

This minute is UNAPPROVED until adopted at the next meeting.

Skerries Community Council (SCC)
Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on (Friday August 29th 2026)
In Skerries Community Hall

Present:

Paul James (Chair) (PJ)
Marina Anderson (MA)
Janice Hughson (JH)
Kia James (KJ) (Minutes)
Marina Tait (MT)
Frances Anderson (FA)
Dianne Hughson (DH)
Joyce Williamson (JW)

In attendance:

Robert Thompson (RT) Teams
Lynsey Hall (LH) Teams

1) Apologies

Jilly Ash, Michael Duncan.
Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Declaration of Interest to any agenda Item

None

3) Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting, held on the (May 29th, 2026), were approved.
Proposed by (JH), seconded by (JW).

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

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- 4.1. PJ contacted Matt Mason re: Fire Engine for Skerries. He is keeping the pressure on for fire provisions. Home visits from the fire service were discussed as an option. FA raised possibility of fire extinguishers for residents' houses. RT mentioned that fire blankets could also be installed in folks' houses. DH mentioned that it would be good to develop a fire plan. It was suggested that a fire engine could be stored in the fish factory.
- 4.2. Resilience Planning. Under review. Will be discussed at the next CC meeting.
- 4.3. Ferry Timetable. Ongoing. The festive schedule for 2026/7 has been circulated and awaiting update.

5.0 Participatory Budgeting.

KJ spoke about available funding for constituted groups to apply for.

Core funding: (2 x amounts of £1,500)	£3,000
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Shetland Community Benefit Fund (01/09/25-31/08/26)	£7,002
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Next Years SCBF allocation:	£6,757
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Total funds available:	£16,759
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6.0) Seabird Restoration Programme.

KJ has been working with Victoria Harrison to obtain permissions from the residents so that the project can move forward.

The project is progressing well. There will be an update in person from the coordinators in October as they will be having a meeting in person, with the residents.

7.0) Scottish Sea Farms Update

A summary from Andrew Barrie was circulated. Ann Anderson has left her role. The seabed is still being analysed. There is a proposed invitation option for folk to visit the Scalloway and Gremista working sea farms in October. PJ is liaising with SSF and residents to organise this.

PJ mentioned the need to think about the consultation process carefully. He discussed that the consultation process will lead to

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Skerries folk (on the electoral roll) being able to vote as to for/against the proposal.

Some residents' families, who have fished here for decades, are extremely sceptical as to the general SSF business plan. There appears to be lack of trust between some residents and SSF. DH asked what benefits SSF will bring to the island.

MT raised concerns over SSF putting their industry needs above the needs of the fisherfolk.

FA raised concerns about SSF not delivering or being accountable for what they say they are going to do. She mentioned that it's the site that they intend to use that is the problem, not the salmon farm itself. She feels that it is pushing out the fishermen and doesn't agree with it.

There was a discussion around balancing investment and promoting a future for Skerries with losing jobs. PJ mentioned that maybe, as part of negotiations with SSF, that they could pay for independent legal fees to ensure the Skerries folk are adequately compensated. It was discussed that SSF could pay for removal of debris on the West Isle.

As part of future negotiations with SSF (re: benefits for Skerries folk), Pat Christie, LH and PJ are working on a Local Place Plan (LPP). This can be presented to SSF to help demonstrate a need for funding, whatever that may be. LH mentioned that there will be a LPP workshop soon

8.0) Risks

MA and JH have seen the updated register.

9.0) Issues

None

10) Correspondence received

All circulated.

11) AOCB

RT mentioned that it might be worth talking to SSF about providing community owned housing.

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DH raised issue with the bins. Carl Brydon is arranging to remove the bins and replace with two new ones.

Submersible. PJ has contacted SIC and elevated the issue to "hazard".

PJ is attending the Brae Inter-Island transport meeting @ Isleburgh. With Alistair Carmichael and Hannah Mary Goodlad.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 20th November 2026.

The meeting concluded at 15.12.

Actions:

Paul:

To circulate the updated risk register.

Paul to set up in person visit to Scalloway Sea Farm.

CHAIR SIGNATURE:
