

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7pm via WebEx. This minute is a draft until approved at the next meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair
Cllr William Polson (WP)
Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)
Cllr Pete Gaines (PG)

Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)
Duncan Anderson – North Isles Councillor (DA)
Alec Priest – North Isles Councillor (AP)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr John Dally (JD) – Vice Chair
Michael Duncan – External Funding Officer
& Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)

Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement &
Development Officer (RF)
Ryan Thomson – North Isles Councillor (RT)

MINUTE TAKER:

Rhea Kay – Clerk

WELCOME:

JL welcomed all to meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted. Prior to meeting DA informed CC of later attendance and would join as soon as possible.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

JL declared her interest as she is connected to the Whalsay Riding Club. AH declared her interest as she is connected to the Whalsay Community and Heritage Centre. WP declared his interest as family is in Whalsay Toddlers and Whalsay Netball Club.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all are happy with previous minute - PG approved, AH seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

CC discussed budget headings and noted expected expenditure before the year end. Discussion was also held on what remaining funds could be used for and JL noted the installation cost for CDF project needs to be kept in mind. JL asked if CC were happy with finances - all agreed.

MATTERS ARISING:

SYMBISTER HARBOUR - CRANE, OLD DOCK, DREDGING, REPLACING OF MARINA PONTOONS, NETTY PIER

JL shared with meeting that Capt. Greg Maitland joined the last meeting, and asked Clerk to give update on further communication. Clerk received updates from Greg Maitland and Andrew Inkster that they are discussing issues with car parking at the Netty Pier etc. in their department. If CC has any further insight into issues and has suggestions on how to make improvements, CC can let them know.

WP is putting together files and details on Old Dock and mentioned previous talk of Historic Scotland making repairs. Clerk shared communication from Amenity Trust - they had now responded to emails and agreed that the Old Dock is in a poor state and requires urgent attention. Recent changes in Trust meant progress had not been made but now it should get more attention. AH noted that crumbling of Old Dock is getting noticeably worse. JL highlighted the importance of going to site reviewing the current state.

JL suggested CC meet at Symbister Harbour as the issues would need analysing and discussing in person. CC agreed and arranged 10am on Saturday 6th February 2021, and noted importance of wearing masks and adhering to social distance rules. **Clerk to keep CC updated with new information. CC to report back to Clerk to then contact Amenity Trust and SIC**

CDF PROJECT

JL asked Clerk for updates. SIC have confirmed they do own the land and are happy for WCC to erect sign providing WCC meets terms such as ensuring planning permission, covering any necessary insurances and that WCC are happy to move the sign in future should SIC request. **Clerk to get in contact with planning to get permission and research other terms.** Clerk updated CC with final dates for getting all receipts and project paperwork to SIC - CC has until 8th of June to completely finalise.

Clerk updated CC with latest contact from Gail Rainey who would be planning to get work together once the bairns are back at school. **Clerk to get back in touch with Gail to get some ideas while sharing estimated timelines**

CC discussed installation quotation in relation to budget and agreed another quotation would be beneficial to see if a cheaper cost is possible. **Clerk to contact second contractor for quotation**

SKIP

CC discussed remaining budget and concluded that hiring another community skip would be possible before year end. **Clerk to book Skip**

FENCE AT DUMP

Clerk updated CC on response from Amenity Trust and it was noted they could not find proof of ownership or responsibility over the fence. CC discussed the current state of the fence and whether it was SIC or Amenity Trust who put it up. **Clerk to contact SIC to enquire about ownership**

ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS

JL asked for updates from Clerk. Roads is organising for each area to be looked into and whether natural springs are a cause for areas with surface water. Clerk received additional update that the road at Sandwick junction was to be surveyed by a road engineer as it needed further investigation.

CC had been made aware of an overflowing ditch at Powster. Clerk had been discussing issue with local contractor prior to meeting they said there were two options for fixing it, but they would need confirmation before proceeding. JL highlighted Roads should be the department to confirm how issue is resolved.

Discussion went to previous matter concerning getting the end streetlight behind Hamister beach back on. WP mentioned the light being off could be intentional, and explained it being off was possibly intended to allow drivers' eyes to adjust after dipping back into the dark from the first set of lights. **Clerk to get confirmation from SIC**

CC highlighted the area behind Hamister beach really needed additional lights and a path right around the corner to connect the two sides. Discussion emphasised there have been many dangerous experiences around this area of road. JL highlighted danger in driving in icy conditions with the added hazard of pedestrians, and WP explained that many accidents have occurred in this particular area throughout the years. Having a proper path with a kerb and streetlighting in this area would make this busy area much safer.

AP offered assistance in chasing any matters up to Roads. **Clerk to keep in touch with roads and share updates**

DEVELOPMENT GROUP

JL asked WP for updates. WP explained development groups throughout Shetland are getting a lot funding through the Crown Estate which would also be a great opportunity for the Whalsay Development Group.

WP has been talking to a few members of the community and emphasised it is important to share the idea and information widely throughout the community. The group will need to get as many members as possible, then a committee can be voted in, then a chair, and once completed the Whalsay Development Groups can start to make progress.

JL and CC agreed of the importance to make sure it is shared as widely as possible throughout the community as that would mean more opportunities and support for funding and developing various projects throughout the isle.

WP mentioned from the reaction he has gauged so far, folk are reluctant to get too involved. CC decided best way to progress at this stage would be to contact all local groups and encourage each group to put forward a member to join the Whalsay Development Group. Then a committee can begin to form and further steps can be identified.

WP mentioned the success of the groups throughout Shetland so it would be important to show that this could be beneficial to everyone. AH asked WP about sharing on Facebook further information on Shetland development groups and their successes - it could be a good way of getting people on board. JL mentioned the best way would be to advertise it as widely as possible and to look into sharing posters and Facebook posts once ready. It will be important to get the conversation going, get interest and make gradual progress. **Clerk to first email all local groups then CC can continue to outline next steps**

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

JL explained JD was not available to attend meeting so no further updates received.

BROADBAND

JL mentioned JD expressed interest in attending the R100 Roundtable meeting on 5th February which could give further insight. **Clerk to enquire with JD if he will be attending**

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF)

JL asked Clerk to update CC on progress with application. Clerk shared latest feedback received on a draft application from RF and HIE contact. Clerk also explained how the funding worked and how the current application could be improved. Feedback highlighted the fund was for groups showing interest in resuming activities before the end of May, and how the fund could only cover certain operational costs.

In addition to PPE, certain equipment costs and operational costs, CC could also apply for communications costs for newsletter which could be beneficial to the community. **Clerk to contact groups, continue improving the application and arrange a meeting with RF for advice before submitting application on 12th February 2021**

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

JL mentioned the files and the application received, CC discussed conditions and how it would work. **JL and Clerk to attend meeting with members of the SCBF on the 10th of February, CC to send questions to Clerk prior to meeting.** JL and Clerk can put forward any questions and give feedback to CC.

CC began to discuss opportunity for getting funding, AH expressed interest in applying on behalf of Whalsay Wild Garden to improve the path around the area. AH explained path is in a poor state to use, especially for school bairns. WP mentioned Roads should be responsible for improving this area, should have been included in 'Paths for All'. AH emphasised the wait has been too long and are now considering finding funding than wait any longer.

CC noted this area is in much need of improvement from a safety perspective. In addition to the path being in a poor state to walk on, it is a dark area between two busy junctions making it a dangerous area for bairns. CC highlighted it gets a lot of use as it leads to many amenities - the Leisure Centre, the Primary School, the Harbison Football Field, as well as being a pathway leading to many other local amenities further down the road.

WP mentioned walking routes to school and how they could all benefit from being investigated again - would be worth mentioning to John Duncan for next time Whalsay roads are being investigated. Other areas such as the Sandwick junction and Hamister Beach needs to be investigated again in relation to School bairns using these roads. There are a number of potential safety issues including bad pavements, bad lighting and blind spots. JL agreed this is not safe for bairns and asked if AP knew who in SIC would be best to contact. AP suggested CC contact Dave Coutts.

AP suggested thoroughly listing all concerns, emphasising the safety issues, and identifying exact bits of road that is of concern. JL agreed getting a list and plenty of photos for Clerk to send to Dave Coutts would be best way forward. AP said that himself, DA and RT could support the CC and ensure issue is investigated. **CC to collate list and photographs of all safety concerns on school bairns walking routes. Clerk to email Dave Coutts. AP, DA and RT to provide support.**

HOULL LOCH

Clerk to email John Duncan to enquire about possible improvements.

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

JL said she was glad that AP was in attendance and that DA was planning to join as soon as possible. JL also noted CC is glad RT sent an apology and is keen to have him join future meetings.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET EVENT

JL discussed the 10 applications received and asked CC's views. JL asked if CC were happy if all 10 applications were approved to join the Participatory Budget Event and community vote. All agreed. **Clerk to get back to groups and inform them of next steps**

JL asked CC if all were happy in going forward the event plans as discussed in last meeting. JL reminded CC the event would be held as a private Facebook event with voting taking place via a link to an online survey where a name and postcode will be required to ensure no multiple votes. Comments to be switched off to ensure viewing of projects only for minimal interference. Paper voting slips and offline support to be provided by Clerk.

CC confirmed the event to run from the 15th to 21st February and JL emphasised importance of advertising on Facebook as well as putting posters in shops, making sure a poster is put downstairs in JWJ too. **Clerk to continue planning and advertising for the event**

FERRY RESTRICTIONS

JL mentioned the normal winter timetable was to be starting again from Monday 8th February 2021 which was good news.

CC discussed Linga refit and whether there were to be any special arrangements for extra runs during this time. JL questioned if the Hendra would cope with the commuters in the morning and evening. DA said hopefully the arrangements will cope despite more people moving around that the first lockdown, we would have to observe how it goes.

JL asked if anyone had any further questions or queries, no further questions.

BROUGH AND CHALLISTER BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

Clerk chased up but email fell on a public holiday which could explain lack of response. **Clerk to chase up again.**

CAR PARKING AT SYMBISTER PIER

CC to hold socially distanced meeting at Symbister Harbour on Saturday 6th February 2021 to analyse issues and gather feedback for Ports and Harbours.

SPEEDING AT HILLHEAD

Clerk updated CC on response received from Police Liaison and how the speeds would be monitored in the area via a device before deciding if any further action should be taken. Clerk also updated CC that a crime report was received, **clerk to send file to CC. Clerk to keep in contact with Police Liaison and keep CC updated.**

AGENDA:

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET EVENT APPLICATION

Covered in Matters Arising.

UNADOPTED ROADS APPLICATIONS

JL asked if CC had received all 21 applications. JL explained how there were 8 x £100 loads of gravel available unless any adjustments to remaining budget was made, so effectively reviewing and prioritising the applications was important. CC discussed the applications. JL suggested it would be most beneficial organise site visits before deciding. **CC to split up after the arranged socially distanced meeting at Symbister Harbour (on Saturday 6th February 2021) to conduct road site visits and review all applications before reporting final decisions to Clerk. Clerk to then further arrange grants and contact all applicants.**

CC suggested that next year the conditions are clearer as many applications were under the required length of 50 metres for an unadopted road.

AOCB:

HOULL LOCH

PG suggested that if CC are looking into improving Houll Loch path, then it could be beneficial for community to also consider looking into putting lighting around loch. PG highlighted it could provide somewhere nice and safe for community to walk around in evening. CC discussed how there is no power down there, but solar lighting with sensors could provide solution. WP mentioned this is the sort of project the Whalsay Development Group could undertake, and JL agreed it would worthwhile looking into.

WP mentioned he was made aware of quad tire marks on the iced over Houll Loch. This is in addition to the quad tracks around the high school which caused a great amount of damage. JL said the school was handling the issue there but quad on the ice is potentially something CC could look into making community aware of. CC discussed potentially sharing it on Facebook. **WP to take photos and send on to Clerk to highlight this as a safety concern to community.**

LIGHTS AT OUTER PIER

WP mentioned lights at outer pier have not been on for a while. **Clerk to inform Andrew Inkster and Greg Maitland**

HOLE IN PAVEMENT AT SYMBISTER JUNCTION

CC confirmed issue had been investigated by Roads and works have been carried out

CC ACCESS TO ELECTORAL ROLL

WP enquired if CC data protection status meant that CC could access electoral roll to have community polls in future for matters such as a Whalsay tunnel. DA and AP advised CC to contact the SIC legal department who would be able to provide further information.

Meeting closed at 9.08pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7pm via WebEx