

Skerries Community Council

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 24th February 2023

Held in Skerries Community Hall

Present:

Bertha Anderson (Chair)

Marina Anderson

Janice Hughson

In attendance:

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes)

Roselyn Fraser, SIC Community & Development Officer.

1) Apologies

Douglas Anderson, Frances Anderson, Marina Tait, Robert Thomson.

Bertha welcomed everyone for coming, and thanked Roselyn for the event that she had organised to have in the hall on Friday morning.

2) Declaration of Interest to any agenda Item

Chairperson 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 20th January 2023, were approved. Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson.

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

4.1 Contact Burial Services re kirkyard drainage

The Clerk contacted Burial Service and requested getting the kirkyard drained. Burial Services requested information on who owned the land adjacent to the yard. The Clerk has sent the required information; Burial Services say that they have now added these possible improvement works to their schedule

4.2 Contact NHS re GP visits

The Clerk contacted the Chief Nurse, who sent back a very informative email, which was circulated to the SCC Committee. Included in the email was that the doctor and/or nurse can certainly come to Skerries if needed, but if there is not a clinical need for them to come to the Skerries then they would not come. If there is an urgent need to see a doctor or nurse, they will accommodate with days/times within the Whalsay surgery to ensure Skerries patients will be fitted in when they can manage to get to Whalsay.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate a message reminding residents that if they need to see a nurse or doctor, then they should contact Janice, Health Care Support Worker, to get an appointment arranged. Medical staff would not be coming to Skerries unless there is a need for them to be there. Whalsay surgery offers daily phone appointments with the doctor; that is open to any patients whether in Whalsay or Skerries.

It was agreed that it would be helpful if the Health Care Support Worker could put up a notice, or circulate information, on the dates that she will be away from Skerries. In the past the nurse put a slip of paper with the mail giving information on dates/times she would be away.

Action: Clerk to send request to Janice W

4.3 Disposal of old cars

The Clerk circulated an email requesting that anyone who has old cars that needed disposing of to get in touch. If there were enough cars that needed disposal then the Clerk would endeavour to arrange a community run for the purpose of removing the cars. A notice was also displayed in both shops, but there was very little interest. Therefore the Clerk sent out a message stating that due to lack of response it has been decided not to request a community run for the transport of old cars at this time. If at some point in the future there is a need for this to be brought up, the possibility of a community run to take away cars that need to be disposed of will be looked at again.

4.4 Contact Hall Committee re broadband

A member of the Hall Committee has checked the broadband connection at the hall, and found that it could be better; it was thought that if an aerial were to be placed outside the reception would improve. There is still some of the Distribution Fund left that could be used to help buy the necessary equipment. This is ongoing.

5) **Correspondence Received**

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

6) **AOCB**

6.1 Storage box for sports equipment at the multi-court

A discussion was held on the possibility of getting a heavy-duty storage box for keeping tennis racquets, balls, and any other sports equipment that is left near the school premises. It was pointed out that there is a storage box at the kitchen door, near the school entrance, that could possibly be used. It was agreed to ask if this could be moved nearer the multi-court and used for the storage of sports equipment.

Action: Clerk to send a request to School Estates

6.2 Skips/Bins

The possibility of getting more user-friendly skips/bins for general rubbish was discussed. It has been suggested that getting metal bins on wheels, similar to the ones that are currently in places such as Stocketgaet and Gremmasgaet would be an improvement. The Clerk has already sent a request to the Waste Management Department of the council, but has so far not received any response. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a further request.

Action: Clerk to send a further request to Waste Management

6.3 Transporting frozen food on the ferry

It was noted that on some occasions, although not always, that the frozen food being transported on the ferry was not being kept in a freezer/frozen facility on the ferry. This means that sometimes frozen food is thawing/thawed out by the time it reaches Skerries. This could be a health hazard, and needs to be addressed. A large cool box could solve the problem; there used to be a refrigerated/cool box on the ferry, but it is broken. It was agreed for the Clerk to request that a cool box be purchased for the ferry, for the transport of frozen goods.

Action: Clerk to send a request to Ferry Operations

6.4 Monday Ferry booking problems

As discussed at a previous meeting, there have now been problems with booking the Monday ferry that leaves Laxo at 2.00, goes to Whalsay, and on to Skerries. Passengers for Skerries have been unable to book the Laxo – Whalsay leg of the journey. It was agreed to ask again if there was any possibility of reserving two places on the ferry for Skerries passengers. It was felt that this should not pose too many problems because if there are no cars for Skerries on Monday at 2.00 pm, then un-booked Whalsay cars could use the

spaces. The other option would be to do a block booking for two vehicles, for each Monday afternoon trip.

Action: Clerk to send a request to Ferry Operations

6.5 Transport of Medication

On some occasions there have been problems lately with the transport of medication to Skerries.

It appears to be the case that if the medication does not come on the Friday ferry, it could be another week before it is delivered to Skerries. There could be serious implications to people's health if medication is not brought in to Skerries at the specified time/date. Skerries patients normally order medication the week before it is due, and in the past there have not been any problems, but recently there have been issues with getting the medication in to Skerries on Fridays.

There are more options now - the ferry is in Lerwick on Thursday; medication comes from Scalloway, so it could be put in the Filla while it is in Lerwick, then taken to Skerries on Friday morning. The ferry is locked up at night, so that should not be a problem.

After discussion it was agreed for the Clerk to send information regarding the problem with getting medication to Skerries on Fridays to Ferry Operations, as well as relevant NHS Shetland personnel.

Action: Clerk to send email to Ferry operations/NHS Personnel

6.6 Clerk pay

It was noted that an email had come from Michael Duncan with information that the Clerk's pay had gone up, back-dated to April 2022. The committee agreed that the Clerk should receive the back pay.

Message from Pat Christie

Roselyn passed on a message from Pat Christie, to say that she is missing everyone.

7) Date of the next meeting – The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Skerries Community Hall on Friday, 7th April 2023.

Actions – Clerk:

- Send request to Janice W, for dates of when she will be away from Skerries
- Request to School Estates to move storage box
- Send a further request to Waste Management, asking for more user-friendly bins
- Request Ferry Operations to arrange cold food storage unit/box on the ferry
- Ask Ferry Operations about reserving two places on Monday afternoon ferry
- Send email to Ferry operations/NHS Personnel regarding problems with the transport of medication to Skerries

Proposed dates for 2023 meetings:

April	7 th	2023
May	19 th	2023
June	30 th	2023

August	11 th	2023
September	22 nd	2023
November	3 rd	2023
December	15 th	2023

Chair Signature

Signed.....