

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
J Gear
J Puckey
J Laing
Cllr T Smith
Cllr C Hughson

In Attendance: D. Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

Mr M Duncan, R Fraser, J Haswell, G Jamieson, Cllr S Coutts

(J Laing entered the meeting.)

3. Declarations of Interest

M Forrest declared an interest in item 16 Clerk's Salary Scale.

Cllr T Smith declared an interest in Housing, should any matters pertaining to the Hjaltland Housing Association arise because he is a board member of the Association.

4. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting.

5. Minutes from 2nd March 2021

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2021 was proposed by J Gear and seconded by M Forrest.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 9.2 of 3/21 The Walls Practice Nurse Base on Fridays

The Clerk reported that, to date, he had not received a reply from Miss Edna Mary Watson regarding the members' request to base the Walls Practice Nurse at the Walls Health Centre for her allocated time on Fridays. Members hope to receive a reply prior to the May meeting and will consider inviting Miss Watson and Mr Chittick to the June meeting.

Action: The Clerk was asked to send a reminder to Miss Watson copied to Mr Chittick

Re: 12.2 of 3/21 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk provided a verbal update on this matter indicating that posters had been attached to lamp posts in the areas identified as presenting the greatest problems and that the Neighbourhood Support Workers (NSW) team will return to stencil the pavements where appropriate when the weather is suitable.

Re: 8 of 12/20 Roads

I Sandison provided a verbal update on car parking at the play park in Walls. She informed the members that she had had a site meeting with Mr Magnus Malcolmson who was going to ask a contractor to visit the area to see if it could be extended easily. Mr Malcolmson indicated that he was operating under extreme financial constraints. I Sandison went on to say that the plaque had arrived in Shetland but that it was currently attached to a bench. She had asked if the bench as well as the plaque can be sent to the play area and is awaiting a response.

7. Housing

(Cllr T Smith declared an interest in this item)
With reference to the planned social housing development at Forratwatt in Walls, I Walterson expressed the hope that work could commence soon.

8. Roads

Re: 8.1 of 3/21 Frost Damage to Roads in Walls Area

The Chair referred members to an email from Mr Barrie Scobie of 4th March 2021 which indicated that the area foreman will assess the damage and that Mr Scobie will provide a time frame for the work when this has been drawn up.

Re: 8.2 of 3/21 Dale of Walls Beach Track

In response to a question regarding an email that the Clerk had sent to Ms Julie Halcrow requesting the assistance of persons undertaking community service to fill potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach track, the Clerk stated that he had yet to receive a response.

Action: The Clerk was asked to send a reminder to Ms Halcrow.

8.1 Road from the Murrister Quarry to Walls

8.1.1 Overview of Current Situation

Members felt that it was quite evident that this stretch of road is no longer fit for purpose, given the volume of traffic, including the number of large trucks and other heavy vehicles using it. The Walls area, being a very important aquaculture centre, necessitates frequent haulage of seafood over this single-track road. Plans to upgrade this stretch of road were drawn up many years ago, surveys carried out and land acquisition agreed with the district valuer.

8.1.2 Members' Frustration

Members felt frustration that road improvements in other areas are prioritised over the road to Walls.

Action: Cllr C. Hughson to check on the status of the plans for the improvements to the Murrister Quarry to Walls road.

9. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

9.1 Shetland Community Benefit Fund Documents

The Chair indicated that he has now signed the SCBF documents and has passed them on to the Clerk for completion before returning them to the SCBF admin officer.

9.2 Application Process

In response to a question from J Puckey regarding the application process, the Chair responded by explaining that applications must be made to the SCBF administrator. Information is available on the SCBF website.

9.3 Local Publicity for the SCBF

The process of raising public awareness to the fact that the fund is open and available was discussed. The Clerk was asked to do the following:

- Action – 1. Print information poster to be placed in the Shop window.
- 2. Email local groups and organisations with a link to SCBF website.
- 3. Provide information in Shetland Times West Ovre column.

10. Community Council Constitution Changes – Proposed Changes

10.1 Proposed Changes to Constitution

The Chair stated that this matter had been discussed at the most recent Association of Shetland Community Councils meeting and that some of the changes had been necessitated by the need to hold virtual meetings.

10.2 Revised Community Council Grant Application Form

The Clerk indicated that he had received a call from another Community Council Clerk expressing concerns at the fact that the newest version of the grant application form is quite lengthy and may deter groups from making an application. It was agreed to defer this matter until the May meeting.

11. Financial Update

The Clerk provided a verbal update of the Community Council's funds with reference to the Community Recovery Fund. It was pointed out that part of this fund had been set aside for newsletters and administration.

Action: The Clerk to clarify with HIE how this element of the fund is to be spent.

12. Voxter House Funding Request

Members were referred to a funding request of 24th March from Theresa Moreland on behalf of the Voxter House Outdoor Centre Committee. It was acknowledged that the centre has been of benefit to groups and organisations throughout Shetland and members expressed a willingness to support their request.

Action: Clerk to donate £280 towards to the Voxter House Outdoor Centre Committee.

13. CDF Grant/Special Project 2021/22

A 2021/22 CDF Grant application and special project were discussed.

Actions: 1 The Clerk to apply for a £3000 CDF grant

2. The Clerk to email members to seek suggestions for a special project up to the value of £1000.

14. Voar Redd-up 2021

Members acknowledged that it would not be possible to provide small grants to those conducting the 2021 Voar Redd-up because only individuals and households are eligible to carry out the clean up this year.

15. Possible Skip for Walls

I Sandison stated that it was at least two years since a large item refuse skip had been made available in Walls. It was agreed to fund one in May.

Action: The Clerk to find out if the SIC will provide a skip for two hours on the morning of Saturday 8th May.

16. Clerks Salary Scale

(M Forrest declared an interest in this item.)

The matter was discussed.

Action: Clerk to circulate Mr M Duncan's email of 3rd March re: Salary Scale and members to be asked to comment to the Chair.

17. Scambusters – possible visit by Sarah Jonnston

There being no support for a visit by Sarah Johnston, it was decided not to proceed with an invitation.

18. Opening Shetland to Tourism email

After some discussion on this matter the consensus view was that this was not an issue on which the Community Council could promote an opinion.

19. Correspondence (including emails)

Thankyou Card from Gruting District Community Association

The Clerk informed members that a thankyou card had been received from the Gruting District Community Association for the donation made by the Community Council to their funds.

20. AOCB

20.1 Inter-Island Ferries Summer Timetable

Receipt of this was noted.

20.2 Grass Cutting

I Sandison pointed out that a small area of grass adjacent to the Walls War Memorial was not on the grass cutting map. She requested that it be included on the grass cutters' map.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Carl Symons to request that this be done.

20.3 Public Transport Fare Policy Review Consultation

An email relating to this was received on the day of the meeting. It was agreed to defer this item until the May meeting which is scheduled for the day prior to the deadline for a response.

20.4 Sandwich Baking Company – Letter objecting to proposed new Co-op store in Sandwich.

This item was also deferred until the May meeting to give members more time to consider their response.

20.5 Sympathy Card to Cllr T Smith

Cllr Smith thanked members for sending a sympathy card following the death of his sister Jean.

21. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for Tuesday 4th May via Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.