

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson

Fiona Mitchell
Stackhoull
Fair Isle
Shetland ZE2 9JU
Tel: 01595 760314

Clerk

Shirley Leslie
Ringesta
Quendale
Shetland ZE2 9JD
Tel: 01950 460922

E-mail: dunrossness.cc@gmail.com

Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 24th April 2023 via Zoom.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Aileen Brown	Irvine Burgess	Dawna Phillips
Helen Moncrieff	Agnes Tallack	Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)	

APOLOGIES

Allen Sinclair	Vicky Tylsar	Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)
Ana Arnett (SIC)		

ABSENT

Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)	Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)
Michael Duncan (SIC)	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

23/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23/02 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 27th March 2023 was adopted on the motion of Irvine, subject to the following amendment

ABSENT : Agnes had given her apologies

The Minute of the special meeting held on 31st March 2023 was adopted on the motion of Fiona, subject to the following amendment.

PRESENT : Helen had attended

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23/03 POLICE REPORT

A Police Report for the months of February and March 2023 had been received and reported as follows:

There have been 7 incidents for Dunrossness which can be summarised as follows:

- Concern for Person
- Fraud (2)
- Medical Matter
- Public Nuisance
- Communications Misuse
- Dangerous Driving

23/04 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

- a) **Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light:** There was nothing new to report and Irvine later confirmed that the light still doesn't appear to be working.
- b) **'Abandoned' Road Signs –** Gary Mainland reported that he thinks all the 'abandoned' signs belong to contractors and not the Council but he will deal with them.
- c) **Good Shepherd Crew:** The Clerk had emailed Andrew Inkster, SIC, reference concerns regarding the long standing crew vacancy on the MV Good Shepherd. Mr Inkster had replied that the job profile and person specification is currently being re-drafted and he hopes to have it with the HR team in the very near future. The HR team will then be able to advise on timescales for advertising. He also confirmed that, in the meantime, he has 'cover arrangements in place' and that both the Master and Fair Isle Community are fully updated on arrangements to ensure the service is maintained.

- 2) **Proposed Kirk Yard Bench:** The Clerk reported that she had contacted AA Fencing who will hopefully be able to instal the concrete plinth for the bench soon.

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23/04 MATTERS ARISING (Continued)

- 3) Mainland's Mini Market Defibrillator:** The Clerk reported that Lizzy of Lucky2BHere had been in contact and confirmed that they are happy for the defibrillator to be moved from the shop if necessary. She had also confirmed that she can organise the sourcing of a new cabinet for whoever takes over responsibility for the upkeep of the unit. The Clerk suggested that Mainlands Mini Market should be contacted to confirm whether or not they wish to take on the maintenance of the unit, and if not, the matter be passed to the Dunrossness Hall. This was agreed.

23/05 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) Core Funding:** The Clerk reported that she had emailed the SIC requesting to draw down the Community Council's allocated Core Funding of £9546 for the year 2023/24.
- 2) Community Development Fund Grant Scheme:** The Clerk reported that she had applied for the maximum £3000 Distribution Fund Grant. Once again, there is also a £1000 Project Grant available should the Community Council wish to apply.

23/06 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

- 1) Proposed Public Toilets at Jarlshof:** Helen reported that she had attended a meeting in her role as RSPB Shetland Islands Manager regarding a proposal to create public toilets at Jarlshof and possibly a hub with vehicle charging points and visitor centre. A feasibility study is to be carried out and it is hoped to engage with the community through this. It was noted that there is a definite lack of public toilet facilities in the area but Irvine confirmed that the ones at Grutness will be redeveloped at some stage as part of the works associated with the new Fair Isle ferry. Helen agreed to keep the Community Council updated with progress regarding the Jarlshof area proposal.

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23/07 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Bryan Peterson provided the below report:

- 1) **Sandwick JHS** – A new Head Teacher has been appointed following the readvertisement of the post and will be starting mid August. Education inspectors are expected back early May. Bryan believes those parents who have requested places for their children at the Anderson High School are leaving these in place until the findings of the latest inspection are known.
- 2) **Swimming Lessons** – The Education Department are currently consulting teachers and parents on the provision of swimming lessons through the schools. The current system costs £100,000 in Shetland Recreational Trust fees and a further £50,000 on transport (buses) for 6 swimming lessons per child per year. Bryan reported that some have suggested that not learning to swim would be a safety risk in an island community although it was agreed that swimming in a heated pool is very different to falling into the sea and that maybe children should therefore be taught basic sea survival. Some parents pay privately for additional swimming lessons for their children and Aileen pointed out that school lessons therefore create accessibility for those who can't afford private. It was agreed that there surely is an alternative way to provide a more financially efficient method of subsidising lessons.

23/08 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

- 1) **Development Manager:** A Development Manager has been appointed and it is hoped to advertise an Administration Post, based on Fair Isle, soon.
- 2) **Bird Observatory:** Work is due to resume in May although there are one or two points to be overcome first ie. getting cranes in place etc
- 3) **Fibre Optic:** Engineers are due in Fair Isle to connect the fibre optic from North Haven to the island's properties.

23/08 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Community Council Scheme Review:** The members agreed, having previously put forward their views on increasing the level of Core Funding awarded to Community Councils and the frequency of Community Council elections, that they had no further feedback to add.

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23/08 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

2) Community Consultation - Reimagining Burials in Shetland – Management of Burial Grounds, Capacity & Access Roads: The objective of a recently held seminar was for all Council Members to be appraised and to develop an understanding of the issues and pressures faced in determining the following:

- A strategy for burial grounds in Shetland approaching capacity and the options available to achieve this.
- The future closure or transfer of historical burial grounds where alternative burial grounds have already been identified.
- The need for resources for the legal administration, ownership and maintenance of burial ground access roads and options to resolve these.

At the outset of the seminar, it was appreciated, by all parties, that the subject matter is emotive and any decisions made will be especially challenging in today's financial climate. The members highlighted the need for wider consultation with Community Councils and a need for clear and transparent communication.

The main points taken from the seminar were:

- Move slowly and involve Community Councils in shaping the final report options.
- Reimagine provision within Community Council areas, not wards.
- It is deemed acceptable that new burial grounds could have a lower specification such as post and wire rabbit proof fencing, possibly with tree planted borders.
- Our focus should be on the newer burial grounds where ownership and access are already established.

A further proposal which will be explored is "rewilding" as an alternative to grass cutting. This would, in the long term, support biodiversity by increasing and reintroducing native wildflowers etc.

It was noted that no timescale was mentioned in the document. Irvine believed this consultation has been prompted by a change in legislation due to come into force in a couple of years. It was also noted that the possibility of a local crematorium being constructed in the future is not included in the consultation and it was therefore agreed to suggest this be considered.

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23/08 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

3) Shetland Amenity Trust – Help Shape the Future of the Past: The Amenity Trust are at the beginning of a project to conserve Old Scatness, making it more robust and sustainable for the future. As part of this, they are undertaking a community engagement programme and the Engagement Team would therefore like to attend a Community Council meeting to hear the members thoughts. However, the members felt that the anticipated hour long session was a bit long for inclusion in a regular meeting and asked the Clerk to enquire if this can be condensed.

23/09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for consideration.

23/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 29th MAY 2023.**