

Minutes of Meeting of Yell Community Council

Monday 17th August 2026, 7pm, Mid Yell School

08/26/01 Members Present

Mrs A Jamieson (Chair), Ms F Stirling, Ms J Eunson, Mr L Madden, Mr L Odie, Mr R Jamieson (via Teams), and Mrs Y Burns (via Teams).

In Attendance:

Mrs Johnina Henderson (Clerk), Mr C Tait, Mr K MacCormack and 38 members of the public.

Visitors:

Ruth MacMillan (Executive Manager Adult Social Work)

Heidi Whartum-Baum (Executive Manager Community Care Resources)

Chair Mrs A Jamieson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

08/26/02 Apologies

Miss M Johnson, Cllr Robert Thomson (Elected representative), Cllr Ryan Thomson (Elected representative), Mr Michael Duncan (Community Councillor Liaison Officer), Ms Frances Browne (North Isles Community Involvement and Development Worker), and PC Scott Raeside (Police Scotland - North Isles).

08/26/03 Declarations of Interest

Mr L Odie declared an interest in item 8.2.

Mr C Tait declared an interest in item 8.1.

Mr K MacCormack, Ms J Eunson and Mrs Y Burns declared an interest in the care centre and item 10.5 (these members joined the members of the public during the discussion).

08/26/04 Temporary Removal of Residents from Isleshavn

The Chair introduced this item, noting that the unexpected communication issued on Thursday regarding the temporary removal of residents from Isleshavn, and the subsequent fallout, had caused significant distress to residents, families, staff, and the wider community.

In attendance for this item were:

Ruth Macmillan, Executive Manager Adult Social Care

Heidi Whartum-Baum, Executive Manager Community Care Resources

Ms Macmillan and Ms Whartum-Baum addressed questions from YCC members on the following points:

The suddenness and unexpected nature of the decision, and why no prior warning was given.

The method and timing of communication to residents, families, and staff, and the impact this had.

Support arrangements for residents, families, and staff during this period of disruption.

Steps required to restore residential services, including timescales, staffing, and the commitment to provide regular updates to all stakeholders, including YCC.

Community Council members were invited to ask questions.,

A YCC member spoke about a close relative who had been moved to another setting as a result of this sudden decision and the impact it had had on him and his relatives. Another

advised that a relative was unable to attend the meeting this evening due to the emotional trauma the incident had caused the family.

Members of the public were invited to speak. Several members of the public raised major concerns. Staff members were understandably reluctant to speak publicly, and the Chair sought reassurance from management that all staff concerns would be addressed promptly and through appropriate channels. It was noted that formal complaints may be submitted by families and staff regarding how the situation was handled.

Two Yell NHS Community Nurses were present and raised important questions about the interface between NHS services and social care at Isleshavn. These matters will be taken as offline discussions. The lack of communication between the two services, during this period of disruption regarding this decision was highlighted as a serious concern.

Members of the public raised question about the lack of advertising for roles, the delays in responding to applicants and the fact that other care centres had been recruiting successfully. Members of the public indicated that the problems with recruitment had been ongoing for a few years and that changes to the management of the centre had been disruptive for staff. It was also noted that previous discussions suggesting replicating the Brucehall model in Yell had not materialised and that the Bellevue house were now under the jurisdiction of the housing department which would make this suggestion more difficult to manage. Discussions could be held between, Adult Social care, Housing and with Community Care resources to advance this suggestion. It was accepted that there could be different models of care introduced in future.

Members of the public questioned whether this action signalled a permanent closure of Isleshavn. Ms Macmillan stated clearly that this is not a closure and should not be interpreted as such.

The meeting noted that Ms Macmillan attended YCC exactly one year ago following a “poor” inspection report for Isleshavn. At that time, staffing issues were raised and YCC offered assistance in promoting vacancies. No further communication on recruitment has been received since. The recent unannounced Care Inspectorate report, which was of greater concern., was also noted.

Yell Community Council expressed its deep concern about the situation and agreed the following:

YCC seeks the full support of SIC to restore residential services at Isleshavn as soon as possible and will contact John Fraser, Chair of the Integrated Joint Board regarding this urgent matter.

SIC should ensure appropriate support and information on complaints mechanisms are provided to residents, families, and staff in order that they can raise their concerns during this difficult period.

SIC should fully investigate the communication process used and implement improvements should anything similar occur in future.

YCC is willing, in conjunction with the SIC to actively support efforts to stabilise and rebuild the service.

YCC recognises the long-standing value of Isleshavn to the community, originating from the model developed by Dr M McDonnell and Peter Malcolmson, which has been replicated across Shetland.

YCC wishes to be involved in discussions regarding new models of care being explored for the future.

Mrs A Jamieson thanked Ms Macmillan and Ms Whartum-Baum for attending the meeting and they and the members of the public left the meeting at 7.55pm.

08/26/05 Minutes

29th June 2026 – Ms F Stirling and Mr L Odie approved the minutes of the June meeting. with the following minor changes.

It was noted that the wording for Beach awards to be ...It was noted there is a need to explore views about the YCC involvement in the continuation of the Beach Awards in the longer term.

Clerk to send approved minutes to M Duncan.

08/26/06 Matters Arising

Any matters arising from June minutes will be discussed below.

08/26/07 Community Council Members

Resignation

Mrs S Williamson, who had been granted a period of 6-month leave of absence has now resigned as a Community Council member.

Associate

Following an advertising campaign, Mr C Tait and Mr K MacCormack had expressed an interest in joining YCC as associate members.; and they were welcomed. Clerk to submit completed forms to SIC. Clerk to forward Community Council training options to all new members.

08/26/08 NI Councillors Update

Since no NI councillors were present, the meeting decided to defer the unaddressed issues until the September meeting.

08/26/09 Outstanding Business

1. Transport

Ferries

Docking Schedule

Yell Community Council have requested that the annual docking period be scheduled at a less busy time of year, or an alternative vessel be guaranteed during the refit period. Members felt the situation in May had been intolerable for the North Isles and required action.

Ferry Communication Meeting

Following discussion with Cllr Lyall, SIC proposed that a meeting be arranged on 1st September to discuss ferry communication matters. Attendees' representatives from the North Isles Community Councils and relevant elected members and members of the SIC Communications team. The aim is to establish better communications when there are issues with the ferries due to breakdowns etc.

Proposed new booking system.

Members raised concern about the requirement to pay in advance under the proposed new booking system and stressed the need for greater flexibility in the booking system.

Cancellation of Bookings-Only Sailings

Concerns were raised regarding the cancellation of bookings-only sailings. There is no means to cancel a booking only sailing after the booking office closes. Members agreed this requires clarification from Ferry Operations.

Roads

Cullivoe Road Project Update

An update was received confirming that the project is now in week 20 and progressing well against the programme. Scottish Water pipe re-routing is almost complete and SSE power line diversions remain on schedule.

Archaeologists continue their watching brief around the prehistoric mill, allowing works to proceed. The previously uncovered walled formation in Section B has now been fully excavated and recorded, enabling road construction to progress.

With the bird breeding season ending, no nesting sites are currently identified within the works area. Environmental monitoring continues and works only proceed with approval.

Bulk earthworks are focused on Section C, where suitable rock is being sourced. A controlled blast is scheduled for Wednesday 19th August at 3pm, with temporary traffic management in place and short delays expected between 15:00 and 15:30.

Photos of progress and the blasting location were provided. Further updates will be given at the September meeting.

White Lines – Update

White lining on Yell has now been completed.

Passing/Parking place at Old Burravoe School

An update was received confirming that the survey work is in hand, and an outline draft layout has been prepared. This has now been passed to a design engineer to develop detailed levels and quantities to confirm feasibility. Further progress is expected shortly, and a fuller update will be provided when available.

Fixed Links – Tunnel Vision Events

Tunnel Vision – Fixed Links Community Meeting (Yell)

An invitation was received from Alistair Carmichael MP to attend this year's Tunnel Vision events, a series of community discussions on the future of fixed links and inter-island transport. Now in its fourth year, the programme is focusing on developing a long-term implementation route map and business cases, with increasing interest from both the Scottish and UK Governments.

The Yell session will take place on Tuesday 18 August, 6.30–8.00pm. Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP will attend most events. The meetings are open discussions intended to consider benefits, challenges, prioritisation, financing, and community needs as proposals progress. Members and the public are welcome to attend any of the sessions across Shetland.

Revised Bus Timetables

Members welcomed the revised bus timetables, noting the introduction of an additional bookable Sunday service, including connections with NorthLink ferry sailings and bookable journeys to attend the Health Centre. One member expressed disappointment that the contract had been awarded to a Lerwick-based operator rather than a Yell-based company.

2. Renewable Energy Developments

North Isles Community Benefit Workshops

Ms F Stirling gave an update regarding the forthcoming North Isles Community Benefit workshops, facilitated by Foundation Scotland and Local Energy Scotland and led by the North Isles Community Councils. The sessions, running 9–12 September, will explore potential community benefit arrangements linked to the proposed Beaw Field and Energy Isles wind farm developments and gather views from residents.

Workshops will take place in Burravoe, Baltasound, Fetlar, Cullivoe, with an additional drop-in session in Mid Yell. Community members are encouraged to attend and contribute ideas on how any future benefit fund could best support the North Isles. Booking is essential by emailing clerk.ycc@gmail.com.

SSEN Transmission Feedback

Mr L Odie left the meeting while this matter was discussed.

Following the Consultation event in Mid Yell and Burravoe on 1st July, an individual organised a public meeting regarding the site of the Burravoe substation. YCC noted increasing community concern regarding the Beaw Field and Energy Isles developments, particularly around construction impacts and the proposed Burravoe substation location. Residents requested longer and more detailed consultation sessions, including a public presentation with Statkraft, advance sight of materials, and consideration of alternative substation sites and underground cabling.

Further discussion is expected as the project progresses.

Feedback is encouraged by 21st August. YCC will send a response to Gordon Bell (Community Liaison Manager for Shetland)

3. Local Place Plan for Yell

Following the consultation period extended, Mr L Odie along with the Clerk has drafted a plan with the collated information. Clerk to contact Diane Cassidy regarding submission details.

4. ASCC Meeting – 2 July

Notes were received following the ASCC meeting on 2nd July, these were noted.

5. Housing Needs Assessment for Yell

An update from Luke Fraser was received seeking YCC's views on the most appropriate way to engage the community, either through a survey or a public meeting, while avoiding consultation fatigue. It was noted that much of the required feedback may already be available through the Local Place Plan, and housing-related information can be taken from the LPP questionnaires. The meeting agreed on sending out surveys. Data analysis will continue, with further information requested if needed, and Luke will contact SIC and Hjaltland Housing for additional data. The meeting agreed to defer further discussion until next month.

6. Community Councils Energy Convention – 22 August

Members noted arrangements for the Community Councils Energy Convention on 22 August at Islesburgh, where community councils will call for a moratorium on future alternative energy projects in Shetland. Mr L Odie will attend on behalf of YCC and present our views. The convention will ask politicians to support a unified statement seeking a pause on major applications, improved national-level protection for communities, a planning inquiry into cumulative impacts, and recognition of local democratic concerns.

7. Community Council Updates and Reporting

Community Councils are now required to submit an annual report which will be presented to the next meeting before being submitted by 30th September.

8. Power Cut Updates

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

9. Dog Fouling

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

10. Future of Burravoe School

The Future of Burravoe School will be discussed at the SIC Full Council meeting on Wednesday 19th August.

08/26/10 New Business

Defibrillator List for Shetland

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

Shetland Development Charter

Shetland Development Charter was approved by Elected Members at the Full Council meeting on 1st July. This was noted.

Community Council Police Report – April/May 2026

The following is a summary of most of the reported incidents attended by Police Scotland in your Yell during the months of April and May.

There have been 9 incidents recorded which can be summarised as follows:

Road Safety and Road Crime - Driving with No Insurance, - Driving with No Licence

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder - Culpable and Reckless Conduct,

- Neighbour Dispute (2), - Threatening or Abusive Behaviour (2)

Protecting Vulnerable People - Mental Health

Other - Drugs – Attempt to Possess

Temporary Safety Measures – Mid Yell (Old) Burial Ground

The meeting noted the update from SIC following a structural survey at Mid Yell (Old) Burial Ground. A temporary exclusion zone is being established around deteriorating structures to ensure public safety, while further assessments and options for repair or conservation are considered. The remainder of the burial ground will remain open. SIC will continue monitoring the site and provide updates as work progresses.

Isleshavn Inspection Report

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Neshion Energy Park – Planning Application Submission

The meeting noted an update on the Neshion Energy Park proposal and noted that they were not in support of the development until a clear picture could emerge on future green energy developments in Shetland.

Potential Shetland Communities – Energy Network

The meeting noted correspondence from the Brae Rural Energy Hub regarding early discussions on forming a Shetland Community Energy Network to support collaboration between local organisations working on energy advice, sustainability, and community-owned renewables. The proposal aims to reduce duplication, share best practice, strengthen collective engagement with policymakers, and help communities navigate ongoing energy developments.

08/26/11 Correspondence Received (29 June – 17 August 2026)

New Tesco Grant

2026 SURF Awards Open for Applications

Climate Leadership Opportunity for The Young People Within Your Communities

Shetland islands Council August Newsletter

NEWSLETTER 10, Last chance to take part in New Powers Survey

INVITATION - Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau Annual General Meeting 2026

Island Communities Place Programme

Grants and Funding Newsletter - July 2026

News & Updates from Scottish Rural Action - July

Scottish Islands Federation - June 2026 News

Benefits take up strategy - ICIA - 15th July at 2pm

08/26/12 Planning Applications / Marine Planning / Premises Licences

Planning Ref: 2026/009/WL

Proposal: To continue deployment of an existing tidal array and associated works.

Decision: Supported

Action: Clerk to contact Marine Planning.

08/26/13 Finance / Grants

Grant Funding Offers and Payments

Following the offers being accepted by the groups except Yell Show Committee who declined their grant offer. The meeting agreed for the Clerk to process payments and receipt/vouching detail letters to accepted groups.

Voar Redd Up 2026

This item was deferred until the September meeting.

YCC Accounts 2025/26

The YCC Accounts for 2025/26 had been audited by VAS, were approved, and signed. Clerk to send to Michael Duncan.

08/26/14 Any Other Business

Sheep poo mess at Ulsta Ferry Car park

A letter was received regarding the poor condition of the Ulsta Ferry Car Park and surrounding areas due to sheep entering through damaged fencing. The meeting noted the concerns raised and recommended that the Grazing Committee Clerk for the area be contacted. YCC will discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

.

Meeting End - The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Next meeting: Monday 21st September, 7pm, Mid Yell School. Visitors: Jonathan Duncan - SIC Roads