

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL

(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)

On Tuesday 21st July at 7.45 pm

(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall
Lucy Cummings
Russell Simpson
Roy Buckland
Mike Fogarty

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis
Tim O'Dell

Sue O'Dell Clerk Fetlar Community Council

Apologies

Frances Browne SIC, Cllr Robert Thomson

1. Approvals

The minutes of the meeting held on June 10th were circulated and after some amendments were agreed they were proposed by Lucy, seconded by Roy signed and approved.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Ongoing Business

3.1. Fetlar Handyman

We are aware that one application for the position was received by the closing date.

It was agreed to go back to Carl regarding the public bins not being emptied and the cardboard not being collected from the shop despite it all being flattened and put in the clear plastic bags. Lucy said the shop would be happy to pay for this service if necessary.

A discussion took place about the calendar not being correct and the clerk will write to Carl about that too.

It was also suggested that the Handyman may be interested in the snow clearing work.

3.2. NHS

A follow up meeting with NHS Executives took place via Teams on Thursday 16th July. Lucy and Russell represented the FCC. The HCSW has been given the weekly prescriptions to collect and deliver as part of his role. Lucy explained there were some shocking horror stories with ongoing care for people on the island. Residents are going to be encouraged to send feedback to NHS Shetland website. Lucy will draft an email to residents to encourage people to fill in the forms for the NHS.

Mike explained how the longterm condition checks work and Tim elaborated on it.

Juliet explained that the Senior Managers have not been back to visit Fetlar since September 2023.

A discussion took place about the RTA that happened on Fetlar between the District nurse and a resident. Mike raised his concerns about the lack of Nurses on the islands.

The Dr must visit once a month even if only one patient is booked in. Tim will continue to advertise the date in advance on Everything Else Fetlar Facebook page.

3.3. Fetlar School

A discussion was held about the Fetlar school reopening. Cllr Robert Thomson suggested at a previous meeting that we should contact Samantha Flaws, Director of Children's Services at SIC to clarify how many children would we need to reopen the school and whether it needs to be more than one family. It was discussed that it would take at least a year to get the school to the standard needed. We also need clarification, as a matter of urgency, how children on Fetlar would travel to the school on Unst.

Clerk to contact Samantha Flaws with our concerns as a matter of urgency

3.4. Inter Islands Transport Connectivity

Dial A Ride

The Dial A Ride service will end on August 15th 2026 as Lee Jamieson has lost the contract. The new contract is being run by Robertson's but they don't intend to continue with Fetlar as its not financially viable.

The clerk needs to write to the Transport Dept at SIC, the three Councillors, Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP and Alistair Carmichael MP as a matter of urgency.

A discussion took place regarding why the Dial A Ride service was started originally for hospital visits and how it should only take passengers to the ferry when the bus connects at Gutcher.

Alistair Carmichael is coming to Fetlar Hall on August 18th between 14.15 and 16.15 to discuss tunnel development.

3.5. IT Connectivity

Post Office is going to be given Starlink as they are aware that the island is unlikely to get Fibre in the near future.

Clerk to write to Hannah Mary Goodlad about the lack of fibre on Fetlar.

3.6. Community Development Fund Application

As all grants have been awarded there were no further applications to consider.

3.6.1 Friends of Fetlar Kirk were given

3.6.2 Fetlar Community Association were given

3.6.3 Fetlar Museum Trust were given

3.7 Fetlar Place Plan

This is our chance to influence the Planning Authority. A small chance to make a difference.

Lucy reported a draft should be available for the next FCC meeting.

3.8 Islands with Small Populations (Issues Log)

Juliet informed that there has been no update to the issues log since May 2026.

Mark will hold an in person meeting on 18th September in Lerwick.

3.9 Ferries

There was a long discussion on Ferry timetables. The FCC hadn't wanted to change the timetable on a Saturday and would have preferred it staying to a Monday for the ferry safety drills.

It was also revealed that the 06.55 is now bookings only which no one on the island were aware of and the Council feel it is unworkable.

Clerk to email Andrew Inkster with our concerns.

3.10 SIC Housing

There are two people being sponsored to give free advice about Community Housing. They are free so Juliet will invite them to our next meeting.

3.11 Brough Lodge

A discussion was held on the presentation given by the Architect, Suzanne Malcolmson and Juliet gave Mike an update as he wasn't at that meeting.

Financial Update

4.1 The clerk apologised as she did not bring the Bank Statement or any of the financial documents and this will not happen again.

4.2 The clerk to check with the previous clerk on his last payment

AOCB There was an email sent round about the Community Budget Fund and there are funds available to the North Isles.

A meeting of the Association of Community Council will meet on a Saturday in August. Lucy will send the dates to the Clerk.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 18th of August at 7.45.