

Skerries Community Council

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 30th June 2023

In Skerries Community Hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

Paul James, Kia James and Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes)

1) Apologies

Roselyn Fraser.

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 held on the 19th May 2023, were approved.
Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Frances Anderson.

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

4.1 Circulate Islands With Small Populations (IWSP) email

This was done; this item is now closed.

4.2 Contact council staff re user-friendly bins

The Clerk sent a further email to the appropriate department in the council, but so far has not received any reply.

Douglas and Violet brought this up when they attended the IWSP In Person event on the 23rd of June. The Executive Manager Environment & Estate Operations was at the event, so a discussion was held with him; he was going to follow it up to see if a solution could be found. It was agreed for the Clerk to send an email to ask for an update.

Action: Clerk to ask for an update

4.3 Chest Freezer

It was noted that following a request from the Community Council, there is now a chest freezer in the passenger lounge of the Filla. This is so that passengers who wish to transport frozen items can keep the food frozen on the journey to Skerries.

There used to be a cool box, which had broken some time ago – it was agreed that, unless anyone thought otherwise, that the chest freezer in the passenger lounge is sufficient. This item is closed.

5) Marker Buoy in the South Mouth

While attending the IWSP event Douglas spoke to the Executive Manager of Ferry Operations about the broken marker buoy in the South Mouth and asked for it to be fixed. This will be looked at after the Executive Manager returns from leave.

6) Community Consultation – Burials in Shetland

There was a discussion about the information that was circulated regarding the consultation on the provision of burial grounds in Shetland. Any comments are to be submitted by the end of July. As it appears that there is no immediate problem in Skerries it was decided that there would be no need to comment at this time.

It was noted that the drainage trench that has been cut out around the graveyard has the deepest part of the ditch is near the gate – it would have been better draining away from the graveyard, rather than towards it. It was felt that this may not be a solution to the problem. It was agreed that members of the Community Council should go and have a look at how the ditch has been cut out.

7) Review of Community Councils

The Clerk reminded members that Shetland Islands Council (SIC) is currently carrying out a review of Community Councils. All information has already been circulated to members; any further information will be circulated as soon as it comes in.

8) Finance

The Clerk informed members that the money has come through for running the Community Council. Also, the applications for £3,000 from the Distribution Fund and £1,000 for skips were approved, and the money is now in Skerries Community Council's bank account.

9) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

10) AOCB

10.1 Vidlin Ferry Pier

Concerns were expressed about the state of the Vidlin Ferry Pier. Boulders are coming down, and some of the wood is useless. It was agreed that this should be brought to the attention of the Executive Manager of Ferry Operations.

Action: Clerk to contact Executive Manager of Ferry Operations

10.2 Update on clearing up the West Voe and Stringavoe

People from the SIC were recently in Skerries, and did a check on the progress of tidying up the remains of the Salmon Farm. It was noted that most of the equipment is now onshore; the Community Council were asked if there were any updates on what would be happening next. It was agreed that the SCC does not have any information on what will be happening, so no update can be provided at this time.

10.3 Power Point for the Pier

There was a discussion on the possibility of getting a power point at the pier, for the use of visiting yachts, and/or caravans. No decision was made at this time.

10.4 Drains

It was noted that some stones and gravel has fallen on to the side of the road above the old hall – a mini landslide. It was agreed for the Clerk to send an email to the Roads Department, asking for this to be dealt with, as the drains will most likely be affected.

Action: Clerk to contact Roads Department

10.5 Shetland Community Benefit Fund – request for member of SCC to attend board meetings

As the meetings are held on Wednesday evenings, it would mean that anyone attending from Skerries would have to be away from home from Tuesday morning until Thursday evening.

Some names were suggested of people, who live on the Mainland, that may be able to attend the meetings on behalf of Skerries. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk is to send an email asking if one of them would be willing to attend meetings on behalf of the Skerries community.

Action: Clerk to request volunteers for attending SCBF meetings

10.6 Paint for the benches

It was agreed that money should be provided to buy paint for the community benches. If the Community Council cannot afford to pay for the paint, then the Development Group could be approached for the funds.

10.7 Copper phone lines due to be cut off

The clerk informed members that, during the meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils, the upcoming problems that could be incurred due to the old-fashioned phone system coming to an end by the end of 2025 was discussed. The UK's traditional phone service network will be discontinued, which means any old-fashioned landlines using it will cease to function.

The minutes of the meeting have not been circulated yet, but when they come out the Clerk will send them out straight away. It was felt that cutting off the traditional phone network could have serious implications for rural communities. Skerries can't be left completely cut off. The Clerk suggested that people should look on the internet for information on what is happening, and information on when the cut-off will be happening in Shetland.

11) **Proposed date of the next meeting: 11th August 2023**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on the 11th August. The meeting will be held in Skerries Community Hall.

Actions – Clerk:

Ask for an update on any progress with getting more user-friendly bins
Contact Executive Manager of Ferry Operations
Contact Roads Department
Email asking for volunteers to attend SCBF meetings

Proposed dates for 2023 meetings:

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

Chair Signature

Signed.....