

YELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes – Monday 21 September 2026, 7pm

Venue: Mid Yell School

09/26/01 Attendees / Visitors

Members present: Mrs A Jamieson (Chair), Mr K MacCormack, Ms J Eunson, Mrs Y Burns, Mr L Madden, and Mr L Odie.

In Attendance: Mrs Johnina Henderson (Clerk), Ms Frances Brown (North Isles Community Involvement and Development Worker), Cllr Robert Thomson (Elected representative) PC Scott Raeside (Police Scotland - North Isles) and three members of the public.

Visitors:

- Jonathan Duncan – SIC Roads
- Ruth MacMillan – Executive Manager, Adult Social Work

09/26/02 Apologies

Apologies: Ms F Stirling, Miss M Johnson, Mr R Jamieson, and Mr Michael Duncan (Community Council Liaison Officer).

09/26/03 Declarations of Interest

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

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and first on the agenda were the visitors.

New Cullivoe Road Project Update

Jonathan Duncan provided an update on progress with the New Cullivoe Road project. Works have now been underway for nearly six months, with approximately 40% of the earthworks completed. The main earthworks corridor between Gutcher and Cullivoe is nearing completion. Three blasts have taken place to date, with a further two planned at Garth. Peat works at Portland Quarry are close to completion.

Negotiations continue regarding a SEPA licence to allow peat infill at Colvister Quarry, and SIC is liaising with the landowner regarding peat restoration at Sandwater. SIC Roads are in discussion with SIC Ferries concerning the planned tarring of sections of the New Road from 27 March onwards which is usually the period of docking of Yell Sound vessels.

Members raised several general road issues and the Clerk will follow-up:

- Passing Place at Old Burravoe School
- Bus Shelter at Aywick
- Drainage at the end of Cuppaster Road
- Flooding north of Buralstou
- Cats Eyes from Camb to Head of Mid Yell Voe
- Crash Barriers at Firth Hill, Head of Bastavoe, and Hollygarth Corners

The Chair thanked Jonathan for attending, and he left the meeting at 7.20pm.

Police Update

PC Scott Raeside provided an update on recent community police reports and ongoing policing activity across Shetland. He outlined current work being carried out locally and island-wide, noting continued engagement with communities and monitoring of issues raised through recent reports. The chair thanked PC Raeside for attending the meeting.

Isleshavn Update

The Chair welcomed Ruth Macmillan to provide a further update following last month's meeting regarding the decanting of residents from Isleshavn. Ms Macmillan reported that the team is working hard on ongoing recruitment and on addressing issues highlighted in the most recent inspection.

A lengthy discussion took place covering the matters raised, with members seeking clarification on progress and next steps. At the present time, there is no indication of the reopening date for Isleshavn and until the recruitment process is advanced it cannot be advised. Staff are being redeployed within the care centre and will also have the option to work in other care settings. Ms Macmillan stated that there are currently no requirements for placement in Isleshavn. Members of the public had the opportunity to raise questions.

The chair thanked Ms Macmillan for attending the meeting and she and PC Raeside left the meeting at 8.15pm.

09/26/04 Minutes of YCC Monthly Meeting – 17 August 2026

The minutes were approved by Mr L Odie and Ms J Eunson.

09/26/05 Matters Arising

- Any matters arising from the August meeting will be discussed below.

09/26/06 NI Councillors – Update

Cllr Robert Thomson provided an update on ongoing and outstanding issues. Matters discussed included:

- IITC business cases and current progress

- Tunnel priority and associated concerns. YCC are of the opinion that a fixed link to Yell should be the preferred option.
- Bus timetables and related service issues
- 24V complaint regarding the low-level bus which is being resolved.
- Mid Yell Pier
- Ulsta Housing
- Gravestone repair issues

09/26/07 Community Involvement Update

Ms F. Browne provided an update on her ongoing involvement in supporting the development of the Local Place Plan for Yell. She confirmed that funding has been secured for community Pop-Ins, which will again be organised for North Ness and Mid Yell during the winter.

09/26/08 Outstanding Business

8.1 Transport

- **Ferries**
 - Feedback from the Comms meeting at Sella Ness was discussed. It was noted that YCC are not supportive of pre-payment of ferry fares when the new booking system is introduced.
 - Festive timetable suggestions were noted. It was confirmed that the ferry will operate until 2200 from Toft, reflecting the vessel now being crewed 24/7.
 - Cancellation of late bookings were discussed and how they can be cancelled after the booking office closes. Clerk to follow up.
 - Concerns have been raised by a member regarding the 2230 ferry (which is no longer timetabled) on Friday and Saturday nights, the meeting agreed to request an additional ferry on Friday and Saturday at 2230 Ulsta and 2300 Toft. Clerk to follow up.
- **Roads**
 - Jonathan Duncan provided updates on current works and outstanding issues.
 - Clerk to follow up outstanding issues and new road issues raised.
- **Fixed Links**
 - Successful Tunnel vision events held in August.

8.2 Renewable Energy Developments

- ***Community Benefit Workshops***
- Successful workshops were held from 9–12 September, with strong participation and ideas discussed across the sessions. A report on the outcomes will be available shortly, and the next steps will be discussed once this has been received.
- Thanks were expressed to Ms F. Stirling for the tremendous job she did in organising and delivery of the workshops.
- ***SSEN Transmission – Feedback Update***

- Following the public meeting in Burravoe on 7 August and the issues raised there, a further public meeting with SSEN Transmission was held in Burravoe on 15 September. The consultation period was extended to allow this meeting to take place.
- SSEN representatives noted the concerns expressed by residents and confirmed they would look at the alternative option suggested for the proposed substation. They would take the comments away for consideration and return for further discussion once this work has been completed. Meantime the consultation will remain open until this issue is resolved.

8.3 Local Place Plan for Yell

- Mr L. Odie, Ms F. Browne, and the Clerk continue to work on the Local Place Plan for Yell. A feedback meeting was held last week with Diane Cassidy and David Wood, and work is progressing. The draft requires completion next week to be published and then be distributed for local consultation.

8.4 Housing Needs Assessment for Yell

- It was agreed to complete a Housing Needs Assessment for Yell. The Clerk will follow up with Luke Fraser to progress this work.

8.5 Community Councils Energy Convention – Saturday 22 August

- Mr L. Odie attended the Community Councils Energy Convention on Saturday 22 August. Following the convention and the comments raised by attendees, ASCC has produced a Shetland Unified Statement, which will be approved at the ASCC meeting in November.

8.6 Power Cut Updates

- Members noted recent outages.
- Clerk to follow up issues.

8.7 Dog Fouling

- SIC Environmental Health are carrying out ongoing inspections of the area in Mid Yell. No notices have been produced from the children yet.

8.8 Future of Burravoe School

- The consultation on the proposed closure of Burravoe School was discussed. A drop-in session will be held at the school on 28 September at 5pm to allow parents, residents, and stakeholders to engage with the process and raise any questions.

8.9 Defibrillator List for Shetland

- It was noted that the majority of defibrillators in Yell are now listed, with remaining locations to be added as information is confirmed.

8.10 Ulsta Carpark

- Following ongoing correspondence regarding the mess caused by sheep and stray sheep in the Ulsta Car Park, the meeting agreed to contact Marine Operations to raise the issue.

09/26/09 New Business

9.1 Abandoned Vehicle

- Concerns were raised regarding an abandoned vehicle above Hollygarth, which is now leaking oil. Skid-warning signs and sand has been placed in the area, but the situation remains dangerous. The meeting agreed to contact SIC Env Health and PC S. Raeside regarding this issue.

9.2 Meeting Dates

Further meeting dates were discussed. It was agreed that:

- The October meeting will be moved to 26 October due to the school closure on 19 October.
- The November meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 November due to Clerk holidays.
- The December meeting remains unchanged on 14 December.

It was noted that 2027 meeting dates will be discussed at the October meeting.

9.3 Local Fire Plan Consultation

- Consultation noted; members encouraged to respond.

9.4 Community Council Police Report – June/July 2026

The report was reviewed with PC S. Raeside. A total of seven incidents were recorded, summarised as follows:

Road Safety and Road Crime - Other Road Traffic Offence

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder - Neighbour Dispute, Threatening or Abusive Behaviour (2)

Other - Drugs – Attempt to Possess, Sudden Death (2)

9.5 Shetland Cruise Impact Study

- Shetland Cruise Business Survey 2026 was noted.

9.6 Scotland's Beach Award Reports 2026

- The 2026 Scotland's Beach Award reports were received and noted. The reports were considered positive overall.

9.7 Herra Switching Station

- Mrs A. Jamieson and Mr L. Odie met on site at the Herra with OCU representatives regarding the new switching station. It was noted that the parking area should be kept clear, and that local residents will be contacted regarding the development.

9.8 Resilience Planning

- Members discussed local resilience arrangements.
- K MacCormack attended Community resilience planning training.

9.9 Gutcher Post Box

- Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the post box at Gutcher Pier. The meeting agreed to contact the Royal Mail to investigate the matter, and the Clerk will follow up.

09/26/10 Correspondence Received (17 August – 21 September 2026)

- 2025-2026 Annual Report - Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau
- Help shape SSEN's ED3 Business Plan
- SRA News - International Youth Day, Village Halls & Childcare, a Gathering of Water, and a pilot Neurodivergent Local Action Group
- Islands Survey Testing & Places of Worship Fund
- "Love to Ride" event launch.
- Crofting Commission elections in March 2027.
- SIC September newsletter.
- We need your view on preparing for future storms and power cuts.
- SSEN Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Action Plan 2026/27
- New Tesco Grants platform - shorter application form
- Event: Wealth Building & Democratic Participation
- Draft Annual Engagement Plan Consultation 2026/27
- Community Council Training - Community Engagement, Project Planning, Funding and Participatory Budgeting
- SRA News - Last Provider Fund, Argyll & Bute Village Halls Networking Event, Cross Party Group on Islands and more.

09/26/11 Finance / Grants

- **Voar Redd Up 2026 payments** – 6 groups have completed the Voar Redd up survey and are eligible for funding, the meeting discussed and it was agreed proposed by Mr L Odie and seconded by Mr L Madden that £60 be awarded to each group, Clerk to process payments and receipts.
- **SCBF funding – Community Grant Scheme (CGS)**

The second year of the CGS has now concluded. Yell Community Council has £9,080.25 in unspent funds carried forward into the 2026/2027 allocation of £6,757, giving a total balance of £15,837.25 as of 1 September 2026. The CPI figure is awaited; updated CPI-adjusted allocations and promotional materials will be issued once confirmed. Local groups are encouraged to apply for funding through this scheme.

- **Grant funding payments and vouching** – Most of the payments have been processed and vouching/receipts letters will be issued to groups by the Clerk.
- **Mileage claims** –. All members are requested to submit claims at the end of September for the October meeting.

09/26/12 Any Other Business

- Heritage Signs to be deferred until the next meeting.
- Community Council Annual report

The Clerk has produced the 25/26 annual report for submittance to SIC, the meeting approved the report to be sent to M Duncan. Clerk to submit report along with approved accounts by 30th September.

Date of Next Meeting

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 26th October at 7pm in Mid Yell School.