

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 Monday 21st September 2026 via Zoom.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Helen Budge	Irvine Burgess	Antonia Colvin
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)		

APOLOGIES

Aileen Brown	Agnes Tallack	Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)
Michael Duncan (SIC)	Ana Horne (SIC)	

ABSENT

Allen Sinclair	Dawna Phillips	Helen Moncrieff
Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)		

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

26/057 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor declared an interest in all planning matters.

26/058 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 26th August 2026 was adopted on the motion of Helen B.

26/059

21 September 2026

page two of six

26/059 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for the months of June and July 2026 had been received via email and reported as follows:

Road Safety and Road Crime

- Driving whilst Over the Prescribed Limit
- Driving with No Insurance
- Driving with No Licence
- Fail to Provide Details of Driver
- Other Road Traffic Offence

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

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

Protecting Vulnerable People

- Concern for Person
- Mental Health

Other

- Drone Incident
- Livestock Worrying

26/060 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

- (i) **Paths:** With regard to the previously discussed lack of paths along the main road in Boddam between Robins Brae and the Playing Fields, Ana Horne had enquired with SIC Active Travel if there were any plans to carry out an Active Travel Audit the Dunrossness area. Robina Barton had replied that there were currently no plans but that it certainly can be done if it is something that the community would like to see and that there should be money somewhere in this year's budget that could be used. Robina will contact Systra, who have been doing the audits, to find out when it might be feasible. This was greatly welcomed.
Cllr Robbie McGregor had discussed the matter with Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, and Antonia had provided Neil with details as requested.

2) Kirk Yard Bench: There was nothing new to report.

21 September 2026

page three of six

26/060 MATTERS ARISING (Continued)

- 3) **Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** There was nothing new to report.
- 4) **Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** Helen B reported that she had managed to return and grease the hinges of the gate or check the 'back stay' yet but would do so before the Community Council's next meeting.
- 5) **Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** There was nothing new to report.
- 6) **Westvoe Lifebelt:** There was nothing new to report.

26/061 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) **Community Council Annual Accounts:** The annual accounts had been prepared by Voluntary Action Shetland and were approved. It was agreed that the Clerk could sign them on behalf of the Community Council. The Clerk will check with Michael Duncan, SIC, that this is acceptable.

26/062 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

There was nothing new to report.

26/063 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

- 1) **Association of Shetland Community Councils:** Irvine raised what he felt was an issue with how certain points which are discussed at ASCC meetings are reported by the media. It was agreed that this is a matter which the Community Council could take forward to an ASCC meeting in the future.

26/064 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

There was nothing new to report. Cllr Alex Armitage reported that there had been no SIC meetings held since the last Community Council meeting.

26/065

21 September 2026

page four of six

26/065 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

- 1) GP Visits:** There had been a GP visit to the Isle which had been welcomed. No proposed date for the next visit has been set so far, but it is hoped that regular visits will take place from now on.
- 2) New Ferry Project:** The new boat slip at Fair Isle is almost finished, although there have been some recent weather delays, but the contractors are modifying working hours to fit around the weather and tides etc. Ian Best (Skipper) has visited Whitby a couple of times recently in connection with the building of the new Ferry. Initial sea trials, before delivery to Shetland, are currently planned for November. Fiona thought that the new vessel will then initially operate out of Lerwick for a time and in partnership with Good Shepherd IV until all checks are complete and satisfactory. Cllr Alex enquired what the plans are for the old ferry, but Fiona hadn't been made aware of any plans at this time.

26/066 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Irvine confirmed that himself and Ana will try and push forward this coming month and get all the collected data put together in the format.

26/067 LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Helen B reported that two representatives of Planning Aid Scotland will be visiting Shetland at the beginning of October and herself, Antonia and Helen M have arranged to meet them on 5th October to progress the Dunrossness Local Place Plan. Concerns had been raised previously that the proposed deadline for completion of plans was the end of September, but Antonia had recently received confirmation that Shetland Islands Council are willing to accept submissions up to the end of the year. With this in mind, it is planned that October will be the consultation period for the Dunrossness Plan with posters in local shops, halls etc, online material and in-person consultation. Fiona reported that Fair Isle had been debating whether or not to complete their own Plan or join the Dunrossness Community Council one. She will confirm with the Chair of the Fair Isle Committee and, in the meantime, Helen B will forward some details of the work carried out on the Dunrossness one so far.

26/068 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Association of Shetland Community Councils:** The next meeting of the ASCC is scheduled for Monday 23rd November at 6pm in the Town Hall.

26/068/2

21 September 2026

page five of six

26/068 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 2) **ASCC Energy Convention:** At the ASCC Energy Convention in August, Shetland's politicians were asked whether they would support a statement calling for a planning inquiry commission and a pause to further developments. The statement which was used at the time was one that had been used at the first convention in the Highland Region last summer and therefore both Alistair Carmichael and Hannah Mary Goodlad felt that it should be more Shetland focused. With the help of Alistair Carmichael, a revised version has now been produced as follows:

Shetland's Unified Statement

We recognise the extent and immediacy of the climate crisis and its impact on our planet but oppose an unjust and unnecessary industrialisation of rural Shetland.

The transition to generating electricity from renewable sources, especially wind power, has already had a significant impact on Shetland and its landscape and much more is both consented and in planning. In addition, there are plans for substantial installations to be built in the waters around Shetland.

Planning procedures do not currently allow adequate account to be taken of community needs and wishes. In particular, no account is taken of the cumulative effect of different projects being consented.

Shetland's economy is rooted in food production through fishing, aquaculture and agriculture, and also in tourism. These industries need to be protected as further energy developments are considered. Without specific protections, their interest's risk being harmed.

Despite hosting so much energy infrastructure, Shetland consistently ranks as one of the areas with the highest levels of fuel poverty in the United Kingdom.

We therefore call for:

1. Decisions taken by Scottish ministers on projects in Shetland to take better account of Shetland's distinct concerns and local industries.
2. The Scottish Government to undertake a Planning Inquiry Commission to address the whole cumulative impact of all major renewable infrastructure developments, including transmission, storage and generation with all ancillary infrastructure, on our communities and landscape.

21 September 2026

page six of six

26/068 CORRESPONDENCE

2) ASCC Energy Convention (continued):

3. A pause of all major applications in Shetland and wider Scotland, given the impact upon our communities, until a clear national energy policy is in place and a full impact assessment is made of the effect of further development on our local economy, landscape and communities of further energy developments, both onshore and offshore.
4. In recognition of Shetland's already substantial level of installed capacity, this pause should only be ended when governments deliver meaningful assistance to local people for the cost of heating in Shetland.

26/069 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) **Local Adult Care Sector:** Irvine commented that there is pressure on the local adult care sector due to a lack of staff and wondered why there is no modern apprenticeship type opportunities in this field to encourage young people to take up this career. Cllr Alex Armitage will follow this up with the appropriate people and stated that the current situation is financially unsustainable as the service is depending on locums and their higher costs. It was noted that at one point, wages in the adult care sector were raised to a level that encouraged people to leave their existing employment and join the service. However, this can result in staffing issues developing in other sectors, which Helen B stated was the case at one stage in her past role, when staff swopped the children's care sector for the adult.

26/070 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 26th OCTOBER 2026.**