

Skerries Community Council

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Saturday, 15th October 2022 in Skerries Community Hall

Members present:

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

In attendance:

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes).

1) Apologies

Pat Christie, Michael Duncan and Robert Thomson.

2) Declaration of Interest to any Agenda Item

Chairman asked for declaration of interests – there were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 26th August 2022, were approved.
Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson.

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

Matters arising dealt with on the agenda.

5) Community Council Elections

A reminder to anyone interested in being nominated to stand for election as a Community Council, that the deadline for nominations is the 20th October 2022.

The election has been advertised in Skerries by sending several emails the election to everyone in the isles, as well as putting notices in both shops. Also, adverts have been in social media, Radio Shetland and on Shetland Islands Council's website.

6) Kirk

A letter was sent to the Church of Scotland asking for specific information – this letter went from the Skerries Development Group. It has been found that there are no Title Deeds, but there is a Feu – this Feu was used, in the absence of Title Deeds, to sell the Schoolhouse.

There was a discussion on the best way forward if the community wants to purchase the kirk building, and if so, how to finance the purchase and pay for its upkeep. This comes under the remit of the Skerries Development Group (SDG); the next SDG meeting is scheduled to take place on the 11th November 2022.

7) Applications from Shetland Community Benefit Fund:

7.1 Shetland Recreational Trust

Shetland Recreational Trust applied for £100. After discussion it was decided not to agree to this award

7.2 Mind Your Head

Mind Your Head applied for £500. After discussion it was agreed that Skerries Community Council (SCC) would give £100 to Mind Your Head.

8) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

It was noted that a letter of thanks was received from the manager of the Shetland Branch of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The letter was to thank SCC for the letter of support, and to let the SCC know that CAB had been awarded the funding they had applied for.

9) AOCB

10.1 New ferry timetable

The Chair asked for it to be noted that SCC are pleased with the new ferry timetable. As far as the SCC is aware, the majority of the Skerries community are happy the new timetable.

10.2 Monday afternoon runs

There was a discussion regarding the Monday afternoon runs. It was agreed that the Clerk should inquire whether there could be a solution to the potential problem that cars going to Skerries may not be able to get on the ferry at Laxo, if the ferry is already full of vehicles heading for Whalsay. One suggestion was to ask if Skerries vehicles could take precedent on that run, or if it would be possible to hold three spaces on each Monday afternoon run - for vehicles going to Skerries.

10.3 Online booking

It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries on how future provision for an online booking service is progressing.

10.4 Pest control

The Clerk has been in touch with Environmental Health. Three visits will be scheduled by a member of Environmental Health staff. The dates are still to be confirmed.

10.5 Gravestones

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would ask for confirmation on who has been awarded the contract for erecting/maintaining gravestones in Skerries. When that information is provided, anyone in the community needing work done can start making arrangements with the company that has been awarded the contract.

10.6 WHP, query about land ownership

A letter has been received regarding ownership of the land that the mast has been erected on. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the person who made the enquiry. It was suggested that the Land Registry would know who owns the land.

10.7 Ownership of the Watch Hut

So far there has been no confirmation regarding the ownership of the Watch Hut. This is currently being followed up.

10.8 ASB Strategy

The ASB Coordinator offered to attend a SCC meeting to offer advice on anti-social behavioural problems. It has been agreed that there is currently no need for such a visit. The Clerk has been in touch with the ASB Coordinator, who has agreed to send any relevant information to SCC.

10.9 Remote access to meetings

A councillor has asked for SCC's thoughts on getting access to equipment that would make meetings available for remote access. He has said that he was intending to bring up the idea of trying to get a standard kit made available to CC's and in particular island CC's to allow remote video access to meetings.

After discussion it was agreed that this would be a positive step. SCC would welcome any help with this. It was noted that SCC do not have the resources to fund this, but would welcome any suggestions on how this could be achieved. The Clerk will contact the councillor.

- 10) Date of the next meeting** – The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Skerries Community Hall on Friday, 18th November 2022.

Chair Signature

Signed.....