

Skerries Community Council
Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 3rd March 2022.
Meeting held through Web-ex

Members present:

Douglas Anderson (Chair)
Bertha Anderson
Frances Anderson
Marina Anderson
Janice Hughson
Marina Tait
Ryan Thomson (from 2.24 pm)

In attendance:

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes).
Pat Christie, SIC Community & Development Officer (from 2.46 pm)

1) Apologies

Michael Duncan and Duncan Anderson

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 20th January 2022, were approved. Proposed by Janice Hughson, seconded by Bertha Anderson.

4) Matters Arising

- Contact EM, Transport Planning, re proposed new timetable – *emails sent by VM, 21st Jan and 17th Feb 2022 – no reply.*
- Contact JD, Roads Department – re roads/drains maintenance – *email sent by VM, 21st Jan 2022.*
- Contact Burial Grounds Supervisor – re step in new kirkyard – *email sent by VM, 21st Jan 2022.*
- Contact Organising Committee – re Queen's Platinum Jubilee – *email sent by VM, 22nd Jan 2022.*
- Send email to everyone in the community asking for questions to be put to BC/KA – *email sent by VM. 21st Jan 2022.*

Other matters arising to be dealt with on the agenda.

5) Ferry

A discussion was held regarding a proposed new timetable. The Community Council received an email from the Executive Manager, Ferry Services, which stated that the council is currently investigating options to increase crew time to allow drills and maintenance to be effectively carried out for Whalsay and Skerries vessels. Discussions are at an early stage; no changes will be implemented without proper consultation being held with the relevant Community Councils. It is not expected that anything will be happening as quickly as April. Any changes being looked at by management and crew are on the strict understanding that current service levels will not be reduced in any way. Consultations will also have to be held with staff and Unions following the development of any formal proposal, therefore the council is some way off being in a position to liaise more formally with Community Councils.

Ryan Thomson joined the meeting.

Ryan gave an overview of the current situation with ferry services, and how things could work in the future with the service to Whalsay and Skerries, and what improvements might be possible. This work is ongoing; no decisions have been made at this point. It could be June or July before Community Councils

will be consulted. The council is also looking at the possibility of getting the bus timetable to match up better with ferry timetables.

It was agreed that the Community Council will await updates from Shetland Islands Council's Ferry Services. The proposed timetable that was submitted in November 2020 could be a starting point for further discussions.

6) Update on nursing situation

A Community Healthcare Support Worker post for Skerries was advertised on the 22nd February. The closing dates for applicants is the 13th March 2022. The community will receive an update as soon as the advert is closed.

The post is more care centred than nursing. This is because after advertising three times for a nurse, there were no suitable applicants. There have been similar problems filling some other posts that were advertised; it is not just the post for Skerries that has been difficult to fill.

7) SCBF Application

The sum requested from Skerries Community Council SCBF fund is £812.50. After discussion it was agreed to defer this request to give members time to read the application and make a decision.

Action: Clerk to inform SCBF of deferral

8) Update on Salmon Cages

8.1 Letter from Crown Estate.

The Crown Estate (CES) sent a letter to Skerries Community Council, asking if SCC members would be willing to have a meeting with representatives from the Crown Estate and Shetland Islands Council. The CES have asked that Mr Briggs should also be invited to the meeting.

Pat Christie joined the meeting

After discussion the following points were agreed:

- ✦ Inform the representative from CES know that Skerries Community Council would be happy to meet with representatives from CES, SIC and Mr Briggs.
- ✦ The Clerk will write to CES asking that the invitation to Mr Briggs be sent from CES.
- ✦ Arrange to have the meeting in Lerwick if possible, this could be face-to-face, or hybrid if it is not possible for some members to attend in person.
- ✦ To ask if the meeting could be held after the 21st March. By that time more Covid restrictions will have been lifted. A room may be available at Solarhus, in which to hold the meeting.
- ✦ It would be good if members from the CES could manage to come to Skerries if at all possible, where they would be able to see the situation for themselves.

Action: Clerk write to SEC

9) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

10) Clerks Pay Rate

It was agreed that the Clerk's pay rate would be raised to the same rate as the other Community Council Clerks. Up to now the Clerk had been on a lower rate.

11) AOCB

11.1 Mast

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Utilities Project Manager, WHP Telecoms, to ask for an update.

Action: Clerk email CB at WHP Telecoms

11.2 Wire broken in crash-barriers

It was noted that the wires in the crash-barriers that are below the Wester Shop, as well as the ones next to the Bruray shop are broken. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Roads

Department to request getting this fixed while workmen are in Skerries carrying out the other roads maintenance.

Action: Clerk contact Roads Department

11.3 Waiting room

11.3.1 Telephone - A discussion was held about getting a telephone connection installed in the waiting room. It was agreed to look into the possibility of this, and if feasible then an application can be completed. If this could be achieved, future meetings could be held in the waiting room, with anyone who cannot attend phoning in.

11.3.2 Furniture - The furniture for the waiting room has still to be ordered. The information has been sent to Pat, who will action as soon as possible.

11.3.3 Water - Stopcock at end of toilet block. The simple route for the water pipe would be to go by the front of the fishermen's store, as there is a stopcock only four or five feet from the end of the toilet block – on the pier side. It was agreed that the Clerk would email Executive Manager, Ferry Services, to tell him where the valve is, and ask if he has an update on what is happening with getting water installed to the waiting room.

Action: Clerk to email Executive Manager, Ferry Services

11.4 Tree for Jubilee

It was agreed to plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Frances will look into what would be the most appropriate tree to suit with the environment. It was agreed that somewhere at the inner end of the Burn may be an appropriate spot; it is sheltered in that area. Appropriate measures to be taken to keep the root/sapling sheltered until the plant is established.

11.5 Loss of water

Due to a faulty stopcock, water is escaping from the end of an empty property. It was decided to contact a local Scottish Water employee, to see if anything can be done to stem water wastage.

12) Date of the next meeting – the next meeting is scheduled to be held on the 14th April 2022.

Actions – All actions for the Clerk

- Inform SCBF of deferral
- Write to SEC
- Email CB at WHP Telecoms
- Contact Roads Department
- Contact AI

Chair Signature

Signed.....