

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY 2026 at 7.00 pm
at Whalsay Heritage Centre

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES
CCLlr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	CCLlr Richard Hutchinson (RH)
CCLlr Caroline Watt (CW) – Vice Chair	Michael Duncan – C. Council Liaison Officer (MD)
CCLlr Helen Thomson (HT)	Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
Alison Hutchinson (AH) – New member	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
Wayne Leask (WL) – Development Worker OPEN via	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations
Scott Raeside – Police Shetland	Neil Hutchinson – SIC Roads
	Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)
	Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH)

MINUTE TAKER: Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

WELCOME: JL welcomed all.

Introduced Wayne Leask who joined via teams and Alison Hutchinson and Scott Raeside in person.

APOLOGIES: Apologies noted

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None declared

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: JL asked if all were happy with minutes. JL approved; HT seconded.

1. OPEN

Wayne Leask discussed their Youth Leadership & Governance project, which aims to encourage more young people to become involved in community organisations.

JL discussed the difficulties faced in recruiting younger members and members shared that activities on isle was limited mainly to sport for younger generation.

WL informed members that some councils that some have had more success, including Lerwick with two members under 25. OPEN, in partnership with Voluntary Action Shetland, will be running training on leadership, governance and finances, with the next session on 26 September.

WCC were happy to support the project by sharing information and campaigns on social media and displaying posters in the local shops when available.

2. POLICE

No updates. Scott introduced himself and discussed his role. JL and members discussed Whalsay Summers Days and suggested community policing presence, SR would review and revert back once checked on scheduling.

3. RUNIC STONES

JL referred back to the previous discussion regarding the project and the proposed placemarkers and walking routes around the island. As no further update had been received since the last meeting, JL asked the Clerk to contact them for an update on progress. JL also asked for an update on the new tourist sign, which had previously been approved and was hoped to be installed during the summer.

4. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk shared the year-end accounts to 31 March 2026, along with the current accounts, with members. Members discussed the funds available and how these could best be used. It was agreed that the map project should now be progressed and finalised by the end of September 2026.

5. DOG FOULING – HOULL

Members discussed the increasing problem of dog fouling around the island and the need to raise awareness. It was agreed to explore involving the school after the holidays, as a way of encouraging awareness within the wider community. Members also agreed that additional dog waste bags should be purchased and the existing dispensers checked and replenished regularly.

ACTIONS: Clerk to action

6. SYMBISTER PIER

The Clerk advised that a date for the planned works at Pier Road is still to be confirmed. The 24/7 PTZ CCTV cameras have now been installed and the previous SIM issue resolved, with confirmation still awaited on when the system will be fully operational. Members welcomed the progress and agreed to keep the area under review. The possibility of re-opening the disabled toilets was also raised for further discussion.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

Proposed Works for Pier and Condition:

The Clerk confirmed that there is no update at this time. The condition of the pier was also discussed, with concerns raised about safety and the need to make the area safer. Members agreed that improved warning signage and any other suitable safety measures should be explored. Members also agreed to contact Shetland Amenity Trust again to encourage more involvement in the area and see what support they may be able to offer.

Action: Ongoing

Waiting Room and Toilets

Ongoing and clerk unable to share any update

Actions: Ongoing

7. FIRE HYDRANTS

Clerk shared update from Whalsay Fire Brigade and JL asked to follow up.

Actions: Ongoing.

8. FERRIES

The Clerk advised there was no further update. Members agreed it was important to keep pressure on SIC, as the ongoing delays and uncertainty continue to affect the island. Concerns remain around the ageing ferries, cancellations, lack of back-up and poor communication when services change at short notice. Members also recognised the important role of the ferry crews and the work they continue to do to keep the service running.

The forthcoming Tunnel Vision events were discussed, and members agreed these would be a good opportunity to hear more about future transport options and keep Whalsay's needs part of the wider discussion. Members agreed WCC should continue to raise the issues around the current ferry service while also pushing for clear plans for Whalsay's longer-term transport needs.

- New Proposed Booking System

- Parking Issues During Dry Dock Period and Wi-Fi Connectivity at Terminals

No updates or changes.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

9. ROADS, FENCE AT DUMP, STREETLIGHTS CYCLE & WALKING PATHS

JL shared an update on the works proposed over the summer, including resurfacing and patching. Active Travel update dated April 2026 was discussed. Members welcomed the planned work and discussed areas still needing attention.

The new tourist sign is also expected to be installed, and clerk to follow up on date for completion.

ACTION: Ongoing

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10. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

The Clerk shared the latest minutes from the Whalsay Tunnel Action Group, dated 26 May 2026, which members reviewed and discussed.

ACTION: Ongoing.

11. DENTIST

Members discussed the reply received regarding dental services and agreed that WCC should continue asking for a dental service to be brought back to Whalsay. Members felt it was important to keep raising the issue, particularly given the difficulties and additional travel involved for island residents in accessing appointments elsewhere.

ACTIONS: ongoing

12. MAP/NEWSLETTER

Members discussed the new design and the Clerk shared the updated costs. Members agreed to proceed with the new design and approved the additional cost. The Clerk will coordinate the next draft and share it with members for review

ACTION Ongoing

13. SKIPS

Members agreed to organise skip for after holidays

ACTIONS: Clerk to action

14. HARSDALE RENOVATION

No update and works still going on

ACTIONS: Ongoing

15. CHIMNEY REPLACEMENT

JL provided an update to members. It was agreed that the matter has now been resolved and those affected have been reassured. Any further concerns will be raised if required.

16. PHONE/INTERNET OUTAGES

Members discussed the continued disruption to services and noted that there has been little improvement. Concern remains for the local nursing home, which continues to have difficulties accessing a reliable and adequate service. Members agreed that the situation cannot continue and that other options should be explored to find a more reliable solution.

ACTIONS: Clerk to continue to report

17. TRIPWELL PARKING

JL confirmed that the concerns regarding misuse of the emergency bays had been reported to the relevant authority. Members agreed that the matter could now be closed, with any future concerns raised again if required.

18. EV CHARGER

The Clerk confirmed that the faulty EV charger had been reported and the relevant department is arranging the necessary repairs. Members will continue to monitor the situation until the charger is back in service.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

19. SCOOTER SAFETY

CW and members discussed concerns about the increasing use of e-scooters on public roads. It was agreed that posters would be produced and shared locally to raise awareness around their use.

20. NEW MEMBERS

It was agreed that Alison would step back from any discussions or decisions relating to the

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appointment as delayed membership. JL shared an application from Martin Shearer to join the Community Council as a councillor. Members considered the application and all those present unanimously agreed to appoint Martin as a member of the Community Council.

21. ASCC MEETINGS

JL discussed the forthcoming meetings and encouraged members to attend, noting that a Teams option is available. Members also discussed the proposal for a joint energy forum and agreed to keep involved as plans develop. Clerk shared forthcoming Community Council Training Programme with members.

JL Thanked all for attending

Meeting closed at 8.46pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for WEDNESDAY 1st JULY 2026, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.