

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2026 AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.30PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT Mrs M Davis Mr E Semple Mr C Clark

EX OFFICIO Cllr R McGregor

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs K Geddes, clerk Mrs M Philip,
Cunningsburgh
resident and parent

CHAIRPERSON Ms M Gray

APOLOGIES Miss K MacKay Mrs D Smith Mrs P Christie
Cllr A Armitage Mr M Duncan Cllr B Peterson
Ms A Horne

NOT PRESENT Cllr A Duncan

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R McGregor declared an interest in Item 9 – Planning, as he is Chair of the SIC Planning Committee.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24TH AUGUST 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th August were approved on the motion of Mr C Clark and seconded by Mr E Semple.

5. ROADS AND PATHS – INCLUDING CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

1. Cunningsburgh Road Safety Concerns and School Transport

This item was brought forward on the agenda to allow the member of the public in attendance to leave at the earliest opportunity.

The [proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A970 through Cunningsburgh from 50 mph to 40 mph](#) was discussed.

An email dated 1 October from Neil Hutcheson, SIC Team Leader – Road Asset and Network Management, was read and noted. The Clerk had asked whether the recommendations in his report might be amended to reflect the views expressed by the community, as this could remove the need for a deputation at the Environment and Transport Committee meeting on 23 November, when the proposal is due to be considered.

Mr Hutcheson confirmed that the report would recommend making the order with the same boundaries as originally proposed. The 40 mph limit would therefore cover the central section of Cunningsburgh, extending along the A970 from a point 80 metres north-east of the Gord Road junction to a point 80 metres south of the Mid Voxter Road junction at Brind. Roads Service considers this section the most suitable for a reduced limit because it includes the school, several residential roads and a number of junctions. It believes that

concentrating the restriction in this area will achieve better compliance and road-safety benefits.

Mr Hutcheson also advised that the proposed path along the A970 between the North Cunningsburgh and Gord junctions was being considered for inclusion in the Council's active-travel infrastructure programme. The programme is expected to be reported to the Environment and Transport Committee early next year.

Members expressed disappointment with the response and felt that the local authority was unwilling to reconsider its position. It was noted that the recommendation was based on national guidance and that SIC had discretion over how that guidance was applied. Members found this particularly frustrating given that the community had clearly and consistently expressed its views through several channels over a number of years. They also felt that the drive to introduce 20 mph limits across Lerwick, despite concerns raised by many Shetland residents, contrasted poorly with the refusal to implement the measures that the Cunningsburgh community strongly believed were necessary for public safety.

Mrs Philp presented the petition, for which she and a team of volunteers had gathered 346 signatures. She highlighted its wide reach, noting that 83 signatories lived on the Aithsetter Road alone, while people from across Shetland had also added their support. Mrs Philp endorsed the concerns raised at the previous meeting by Mr Manson, another parent and Cunningsburgh resident. She reiterated residents' concerns about safety at the Aithsetter junction and reported that many petitioners had described the main road through the village as being used as a "race track", particularly later at night. With no progress on the school transport issue, she said that SIC's continued refusal to acknowledge residents' concerns by extending the proposed 40 mph limit felt like "a slap in the face".

Although the overall volume of traffic through the village might not be particularly high, Mrs Philp noted that there were busy periods during both the day and night when driver behaviour caused concern. She welcomed the inclusion of improved paths and pavements among the measures requested in the petition.

Mrs Philp also reported continuing faults with the school crossing lights. The lower lights on one sign did not always operate, while the upper lights on the other were frequently out of order. The wording on the signs was also fading. She considered this particularly concerning given that the school had been unable to secure a crossing attendant.

Members praised Mrs Philp and the volunteers for their work and the "amazing" number of signatures gathered. They felt that the response demonstrated the strength of community support for extending the proposed 40 mph limit and providing additional paths.

ACTION: Councillor McGregor to meet with Councillor Armitage to agree the next steps and determine whether the draft deputation required amendment. Once the approach and wording had been agreed, a Community Councillor and up to two members of the public would be sought to present the deputation and petition and the necessary paperwork would be completed.

-----Mrs M Philp left the meeting at 8.00 pm.-----

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. Enviroglass Glass Recycling Centre Clean Up of Site

There is no update Discussions are still ongoing regarding what will be done with the materials at the Cunningsburgh site, though there is a possibility of the crushed glass being used by a local building firm, as well as perhaps for an SIC building project.

2. Community Benches

The last bench has been delivered and is now sited outside the Cunningsburgh History Hut. The Cunningsburgh History Group now have responsibility for the upkeep of the bench.

3. Dog Poo Bins

All four bins have been sited and have received positive feedback from the public.

4. CPR Training by Emergency Services

The clerk has asked the fire station staff to choose one date and time which suits them for delivering CPR training to the community. They have been back in touch to say that due to current staffing it will be November before they are able to give any dates so the clerk will update when they get in touch.

5. Wooden Walkway near Gulberwick Hall

As some of the wooden planks have deteriorated, the pathway has been cordoned off until work to repair or possibly upgrade it can be completed. The SIC have assured everyone that the work is planned, but we have been unable to get any firm dates for when this may happen. It is causing increased concern to residents as the corner of the road the path takes pedestrians and cyclists away from is particularly dangerous, and becoming increasingly so as the nights get darker and the winter weather sets in. There is worry that an accident could happen.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor to follow the issue up, hopefully getting an estimated date for the work.

2. POLICE REPORT

1. Police Reports – June and July and August and September

The police reports covering June and July, and August and September were read and noted.

There were twelve incidents recorded in the Community Council area in June and July and eight in August and September – these were dangerous driving, three careless driving incidents, driving without insurance, driving without a licence, driving whilst over the prescribed limit, a failure to stop and report a collision, a road traffic collision with minor or no injury, two other road traffic offences, a fraud, an assault, extortion, three reports of a concern for person and a firearms security incident.

Members had no questions or comments to pass back to the police as a result of reading the report.

2. Concerns About Visitors Driving on the Wrong Side of the Road

Mr Semple reported two recent incidents in which vehicles—either hire cars or cars with foreign registration plates—had been travelling on the wrong side of the road and had almost collided with him. The first occurred at a roundabout in Lerwick, where he had to take evasive action. The second occurred at the Black Gaet junction, where he was unable to take evasive action and narrowly avoided a head-on collision. The incidents had caused him considerable alarm, and he had since purchased a dashcam.

As both incidents occurred during Wool Week, when visitor numbers were likely to be higher, members discussed whether additional publicity or driver education could be provided before future events. It was noted that NorthLink offers visitors free wristbands carrying a "Drive on the left" reminder in different languages. Members felt that initiatives

of this kind could be helpful and suggested that knitted versions might even be considered for Wool Week.

ACTION: Clerk to raise these concerns with Police Scotland, Promote Shetland and the Wool Week organisers.

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on September 30th read £10,764.97.

The only out of the ordinary monthly outgoings are a £50 grant paid to the Quarff Hall as a thank you donation for one of the groups who completed Da Voar Redd Up, and the £99 fee to Voluntary Action Shetland to pay for the independent examination of the accounts.

The accounts have now been submitted to the SIC following their return from VAS after a satisfactory independent examination.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up other Voar Red Up groups one last time to see if they'd like their £50 donation.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS – GQC CC & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND (SCBF)

There were two grant applications from the SCBF and four to the GQC CC to consider.

GQC CC Grants

One road grant was received from a household near the Quarff beach – the two households along the road have previously received road materials to fill in potholes. They report members of the public using the private road to access the beach and appreciate some support to help with the upkeep of the road. Members agreed to award '4mm and down' road chips and asked the clerk to get a quote from Brindister Quarry before a final decision is taken on how many tonnes are to be awarded.

All other applications were approved and awarded in full:

£200 towards the Cunningsburgh Community Christmas Party

£150 for the Cunningsburgh Under 5s Christmas Party

£750 for the Cunningsburgh History Group HMS Cheerful memorial

ACTION: Clerk to inform the applicants of the decisions and transfer the money. Clerk to get a quote from Brindister Quarff for road materials and delivery to Quarff.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund Applications

Members agreed to award £3657 from the SCBF to the Cunningsburgh History Group's HMS Cheerful memorial project.

An application from Cunningsburgh Under 5s for £1,000 towards a Christmas-themed session was not supported in its current form. The proposed costs included £689.70 for painting kits and associated fees from Aa Fired Up, £285 for snack boxes for approximately 30 children, and Christmas biscuits for adults.

Members recognised the benefits of providing an inclusive activity at no cost to families, reducing financial barriers and social isolation, and supporting local businesses. However, they did not consider funding the full cost of an additional Christmas activity for a relatively small number of families to represent the best use of community funds. They noted that the group was also planning a Christmas cinema trip and had already received funding

from the Community Council towards its Christmas party. The application did not identify any contribution from the group or other sources of funding.

Members were also concerned about the overall cost per child, particularly as some attendees would be babies and might not benefit fully from the painting activity, or eat everything within a snack box. It was suggested that less expensive options could be explored, including seeking donated refreshments from local supermarkets rather than purchasing individual deli snack boxes.

Members would be willing to consider a revised application if the costs were reduced and the concerns about value for money and the group's own contribution were addressed.

ACTION: Clerk to complete the paperwork to send back to the SCBF.

5. ROADS AND PATHS – INCLUDING CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

Part of this item has been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

2. Abandoned Vehicles

The vehicles reported abandoned last meeting were reported to Environmental Health but both were still taxed and had MOTs. The white BMW at the junction to Tonner's Garage in Quarff has since been removed – presumably by the owner, but the black van on the opposite side of the A970 at the south Gulberwick junction is still there.

Environmental Health have said they are changing how they deal with abandoned vehicles and since the MOT of the van may now have run out, they have asked again for the licence plate.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Environmental Health again with the van number plate.

3. Pot Hole and Puddle at East Voxter Junction

There is no update on this item, though it is still on the list of jobs the Roads Department is working its way through.

4. Wooden Walkway in Gulberwick

This was dealt with in Item 1 – Matters Arising.

5. Broken Glass at Pundsta Place

The chair emailed the clerk to say there was broken glass by the bins in Pundsta Place. This was passed on to SIC Waste Servies who said they would deal with it. It was cleared by someone by the following day.

6. GQ&C DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LOCAL PLACE PLAN AND RESILIENCE PLAN UPDATES

Local Place Plan

All of the comments and data gathered at the three public consultation events was been analysed and collated in a way suitable for an LPP, thanks to a volunteer from Planning Aid Scotland.

The clerk has worked to pull all the data together into a draft LPP and everyone involved is hopeful that there are only small tweaks to be made, and the addition of maps, before it can go out for its statutory 28 day consultation period.

There is a meeting with Planning Aid Scotland to progress the plan tomorrow and members should see a draft plan published soon.

GQ&C Development Group

The bank account has been set up, a constitution has been adopted and members are working their way through creating policy documents. £50 raised from a raffle at one of the Local Place Plan events is available to put into the bank account.

The current main focus of the group is the creation of the first draft of the Local Place Plan.

Community Resilience Plan

There has been no change in this since the last meeting. Two of the 'community hubs' are still to share the data on what resources they currently have – and what they may require.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with the community hubs again to try to get the data required.

7. UPDATE FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr R McGregor spoke about the plans for a local government reorganisation and urged members to input into the process if they had anything they wished to bring up. Members agreed that it should not just be left up to the local authority to feedback and though some people in the room were sceptical of the benefits of the whole process, it was agreed that the opportunity to 'ask for as much as we can get for Shetland' should not be passed up. There is talk of asking for more autonomy for Shetland and a bespoke plans for islands.

Cllr McGregor encouraged everyone to think of ideas for next meeting, explaining that the three-month consultation period had already begun. It was also agreed to see if it was not too late to add the item to the Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) agenda for discussion.

ACTION: Everyone to think of ideas and responses to the consultation to feed back and discuss at the next meeting. Clerk to email SIC Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan to request adding it to the ASCC agenda.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Shetland Partnership Plan Session 7/10/26

The next session of the Shetland Partnership Plan will be held tomorrow. It will focus on three closely connected issues: housing, transport and digital connectivity.

Organisers say they will consider the availability, affordability and suitability of housing; the reliability and accessibility of transport within Shetland and to the Scottish Mainland; and the reach and resilience of our broadband and mobile networks. Together, these issues shape where people can live, work and access services, as well as the strength and sustainability of our communities.

Though the clerk has attended all the other sessions she is unable to attend tomorrow. No one else present was able to attend either so it is hoped that one of the other community councillors may be able to.

2. Voluntary Action Shetland Volunteer Awards

VAS are seeking nominations for their volunteer awards. Willin Hands Awards go to adults aged 26 and over and Peerie Trow Awards go to children under 12. Saltire Awards are already available for volunteers aged 12-25.

If anyone has someone in mind for an award the nominations close on October 12th. To nominate, folk can fill in the online form <https://form.jotform.com/261102889738062> also available on our website or contact VAS Volunteering vasvolunteering@shetland.org for a paper format.

3. Local Fire Plan Consultation

The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service who are seeking your views on its draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Shetland 2026. The draft has previously been circulated and anyone who would like to comment on it should do so by midnight, Thursday 15th October 2026.

4. Association of Shetland Community Councils update

An email from Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan dated 28th September was read and noted. He gave an update on ASCC business.

He advised that Shayne McLeod has resigned as Chair of the ASCC and that the plan is to appoint a new chair at the next meeting – on November 23rd.

He also confirmed that Paul James (Skerries Community Council) has offered to represent the ASCC at the Transport Committee evidence session tomorrow. (October 7th).

5. ASCC Shetland Unified Energy Statement

An update was received regarding the statement discussed at the Community Council Energy Convention in August. Following feedback from Alistair Carmichael MP and Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP, a revised, more Shetland-focused version was prepared. It retained the calls for a pause on further developments and the establishment of a planning inquiry commission, while adding references to local concerns including fishing, aquaculture and fuel poverty. The amended statement has now been sent to Shetland's elected representatives. A copy was read and noted by members.

10. GQC CC ANNUAL REPORT

This item has been moved up the agenda to allow Cllr McGregor to hear it before he leaves the room during the planning item.

The Clerk had prepared and circulated a draft annual report. No comments or amendments had been received, and members agreed to approve the draft as the Community Council's official annual report.

As the report did not yet include any photographs, members were encouraged to submit suitable images. The Clerk would also request photographs through the Community Council's Facebook page and, in future, ask grant recipients to provide photographs of the activities or projects supported.

ACTION: Clerk to add suitable photographs to the annual report and send the completed version to Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison and Grants Officer.

9. PLANNING

----- Cllr McGregor left the room 9pm -----

There was only one application in the Community Council area since the last meeting and members were required to discuss it and send any comments to the SIC planning department.

[2026/172/PPF](#) Two self-catering glamping pods, drainage works, & timber boundary fence 1.2 1.8m, Plot, Lower Hillside, Gulberwick, Shetland.

Members had no objections or comments to return.

ACTION: Clerk to email comments to SIC planning department.

12. AOCB

1. Thank You Voucher for School

It was agreed to purchase a Tesco voucher for Cunningsburgh School staff to thank them for the continued use of the school as a venue for meetings.

ACTION: Clerk to purchase the voucher in time for delivery before Christmas.

2. Digital Resilience Workshop

Mrs Davis reported that she had attended the workshop via Zoom but had found it disappointing. She had hoped it would provide practical ideas or solutions to the resilience issues previously identified; however, much of the discussion focused on problems rather than possible actions.

The progress made with community resilience planning in Orkney was also discussed. In particular, the installation of Starlink internet systems in local halls appeared to have been successful and could provide a useful model for the area.

ACTION: Once the draft Community Resilience Plan has been finalised, the Clerk will contact the local halls to explore a joint funding application for the installation of Starlink systems, including funding towards the running costs for the first few years.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 17th November 2026. (Then 5/1, 9/2, 16/3, 20/4, 8/6, 17/8, 5/10 and 16/11.)

Meeting Ends – 21:05

CHAIR

14. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- February 2025 – Community CPR sessions – awaiting date from Fire Service.
- June 2025 – Plans for tidying up Enviroglass site and perhaps using some of the recycled glass in other projects – no final plan as yet.
- June 2025 – pothole and puddle at East Voxter junction – still needs sorted.
- March 2025 - Wooden walkway near the Gulberwick Hall – needs replacing and has now been cordoned off.