

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson

Fiona Mitchell
Stackhoull
Fair Isle
Shetland ZE2 9JU
Tel: 01595 760314

Clerk

Shirley Leslie
Ringesta
Quendale
Shetland ZE2 9JD
E-mail: dunrossness.cc@gmail.com

Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Wednesday 26th August 2026 in Dunrossness Primary School.

PRESENT

Aileen Brown (Chair)	Helen Budge	Agnes Tallack	Antonia Colvin
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)		Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)	
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)	Ana Horne (SIC)		

APOLOGIES

Fiona Mitchell	Helen Moncrieff	Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)
Michael Duncan (SIC)		

ABSENT

Irvine Burgess	Allen Sinclair	Dawna Phillips
----------------	----------------	----------------

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

Cllr Alex Armitage joined the meeting at 7:20pm

26/043 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor attended the meeting remotely and declared an interest in all planning matters.

26/044 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 29th June 2026 was adopted on the motion of Helen B.

26/045

26 August 2026

page two of eight

26/045 POLICE REPORT

No Police Report was available.

26/046 MATTERS ARISING

- 1) Road Matters:** There was nothing new to report.
- 2) Kirk Yard Bench:** There was nothing new to report.
- 3) Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** Aileen reported that she believed all necessary paperwork had now been completed by the Church and they were just waiting for the Bank to complete their side to enable matters to proceed.
- 4) Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** Helen B reported that she had checked the operation of the Kirk Yard gate and felt that it would benefit from having its hinges greased, something that she will undertake. Aileen enquired about the condition of the 'back stay' which is meant to offer support to the gate in high winds as she thought it was previously insecure at ground level. Helen B will check this also.
- 5) Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** The Clerk had contacted Robina Barton, SIC for an update. Robina had apologised for the delay and explained that it had taken a while to get confirmation of funding allocations from Transport Scotland so plans were still being developed but that she would be back in touch with the Community Council as soon as she can with 'something concrete'.
- 6) Westvoe Lifebelt:** Helen B will measure the size of the existing belts in order for new ones to be purchased which can fit in the existing holders. The re-instatement of the lifebelt holder pole at Westvoe is in hand.

26/047 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) Da Voar Redd Up 2026:** Participation information for the Dunrossness area had been received from Shetland Amenity Trust. Nine groups had completed Da Voar Redd Up Survey, confirming that they had completed a Redd Up in the Dunrossness area. It was unanimously agreed, as proposed by Antonia, that a donation of £100 be made to each group who participated. As in previous years, any private individuals who took part will be asked to nominate a group to receive a donation on their behalf.

26 August 2026

page three of eight

26/048 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

There was nothing new to report.

26/049 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

- 1) Association of Shetland Community Council:** The ASCC meeting had been held on 2 July and Michael Duncan, SIC had provided the below brief report.
- **SIC Medium-Term Financial Plan:** Paul Fraser, Executive Manager – Finance and Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive Officer provided an update on the Council's Finances and restructuring process. The ASCC agreed to write to Convenor, SIC, to seek clarification on the Council's strategic direction and how this aligns with budget setting and Shetland Partnership Plan.
- **Moratorium on energy development:** Discussion took place on the above and it was agreed that the ASCC is to arrange an event that invites local politicians to attend to discuss the situation further.
- **Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO):** It was agreed that Alastair Cooper (Delting CC) and James Smith (Sandwick CC) be appointed to SSMO as the ASCC representatives.

26/050 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) Roads:** Cllr McGregor reported that Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningsburgh Community Council would like to see the area of the proposed 40mph speed restriction through Cunningsburgh extended a bit. SIC Roads, however, consider that a limited stretch is more likely to see drivers change their behaviour. 'Vehicle activated signs' have been proposed and GQC Community Council are keen to have them installed.
- 2) Hockey Pitches:** Cllr McGregor confirmed that it has been agreed that the pitch will be located in Lerwick.
- 3) Safety & Resilience Board:** Cllr Duncan gave a brief update on the Fire and Coastguard services in Shetland. Upgrading of the facilities at outlying Coastguard premises are currently being pursued – as previously done for the local Fire service. Following a query from Helen B, Cllr Duncan reported that the Coastguard had recently gained 10 new recruits and the suggestion that volunteers would no longer be paid had been withdrawn.

26 August 2026

page four of eight

26/050 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (Continued)

4) External Transport Forum: Cllr Armitage reported as follows -

- **Loganair** - Complaints had been received ref obtaining refunds from Loganair. Antonia reported that she had also experienced difficulties.
- **Northlink** – With regards to shared cabins, Northlink had taken legal advice regarding the reinstatement of the shared cabin option but had been advised that the organisational risk was too high. Booking of cabins is available to tour companies long before the general public. Tour companies make block bookings and, any cabins in these block bookings which they ultimately do not require, are only made available to the public approximately two weeks before sailing dates. This was considered unacceptable for a lifeline service.

26/051 FAIR ISLE

- 1) GP Visits:** Cllr Duncan reported that he had met recently with 2 senior NHS officers regarding the lack of GP visits to Fair Isle and they had admitted that there could be improvements 'around the edges' to the service. They had promised to provide a written response to the Community Council, copied to Cllr Duncan. Cllr Armitage reported that there is a new doctor at the Levenwick Health Centre who is taking over provision of GP visits to Fair Isle. Fiona had reported that a GP visit is scheduled for around the 9th October, weather permitting. Ana reported that there is an Islands with Small Populations managers meeting soon which she can raise the matter at.
- 2) Wind Turbines:** Ana reported that Engineers have been in Fair Isle recently to carry out repairs to the 3 wind turbines which haven't been operational for approximately 6 months. One of the turbines is now working and parts have been ordered for a second one. New batteries have also been sourced.
- 3) Cycling Scotland:** Ana reported that she will be visiting Fair Isle Primary School soon with 2 representatives from Cycling Scotland to promote cycling and present pupils with bikes.

26/052 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Ana reported that the next stage is to pull all the work together and then bring it to the Community Council for approval.

26/053

26 August 2026

page five of eight

26/053 LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Alice Ritch, Bigton Collective, had kindly provided a copy of the consultation format which had been used to gather information for the Bigton area. Alice had also modified some of the questions to make it suitable for the whole of the Dunrossness area. This was greatly appreciated and the members agreed unanimously that they were happy for this format to be used by the Community Council. Helen B suggested that each member of the Community Council could consult approximately 10 people. This was also agreed. Concerns were raised that the proposed deadline for completion of the Local Place Plan is the end of September. Ana volunteered to enquire if this is a 'soft' deadline.

26/054 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Fair Isle War Memorial:** Ref the email received from War Memorials Trust regarding the deteriorated condition of the inscription on the Fair Isle War Memorial, the Clerk had emailed the SIC Burials Dept for confirmation on who is responsible for the upkeep of such memorials and received a reply which states

"the Council is responsible for the management of the burial ground, including ensuring that memorials do not present a risk to public safety. This responsibility does not generally extend to the conservation or restoration of commemorative features such as inscriptions. Historically, many war memorials in Shetland were erected through community fundraising organised by local war memorial committees. Therefore conservation, such as lettering renewal, will usually rest with the body who raised funds for its erection or has historically acted as its custodian".

However, the reply also stated that the SIC are organising memorial training shortly and will be inviting those from Fair Isle who were on the recent grave-digging training. On completion, they will be able to register as council-approved memorial masons and therefore could carry out repairs to the War Memorial. The Clerk had forwarded this information to the War Memorials Trust.

26 August 2026

page six of eight

26/054 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 2) Water Supply Issues:** The Clerk had emailed Scottish Water regarding ongoing water supply issues in Dunrossness and received the following reply:

"I have spoken to colleagues in our Water Network Strategy team and there is no question about the need to renew the water network in Dunrossness. Scottish Water recognises that we face a significant challenge managing and renewing ageing infrastructure on a sustainable basis across Scotland.

With this in mind, we are proposing an increase in the rate of replacement for our next 6-year investment period which begins in April 2027.

While our business plan, including this proposed increase, is currently still subject to agreement with our economic regulator and other stakeholders, we hope to be in a position to agree priorities and plan timescales for individual projects with a delivery partner by the end of 2026.

As ever, our local team will continue to do all they can to maintain reliable service and assist customers until long-term investment can be delivered".

- 3) Cost of Living Research:** Loughborough University has been commissioned by 4 local authorities including Shetland Islands Council to update the Minimum Income Standard for Remote and Rural Scotland that was first carried out in 2012. They are asking people from different types of households across Argyll and Bute, Orkney, Outer Hebrides and Shetland to take part in discussion groups to talk about what people need for an acceptable standard of living in 2026. It is known that households in these areas may have different and/or additional needs compared to households elsewhere in the UK. This work will help identify these differences and highlight specific issues that would need to be addressed to help affordability for households in these areas.

The research findings will be used by Shetland Islands Council and other organisations to help make sure that people have enough to enable them to have an acceptable standard of living and to play a full part in today's society.

- 4) Shetland Cruise Impact Study:** McGregor Solutions have been commissioned to examine the economic and social impact of cruise tourism across Shetland in the 2026 season. More than 1000 passengers and crew have already responded to their visitor survey and they are keen to hear the views of Community Councils.

26 August 2026

page seven of eight

26/054 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 5) Beach Cleaning Station:** SIC Youth & Employability Service, with support from Shetland Youth Voice, are carrying out a project to install a series of beach cleaning stations at selected beaches across Shetland during the summer months – April to September. The stations contain litter-picking equipment and reusable bags which members of the public can borrow to carry out small beach cleans before returning the equipment to the station. The aim is to encourage positive environmental action, reduce litter and increase community participation in caring for Shetland's coastline. The project received funding through the Climate Ting participatory budgeting process and was one of the highest-supported projects in the public vote. The first station is to be positioned at St. Ninian's.
- 6) Energy Convention:** As agreed at the ASCC meeting in July, a convention had been organised to allow Community Councils opportunity to share their thoughts regarding energy developments in Shetland with MP Alistair Carmichael and MSP Hannah Mary Goodlad. Representatives from 12 Community Councils had put forward their views (Helen M had represented Dunrossness). Although all those present were in favour of renewable energy, criticism had been made of the "piecemeal" approach to planning, the lack of meaningful consultation with communities and residents not seeing any tangible financial benefits from the developments they are living with locally. The politicians had fallen short of supporting a moratorium on any new energy developments saying the proposed document, which was started by a Highland councillor, was not "Shetland-centric" enough. MP Alistair Carmichael had said he would support the movement if a Shetland specific version was created.

26/055 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) Active Travel:** Antonia raised the issue of the lack of paths along the main road in Dunrossness between the Robins Brae area and the playing fields. It was noted that Sandwick had recently gained a new path which Ana reported had come about through SIC Active Travel. She understood all areas would eventually have an Active Travel audit done, usually by consultants who would hold an event in a local hall. However, at the moment, Active Travel have to prioritise the findings of audits which have already been carried out. Helen B suggested that this was another matter which could be included in the Local Place Plan. As a first step, Ana will enquire when/if Dunrossness is scheduled for the audit. Cllr McGregor stated that he had a meeting with SIC Roads in the morning and would raise the matter of paths with them also.

26 August 2026

page eight of eight

26/056 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026.**