

Skerries Community Council

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 1st July 2022 in Skerries Community Hall

Members present:

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

In attendance:

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes).
Pat Christie, SIC Community & Development Officer
Chris Gadsby, Asset Strategy Manager (SIC)

1) Apologies

Marina Tait, Ryan Thomson, 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 26th May 2022, were approved.
Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson.

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

- o DA – complete and submit SCBF form. Deadline had passed; a form was completed by the Clerk, which was submitted in time.
- o Clerk - contact Scottish Islands Passport administrators. Information from a meeting held on 9th June, with a representative from Scottish Islands Passport was circulated to all members. Posters have been put up in Bruray Shop and waiting room. Another set could be displayed in the hall.
- o Clerk- contact Michael Craigie re ferry/timetable situation, and request 9.30 run on Saturdays. Sent two emails requesting updates, but have not received any.
- o Clerk - contact Clare Christey re fishermen's store. Clerk was informed that the council would be sending their workboat, the *Shearwater*, into Skerries with workmen to complete the repairs and painting. Some work has now been carried out, but upper door and windows have not been dealt with. Clerk to contact Clare Christey again.

Action: Clerk to contact WHP Telecoms

Other matters arising to be dealt with on the agenda.

5) Ferry

Request for proposed new timetable – correspondence, as noted during meeting:

- o November 2021 – Request submitted for a proposed/updated timetable for Skerries ferry service. At that time the council was making a case for extra resources, part of which was to deal with the Skerries Ferry Service.
- o 21st January 2022 – Clerk asked for an update on the request submitted in November.
- o 17th March 2022 – Resubmitted an updated version of the proposed new timetable.
- o 27th May 2022 – Email sent asking for 10.00 am (Skerries to Vidlin) be changed to 9.30 am.
- o 11th June 2022 – emailed asking for an update on request submitted on 27th May. After this email the Clerk was promised that an update would be sent out on the 24th June – this did not happen.
- o 25th, 26th and 27th June – emails were sent from the Chair to Ferry Services asking for updates. Reply was received on the 28th June that bids for funding to work on the new timetable has been unsuccessful.

At the Islands With Small Populations (IWSP) meeting on Monday, 27th June, the Clerk was informed that changes to the timetable would need to be dealt with before budget setting for the next financial year. Budget setting starts in September.

Because this has still not been dealt with it was agreed to send an email to members of the team who are to be dealing with the timetables, expressing disappointment, and asking for clarity and who is doing what with working on an updated/improved timetable.

It was noted that when ferry services were cut, the Skerries service took the biggest cut – a cut of 40%. When flights ceased, Skerries was promised a better service – this never happened.

6) Update on nursing situation

The Health Care Support Worker is to officially start on the 4th July. After induction and training it is estimated that she will start work in Skerries on the 11th July. It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas.

7) Meeting with Fiona Stirling/Pat Christie - date and time to be confirmed.

Fiona Stirling, Steve Mathieson, and Pat were in Skerries on the 20th May, this went well. Fiona Stirling would like to concentrate on the following:

- 7.1 Project No 1) Fiona wants to set up a walking/tourist trail in Skerries, as well as a trail for people who are less able and need to use a car. There would also be listening posts dotted along the route – Skerries voices telling stories. Fiona would help to look for funding to achieve this. This is part of the Wild Skies project, Pat is going to Unst next week for a meeting to find out more. This project would tie in with the Interpretive Board project.
- 7.2 Project No 2) To look at setting up a proper website for Skerries. Fiona would look at finding help with funding to pay someone to design a webpage for Skerries – this would be a Skerries Development Group project.

Fiona would also like to help look for funding for repairs and maintenance around the outside of the hall, and to set up welcome points near the ferry terminal.

8) Discussion on some of the items carried forward from the meeting held on 18th June 2022

8.1 School – looking into the possibility of opening.

A letter was read out that had been sent by a member of the community. It was agreed to reply, thanking them for the information and update. The SCC recognise that the Director of Children's Services will be coming back to them, so will wait to hear the outcome.

This was brought up at the IWSP meeting. In the past a school in Shetland had opened for one pupil, Clerk asked members of the IWSP how many potential pupils they would need before the council would consider reopening the school. After discussion it was agreed to ask if there is an update from the IWSP team.

Actions: Clerk write a reply to letter/Contact IWSP to ask for clarity

8.2 Visiting yachts – berthing charges

It has been discovered that there is one charge for yachts who visit any of the north isles during one calendar month, which means that if a fee is paid in Skerries there would be no further fees for visiting another isle, such as Yell or Fetlar, during that calendar month.

8.3 Additional Pontoon/s

A discussion was held on the possibility of making new pontoons. The cost would depend on where a pontoon is placed. If someone wanted a berth in the marina they would pay an annual charge, and would have to provide their own means to secure their boat.

8.4 New ferry timetable

Discussed under Item 5.

8.5 Fire Station

It has been established that the building belongs to Shetland Islands Council.

8.6 Caravan Park

Maps circulated prior to the meeting clearly indicated what land the council owns in Skerries. Although the council does not own much land in Skerries, it does own the land that the fire station is built on.

The only times the building has been used by the community has been when the door has been opened when there has been a medivac; patients have been taken there to transfer them from a stretcher to a wheelchair, to keep the patient dry and sheltered.

After discussion it was agreed that Chris would speak to his line-manager. As a council owned property it is the responsibility of the council.

If the community wish to buy the building an asset transfer can be applied for – there is a process to go through for this.

Douglas proposed that, before any final decision is made, the community look into who owns land adjacent to the fire station. This was agreed to. This would be within the remit of the Skerries Development Group.

9) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

10) AOCB

10.1 Funding for skip hire

The funding (£1,000) has come into the bank account, for hiring skips. This will be enough for 3 – 4 skips. The last skip that was hired cost £265, for hire and freight.

10.2 Generating own power

Douglas has been looking into this. He has found out that in an Orkney island householders are supplied with a solar panel and wind generator. This can link into the property's existing power supply – it does not pay the whole cost of electricity, but does reduce the bill. The solar panel can be fixed outside your house, in the garden. Douglas proposed that it could be further investigated – this was agreed to.

Action: Douglas to further investigate solar panel/generator power

10.3 4G Mast

It was agreed to ask the mast providers (WHP Telecoms), if there is an estimated date for when the work will be completed.

Action: Clerk to contact WHP Telecoms

11) Date of the next meeting – the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday the 26th August 2022, in the Skerries Community Hall. Anyone who cannot make it can telephone in to the meeting.

Actions

- Clerk write a reply to letter/Contact member of IWSP to ask for clarity
- Douglas to further investigate solar panel/generator power
- Clerk to contact WHP Telecoms re mast

Chair Signature

Signed.....