to travel and would prefer the pitch to be located in Lerwick. Michael reported that the majority of local hockey players were keen for the pitch to return to Lerwick as it was felt to be more central (except for the outer isles) and the best transport links are to Lerwick.

26/037 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

- 1) **Bird Observatory:** The recent official opening of the new Bird Observatory had been a 'fabulous' event. The building had been officially opened by Ann Cleaves, there had been various events over the weekend and it had been well covered by the media.
- 2) **GP Visits:** The Isle hasn't had a GP visit in over a year which, it was agreed, was far from satisfactory. The Fair Isle Committee is in contact with the Levenwick Surgery regarding this and the Fair Isle nurse has also been pushing for a visit. The members agreed unanimously that the Community Council will support Fair Isle in resolving this matter and will start by writing to the Levenwick Surgery. Session 2 of the Shetland Partnership Plan process, which was held recently, focussed on 'Inequalities' and was led by Chris Sewell, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland and Susan Laidlaw, Director of Public Health. The Fair Isle GP situation was considered to fit perfectly with this latest session and the Clerk will therefore also write to Emma Perring of Shetland Partnership.
- 3) **Anderson High School Halls of Residence Weekend Flat:** From communication they have had recently with the SIC, the Fair Isle Committee are hopeful that a resolution will be found soon to the high cost of renting the weekend flat by parents of children attending the AHS from the outlying isles.

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26/038 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

There was nothing new to report.

26/039 LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Helen B reported that Diane Cassidy, Planning Aid Scotland, is currently on holiday but it is planned to arrange a meeting with her in July to progress the Dunrossness Local Place Plan.

26/040 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Equestrian Road Safety:** Following communication from Virkie Equestrian Safety Group (VESG) in May and which was discussed at the Community Council's May meeting, Cllr Robbie had offered to take the matter up with SIC Roads on behalf of the Community Council. Cllr Robbie had since received a reply from Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, regarding various of the points raised by VESG. The reply read as follows:

"The traffic signs manual states that the Horse & Rider warning sign can be used "where numbers of horses are frequently walked or ridden along or cross over the road." Therefore, we can install these signs on the route used by the members of the group. However, placing these signs at or near the runway crossing may not have the desired effect. Signs placed here are likely to be lost among the numerous existing signs for the airport, traffic lights, gate and clearway. It would be better to site these signs on the route but at a distance from the runway to give them a chance to stand out from the other signs. We can consider suitable locations if the group can provide the detail of the routes that they follow.

A related matter is the removal of Horse & Rider warning signs from routes that are no longer used. This reduces sign clutter but more importantly will increase the effectiveness of signs that are still required. It would be appreciated if the group could advise us of any signs on routes that are no longer used for horse riding.

A reduced speed limit on the approaches to the runway is not something that we would consider at this time. Speed limits are generally reserved for developed areas where there are schools, shops, public halls etc. along the frontage of the road with higher numbers of pedestrians. The national guidance for the setting of speed limits is clear that a reduced speed limit should not be used to address concerns regarding an isolated feature such as a bend, blind summit or in this case a runway.

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26/040 CORRESPONDENCE

1) Equestrian Road Safety (continued):

We have had local awareness campaigns in the past and local representatives of the British Horse Society have been doing this type of work in schools etc. to promote their “think horse, think 10 mph” campaign. We recently contacted them regarding our Driving Ambition road safety event for Secondary 5 and 6 pupils which is being held at the end of the week. The society has provided promotional leaflets to be distributed to the pupils and have also supplied a video which will be shown at the event. We have also purchased a “slow pass” mat for use at Driving Ambition and other road safety events (see attached pdf). Unfortunately, it won’t be here in time for the end of the week but it will be made available to the society or anyone else who wants to use it throughout the year”.

The members discussed Neil’s reply and Helen M suggested the Community Council write to HIAL to see if they would be willing to remove some of the unnecessary signage on the approach to and at the runway barriers to help reduce sign clutter and hopefully increase the impact of any new Horse & Rider warning signs in the area. This was agreed. It was also agreed to suggest and seek the opinion of VESG on the possibility of erecting a Horse & Rider warning sign just north of the Eastshore road. A post will also be put on the Community Council’s Facebook page reminding drivers of how to approach and pass horses (and other vulnerable road users) safely, as per the Highway Code.

2) Fair Isle War Memorial: An email had been received from War Memorials Trust stating that they had recently been contacted about the Fair Isle War Memorial and the information received “suggests that the painted finish of the leaded letters has deteriorated and is impacting the legibility of the inscription”. War Memorials Trust continues by stating that they believe the Community Council is the custodian of the war memorial. Fiona stated that as far as she is aware, none of the Fair Isle residents have reported any problem with the memorial and none of the members of the Community Council were aware that the Community Council is custodian of them. The Clerk stated that, from memory and previous correspondence with the SIC, she believed that they do not undertake the upkeep of lettering on war memorials. The clerk will email Yvonne Scott, SIC Burials Dept, and confirm.

3) Water Supply Issues: A member of the public had emailed regarding continued water supply issues in parts of Dunrossness. Since 1st April 2026, there has been five episodes of loss of water supply in the central Dunrossness area. Cllr Duncan had spoken to Jim Anderson, Scottish Water regarding the matter and it was agreed the Community Council will write and enquire what the latest timescale is for renewing of the old water pipes in the area which was meant to have commenced in Spring 2026.

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26/040 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 4) Parking at Windybrae, Quendale:** A member of the public had emailed regarding dangerous parking by members of staff at the SIC facility at Windybrae, Quendale. There are regularly vehicles parked on the road on a bend with very limited visibility, reducing a normally two-way traffic thoroughfare to single track. Cllr Duncan had reported to the Clerk that he had visited the SIC Department concerned regarding the matter and offered them the use of an area of his ground opposite Windybrae for the purposes of an overspill car parking area.

Cllr Robbie McGregor left the meeting at 0815pm.

- 5) Grutness Development Concerns:** A reply to the Community Council's email to SIC Planning ref the area being developed by a private individual had been received and read as follows:

There is an ongoing planning enforcement case regarding the works near Grutness Pier and Planning generally do not provide ongoing updates in relation to planning enforcement investigations.

I'm in touch with the landowner regarding the use of land and the recent works that have been carried out. I can confirm that there is no live or recently approved planning application for a caravan park for the land in question. If and when a planning application is submitted, this can be viewed online.

With regards to the concerns the Grutness residents had raised relating to the new Streetlighting on the Pier, Fiona reported that she believed the Good Shepherd Skipper, Ian Best, planned to discuss possible options with SIC Ports and Harbours.

26/041 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) Climate Change – Westvoe Beach:** Helen M reported that the SIC plan to carry out a climate change study at Westvoe and enquired if the Community Council had been contacted regarding this. The Clerk confirmed that she had not been contacted to date. Helen M will suggest to the SIC that they contact the Community Council.

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26/041 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS (Continued)

- 2) **Deputy Lord Lieutenant:** Helen B reported that, in her role as Depute Lieutenant, she would like to offer support to families of those turning 100 or celebrating 60 years of marriage in receiving a card from the King. In order to receive such cards, the family of the intended recipient(s) must apply and Helen can help with this. The members agreed to help gather information.

26/042 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

- 1) **2026/128/PPP - New dwelling house and associated infrastructure (planning in principle), Boddam, Dunrossness by Mr George Magnus Smith:** There were no objections.
- 2) **2026/101/PPF – To install 2 no. mobile saunas on grassed area and installation of 1 no. water container (retrospective), St. Ninian's Beach, Bigton by Mr Callum Scott, Haar Sauna Ltd:** There were no objections.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th AUGUST 2026.**