

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 17 May 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 128 441 4530

Present:	J Priest	Mrs S Deyell	Mrs J Fraser
	G Morrison	M Bennett	
Ex officio:	Cllr C Hughson	Cllr S Coutts	
In attendance:	PC M Mcleod		
	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk		

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting (and asked for a roll call so that everyone knew who was there no matter in which order they signed in).

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr A Johnston, Cllr T Smith and Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.

**MINUTES & HEADLINES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr M Bennett, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

**BUSINESS ARISING: Police:** The Chairman welcomed PC M Macleod to the meeting. The February/March Police Report had been received and circulated to the members. None of the members were aware of any issues in the area. PC M Mcleod encouraged anyone to get in touch if they are aware of anything.

The Clerk agreed to send a message to PC Mcleod confirming the date of the next meeting.

The Chairman thanked PC M Mcleod for attending the meeting. PC Mcleod then left.

**Coronavirus:** The roll out of the vaccines is progressing well with lots more people having received their second vaccination. The Chairman said he feels there may be vaccinations required for years to come and wondered whether there are any plans for a permanent Vaccination Centre.

Neither of the Councillors had any information about that but Cllr S Coutts said he thinks there may be a booster jab by the end of the year.

**Broadband:** Cllr C Hughson to ask Mr Neil Grant for an update.

**Mobile phone coverage:** Nothing further to report.

**Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse:** The Chairman asked whether there is any word of a starting date and neither of the Councillors had heard. Cllr C Hughson to contact Mr N Hutcheson for an update.

**Roads Reports:** The Roads Reports have been received each week and circulated to the members.

**Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction:** Nothing further to report.

**Viking Energy Wind Farm:** No report yet from the Joint Liaison Group meeting on 20 April.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF):** Letter of thanks received from the Royal Voluntary Service for our support to their application to this fund.

It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Ms Eleanor Gear, SCBF Admin Officer, for publicity information for the Community Council Facebook page.

**Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund:** A WebEx meeting of the 'Invest in the West' group had been held on 11 May. The decision was taken to hold an online event to allow the funds to be disbursed. The Clerk was asked to contact the 29 applicants to check whether they are still interested in taking part or if they have managed to secure alternative funding for their projects. A Facebook event page is to be launched and groups will be invited to send in details and a couple of photos of their project. Members of the public, resident in Sandness & Walls and Sandsting & Aithsting areas and 12 years and over, will then be asked to vote on line. If they are unable to do so, paper copies will be available from the Clerk. It is hoped that Voting week will be 21-27 June.

**Community Development Fund – Distribution 21/22:** An application was lodged on 29 April and a receipt received. With this finance it is hoped that we will be able to support our local community voluntary organisations who are still being adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns.

**Community Development Fund – Project:** The project we hoped to support did not prove to be eligible. None of the members had an alternative suggestion. It was agreed that, due to the amount of work which will be required to deal with the other funding we already have applied for, we will not apply for the project grant this year unless someone comes forward with a suggestion before the end of this month.

**Core Funding:** The funding for 2021/2022 is now in our Bank account.

**Funding:** Various information received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

**Association:** The agenda and minutes relating to the next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils to be held on 8 June were received from Mr M Duncan. He requested that names for attendees be submitted to him by 31 May.

The Chairman asked for volunteers but no one put their name forward. However, he said that he hopes to attend. This information will be forwarded to Mr M Duncan.

**Clousta and Culswick phone boxes:** No further details of how these items are progressing.

**Orion Project:** The Chairman said that this is a developing situation.

**Temporary Change in Planning:** An update was received saying temporary changes have been extended to 24 May. Cllr S Coutts said that the Planning Duty Officer and Pre-Application Enquiry Services have been used by many people in Shetland.

**Da Voar Redd Up:** The members have noted that lots of people are taking part in Da Voar Redd Up and it is disappointing to see that there is again so much rubbish to collect.

**Opening up of Tourism:** With Shetland going into Level One there will now be lots of tourists arriving in Shetland. Some local people are still a bit concerned about the possibility of the virus being re-introduced to Shetland.

**Children at Play signs:** It was agreed to grant Mr I Anderson's request for 4 'Please Drive Slowly Children at Play signs' along the road from Vaara to Stiva in Aith. The signs will be ordered from Art Machine and given to Mr Anderson who will attach them to a plywood board and erect them near the road. The cost of the boards will be £168.00 and Mr I Anderson will erect them at his own expense.

**Scambuster Session:** It was agreed that it would be beneficial to wait until we can meet face to face before Mrs Sarah Johnston comes along to make her Scambuster presentation. A reply will be sent suggesting this.

**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER:** Community Planning & Development have teamed up with SCDC (Scottish Community Development Centre) and DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) to offer free information sessions on two specific parts of the Act – Participation Requests and Asset Transfers. Links were received for more information:-  
<https://www.scdc.org.uk/hub/community-empowerment-act>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/asset-transfer-summary-guide/>  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5943c23a440243c1fa28585f/t/5a744dd8652deaae43b4bf4d/1517571565985/PR+Summary+Guidance.pdf>

**REQUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE TOILET INFORMATION:** A message was received from Ms Osla Jamwal-Fraser, Development Officer, Shetland Tourism Association, saying she has been asked to compile a map of all the publicly accessible toilets in Shetland. They feel that a complete list of the toilet facilities across Shetland would be a useful resource for locals and visitors alike. She asks that we send her a list of the public toilets in our area with details of the person/organisation in charge of managing them and opening hours if they are closed at certain times of the day. Contact details of the person/organisation responsible would not be for general distribution but would be more useful for administrative bodies like us. There are public toilets in Skeld which have been closed but hope to open from 24 May and should then be open 24 hours per day. The Clerk will contact Mr A Johnston to check whether the Aith public toilets are open and what their hours are. A reply will be sent to Ms Jamwal-Fraser giving her the details of the two public toilets in this area.

**MARINE PLAN:** A message was received from the Association of Shetland Community Councils with an email from Mr Simon Pallant, Coastal Zone Manager on behalf of the Shetland Islands Marine Planning Partnership saying that the Amended Draft Version of the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan is available on the Council's website at  
<https://coins.shetland.gov.uk/agenda.asp?meetingid=7036>

**MEETINGS IN FUTURE:** The members are keen to return to face to face meetings. However, following some discussion it was unanimously agreed to have a look at this subject at our next meeting.

**GRAVESTONES:** The Chairman expressed concern about the gravestones in some of the yards which were propped up with temporary wooden posts to make them secure. The members felt that a permanent solution should be found. The stones would need a concrete base but, some time ago, the SIC ruled that only SIC approved workmen on their list could do the work. This is something which could maybe be discussed at an Association of Shetland Community Councils meeting as it is a Shetland wide problem. Cllr C Hughson agreed to enquire as to whether there has been any solution agreed to this problem.

**NEXT MEETING**: The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 14 June 2021 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Note: When the meeting finished the Clerk received an email from our member, Ms D Nicolson, saying that she came to the meeting a few minutes late and it was underway and she did not think her arrival got picked up. She didn't really have anything to contribute but she was willing to attend the Association meeting if required.