

# **Skerries Community Council (SCC)**

## **Minute of meeting held at 2.30 pm on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

### **In Skerries Community Hall**

**Present:**

Bertha Anderson (Vice Chair)  
Frances Anderson  
Marina Anderson  
Janice Hughson  
Marina Tait  
Paul James  
Jilly Ash  
Bert Vanstone  
Theo Smith  
Beatrice Wishart - MSP

**In attendance:**

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes)

**1) Apologies**

Roselyn Fraser.

Bertha welcomed everyone to the meeting, pleased to see so many people in attendance.

Bertha said, at this point we want to remember our Chairman, who sadly passed away, he did a good job working with Skerries Community Council for so many years, and sadly missed by us all.

**2) Filling Vacancies**

**2a Appointing a new full member to SCC**

Paul James stated that he would like to join the membership of Skerries Community Council (SCC). This was approved by the members. Proposed by Marina Anderson, Seconded by Janice Hughson.

**2b Appointment of Chair to SCC**

Paul James was the only member who came forward for the position of Chair. This was unanimously agreed to; proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Janice Hughson. Paul James is now Chair of Skerries Community Council – it was agreed that Bertha, as Vice Chair, would continue to chair the rest of the current meeting, and Paul will step in to chair the next one.

Bertha asked if anyone would like to put themselves forward for the Vice Chair position; no-one came forward.

**2c Appointing Associate member/s**

Jilly Ash came forward to be an Associate member, this was agreed; proposed by Bertha Anderson, seconded by Frances Anderson.

**3) Declaration of Interest to any agenda Item**

Chairperson asked for declaration of interests – there were no declarations of interest.

**4) Minutes of last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, were approved.  
Proposed by Frances Anderson, seconded by Marina Tait.

**5) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting**

**4.1 Contact council staff re user-friendly bins**

The Clerk sent a further email to the appropriate department in the council, the reply received was not very encouraging. It was agreed that the Clerk would send another email, asking again for more user-friendly bins.

**Action: Clerk to send another email**

**4.2 Contact Executive Manager of Ferry Operations – re Vidlin Pier**

The Clerk sent the email on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, and received the reply that they are confident they have both matters in hand, and will give a more detailed update as soon as relevant staff come back from annual leave. This information was circulated to SCC members.

**4.3 Contact Roads Department – re Braekins rubble**

This email was sent – awaiting further information.

**4.4 Email asking for volunteers to attend SCBF meetings**

The Clerk sent out the email and did get some replies. This still has to be followed up with SCBF.

**Action: Clerk to contact SCBF**

**6) 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.

**7) Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill**

This was discussed; it was felt that the footfall in Skerries would be too low to be affected by this.

**8) Correspondence Received**

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

**9) AOCB**

**8.1 Power Point for the Pier**

The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant person regarding the possibility of getting a power point installed at the Bruray Pier, which could be used by visiting yachts.

**Action: Clerk to ask for power point at Bruray Pier**

**8.2 Copper phone lines – to be cut off in 2025**

This was discussed – it is felt that this could have a serious impact on the health and safety of people living in remote areas, such as Skerries. Many people in Skerries do not have reception, so this will have to be sorted out, they cannot leave people with no means of communication. This could have serious consequences in a case of emergency.

Beatrice agreed to check what is happening with this, and will get back to the SCC with any relevant information.

**8.3 Fire and Rescue Services**

Paul has been trying to get in touch with Fire and Rescue Services, so far without success. There is a lack of fire cover, Paul has been sending letters and emails to the Fire Service making enquiries about their statutory responsibility, but so far, he has not received any reply. Paul has recently been working on a Risk Register for Skerries; he is hoping to get a response once that piece work is finished, and everything is laid out in black and white. This needs to be addressed; Paul will write to them again and copy in the SCC and the MSP into the correspondence.

The dangers with transporting electric cars was discussed; Beatrice has been in contact with Northlink about this and will share the information that came back with the Clerk, so that it can be circulated.

**8.4 Kirkyard – Problems with rabbits**

The problem with rabbits getting into the kirkyard was discussed. Some net has been put on the wall, which appears to have had some success, so they are hoping to be able to put up some more. After discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to contact Pest Control at the council to ask for suggested solutions. There is a problem with the huge population of rabbits in Skerries now.

**Action: Clerk to contact Pest Control**

**8.5 Problems with weeds**

The problem with a certain type of weeds, particularly hogweed, was discussed, it was agreed that the Clerk would ask for suggested solutions to the problem.

**Action: Clerk to ask for suggestions re weed problem**

**8.6 Leaflets for the waiting room**

The waiting room has run out of the peerie tourist leaflets. It was agreed for the Clerk to find out where to get them from and to ask for more.

**Action: Clerk to ask for more leaflets**

**8.7 Kirk**

There will have to be a meeting organised to discuss the kirk. This will have to be a Skerries Development Group meeting.

**10) Proposed date of the next meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. The meeting will be held in Skerries Community Hall.

**Actions – Clerk:**

- Send another email re user-friendly bins
- Contact SCBF re membership of the Board
- Ask for power point at Bruray Pier
- Contact Pest Control re rabbit problem
- Ask for suggestions re weed problem
- Ask for more tourist leaflets

Proposed dates for 2023 meetings:

November	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2023
December	15 <sup>th</sup>	2023

**Chair Signature**

**Signed**.....