

NORTHMAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Northmaven Community Council on 25th May 2026 held in the Urafirth Primary School.

This minute is UNAPPROVED until adopted at the next meeting

Present:

Cllr J Parry
Cllr G Anderson
Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Doull
Cllr D Robertson

Ex Officio Present:

Cllr A Hall
Cllr E MacDonald

Apologies Submitted:

Cllr R McGeady
Cllr E Robertson
Ms L Hall – Community Development

In attendance:

Mrs C Anderson – Clerk
Mr M Duncan – Community Development
Ms N Sim – Community Development
Mr G Bell – SSEN Community Liaison Manager Shetland
Mr A Kelly – SSEN lead project manager Shetland 2 project
Ms A SSEN project manager landfall & marine route
Mr C Cope – Shetland News
Sergeant B Mulholland – Police Scotland
Mr I Arthur

The meeting started at: 19.28
Cllr J Parry in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative
2. Declarations of Interest	Cllr J Parry – SCBF & NCDG items Cllr D Brown – Sullom Voe Masterplan & NCDG items Cllr D Robertson joined the meeting at 19.29
3. Approval Of Previous Minute	Approved by Cllr R Doull, Seconded by Cllr D Robertson
4. SSEN visit - Braewick	Mr G Bell thanked NCC for letting himself and his colleagues attend the meeting and apologised for not being there in person but their flights had been unable to land due to fog. He introduced Mr A Kelly and Ms A Bryne. Mr Kelly gave a brief background about the Scottish and UK Government clean power/ energy targets and this meant that there were upgrades needed on the Shetland North network as part of the Beyond 2030 project. SSEN are looking to put in a second HVDC link which connects to a substation in either Toft or Scatsta. Mr Kelly said that they were still investigating where the best landfall for the cable would be and it would run under the

sea to the Strathbogle Hub in Aberdeenshire. Ms Byrne that SSEN are working on consistent site selection making sure to balance community and environmental concerns. She recapped the consultation events held in the North Mainland during June 2025 which led to 23 potential sites. After working with Environmental and Engineering specialists, the list had been condensed to Gruna Voe, Toft Camp, Toft Ness and Wethersta. Following the October/November 2025 consultation events Wethersta was removed for potential sites and there were nine new sites proposed. There are two sites within Northmavine, Braewick and Islesburgh Minn. Currently marine surveys are being conducted gathering environmental data such as benthic and geophysical; and the full cable route from Aberdeenshire to Shetland. By late July 2026 they should be working on refining the cable design and route to have the least impact. SSEN will be back in Shetland during June/July running consultations. Ms Byrne added that SSEN were aware of the Geopark status and were looking at horizontal drilling to bring the cable onshore. There would be some disturbance during construction because the cable must be underground. Mr G Bell gave some examples of legacy projects SSEN had helped fund such as affordable homes in the Western Isles and the renovation of a hotel in Stornoway. He added that it was great to see NCDC's housing proposals. Mr Kelly said the next engagement events would be on Thursday 2nd of July in the Brae Hall from 11am – 1pm and in the Hillswick Hall from 3pm – 7pm. He added that staff involved in the Shetland Link 2 project would be available at other consultation events if anyone was unable to make the 2nd of July date. He added they were unlikely to have a confirmed landfall site by July but the community may see contractors undertaking additional survey work in proposed sites. CCllr Parry thanked SSEN staff for their presentation and asked about worker accommodation with work likely to be in the North Mainland, would accommodation be sought outside Lerwick? Mr Kelly said SSEN are in conversations with Shetland Island Council and Hjaltland Housing Association about best locations for accommodation. He added that Shetland was compact enough that works could travel to work fairly easily. CCllr D Brown said that surely it would make sense for housing to be in Northmavine when NCDC are developing housing anyway. Mr Bell said that SSEN are keen to engage as soon as possible but it needs to be the right houses in the right places. Cllr Brown added that if SSEN shouldn't include NCDC projects in their presentation to win over the community if there are no plans to support them. He continued that it was the first time he had heard Islesburgh as a possible site and that various people in the community had spoken to him with concerns about the disruption that would be caused if Braewick is picked. Mr Kelly said that Islesburgh hadn't been shared publicly but it significantly reduced the amount of road that the cable would need to go under. CCllr G Anderson said the Islesburgh site must reduce the subsea and on land cable distances. Mr Kelly said that the subsea cable distance wasn't much different between Braewick or Islesburgh but onland it took it from 38km to 20km

	which would save costs and reduce impact during construction. CCllr Parry said that there had been a continuation of infrastructure projects over the last few years which had been piecemeal with communities having no choice as SSEN had said it was requirements following the Viking Wind Farm. Mr Kelly stated that the different phases had been built by different companies which meant there had been different funding applications. He added that the Beyond 2030 project wasn't on the radar when phase 1 was being developed. He continued that SSEN had seen the petition and letters that had come from the community and we looking at how to respond. CCllr R Doull stated that there had been a discussion between SSE and Ofgem about keeping the funding phases separate. Mr Kelly agreed saying that there has to be a need before there is a need. CCllr D Brown said that the slides shared only showed a dots on a map and whether by the July consultations there would be suggested cable routes. He also asked whether the roads would get dug up and where this would be and if local residents were going to have to deal with road closures or traffic lights. Mr Kelly said that SSEN are working with a local company to develop the best route for the cable once on land, but they would not have concrete plans by the July consultations. CCllr Parry asked if the cable couldn't go undersea to Toft/Scatsta. Mr Kelly said that SSEN were looking at whether HVDC cables can go under water but added that Sullom Voe is heavily projected and the project is unlikely to get marine consent. SSEN are in discussions with Marine Scotland about whether the cable could go under the seabed but it would be an extremely expensive solution. SSEN had also looked at coming in Yell Sound but it is an important fishing ground and extremely tidal with other infrastructure issues over the years a concern. CCllr Brown asked how far the cable can go from the seabed to landfall. Mr Kelly said it would be around 1.6km but the maximum is around 2.5km. Ms Byrne added that it is site specific depending on the geology and the height of the cliffs. CCllr Parry said that cables for offshore oilrigs were much further. CCllr Brown asked if the landfall site could be nearly 1.5km from the coast and highlighted that the it was solid rock in both potential sites compared to the Weisdale landfall site for the first HVDC cable. Mr Bell said that he would come back with answers to questions raised by CCllrs by the end of June. Mr Kelly & Ms Byrne left the meeting at 20.21
5. Police Report	Sergeant B Mulholland attended the meeting and gave an overview of the last police report sent for Feb/Mar. He added that they don't include everything in the reports to allow for some anonymity. He said there had been a house break in and a mental health call. He added that there wasn't any concerns about the break in. He asked those present if there were any concerns or issues they would like to raise. CCllr Parry asked about the incident in Lerwick. Serg Mulholland asked if that was about the youth incident and CCllr Parry clarified the homeless person. Serg. Mulholland said there had been a report of trespass which they were duty bound to investigate and the person could not remain on the land. Serg.

	Mulholland continued to say that in regard to the youth incident, all those involved were under 16 and that the case has to be handled differently to adult cases. There were more patrols including around Harrison Square and there are plans to go into the schools at a later date. He added that the enquiry is being progressed and there will be a report to the Children's Reporter and potentially the Procurator Fiscal. Serg. Mulholland said that the Clerk had an email for the station if anyone wanted to raise any issues. CCllr Parry thanked Serg. Mulholland for attending. Serg. Mulholland left meeting at 20.31.
6. SCBF	CCllr Parry said that he declared an interest in the application and asked the clerk to discuss the application. The application was from the Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary asking for £1000 towards materials to create a mosaic mural at the Hillswick Public toilets involving bairns from all three Northmavine Primary Schools. CCllrs agreed to fund the project. Action: Clerk to respond to the application
6. Matters Arising	Digital Switchover No update Speed limits An update had been circulated prior to the meeting. Sullom Voe Masterplan CCllr R McGeady said he would prioritise this for the next meeting but was unable to attend tonight. Ollaberry School Speed Restrictions The clerk had asked the school if the 20mph sign had been changed but hadn't received a response due to the long weekend. Winter icy roads A response had been received to say it would be sent to the relevant people but no other correspondence had been received.
7. Community Resilience Plan	No update
9. Correspondence	Andrew Hall – Councillor Update 16th April 2026 Clerk had shared on NCC facebook page. CCllr Doull said it was really useful to get Cllr A Hall's updates and asked if any other councillors did something similar. Mr M Duncan said that Cllrs often gave a verbal update at meetings. Cllr J Parry asked if Cllr E MacDonald could persuade other Cllrs to offer similar updates that could be shared but she said as an independent council she could not do this. Active Travel Update An update had been circulated before the meeting which said that design work is underway in Hillswick. CCllr Brown said as the funding has been reduced significantly, it would be good to know if

	the project is under threat. Cllr A Hall said that there would be an update on projects shortly. Action: Clerk to contact ZeTrans Involving Young People in Leadership Positions OPEN are keen to attend a community council meeting to discuss ways to get young people involved. CCllr Brown said it would be great to invite OPEN to a future meeting. CCllrs agreed. Action: Clerk to invite OPEN to future meeting ASCC Questionnaire Results The main points raised through the questionnaire had been that the ASCC meetings were too slow and there was not enough time for discussion and that community councils wanted more independence from SIC. Most respondents were happy with quarterly meetings in the Town Hall but there was a suggestion to also have meetings further north. CCllr Parry said that there was a networking event for CC Chairs coming up. Sessions updating islanders on potential fixed links Clerk had shared information on the NCC Facebook page for upcoming consultation events. Brae Campus – Pre- Application Consultation and Proposal of Application Notice There will be an online consultation from 24th June until the 14th August 2026 and there will also be an in person event on the 24th June 2026 from 3-7.30pm in the Brae High School. Urafirth Postbox A community member had gotten in touch asking why the Urafirth post box had been out of use for weeks. The clerk had discovered there was an issue with the door and Royal Mail were waiting for an engineer to come from south to fix it. They were also looking at moving the post box to a safer location. There was a discussion between CCllrs about where the best relocation point for the box would be. Action: Clerk to email back Royal Mail with suggestion.
10. AOCB	Lerwick Power Cut CCllr Brown said he wanted to highlight the recent power cut that also affected mobile phones and homelink systems. He said it is a concern that things reliant on Wi-Fi/mobile signal are rendered useless and it is important that there is reliance back up in the system during those times. CCllr Anderson added that everything is reliant on electricity and this is the wrong direction. CCllr Parry said that the Starlink Wi-Fi does have a battery backup. Cllr Hall said that Mr I Taylor SIC Resilience Advisor is looking into this issue. CCllr Doull said that SSE offer a resilience package for anyone with severe medical conditions. Cllr Hall said that it is a known issue to SIC, police and fire.

	CCLrs asked if Cllr E MacDonald had any updates but she said she had none
11. Date and time of next meeting	Monday 6 th July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Ollaberry Hall. CCllr J Parry gave his apologies.

The meeting ended at: 21.03