

Skerries Community Council
Minute of meeting held at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 20th January 2022.
Meeting held through Web-ex

Members present:

Bertha Anderson (Chair)
Frances Anderson
Marina Anderson
Janice Hughson
Marina Tait

In attendance:

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes).
Pat Christie, SIC Community & Development Officer
Michael Duncan, External Funding/Community Council Liaison

1) Apologies

Douglas Anderson, Ryan Thomson.

2) Declaration of Interest to any Agenda Item

Chairman asked for declaration of interests - none received.

It was noted that Marina Anderson asked if she should declare an interest to Item 6, due the Chief Nurse being a relation. It was agreed that as part of the Skerries community no declaration of interest was necessary from Marina, who has a right to offer input if she wished.

3) Minutes of last Meeting

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

4) Matters Arising

6.3 Fire Station (possible development of site) Pat is organising a visit to Skerries for herself and Kenn Allan for some time in February. She will let the community know once the arrangements are finalised.
14.1 Drainage at the road above Vaarheim. Bertha has been in contact with the Roads Department, who have identified a contractor to come to Skerries to do the work.

All other matters arising to be dealt with on the agenda.

5) Ferry

Proposed timetable – *Discussed at the Skerries Development Group.*

A proposed timetable was submitted to Transport Planning on the 12th November 2021. The response came back that the section was currently making a case for extra resources to carry out a range of work. When the relevant staff are in place the timetable will then be looked at.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send an email to the Executive Manager, Transport Planning, asking for an update.

Action: Violet contact EM, Transport Planning

The situation with the ferry timetable was discussed, and noted, at the Islands With Small Populations Tourism meeting on the 19th January.

6) Update on nursing situation

A meeting is scheduled to be held in Skerries on Friday, 28th January, to discuss the situation with nursing in Skerries. Brian Chittick, Director of Community Health & Social Care and Kim Anderson, Chief Nurse (Community) will be attending the meeting.

A request for the meeting to be opened up to the community was declined. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate an email to members of the community asking for any questions to be submitted, which would then be taken to the meeting.

Action: Violet to send email to everyone in the community asking for questions to be put to BC/KA

7) Roads

7.1 Drainage problems

After correspondence with the Roads Department regarding drainage problems near the roads, and a blocked culvert near the Burn, it had been agreed that a list of proposed repairs required would be submitted prior to the work commencing. Bertha has sent an email to the Roads Department providing details of work required to be carried out. It was agreed for the Clerk to follow this up with the Roads Department, and add any further work identified, including the potholes below the Haa.

Action: Violet contact JD, Roads Department

7.2 Resurfacing area above ferry ramp.

This has already been reported to the SIC.

7.3 Step in the inside of the new kirkyard

The step inside the new kirkyard is far too high. This has already been reported to Shetland Islands Council. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would send an email to the Burial Grounds Supervisor to ask for an update, and also report that there is a problem with rabbits in the yard.

Action: Violet contact Burial Grounds Supervisor

There was a discussion regarding grass cutting in the yard. This will be followed up later in the year if necessary.

7.4 It was also noted that when the roads are icy, there is no one designated to grit the roads.

8 Update on Salmon Cages - Discussed at the Skerries Development Group.

During the discussion it was noted that Mr Briggs had sent a letter addressed to the Coastal Zone Manager, a copy of the letter has been received by members of the Skerries Community Council.

9 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

After discussion it was decided that the community would mark the occasion. A questionnaire could be sent out asking members of the community what they would like to do to mark the occasion.

There will be further discussion on what form the celebrations would take. It is hoped that an event could be held at or near the pier. Suggestions included a barbeque and/or a bonfire. Safety issues will have to be taken into consideration before a final decision is made. Safety concerns will be checked out.

After the community have been contacted and decisions have been made, it was agreed to compile an estimate of how much it is expected to cost, then Michael would check to find out if any funding that may be available to cover costs.

It was noted that the Skerries celebrations would be the most easterly celebrations in Scotland. Details to be discussed further at a later date.

Action: Violet contact JT informing him that celebrations will be planned

10 Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

It was noted that correspondence had been received from Project Support - Scottish Islands Passport regarding a project they are currently undertaking. To carry out the project they are looking for island communities across Scotland to gather information about what makes their island great. They would like audio recordings and oral history, particularly from smaller/under-represented islands, which celebrate life on the island and give users of the app an insight into the way of life. To promote Skerries, Julie Arthur has agreed to take part in the project.

It was noted that some footage had been done, with Douglas taking part as a representative from Skerries, for John Rollo, who was in Skerries in December 2021.

AOCB

10.1 School - There was a discussion about the school and the possibility of getting it opened, now that there are two primary age children in Skerries. It was decided that, at this point, it is not a matter for Skerries Community Council; so far no formal request has been put forward to the Community Council. If at some point in the future the parents come with a request asking for the SCC to back them up to get the school opened, the SCC could get involved at that stage.

10.2 Action Plan – The School could be part of an overall plan for the future of Skerries. It was suggested that this could be put on the Skerries Development Group’s agenda for the next meeting – along with long-term plans to get more people to live in Skerries. Pat suggested revisiting the Action Plan that was set up a few years ago; this plan could be brought up-to-date to include the school, caravan park and tourism.

11 **Date of the next meeting** – the next meeting is scheduled to be held on the 3rd March 2022.

Actions – Violet

- Contact EM, Transport Planning – re proposed new timetable
- Contact JD, Roads Department – re roads/drains maintenance
- Contact Burial Grounds Supervisor – re step in new kirkyard
- Contact Organising Committee – re Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
- Send email to everyone in the community asking for questions to be put to BC/KA

Chair Signature

Signed.....