

Skerries Community Council (SCC)

Minute of meeting held at 1.30 pm on Friday, 27th October 2023

In Skerries Community Hall

Present:

Paul James - Chair
Frances Anderson
Marina Anderson
Jilly Ash
Janice Hughson
Kia James
Marina Tait

In attendance:

Violet McQuade, Clerk (notes)
Barbara Anderson
David Ashling – Partnership Officer - SIC
Emma Perring – Community Development – SIC
Lee Smith

1) Apologies

Bertha Anderson, Michael Duncan, Lynsey Hall

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 22nd September 2023, were approved.
Proposed by Marina Anderson, seconded by Frances Anderson.

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

4.1 Poor state of BT building in Bruray

The Chair has written to BT twice, but so far there has been no reply – he has escalated it. It was agreed to continue trying to contact BT.

4.2 Follow up on 'Where do we go from here?' discussion document

The Chair has been doing some more development on this. Lynsey circulated the document to Emma and David. Emma's commented that it would be useful to tie into the Locality Plan. It is a useful approach to monitor progress on how things are done, and tracked.

Where to take it next: in 2017 a Skerries Development Plan was produced, this is now out of date. The next step is to redraft and update that document, then that can then be the framework for what needs to be done, going forward. Emma suggested that the content of the one-page Locality Plan provides the overarching intent, whilst the work Paul will do provides the detail on actions required to achieve the aim and objectives.

4.3 Research on gym equipment

After making enquiries it was found that gym equipment would cost in the region of £40,000. Due to the high costs, and because it would not benefit many people on the island, it has been decided not to pursue this. This item is now closed.

4.4 Follow up on disposal of white goods and gas cylinders

The Chair has been in contact with the relevant department in Shetland Islands Council, but

so far there has not been any agreement on getting the items removed. It was agreed that the Clerk would try contacting the relevant department in the council. This is still ongoing.

Action: Clerk to contact the council

There was further discussion on skips, as discussed at previous meetings, and the problems that residents have getting rubbish in the skip, while at the same time trying to hold the lid up. It was pointed out that people can't put their rubbish bags out because of the seagulls, and if they have a box to put rubbish bags in then the vermin gets into the box. It was agreed that the Chair would follow this up with the council. This is still ongoing.

Action: Chair to contact the council

4.5 Proposal document – re accommodation

The Chair has raised the problems with getting accommodation on the Mainland of Shetland if islanders get stuck was discussed. The chair will pursue this further - this is ongoing.

4.6 Scottish Water - fence near the dam

The Chair has written to Scottish Water, but so far has not received any reply. He has raised the issue of the fence, and also the possibility of a contingency plan, in light of the dam being empty. Although there is a storage tank for emergencies, it was felt this should be brought to their attention. The Chair will follow this up – this is ongoing.

It was noted that both shops now have facilities for customers to pay by card.

5) Application for funding – from SDG

A Grant Application Form has been received from Skerries Development Group. The application was for £500 from the Distribution Fund to pay for environmental issues and vermin control. After discussion it was unanimously agreed, by all members present, to approve the grant.

6) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

7) AOCB

7.1 Views on review of Community Councils

There was a discussion on the current review of Community Councils. It was generally felt that it was not a good idea to combine the islands with small populations into one community council – this would be unworkable. Everyone has a chance to put their views forward, either electronically, or by completing the paper forms provided.

7.2 Marker Buoy

It was noted that a marker buoy had been removed from Skerries today. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries on what is happening with getting a replacement buoy for the South Mouth.

Action: Clerk to follow up on marker buoy

7.3 Query re cost of hiring the hall, and getting connectivity in the building.

There was a discussion regarding the cost of hiring the hall. Also, the possibility of getting connectivity equipment was discussed. Money was provided from last year's Distribution Fund for getting broadband installed – the Chair will follow this up. An audit of equipment in the hall was being carried out, this has still to be completed. The Chair agreed to speak to a member of the hall committee. This is ongoing.

Action: Chair – speak to Hall Committee

7.4 Maintenance job

The possibility of getting a post of a maintenance person was raised – this could include cutting the kirkyard grass. The Chair offered to draft up a role profile. The Community Council has formally raised this, so Emma will take it forward and speak to the relevant person in the council, who already manages the Community Maintenance post in Fetlar. It will also be added

to the Locality Plan. This may not be as straightforward as it was in Fetlar, but Emma will follow this up, and feedback to the Community Council.

Action: Emma to follow up/feedback

7.5 Fences at the school, and un-cleared rhones

A discussion was held on the barriers that the council promised to be provided – they were to be placed near the school premises, to keep sheep away from the playground. Although this had been promised in the beginning of the year, nothing has been done so far.

Playpark equipment would also need to be checked for safety.

Action: Chair to contact the council

Also, the rhones have still not been cleared. The MSP had made enquiries about getting the rhones cleared – she had been informed that the work had been completed, but the work still needs to be done - the relevant department in the SIC is aware of this. The MSP has contacted the council again after it was discovered that the information she had been provided with was incorrect. It was noted that due to the rhones not being cleared the path next to the school is very slimy, slippery and dangerous.

7.6 Litter bin at Fire Station

The litter bin at the fire station has disintegrated – this needs to be replaced. The rest of the bins around the islands may also need to be replaced.

Action: Chair to contact the council

8) Date of the next meeting

After discussion on a suitable date for the next meeting it was decided to hold the next meeting at 1.30 pm on Friday, 8th December, in Skerries Community Hall.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 pm

Actions:

- Chair to keep trying to get in touch with BT – *(continued from previous meeting)*
- Chair to follow up on getting user-friendly bins - *(continued from previous meeting)*
- Clerk to follow up on marker buoy
- Chair to follow up on 'Where do we go from here?' - *(continued from previous meeting)*
- Clerk to follow up on skip for white goods, gas cylinders - *(continued from previous meeting)*
- Chair put together a proposal document – re accommodation
- Chair - write to Scottish Water regarding fence at dam – *(continued from previous meeting)*
- Chair to approach Hall Committee regarding equipment/broadband
- Emma to raise possibility of maintenance post
- Chair to contact the council re school playground
- Chair to contact council regarding broken litter bins

Chair Signature

Signed.....