

Skerries Community Council

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 25th March 2021.

Meeting held through Web-ex

Present: Douglas Anderson (Chair), Marina Anderson, Frances Anderson, Janice Hughson, Marina Tait.

In attendance: Pat Christie, Community Involvement & Development Officer,
Violet McQuade – Minutes.

1) **Apologies**

Bertha Anderson, Michael Duncan and Ryan Thomson.

2) **Declaration of Interest to any Agenda Item**

None

3) **Minutes of last Meeting**

The minute of the previous meeting, held on the 18th February 2021, were approved. Proposed by Janice Hughson and seconded by Marina Anderson.

4) **Matters Arising**

Update on community nurse, ferry ramp and salmon cages.

- Community Nurse: Duncan Anderson was to email Edna Watson; no update.
- Ferry Ramp: No update.
- Salmon Cages: Email was sent to Simon Pallant; no reply to date. Will follow up with a phone call if no reply to email received shortly. In the meantime, some salmon cages were secured at the weekend.

Pat - Simon Pallant emailed had Pat on the 11th March 2021. Simon had written to Mr Briggs on the 11th March 2021 for an update, Simon has stated that if no responses are received or no solution is found, then the matter will be passed to the Crown Estate to remove and dispose of the equipment.

5) **Skerries Development Group Update**

Meeting was held on Wednesday, 17th March 2021. Items discussed included:

- Possibility of purchasing the Fire Station. The viability of making the station and surrounding area into a caravan site/camping ground; still under discussion. This idea is more realistic than upgrading the old fish factory. Pat agreed to contact Ken Allan at Assets & Property.

Action: Pat to contact Ken Allan

- Colin Roberts to be contacted regarding the Watch Hut.

Action: Marina to contact Colin Roberts

6) **Islands With Small Populations (IWSP)**

Violet McQuade and Brian Hay attended the meeting, which was held on 24th February. The next meeting is due to be held on the 1st April, Violet and Brian to attend. Because there were three people from one of the other islands, Violet asked if anyone else would like to join the meeting; it was pointed out that only two representatives were to be invited from each isle. Violet to check attendee list for last meeting.

Nurse: Edna Watson said they had not advertised for a nurse for Skerries. Violet to ask for an update.

After some discussion, it was agreed for Violet to raise the following at the meeting on 1st April 2021:

- The situation with the nurse.

- Ferry timetables. When the air service ceased, Skerries was promised a better ferry service, but this never happened. It was said at the time that the immediate priority was to plug the gaps in connectivity in Papa Stour and Skerries created by the withdrawal of the air service. One of the aims would be to get a service on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tourism group, a sub-group of IWSP, has sent an invite to a meeting, which is due to be held on the 31st March. Members of the Skerries Development Group discussed ideas, and Violet has put together a list, which she sent to Steve Mathieson. Violet will be attending the meeting on behalf of Skerries.

7) **Co-opt New Member**

It has been proposed to Co-opt Marina Tait as a new member; Marina has accepted. It was noted that Co-opted Members are now to be known as Associate Members. Marina is retiring from her role as Clerk to Skerries Community Council after 20 years; she will be valuable as a member of the committee.

8) **Strategic Delivery Group**

Discussed under Item 6

9) **On-line Ferry Booking**

No progress with this; Clerk has been told it has to do with software. It has been confirmed that the booking office will not be open on Sundays. Currently if you need to travel on Sunday, the booking office is closed; you cannot book the ferry. You would need to be able to book directly with the ferry; if there are no bookings the ferry does not go to Skerries – apart from Monday mornings when the ferry comes with the mail. It was pointed out that currently there is no way to find out if there is a ferry running on Sunday or not. This matter urgently needs to be addressed. To solve the problem, another suggestion was that, because it is impossible to book, or find out if the ferry is running, between office closing time on Saturday and Monday morning, the ferry should do the scheduled runs on Sundays. However, it was felt that online bookings would go a long way in solving the problem.

It was agreed to write to Ryan Thomson to ask what is happening with the online booking.

Action: Chair – write to Ryan Thomson

It was agreed for Violet to raise this at the next the Islands With Small Populations meeting.

Action: Violet - raise at IWSP meeting

10) **Correspondence Received**

- 16th March 2021 - Digital funding information was received by all those present.
- Voxter House sent correspondence asking for help with funding. Unfortunately, there is no money available to help with their project. The Clerk agreed to respond to the email.

11) **AOCB**

- Broadband: There was a discussion on the broadband situation. Awaiting more information from providers.
- Information received from Kevin Serginson regarding the approaching nesting season. There was a short discussion; islanders are all aware of the conventions around the nesting season.
- Constitution information that came in – a response is required. After discussion, it was agreed to send a response to say Skerries Community Council members are happy with the changes.
 - **Action: Marina to send response to Anne Cogle**
- Douglas has been trying to get in touch with DITT regarding finishing off the area around the waiting room; so far without success. Douglas has left messages; will keep trying to get a response. Currently other work to be carried out in Skerries include work on the marina and

the road near the linkspan; it was thought that one company might agree to carry out all the work at the same time. Awaiting quotes. Douglas will update on any progress.

- It was noted that John Smith, Director of Infrastructure, and Andrew Inkster, Executive Manager of Marine Infrastructure and Airports, have recently provided valuable assistance with organising the removal of some bulky waste from Skerries.

12) **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 29th April 2021, through Web-ex. Pat agreed to book Web-ex.

Meeting dates for 2021: 28/05, 02/07, 20/08, 24/10, 03/12.

DRAFT