DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 2nd November 2026 via Zoom.

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

APOLOGIES
Aileen Brown Agnes Tallack Helen Moncrieff
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)

ABSENT
Allen Sinclair Dawna Phillips Michael Duncan (SIC) Ana Horne (SIC)
Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio) Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)

IN ATTENDANCE:
Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

26/071 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor declared an interest in all planning matters.

26/072 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 22nd September 2026 was adopted on the motion of Helen B.

26/073 POLICE REPORT

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

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder
- Threatening or Abusive Behaviour
- Vandalism

Acquisitive Crime
- Fraud

Other
- Drugs - Possession
- Fail to Comply with Bail
- Firearms Seizure

26/074 MATTERS ARISING

1) **Road Matters:**

(i) Paths: As requested by Antonia, the Clerk had obtained an update from Robina Barton, SIC Transport Policy & Projects Officer regarding carrying out an Active Travel Audit in the Dunrossness area. Robina had replied that she had received a quote from SYSTRA for carrying out the audit and that the SIC was in a position to fund this. The next stage is to agree when the audit will be carried out, but she confirmed that it will be before the end of the financial year. This was welcomed. The Clerk will check with Robina as to whether or not the Community Council will be consulted as part of the audit.

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

3) **Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** There was nothing new to report.

4) **Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** There was nothing new to report.

5) **Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** There was nothing new to report.

6) **Westvoe & St Ninian's Lifebelts:** There was nothing new to report.

26/075 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

1) **Viking Community Fund – Community Halls:** Applications are now invited for the 2026/27 Viking Community Fund – Community Halls Fund. Further information can be found on the SCBF website (Community Halls Grant Scheme) and applications should be made via the online application form on the website. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2027. The fund is only open to local community halls and not any other community buildings.

2) **Dunrossness Central Public Hall – To assist with the costs of replacing the Fire Door:** The members proposed a 50% grant be awarded with the suggestion that the Hall committee seek further funding through the Viking Community Fund – Community Halls Fund. This was proposed by Irvine and seconded by Helen B. The Clerk will forward the sum of £2190 to the Hall.

26/076 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

There was nothing new to report.

26/077 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) **Shetland Partnership Plan:** Helen B had recently attended Session 4 of the Shetland Partnership Plan Development Process. The theme of this session was Transport, Housing and Digital Connectivity in Shetland. Presentations had been given by representatives of Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Shetland Health & Care Partnership and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Participants then moved into facilitated groups, including an online group, to discuss what had surprised, concerned or encouraged them about the evidence, what felt important for their organisation or community, the biggest risks and challenges for Shetland, and what could happen if nothing changes. Each group provided a headline point in a short feedback session to the room. Helen had requested a copy of the presentation which she will share with the members.

2) **Scottish Government Transport Committee Evidence Session:** Paul James, Chair of Skerries Community Council, had attended the session on behalf of the Association of Shetland Community Councils and had provided a brief report. Among the points he had raised on behalf of the ASCC were, cost of flights, availability of services, difficulties changing bookings and access to Loganair when an emergency change is required.

26/078 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Robbie McGregor reported that he receives quite a lot of representations regarding access difficulties to the foreshore at Boddam. Irvine reported that the SIC have the matter in hand.

26/079 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

1) **Fair Isle Roads:** It is hoped that, upon completion of works associated with the new ferry project, that the contractors will be obliged to carry out necessary repairs to the roads associated with the increase of heavy traffic during the period of the works. Fiona will be contacting the SIC regarding this.

2) **New Ferry Project:** Works in Fair Isle are now drawing to a close. It is hoped that the new vessel will be in Shetland before Christmas.

3) **Bird Observatory:** The Bird Observatory has just closed for the season.

4) **Good Shepherd IV:** The Good Shepherd is currently out of action with a mechanical fault. Parts have been ordered from Norway. In the meantime, dry goods have been delivered via barge and fresh goods are being delivered via the plane from Tingwall.

26/080 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Irvine confirmed that a meeting has been scheduled with Ian Taylor to progress the Community Resilience Plan to the next stage.

26/081 LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Helen B and Antonia reported that the Dunrossness Place Plan consultation process had resulted in an impressive 79 responses, with a huge amount of information to work with and be pulled together to form a draft document. Among the subjects raised in those responses were roads, public toilets, play parks, more affordable housing to enable more families to settle in Dunrossness and maintaining the services the area already has. Helen thanked everyone who has helped with this process so far and especially Alice Ritch, Bigton Collective, for her input. Fiona will try and gather a few responses from Fair Isle.

26/081 LOCAL PLACE PLAN (Continued)

On the subject of public toilets in the area, Irvine stated that the Disabled Toilet at Grutness is considered to be a temporary structure. Previously the Government offered funding to assist with the provision of public toilets, however, this is not currently available. Should this become available once more, Irvine considered the SIC would be interested in applying for assistance to provide new toilet and waiting room facilities at Grutness. It was also noted that the public toilets at Bigton are no longer operated by the SIC but continue to be cleaned by the former SIC cleaner. They would also benefit from an upgrade. The Westvoe toilets are no longer operated by the SIC either and Irvine believed they were handed back to the landowner some time ago.

Public Toilet provision will be included in the Local Place Plan.

26/082 MEETING DATES

Michael Duncan, SIC, had requested a list of 2027 Community Council meeting dates. The members agreed meetings will be held on the last Monday of the month, except January which will be held on the 18th, no meeting will be held in July and December's date is still to be decided.

26/083 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. Irvine, and possibly Aileen, will attend on behalf of Dunrossness Community Council.

2) **2025/26 Viking Community Fund Annual Report:** A copy of the 2025/26 Viking Community Fund Annual Report had been provided. The report outlines this year's achievements, funding awards and the impact delivered across Shetland's communities. The report can also be found online at www.scbf.org.uk/funding/vcf

26/083 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

3) **Email from NHS Shetland entitled 'Take Some Breathing Space':** Nicola Balfour, NHS Shetland, reported that she has had conversations with the National Breathing Space Team (a free and confidential mental health phone and webchat service for anyone in Scotland over the age of 16) regarding their bench initiative and the potential of securing a bench(s) in Shetland. In a recent update from the team, it was reported that they have now installed a bench in South Uist in the Wester Isles, with a further bench due to be installed in Orkney soon. This means the initiative will have coverage across Scotland, with Shetland being the remaining Island without a bench. Nicola is therefore reaching out to Community Councils to ask if there are any communities where a 'Take Some Breathing Space' bench would be welcomed. Benches cost roughly £1500.

4) **Draft Local Place Plan for Sandwick:** A link to Sandwick's DRAFT Local Place Plan had been provided. The plan sets out the wishes of the Sandwick community as identified through various consultation and engagement activities. The plan can be found at www.shetland.gov.uk/planning-building/shetland-local-place-plans or physical copies are available at the Hoswick Visitor Centre and Sandwick Social Club.

5) **Norse Heritage Signs:** The Community Council were approached previously by Paul Moar with a suggestion of some suitable Norse Heritage Signs for the Dunrossness area. At the time, Mr Moar had believed that the signs were funded by Community Councils and then procured and erected by the SIC Roads Department but he now believes that these signs can be requested from the SIC at their expense. Irvine will check the details with SIC Roads.

6) **'Thank You' letter:** A 'Thank You' letter had been received from the South Mainland Community History Group for the Voar Redd Up donation they had received from the Community Council on behalf of Alex & Marjorie Robertson.

7) **Strategic Environmental Assessment Public Consultation:** SIC is inviting comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the emerging Shetland Inter-Island Transport Connectivity Programme. Helen B volunteered to look at the feedback questionnaire and report back if she considered it was something the Community Council should be responding to.

26/083 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

8) **Christmas Carol Concert:** The Lord Lieutenancy of Shetland is planning to host a Carol Concert in Lerwick on Saturday 5 December. Lindsay Tulloch, Lord Lieutenant, is keen for the occasion to provide an opportunity to bring communities together by recognising those individuals who have supported others during the past year and therefore is asking Community Councils to nominate up to 4 members of the community to be invited, with partners, to attend the concert. The members will give this consideration and provide suggestions to the Clerk for passing on to the Lord Lieutenant's team. Irvine enquired if transport was provided. Helen B replied that there wasn't but she wondered if the Community Council could possibly fund the hire of a minibus if required. The members agreed this was an option.

9) **Shetland Islands Area Licensing Board:** Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for Provisional Premises Licence / Premises Licence, Levenwick Village Club, Levenwick, Shetland – There were no objections.

26/084 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

1) **Martyns Law:** Irvine reported that 'Martyns Law' is due to come into effect soon. The legislation is designed to improve public security and protect people from terrorist attacks at public venues and events. Events with over 200 attendees will be affected which will include events such as Agricultural Shows, Up Helly Aa's etc. in Shetland. Further details and guidelines are awaited.

Cllr Robbie McGregor left the meeting at 8:10pm

26/085 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

1) **2026/214/PPF – Erect new stargazer accommodation pod and 3m x 3m utility building to the existing two-pod glamping site, Mirriemora Starpods, Yaafield, Bigton by Maurice Sutherland:** The members discussed the application and noted that a local member of the public had lodged an objection with SIC Planning Department. The members considered that, in order for the points of objection to be addressed accurately, this would be best done so by the Planning Department. With regard to the objection points which relate to what were considered standard requirement in a Planning Application, the members expect them to be addressed as part of the normal SIC planning procedure.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Chair

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2026.