

# **Skerries Community Council**

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

Meeting held through Web-ex

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

**In attendance:** Pat Christie, Community Involvement & Development Officer.

*The connection while holding this meeting was very poor.*

1) **Apologies**

Frances Anderson, Marina Tait and Michael Duncan.

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 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, were approved. Proposed by Janice Hughson, seconded by Marina Anderson.

4) **Matters Arising**

All matters arising to be dealt with on the agenda.

5) **Update from Skerries Development Group**

5.1 Sale of land/watch hut

The sale of a bit of land in the West Isle is currently being negotiated. If the deal goes through, the land will be bought by Mr Briggs.

Community Council members are not sure if the land includes the ground the watch hut stands on.

5.2 Fire Station (possible development of site)

Pat will follow this up.

**Action: Pat – speak to Ken Allan**

There have been enquiries from people asking if there are hook-up points in Skerries. It was agreed to seek advice from Ken Allan on the possibility of a short-term solution for this.

*Bertha joined the meeting – she had not been able to get a connection.*

6) **Update on Community Nurse**

6.1 Interviews

Douglas attended the interviews on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June. Regrettably, the candidate that visited Skerries on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, has had to withdraw her application because she has a nine-year old daughter, and there is no education provision in Skerries. The candidate has expressed interest in Fair Isle or Fetlar, so she may come to Shetland to work, but will not be moving to Skerries.

Members of the panel felt that the other applicant was not suitable for the post; Douglas agreed with their decision.

Douglas has asked Edna Watson if they would keep the advert open. This has been agreed to; the advert is still open.

Pat has permission to take part in interviews for prospective nursing candidates for Skerries, so is happy to accompany Douglas to any future interviews.

7) **Update on Salmon Cages**

No update since the last meeting.

8) **Update on Skerries Broadband**

8.1 Still outstanding

One house still to get broadband.

8.2 Purchasing extra routers and aerials

After discussion, it was agreed that a few more routers and aerials could be purchased. There is still some of the money available that was provided for improving the broadband connection. The money is held with the Skerries Development Group.

8.3 Service

The service is working well for most residents, but one house in Bruray does not have a good connection.

9) **Transport/Ferry**

9.1 Letter sent to Ferry Operators

A letter was sent to Andrew Inkster, Executive Manager, Ferry & Air Operations Infrastructure, about what happened on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, when the Filla was taken out of service due to problems with the engine. A reply from Andrew was received on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, stating that this is being looked into, and once the review has been concluded, and agreed/confirmed actions with the crew for future issues, he will respond formally.

9.2 Booking Office, additional hours

An email was circulated about changes in opening hours for the booking office during the summer months. The booking office will be open from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Sundays during the summer.

Bookings have to be made the day before, so the extra hours will not solve the problem if the ferry is cancelled on Saturday night. It states on the timetable that *'Sailings will only take place if a booking exists by 1630 the day before (or by 1100 on the day for sailings after 1500)'*. If a ferry is cancelled on Saturday night, you cannot book on Sunday morning for a Sunday morning sailing. If the rule could be changed for Sunday morning then that would solve the problem with booking Sunday sailings.

After discussion, it was agreed to send a letter to Ferry & Air Operations Infrastructure asking for permission to book for a Sunday morning run between 8.00 and 9.00 am on Sundays.

**Action: Violet to send a letter to Management at Ferry & Air Operations Infrastructure**

10) **Kirk**

10.1 Letter

This week a letter (email) was circulated to all members of Skerries Community Council confirming that the Church of Scotland does not own the Skerries kirk. The letter came from an elder of the Whalsay kirk, and stated that the Church of Scotland has no jurisdiction over the Skerries kirk whatsoever; it does not belong to them so they cannot sell it. All fixtures and fittings inside the kirk belongs to the Skerries community, because they have provided it all.

10.2 Title Deeds

There are no title deeds. It was suggested to ask Ken Allen for guidance on acquiring title deeds when members of SCC meet with him about the fire station. It was agreed to seek advice from Ken Allen.

10.3 Meeting with MSP

The meeting with Beatrice Wishart has been rescheduled, it will be held at 1.30 pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, in the kirk.

11) **Correspondence Received**

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

11.1 Application for approval of funds

Applications have come in for funds from groups outwith Skerries. After discussion, it was agreed that the applications were to be declined.

**Action: Violet to send a letter/email**

**12) AOCB**

12.1 Community Conversations (CC)

A CC meeting was scheduled for last night, 30<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting was cancelled due to no one accepting the invite. Pat suggested that Skerries could join in with the Lerwick meeting, which Bressay is also joining. The meeting is due to be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> July. After discussion, Douglas agreed, if he is available, to attend the meeting on behalf of Skerries; Pat will also send an invite to Alan Hay.

**Action: Douglas to accompany Pat to the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July**

**Action: Pat send invite to Alan Hay**

12.2 Waiting Room

It was suggested to hold back on payment for the waiting room until it is finished. Also, the outside of the building needs to be power washed, as there is a lot of cement on it.

The railings and the hole at the foot of the ramp is still to be done. Douglas to send an email asking when the work will be carried out, and will mention power washing the outside of the building. Douglas will install the sanitiser unit. Bertha has done a lot of cleaning, but more volunteers needed to help. The Hall is to be approached about getting chairs for inside the waiting room.

**Action: Douglas to contact DITT**

**13) Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021.  
The meeting will be held through Webex.

**Meeting dates for 2021: 21/10, 02/12.**