

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a hybrid meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held at the Walls Public Hall on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
F MacBeath (Vice Chair)
M Macgregor
E Johnston
M Forrest
J Gear
J Haswell
S Johnston
Cllr M Robinson

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

Michael Duncan, J Puckey, J Laing, Cllr L Peterson, C Venus

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), R Fraser (Community Involvement and Development Officer), J MacBeath (S&WCC Director on Shetland Community Benefit Fund Board)

3. Declarations of Interest

None were made at this time.

4. Formal acceptance of Mr Sorley Johnston as Associate Member of the Sandness and Walls Community Council

Mr Sorley Johnston was nominated as an associate member of the Sandness and Walls Community Council by M Macgregor and seconded by M Forrest. He accepted the nomination and was welcomed by the Chair.

5. Police Report

Members were referred to the email of 14th December 2022 from Sergeant Alexander Barry concerning police related incidents in October and November of 2022. It was noted that one incident had taken place in that time in the Sandness and Walls area.

6. Minutes from 30.11.22

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 30th November 2022 was proposed by F MacBeath and seconded by M Macgregor.

7. Matters Arising

Re: 10 of 30/11/22 Request by Billy Mycock (Environmental Health re: ASB Strategy) to attend a Community Council meeting

The Clerk stated that he had received a call from the Clerk of the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council requesting that those members of the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council who wish to attend Mr Mycock's presentation come to the Sandness and Walls meeting to do so. This was approved by the S&WCC Members.

Action: The Clerk to inform the Clerk to the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council of this decision.

Re: 14 of 10/22 AOCB (Track to Littla Boust, Sandness)

Reference was made to an emailed letter from Mr Brian Ashley (Chair of the Sandness Community Development Group) regarding the issue of coastal erosion in several places in Sandness. The main concern related to the access track to properties at Littla Boust. During the discussion, it was acknowledged that the Community Council did not have access to the necessary funding to prevent the track from being vulnerable to adverse weather conditions. The discussions included reference to the Local Authority's coastal erosion fund but it would appear this has been exhausted. In conclusion, it was agreed that the Sandness and Walls Community

Council would be willing to express their support for any preventative and remedial works in the Sandness area.

Re: 14 of 11/22 Pre Planning Consultation S4GI008

Concerns were expressed that some major mobile phone network providers may be unwilling to use the proposed mast at the Walls Water Pumping Station.

8. Housing

The Chair indicated that Cllr L Peterson is due to attend a housing seminar and that she will raise the issue of the need for social housing in the Sandness and Walls area.

9. Roads

8.1 Administrative work towards improving the A971

The Chair stated that the necessary administrative procedures towards the planned improvements to the A971 from the West Burrafirth junction to Da Punds in Walls are underway and are being evaluated through the 'Gateway' process.

8.2 Street Lighting in Walls

M Forrest stated that work on replacing the street lighting in Walls was currently being carried out.

10. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre

The Clerk stated that no recent correspondence had been received on this matter. At a previous meeting with Health and Social Care representatives, members had been given to understand that GP locum cover would be in place until March. The view was expressed that the Community Council should meet again with the representatives to ascertain what is to be provided after this time.

11. Electricity Supply Resilience for the West Side of Shetland

11.1 Expressions of Gratitude

This item was raised following a major loss of electricity supply in parts of Shetland during a severe snow storm in December 2022. Members were unanimous in their praise of the Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) engineers who battled against the elements to restore supply as quickly as was possible. They also

wished that their gratitude to the large number of local volunteers who helped to support the communities most effected be recorded in the minutes. This support ranged from the provision of hot meals to providing transport for people to local centres where food, warmth and electricity were available.

11.2 Petrol supply issues

The fact that the Walls Shop has not been able to sell petrol for a number of years was raised given that acquiring fuel for private petrol generators had proved problematical during the power outage. After some discussion it was acknowledged that this is a commercial matter.

11.3 Electricity Supply Resilience

Members wished to know if there is a strategic plan regarding the future maintenance and replacement of electricity poles to mitigate against a similar occurrence.

Action: The Clerk to write to SSEN to thank them for the work they did in restoring power to the residents of the Sandness and Walls area and to ask about their plans for the resilience of supply to the Sandness and Walls area.

12. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

12.1 Possible Funding Request

The Clerk stated he had received an enquiry from a representative of a local organisation regarding a possible grant application to the SCBF.

12.2 Update from the Sandness and Walls Community Council's Director on the SCBF Board

Mr Jamie MacBeath thanked the members for re-electing him to the SCBF Board. He stated that the independent consultation exercise regarding how the fund will operate when the wind farm goes live in 2024 is moving on satisfactorily. He went on to describe how the SCBF have been in negotiations with other local sustainable energy providers and potential providers. As far as applications to the SCBF are concerned, over £0.5m have given out in grants to date. The Chair thanked Mr MacBeath for his work on behalf of the community and for his presentation.

13. Financial Update

The Clerk briefed the members regarding the current status of the Community Council's funds. He stated that he was still awaiting paperwork for one unadopted road application. He pointed out that administration charges when spent would deplete the funds to a point where no other grants could be considered in this financial year. This meant that a request for funding by a local organisation would have to be deferred until the new financial year.

14. Correspondence (Including emails)

The Clerk indicated that no correspondence had been received other than that already circulated via email.

15. AOCB

No matters were raised under this heading.

16. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 7th February in the Walls Hall at 7 pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Draft minutes of the January 2023 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting