

## **Skerries Community Council**

### **Minute of meeting held at 2.30 pm on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in the Boardroom, Solarhus, North Ness, Lerwick**

**Present:**

Douglas Anderson (Chair)  
Bertha Anderson – (joined the meeting through a Microsoft Teams link)  
Marina Anderson  
Marina Tait  
Fiona Farquhar  
Andrew Inkster  
Michael Craigie – (joined the meeting through a Microsoft Teams link)  
Sheena Summers  
Robert Thomson

**In attendance:**

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes).

**1) Apologies**

Frances Anderson

**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 meeting, which was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, were approved.  
Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Bertha Anderson.

**4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting**

There were no outstanding matters arising.

**5) Community Council Elections**

On Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, a meeting was held, through Webex, to elect office bearers for Skerries Community Council. The result of the election was that Douglas Anderson was elected as Chair, and Bertha Anderson was elected to the Vice Chair position. Marina Tait was voted on as an Associate Member.

**6) Ferry**

**6.1 New Timetable**

It was noted that the new timetable, implemented in October 2022, has been a great improvement to the ferry service to Skerries.

**6.2 Request for a raised seat for the disabled toilet on the Filla**

Andrew will look into the possibility of getting a raised seat installed. It will need to be a seat that clamps down to the toilet.

**6.3 Request for bottled/drinking water on the Filla, and/or a coffee machine**

The problem with the coffee machine was that the vibrations caused by the ferry affected the machine, so that it wouldn't work. Marina asked if there was any newer model that might work better; Sheena said that the newer models were even more sensitive. A capsule type was suggested, but the company that produced the capsules were not in production any more. Andrew pointed out that the council has to consider any safety issues that might be involved with a coffee machine. Bottled water – Andrew asked if this request was for passengers to buy water – it was agreed that this would have to be the case. Andrew pointed out that whatever is decided it would have to be the same for all the ferries in the council fleet. Andrew will look into the possibility of getting a coffee machine and/or bottled water.

#### 6.4 Dial-a-taxi – when the ferry is running to Laxo – for foot passengers

A discussion was held. A trial for dial-a-taxi had been set in place a while ago, but it is not clear if this is still on-going. It was noted that whether the ferry was Laxo or Vidlin it would not make any difference. Michael thought this is still in place – he agreed to check if the service is still in place.

#### 6.5 Voicebank message

There was a request for the message on the voicebank to state a time when the next update would be posted, instead of saying 'as soon as possible'. The problem with the current message is that passengers have to keep dialling the voicebank for updates – it would be helpful if a time were to be stated for the next update. Andrew will follow this up - he will request that a time is stated, each time a message is left, so passengers know when to expect the next update.

People who are connected to the update service can get an email or text message. This is something that you have to register for, and you can choose which service you want to register for – if you register for the Skerries service you would only get messages relating to Skerries. Fiona will send the link to the Clerk. The link will then be circulated by the Clerk.

#### 6.6 Monday afternoon service

There was a query about changing the Monday afternoon service, doing the Whalsay run at 2.00 pm, back to Laxo, on to Skerries - giving more time on the Mainland. It was pointed out that this would mean the crew would go over their hours.

Another suggestion was to have a couple of dedicated spaces for Skerries cars on the Monday afternoon run. If Skerries passengers cannot get on the Monday afternoon ferry, the next option is Tuesday night – there is no morning slot on Tuesdays. It was pointed out that the electronic booking system doesn't allow for this. Although the Skerries bookings are not electronic the Whalsay ones are. There was a discussion on ways to resolve the problem - so far there have not been any problems. It was agreed that if a problem were to arise that Ferry Operations should be informed – they would then look at possible solutions. Keep an eye on it, and report if any problems.

### 7) **Correspondence Received**

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

### 8) **AOCB**

#### 8.1 Festive timetable

There will be a ferry run to Skerries on the 27<sup>th</sup> December, but the booking office closes on Saturday afternoon (the 24<sup>th</sup>). The booking office is also supposed to be closed on the 27<sup>th</sup>, so staff are looking into opening the booking office for four-hour slots on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, as well as on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> the office will be open to everyone, but booking office staff are looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> just being open for Skerries people. It was suggested that Sheena send the mobile number to the Clerk to circulate – the bookings would likely be for the Lerwick runs, where all your details have to be provided, so it is important that this is documented. The mobile number would only be for using on the 26<sup>th</sup> December and 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the other two days the booking office will be open four hours for everyone.

Members of SCC thanked Sheena for organising this.

#### 8.2 4G Mast – update

There was a query about asking for an update on the situation with the 4G mast. Robert and the Clerk agreed to ask for updates.

#### 8.3 Broken marker buoy in the South Mouth

A marker buoy in the South Mouth that has come away from its moorings, this has been reported - Andrew will be following this up. When the weather is suitable this will be dealt with.

- 9) **Date of the next meeting** – The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Skerries Community Hall on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Actions:**

Andrew: Look into getting a raised seat for disabled toilet on Filla  
Look into the possibility of getting bottled water and/or a coffee machine for the Filla  
Voicebank message – get message to state time of next update  
Broken marker buoy – follow up on ensuring that this is dealt with when the weather is suitable

Michael: Look into the dial-a-taxi provision

Fiona: Send ferry update link to the Clerk

Sheena: Send mobile number to the Clerk

Clerk: Ask for update on 4G mast  
Circulate mobile number  
Circulate link for update service

**Chair Signature**

**Signed**.....