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| DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL |
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Chairperson

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 26th June 2023 in Dunrossness Primary School.

PRESENT

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Aileen Brown (Chair) | Irvine Burgess | Dawna Phillips | Vicky Tylsar |
| Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio) | | Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio) | |
| Ana Arnett (SIC) | | | |

APOLOGIES

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| Fiona Mitchell | Agnes Tallack | Allen Sinclair |
| Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio) | Michael Duncan (SIC) | |

ABSENT

Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio) Helen Moncrieff

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk) Val Turner (Shetland Amenity Trust)

23/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23/23 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 29th May 2023 was adopted on the motion of Dawna.

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23/24 POLICE REPORT

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

There have been 6 incidents for Dunrossness which can be summarised as follows:

- Neighbour Dispute (3)
- Threatening or Abusive Behaviour
- Vandalism
- Concern for Person

Police Scotland have held “Coffee with a Cop” events in 8 different halls and centres around Shetland over the last 2 months to meet and have a chat with communities. They were joined by Trading Standards and Victim Support Scotland. The main reason for the events had been to increase awareness of scams and frauds, but also to engage with local communities and to hear about any local issues. Community Councils are still welcome to request and event in their area and these will look to be scheduled for after the summer.

23/25 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

- a) Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light:** The Clerk had chased this item up with Carl Symons, SIC who had replied and apologised that he seemed to have missed our email but would get the matter investigated that week.

2) Proposed Kirk Yard Bench: There was nothing new to report.

3) Mainland’s Mini Market Defibrillator: There was nothing new to report.

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23/26 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) Ability Shetland – To provide sensory kits for use by autistic children and adults visiting specific locations ie halls, shops, airport etc in the South Mainland:** Following the Clerks request for additional information regarding this proposed project, Stephanie Bain had replied as follows:

“The bags will have a laminate note in them for people to notify the venue if there are any items missing, who will then inform us and we will replace them. We will ensure that we check in with venues regularly to check the bags, and replace any items required. This is a pilot project so if they are deemed to be successful then we will seek further funding from other places to continue and expand. Keeping communication with venues will be important to get their views on the bags usefulness and the process for handing them out too. We do not see this as being a service that is going to be inundated with requests for usage but will be an option that offers inclusion.”

The members agreed to award the sum of £395 (90% of the cost of the project) on the motion of Irvine, seconded by Vicky.

- 2. Voluntary Action Shetland – Renewal of Membership:** It was unanimously agreed to renew the Community Councils membership of VAS

Val Turner, Shetland Amenity Trust, joined the meeting at 7.20pm

23/27 SHETLAND AMENITY TRUST – OLD SCATNESS

The members welcomed Val Turner, Shetland Regional Archaeologist, to the meeting. Val reported that Shetland Amenity Trust is at the beginning of a project to conserve Old Scatness, making it more robust and sustainable for the future and, as part of this project, are undertaking a community engagement programme. When it was decided to excavate the broch on the site, it had never been anticipated that a whole village would be found. However, the site is currently very fragile, unlike Clickimin and Jarlshof and therefore the need now is to protect the site. In order to do this, five options for the site were considered by the Amenity Trust. They were:

1. Do nothing and potentially let it fall down – this option has already been rejected!
2. Cover with a dome – a funding bid for this option was previously made in 2013 and failed. On hindsight, this was not considered a bad thing as the ongoing costs would have been unsustainable.
3. Backfill the site.
4. Carry out a treatment incorporating the use of concrete as was done at Jarlshof in the past.
5. Jarlshof type treatment plus a bit more in a more modern way

23/27

23/27 SHETLAND AMENITY TRUST – OLD SCATNESS (Continued)

The Amenity Trust decided that a business plan for the next step forward should be drawn up incorporating what the community would like to see happen to the site. So far feedback indicates that people would like to see the site preserved in a way that it can still be viewed by visitors, but Val wasn't sure if this was only because those who have engaged with the consultation are those who are interested in the archaeology of the site.

Some minor works have previously been undertaken but parts of the structures are still very unstable and in danger of collapse, if not treated carefully. Irvine enquired what is the biggest threat to Old Scatness, people walking over the site unsupervised or the environment? Val replied people. The site is currently only officially open on Fridays as a guide is required in order to keep visitors safe from injury. Walking in the wrong areas could potentially creating a collapse of stones. Aileen enquired how much archaeology is still buried at the site. Val replied that this is unknown, but there is possibly even earlier structures underneath what has already been exposed but there is no intention to sacrifice what we already have in order to confirm this. Alex enquired if it was possible that more 'digs' would be carried out at the site. Val replied that this is possible as the Amenity Trust also owns the area of land to the south of the access track to Betty Mouat's Bod. The Bod is currently not being utilised as it is not considered to be financially viable. Vicky enquired how many the Bod can sleep and Val replied 10 to 12, split over 2 rooms. The members considered it a shame that the Bod is not currently in use, especially considering the demand for visitor accommodation in Shetland over the summer months. However, there is always the option it could be brought back into use in some form in the future.

Val left the meeting at 8pm

23/28 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils - Irvine had attended the recent ASCC meeting and reported as follows:

- a) British Telecom – Analogue to Digital Switch Over:** BT are still 'ploughing on' with their project to switch from analogue to digital with no plans to keep any of the old system in place to avoid issues of vulnerable customers being left without any means of telephone / homelink contact during power failures. SIC Emergency Planning are investigating this issue as central government appear uninterested. Although there is currently no solution to this problem, a solution is being investigated by various people.

23/28 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1. Association of Shetland Community Councils (Continued)

- b) 'The Shetland Way' Hiking Path:** The proposed path running from Hermaness to Sumburgh has not been met favourably by all. Among other things, concerns were raised with regard to the numbers using the path and the potential disturbance to natural habitats by people walking freely through areas of land.
- c) Small Islands Meeting:** SIC had held a meeting for the outlying islands with small populations to look at the next steps with regard to the Locality Plan and what these Islands would like to see happening next. Ana reported that representatives from each of the outlying islands had been invited to the meeting along with NHS, Fire & Rescue and Scottish Government Islands Team. The meeting had been well attended and Bryan stated that he had found it very positive and was interested to see the different requirements by different islands.

23/29 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Bryan Peterson provided the below report:

- 1) Fair Isle Ferry –** A seminar had been held recently with regard to the new Fair Isle Ferry project. It was noted that the project needs to be completed by 2026 due to the funding window. A large number of people have been assigned to the project in order to meet this requirement. It was also noted that the Fair Isle Ferry crew are being consulted regularly during this process.
Following a query at the Community Council's meeting in May, Fiona had obtained information on the proposed working hours for the project from Jack Wiseman, SIC Planning Officer. Construction hours are proposed to be Monday to Friday 0700 to 1900, Saturday 0700 to 1300 with no working on Sundays or Bank Holidays. HGV delivery hours are proposed to be Monday to Friday 0800 to 1700, Saturday 0800 to 1200 with no deliveries on Sundays or Bank Holidays. Mr Wiseman also reported that he has recommended that the SIC add planning conditions requiring that these hours are complied with.

23/30 FAIR ISLE

- 1) Bird Observatory:** All the modules are now on-site and it is hoped to have the building wind and watertight by September.

23/31 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Rerwick Beach:** A formal approach has been made to SIC Outdoor Access and NatureScot to ensure signage is placed at Rerwick Beach. Currently none exists and the number of recorded 'incidents' at this popular seal-viewing site is increasing. The site is a designated halt out and protected by law under the Marine Scotland Act. Signage detailing the importance of the site, a required code of conduct and a statement regarding the legal position with regards to their protection and a predetermined access route is sought.
- 2) **Scottish Government – Planning Phase 3 Permitted Development Rights Review – Public Consultation:** The Phase 3 consultation was launched on 31 May and runs until 23 August. In light of the cost and climate crises, Phase 3 of the review focusses primarily on new and extended PDR for domestic and non-domestic renewable energy equipment. The proposals would streamline the planning process for various zero and low carbon technologies, such as solar panels and heat pumps. The proposed changes are intended to support households and businesses who are looking to reduce bills and emissions by adapting their properties. Other proposals in the Phase 3 consultation relate to electricity network infrastructure, reverse vending machines, certain domestic flues and the temporary use of land. Further details can be found on the Scottish Government website.
- 3) **SSEN Resilient Communities Fund** – This fund is now open for applications, with a deadline of 31 July 2023. However, a local emergency plan must also be submitted with the application. Ana thought that some local emergency plans might have been drawn up and that a draft may be becoming available. Shetland as a whole has an Emergency Plan for various scenarios, however, last year's snow was worse than any of the scenarios which had been drawn up. The Plan is constantly being revised.

23/32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) **Service Buses** – Alex reported that retendering for local buses routes will be taking place in the next 12 months and he wondered if the members considered there was a need for additional evening buses to the South Mainland. The members agreed that they would support this proposal as it would open up more options for local residents to participate / attend more things in the town.
- 2) **Road Markings** – Dawna noted that the white road markings on the main road between Vatchley and Levenwick are very poor / non existent which makes driving in the area very difficult in poor lighting such as fog. It was agreed to write to SIC Roads regarding this.

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23/33 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 28th AUGUST 2023**