

# **Skerries Community Council**

**Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

**Meeting held through Web-ex**

**Members present:** Douglas Anderson (Chair), Marina Anderson, Bertha Anderson, Frances Anderson, Janice Hughson, Marina Tait.

**In attendance:** Pat Christie, Community Involvement & Development Officer, Michael Duncan, SIC Grants Officer, Violet McQuade, Clerk.

**1) Apologies**

No apologies were received.

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

Chairman asked for declaration of interests - none received.

**3) Minutes of last Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, were approved, proposed by Janice Hughson, seconded by Frances Anderson.

**4) Matters Arising**

**4.1 Colin Roberts to be contacted regarding the Watch Hut.**

Marina has tried to contact Colin Roberts, but his number is unobtainable; she will keep trying to get in contact with him. If he is not in Shetland, she will try to get a message through to him and ask him to get in touch.

A few days ago, Douglas was up at the watch hut to check on its condition, and found it is not too bad. Last year a joiner checked the woodwork, and said it was good. Work required to be carried out is:

- New covering on the roof.
- New door and new glass in the windows.
- Interior lining, which need not be expensive.
- Everything needs to be painted.

It was suggested getting a contractor in to do the work.

It was agreed that in the future any vandalism would be immediately reported to the police.

**4.2 Waiting Room**

Douglas gave an update: Workmen finished off the shuttering on Monday. It is planned that the ready-mix will be coming in tomorrow (30<sup>th</sup> April) weather permitting. Douglas has informed Andrew Inkster of the progress. Andrew Inkster will organise the connection of water and electricity. We will inform Andrew Inkster after the keys have been handed over, so that the connections can be carried out.

All other matters arising were dealt with on the agenda.

**5) SCBF – Advance Grant Scheme**

Awards are due to commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, to be repeated annually while money is available.

Michael gave an update on the fund and explained his understanding of how it works. The main points noted were:

- This is the Advanced Grant Scheme, which covers the construction phase of the windfarm.
- Skerries will have an allocation of £10,000, per year for the four years of construction.
- The fund will be centrally administered by the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF).
- Anyone applying for funds will contact SCBF direct to get an application form. Once completed the form will go back to the SCBF, who will check all the paperwork is in order. If Skerries Community

Council (SCC) have signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the SCBF would then pass the documents over to SCC for approval. If SCC have not signed up to the MoU, the SCBF would make the decision themselves.

- The money will be held by the SCBF – no money will go into the SCCs bank account.
- The SCCs role, if signed up to the MoU, would be to look at applications and make a decision whether or not to approve.
- If SCC approve an application, they would inform the SCBF of their decision. After that, the money would be paid from the Benefit Fund directly to the applicant/s.
- If SCC do not sign up to the MoU, the money will still be there.
- The Community Council is to help promote the fund.
- Skerries Development Group and Skerries Community Council can apply for funding, if there is a project that needs funding.

Douglas to sign the forms, and send completed forms back to Chris Bunyan.

It was suggested keeping an overview of the money used: to be added to the treasurers' spreadsheet to keep track on funds.

**6) Update from Skerries Development Group**

**6.1 Camping/Caravans**

Pat has been in touch with Ken Allan, who is agreeable in principle. He has suggested putting this on the agenda, have a discussion on what you want, then he will attend a meeting. If going down the route of asset transfer a business plan will have to be produced. Other option is a negotiated sale. If it could be proved to be of benefit to the whole community there could be a negotiated sale, which would save going through the process of an asset transfer. To be discussed with Ken Allan later.

**6.2** Marina Tait has submitted the accounts; so far, she has not heard anything back.

**7) Update on Community Nurse**

The post is out to advert; copy was circulated, also available online. The closing date is Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It is planned for candidates to visit Skerries on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, for coffee and a chat, giving candidates an opportunity to meet Skerries residents, and vice versa.

A query had come from Edna Watson asking who to liaise with regarding the visit on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. After discussion, it was decided that Frances Anderson and Marina Anderson would be the contacts. Violet will inform Edna Watson of the decision.

Edna to be asked if there is any requirement for a Covid Risk Assessment to be carried out. If a Risk Assessment is required, Pat agreed to help with that.

Edna has asked if it would be possible for a member of the Skerries community to be on the interview panel. After some discussion, Douglas agreed to be on the panel. It was suggested it would be best if interviews were to be held on Monday morning (the 31<sup>st</sup> May). Which would mean he would be able to catch the last ferry home on Monday at 1.00 pm, otherwise he would not be able to get home until Wednesday afternoon. Violet to put this to Edna Watson.

**Action: Violet to inform Edna Watson on who to liaise with regarding tea/coffee, ask if interviews can be held on Monday morning, and if Covid Risk Assessment is required**

**8) Update on Salmon Cages**

After the last storm, Douglas contacted Mr Briggs to ask if he wanted photos of the salmon cages, because they had moved during the storm. Douglas sent the photos; Mr Briggs replied that he would be making up his mind what was to happen to them. He has suggested taking them round to the West Voe to be either demolished or refurbished. It was agreed to wait until Mr Briggs decides what to do.

Pat has written to Simon Pallant to ask if there has been any progress with the Crown Estate, but has not yet heard anything back. When Pat hears from Mr Pallant, she will circulate his response to the SCC.

**9) Update on Skerries Broadband**

Some households have had the new routers installed, mostly the results have been very good, and made a huge difference. Eight households now have new routers, most are successful. Marina Tait's reception is no better; Brian has been trying to resolve the problem.

Pat and Brian had a meeting with Marvin Smith last week. He helped Brian with some of the issues with the broadband. Marvin has asked for an invite to the next SCC meeting, along with Brian, so they can report on this.

**Action: Violet, invite Marvin Smith and Brian Hay to next SCC meeting**

Michael asked if he could pass on the information to Marvin Smith, who has been asking if there had been any progress with the broadband in Skerries. This was agreed to.

**10) Update on Ferry**

**10.1 Complaint**

A letter of complaint from an individual in Skerries has been sent to the Andrew Inkster, Executive Manager, Marine Infrastructure & Airports, regarding the change in timetable at short notice. Yesterday the ferry was supposed to leave Lerwick at 2.45 pm, but instead left at 12.30 pm. The timetable change was apparently because of the weather forecast. It was felt this was unnecessary because the wind speed was never above a Force 4 on Wednesday.

**10.2 Online ferry booking**

Online ferry booking, weekend timetable and problems with ferry booking at weekends, was to be brought up at the Islands with Small Populations meeting. Violet brought this up at the meeting; the outcome was that Emma Perring was to get in touch with Andrew Inkster. IWSP notes state that Andrew Inkster is progressing this, Software Company state it can be fixed, will be done as soon as practicably possible. It was noted that it is now over two years since an online booking service for Skerries was first brought up. Originally, it was thought that the problem was with the software, but this does not appear to be the case.

**10.3 Ferry Ramp**

Work on the ferry ramp is scheduled to be done in May. There was a discussion on the proposed date. It was decided that Violet would send a letter to Sella Ness for confirmation on which dates the work is scheduled to be carried out.

**Action: Violet to ask for confirmation of dates that work is timetabled to be done**

**10.4 Follow-up ferry if cancelled due to weather**

Pat read out information she had got from the IWSP meeting: *'Informal arrangements now in place, crew will try and provide additional sailings following bad weather if possible'*. The information has come from Andrew Inkster – Pat will circulate to members of the SCC.

**10.5 Ferry Timetable for Up Helly Aa Public Holiday**

Pat- from the IWSP meeting: *'Will be reviewed each year for PS [Papa Stour] and Skerries'*.

**10.6 Resilience in emergencies, unsure who is responsible, and lines of communication**

Emma Perring to contact NHS Shetland.

**10.7 Filla back in service**

The Filla is due to have sea trials on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. Following successful sea trials, she will then head up to Symbister.

**11) Update on Interpretive Boards and Information Board**

**11.1 Interpretive Boards**

Louise Robertson has completed the form asking for funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The form was submitted today. A letter of support was sent from the Skerries Community Council, and one from Visit Scotland. Another letter from Shetland Heritage has since been received, which will also be submitted.

**11.2 Information Board**

Louise Robertson has been updating the board. The updated version will be sent to Skerries shortly, for approval from the community.

**12) Update on IWSP Network Meeting**

Pat gave presentation at the meeting, points brought up were:

- Nursing situation - discussed under Item 7.
- Ferry situation - discussed under Item 10.
- Broadband – discussed under Item 9.
- Successful removal of scrap cars.

**Kirk**

During the meeting, there was a discussion about the situation with the kirks. Three islands, including Skerries, all believe they own their kirks. The Church of Scotland would need to produce evidence that they (the Church of Scotland) actually own the kirks, and prove that they have the title deeds. Pat will write to Emma Perring to request it is added to the agenda of a future IWSP meeting. It was pointed out that furniture in the kirk was all made by local men; everything in the kirk was paid for by the community.

Skerries put in a request that a separate meeting for each community could be held, perhaps once a year. It is hoped that this will give communities a bigger voice.

**13) Update on Tourism Meeting**

**13.1 Updating information**

Violet attended a Tourism meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. Steve Mathieson, Visit Scotland, and David Nicol, Promote Shetland were present. Main points raised were about updating websites, such as the Promote Shetland, Shetland Heritage and Visit Scotland sites. After updates have been agreed the information is to be sent to the relevant sites. Information leaflets also need updating. The Shetland Amenity Trust (SAT) is currently applying for funding; after that is done work can begin on updates. It is likely to be 2022 before new leaflets will be printed. In the meantime updates to be agreed before sending on to the SAT.

**13.2 Basecamp**

An information platform called Basecamp has been set up. David Nicol has asked for two representatives from each island to be included, Violet has got the link, but not had time to find out any more information.

**13.3 Tall Ships**

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of Tall Ships visiting. If it is the case that the Tall Ships Race is coming to Shetland in the next few years, there may be a possibility that some of the ships may consider visiting some of the small islands. This to be discussed at future meetings if it is confirmed that the Tall Ships will be coming to Shetland again,

**13.4 Possible return to tourism**

Michael was at a Tourism meeting last week; questions were sent out to all Community Councils, Michael compiled the responses, and fed them back to Steve Mathieson. The meeting was held before the government changed the tiering system, so some of it was out-of-date before it was submitted. A summary of the responses was that islanders were happy for tourism to go ahead, if it could be done internally, it is slightly okay with people coming from the UK mainland, but most people were concerned about international travel.

**14) Correspondence Received**

All information and correspondence has been circulated to the SCC.

There was a letter from Sandwich Bakery asking for support, this was due to the possibility of the Coop opening a shop in Sandwich.

An email came in asking what public toilets were available. Reply was sent that the only public toilet in Skerries is the one on the pier.

**15) AOCB**

**15.1 Graveyard Plaque**

The plaque, commemorating the sailors who were lost on the Advena, has now been mounted on the inside wall in the old graveyard. Marina has sent a photo to Peter Johnson.

**15.2 Bench Painting**

The bench seats are painted every second year. The benches were last painted in 2020, so are due for painting in 2022. The paint is at Marina Tait's.

15.3 Marina thanked everyone in the community for the lovely flowers and presents that were given to her on her retirement from her role as Clerk to the Community Council. She also wanted to thank Pat and Michael for the lovely gifts they had sent as well.

**16) Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The meeting will be held through Webex.

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