

Skerries Community Council

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 19th August 2021.

Meeting held through Web-ex

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

In attendance: Violet McQuade, notes.

1) **Apologies**

Duncan Anderson, Frances Anderson, Pat Christie, 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 1st July 2021, were approved. Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson.

4) **Matters Arising**

All matters arising to be dealt with on the agenda.

5) **Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

It was decided to carry this forward to the next meeting that Pat Christie and/or Michael Duncan can attend.

6) **Update from Skerries Development Group**

6.1 Watch Hut – No update

6.2 Fire Station (possible development of site) - Pat will be able to advise on any progress at the next meeting.

7) **Update on Community Nurse**

7.1 New closing date has been set; 22nd August 2021. Interview / Informal Visit to island (3rd September) with Interviews to be held in Shetland 4th – 6th September (subject to travel restrictions at the time) Waiting for information from Edna Mary Watson on whether anyone has applied this time.

7.2 Michael Dickson visited Skerries on Sunday, 15th August. A number of people went to speak to him while he was there.

8) **Update on Salmon Cages**

No update since the last meeting.

9) **Update on Waiting Room**

The council is to do some work on the waiting room on Friday, 20th August, a contractor has been appointed and timescales agreed. Billy will be in contact with DITT regarding other issues with the waiting room once his contact is back from leave.

10) **Transport/Ferry.**

Andrew Inskter and Michael Craigie will be coming to Skerries for a meeting on Friday, 20th August; the meeting will be in the hall at 12.30 pm. The meeting is about the incident that happened on the 13th June, when the Filla broke down and no action was taken to inform members of the public, or to try and find a solution to the situation.

11) Kirk

A discussion was held regarding the situation with the kirk, the Church of Scotland is going to put the Skerries kirk up for sale next year. There were a few suggestions on how best to move forward, providing the people of Skerries want to keep the kirk as part of the community. Suggestions included:

- Contacting Citizens Advice Bureau to ask if they can advise.
- Form a kirk group.
- Accept Beatrice Wishart's offer of further help.
- Find out if the income and expenditure account we were given provided was for the Skerries kirk alone, or for Skerries and Whalsay combined. The information would be useful before moving forward.

The Skerries Development Group would possibly be dealing with decisions concerning the kirk.

12) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically, which included:

- Shetland Regional Transport Strategy – Circulated
- Locality Plan Survey – circulated electronically, and paper copies were put into both shops for anyone who cannot access the internet, or wished to complete a paper copy.
- A timetable came through for a pilot Dial-a-Ride bus service linking the Viking Bus Station and the Vidlin Pier (Skerries Ferry). This pilot service seeks to provide a link to and from weekend ferry connections between the Shetland Mainland and Skerries. The use of the service will be measured throughout the pilot, with a view to establishing an appropriate contract where demand can be established. At present the pilot is in place until 31st October 2021.

13) AOCB

Update from IWSP meeting, held on Monday, 16th August 2021

13.1 Shetland Regional Transport Strategy – Michael Craigie gave a presentation – Document has been circulated to everyone in Skerries.

As part of this work, Emma Perring is following up on the request for feedback on how best to ensure each community's views can be heard. The initial phase of this is over the next couple of years. Community Councils will be consulted. Michael Craigie is keen to get feedback.

13.2 School issues - Helen Budge, Director of Education, sent a statement regarding how the Council would approach education for early years or primary on Skerries. Helen, or one of her colleagues, is also happy to attend a future Community Council meeting, if that is helpful to you. The statement was:

'As the school is not closed then should there be children who are early years or primary on the isle we would have a conversation with the family to establish the most appropriate way to deliver education as we have done previously with Papa Stour, which is in a similar position. I appreciate that this is a difficult position for anyone who may be planning to move to an outer isle and would need to be worked through with the family. We have to consider the best opportunity for the children to gain their education and maintain our commitment to providing services in the outer isles. We do not have a minimum number for reopening a school'.

13.3 Presentation from the Crofters Commission - Information has been circulated.

13.4 Islands Bond – Emma is to set up a meeting for island reps, with a view to get submissions prepared. Lack of detail in the bond was discussed. Emma will circulate what they have. The information will be circulated to Skerries Community Council as soon as the Clerk receives it.

14) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 30th September 2021.

The meeting will be held through Webex.

Further meeting date for 2021: 09/12.