

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 10 August 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present:	John Priest	Mrs Joanne Fraser
	Mrs Sharon Deyell	Ewan Anderson
	Craig Manson	
In attendance:	Sgt Alan Patrick	
	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from George Morrison, Cllr L Peterson and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2026, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr C Manson seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

BUSINESS ARISING: Police: The Chairman welcomed Sgt. A Patrick who gave us his Report. Sgt Patrick said that there had not been many incidents in this area recently. He also informed the members that the Road Traffic Police are to visit Shetland soon. He was asked whether the rate of road accidents in Shetland has increased in recent months.

Sgt Patrick agreed that this appears to be the case and part of the reason is thought to be poor driving. He said that the Police can stop drivers at any time and give them advice and fixed penalties can be given. He added that, if new drivers collect 6 penalty points within the first 2 years, their full licence is automatically revoked and they will again have to apply for a provisional licence and pass another driving test. He also added that some of the Police time is taken up by checking out firearms.

Sgt Patrick said that PS Bryan Mulholland has moved back to the mainland.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Patrick for attending the meeting. Sgt Patrick then left.

Skeld Camping Bod: Nothing to report.

Road Matters: Corner at Shipping Office at Aith: In reply to another query, Mr N Hutcheson, Head of Roads, attached a copy of the Walking Route Assessment for the Vementry/Aithsness road. A copy of this document will be sent to the person who raised concern about this corner.

Bus shelter requested at the Reawick graveyard: Mr N Hutcheson had informed the Clerk that a bus shelter for this area is on order.

Clousta Road: The Head of Roads had informed the Clerk that the tarring on the Clousta road will take place next year.

Extra passing place on Vementry Road: In a message from Mr N Hutcheson he said that he will discuss the requested passing place on the Vementry road with the Area Maintenance Engineer for the West Mainland when he returns from leave.

Children walking to school along the Vementry road - Mr N Hutcheson said that the Walking Route Assessment has been shared with the person who brought it to our attention.

Passing place signs: Mr N Hutcheson said that the road at Garderhouse has been inspected and four new passing place signs are required. A works order for these has been placed with their contractor.

Slow signs on the road at Semblester: Mr N Hutcheson informed the Clerk that the painted signs on the road will be replaced soon.

Permanent 'Smiley Face' road signs at Bixter: Signs not yet provided.

Funding: Funding details had been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

R100 Broadband Evaluation: Ducting ongoing.

Association: An update from the Association meeting held on 2 July was received from Mr M Duncan.

Da Voar Redd Up: The 2026 Voar Redd Up participation information for this area was received from Shetland Amenity Trust.

CGS0083 –VCF APPLICATION: An application from Aith Community Hall & Rankin Lounge for a grant from the Viking Community Fund was considered. Further information will be requested before a decision is taken.

SHETLAND COMMUNITIES – ENERGY NETWORK: An email was received from Jade Wilson, the Development Officer for the new Brae Rural Energy Hub whose aim is to support Shetlanders to reduce their energy costs and live more sustainably by providing local guidance and advice from their hub based at the Brae Youth & Community Centre. She sent the email on behalf of herself, John Clarkson from Home Energy Scotland, Tyst Hertoghs, Community Energy Development Officer at Bressay Development and Joanne Jamieson from Sandwick Social and Economic Development Company. John had introduced them to the Highland Energy Community Partnership (HECP) and wondered whether a similar model could be beneficial in Shetland. To further explore the idea, they are holding an online meeting on Wednesday 26 August.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ENERGY CONVENTION: A message was received from Mr Andrew Archer regarding the CC Energy Convention being held on 22 August. It will take place at Islesburgh Centre at 10.30am and the purpose of the event is to ask our politicians to support a pause and to recognise the strength and seriousness of the concerns being raised by communities. The planned format is that a representative of each Community Council that wishes to contribute will have around three minutes to set out its concerns and priorities. A further email was received asking for more speakers.

ISLAND COMMUNITIES PLACE PROGRAMME: A message was received from Planning Aid Scotland with a flyer attached with more information about the programme.

ACCOUNT FROM SKELD HALL: An account for £25.00 was received from Skeld & District Community Hall for the use of the hall for our meeting on 15 June. It will be settled.

DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The Clerk presented the Financial Statement for 2025/2026 which was approved. Moved by Mr C Manson, seconded by Mrs J Fraser. Once it has been audited it will be forwarded to Mr M Duncan, along with the Report requested.

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing reminders and information with the Community Council were received and noted.

NEXT MEETING: The next Community Council meeting will be held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.30pm..