Scalloway Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 15th June 2026 7pm
Location: Scalloway Public Hall
Chair: Lawson Bisset
Clerk: Joanna Breeze

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Apologies from Nicole Mouat (member) Andrew Blackadder (member), and Catherine Hughson (Cllr), was noted.

Attendees:
Lawson Bisset (Chair),
Mark Burgess (Vice-Chair)
Joanna Breeze (Clerk),
Kenny Pottinger (member),
Marie Williamson (member),
Davie Sandison (Cllr),
Morag Lyall (Cllr),
Ian Scott (Cllr),
Wayne Leask (OPEN),
Laurie Clubb (Community Involvement & Development Officer),
Yvonne Clark (Scalloway Pool Action Group),
Sonja Inkster (Scalloway Pool Action Group).

Declaration of interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Marie Willamson

Seconded: Mark Burgess

Matters arising from previous meeting

Members received updates on matters arising not otherwise covered within the agenda.

Youth leadership initiative – presentation by Wayne Leask (OPEN)

Wayne Leask attended the meeting to outline a proposed Youth Leadership Initiative being delivered jointly by OPEN and VAS.

The initiative is aimed at young people aged 12–25 and will focus on developing leadership skills, confidence, communication, negotiation and understanding of how community organisations operate. The programme is intended to prepare young people for active participation in community councils and other community organisations.

Members discussed recruitment opportunities and recognised the value of engaging with existing youth groups such as Youth Voice. It was noted that community councils would retain responsibility for recruitment and appointment processes, with youth services providing support where appropriate.

Members welcomed the initiative and agreed that encouraging younger people to participate in community decision-making would be beneficial to the long-term sustainability of community organisations.

Actions:
- Wayne Leask to continue engagement with Community Councils, Youth Services and Youth Voice.
- Laurie Clubb to assist in identifying and engaging interested young people.
- Further discussions to take place regarding opportunities for shadowing and mentoring within community organisations.

Scalloway Pool Closure

Members discussed the ongoing closure of Scalloway Pool and the anticipated report due for publication on 1 July.

It was noted that the report is expected to outline possible options for the future of the facility but may not contain specific recommendations.

Members expressed disappointment regarding communication and collaboration between the organisations involved, including Shetland Islands Council, Shetland Recreational Trust and Shetland Charitable Trust. Concerns were raised regarding transparency and the perceived lack of progress towards reopening the facility.

The importance of the pool to the health and wellbeing of residents was highlighted, particularly given the growing population of Central Shetland.

Discussion also considered potential funding solutions. Members noted estimates suggesting that approximately £1.25 million may be required to secure a sustainable future for the facility.

The Scalloway Action Group advised that a public meeting would be arranged following publication of the report.

Actions:
• Scalloway Pool Action Group to organise a public meeting following publication of the report.
• Scalloway Pool Action Group to continue fortnightly meetings and community engagement.

Scalloway Community Development Company (SCDC) – project update

a) Caravan Park

Members received an update on caravan park operations.

A new warden is expected to commence duties shortly. Maintenance works including repainting accommodation units and addressing water infrastructure issues are progressing.

The potential addition of a further wigwam unit remains under consideration, subject to funding opportunities.

b) Community Transport

No update was recorded.

c) Active Travel

No update was recorded.

d) Waterfront

Consultants are progressing feasibility and design work for the waterfront project.

A first-stage options report is expected shortly. Members noted that wider public consultation will be undertaken once the report has been received and reviewed.

e) District Heating

The district heating feasibility study is progressing.

Data collection continues from key public buildings including the school, health centre and games hall. Delays in obtaining some information have affected progress but work remains ongoing.

Actions – Morag Lyall offered to chase up the SIC for the data request.

f) Business Hub

Members were advised that the Stage 2 Scottish Land Fund application remains on schedule for submission during the first week of July.

A funding decision is anticipated later in the year. Additional funding sources will be required to complete the project.

g) Heritage Project

The Heritage Lottery Fund application is nearing completion.

Updated quotations and financial information are being gathered before submission. Delays resulting from staff illness were noted.

h) Statkraft

Members noted ongoing work relating to the Statkraft Community Share Project.

Recent support from the local MP in assisting communications and advocacy efforts was welcomed.

ASCC – external meeting update

Members discussed the role of the Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) and ongoing discussions relating to community benefit funding.

It was noted that ASCC provides representation and recommendations but does not have authority to make final decisions regarding allocation of funds. Responsibility remains with individual Community Councils.

Members discussed differing views regarding local retention versus collective distribution of funding and recognised the sensitivity of the issue.

Action:
• Mark Burgess to attend the ASCC meeting on 2 July and report back to the Community Council.

Road reports

Members were reminded to continue reporting potholes and road defects at the meeting and the clerk can report through the appropriate council channels.

Police reports

No report was recorded.

Finance

a) Community Development Fund

This fund no longer exists – to be removed from the agenda

b) Community Benefit Fund

Discussion took place regarding governance arrangements and future allocation of Community Benefit Fund monies.

Members noted that discussions would continue at the forthcoming ASCC meeting.

c) Special Projects

Mark Burgess has been in contact with a contractor to replace the Fisherman's Garden handrail.

Action:
• Mark Burgess to liaise with contractors and oversee completion of the installation.

d) Jamieson Trust

Members were advised that arrangements for repair of the hall clock are progressing.

A new clock mechanism is scheduled to be installed and no additional financial implications are anticipated.

Action:
• Mark Burgess to liaise with contractors and oversee completion of the clock repair.

Correspondence

Correspondence and grant updates continue to be circulated electronically to members.

No matters requiring immediate action were raised.

Planning

No report was recorded.

Community Resilience Plan

No update was recorded.

Financial update from the clerk

Members were advised that annual accounts remain under review with VAS.

Further clarification is being sought regarding underspend, unrestricted funds and future grant allocations.

Improved financial monitoring spreadsheets have been developed to provide greater transparency regarding committed and uncommitted funds.

Members welcomed progress in improving financial reporting arrangements.

Action:
• Financial information to be updated and presented at the next meeting following completion of the annual accounts review.

Any Other Competent Business

1. Members reviewed the draft Local Place Plan.

The document reflects previous consultation exercises undertaken in 2018 and 2021 and incorporates both completed projects and future aspirations for the community.

Positive feedback has been received from relevant officers and partner organisations.

Members were invited to submit comments within one week, after which the draft will proceed to the next stage.

Following Community Council approval, wider public consultation will be undertaken before formal submission.

Actions:
• Clerk to circulate the draft Local Place Plan and seek comments from members.
• Members to provide feedback within one week.

2. It was discussed whether the Scalloway Hall was the best location for the meeting as the hall is damp and cold, and that the Scalloway youth centre be a better venue.

Actions:

- Joanna to look into availability at the youth centre

Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 August 2026 at 7.00pm in Scalloway Public Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.