

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL ON TUESDAY, 19th September 2023 AT 7.45PM (WITH A TEAMS OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair
Lucy Cummings
James Smythe
Julie MacGuire ??

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Robert Thomson, SIC Elected Member
Ryan Thomson, SIC Elected Member (maybe)
Duncan Anderson, SIC Elected Member (maybe)
Carl Symons, SIC Executive Manager,
Environment & Estate Operations

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mike Fogarty, Michael Duncan, Dana Jamieson, Duncan Anderson and Ryan Thomson

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th of August were circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed - Lucy Cummings, Seconded – James Smythe

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lucy declared an interest for item 6. Juliet has no voting rights but also declared an interest in item 6.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.2/2 Visitor – Carl Symons, Executive Manager, Environment & Estate Operations– Community Maintenance Post

Carl met with Shona Thomson, Executive Manager for Schools Estate, Duncan Johnson, Manager of Isleshaven and Nordalea, and Frances Browne. They had a good meeting and explored some areas the Community Maintenance Post could expand in to. One of the main areas is community health support. It will need the post holder to be checked by the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme, as the post holder could be working on their own with vulnerable people. This can be done but as not part of contract will need an agreement from post holder. Once in place the role can expand and Duncan is happy to utilise it.

Additional works at the mothballed school were also discussed.

From Carl's point of view housing work is fine, but would depend on housing. CC not aware of issues at Stakkaflets at the moment. The roads team may appreciate extra help but some work is regulated so would depend on skills. Carl doesn't want to hinder role as long as skills and competences can be checked.

SAT have been in touch with Carl about the Maintenance Post undertaking maintenance of Bod and cutting grass on site. Frances Browne mentioned the post to the NHS when they were in for the Nursing meeting. Happy for the post holder to undertake duties for other organisations. There are some things to be checked, for example insurance, if undertaking work outwith SIC. Hopeful this can be overcome.

Additional duties will need to be agreed with Community Maintenance Post Holder. Carl wants the post to be successful and is happy for the Post Holder to take on more duties where appropriate and there is budget for this.

Group also discussed grass cutting at Stakkaflets. SIC Infrastructure manage grass cutting for amenities. Roads manage grass cutting for verges and Sports and Leisure or School Janitors manage grass cutting for parks and playgrounds. The contracts for grass cutting at Stakkaflets is yearly, so Stakkaflets could be taken out of that contract for next season. Verge cutting was also discussed. Roads have statutory duties to do with line of sight, so it requires a specific machine is used. Community Councillors noted that since verge cutting using the machine started, hogweed seems to have spread around the island. Some verges that are cut don't seem to be overgrown, but others where it is needed the cutting doesn't reach the fence.

Carl wished to express disappointment about recent fly tipping at the quarry. He expressed that it was difficult to ask his service to provide extra support to the island when islanders are leaving illegal waste at the quarry. If this happens again he will ask the police to investigate.

The Councillors expressed concern about this and stated they would send out a message to the community saying that fly tipping is illegal and should not be tolerated. They would encourage people to report fly tipping.

Community Council shared that previously cars had been left in the quarry, but that had been pre-arranged with the Amenity Trust, as it was a convenient site for their staff to collect the vehicles from. Cllr Robert Thomson let Carl and Community Councillors know that it has been agreed to roll out CCTV to all the small ports including Hamarsness. It might cover the quarry area. He isn't sure about timescales though.

Actions: Carl will report back to the Community Council on progress with extra duties for the post. Carl to check if both the Stakkaflets and Verges grass cutting could be undertaken by the post. He will also enquire with Roads about potential for the CMP to help Roads and about the issues around verge cutting.

Community Council to share information with the community regarding fly tipping.

4.1 Clerk Appointment Update

Suitable applications have been received for the clerk post. James, Lucy and Frances Browne will interview the candidates. Thursday 5th at the Fetlar Hall was set for the interview date.

Actions: James to contact candidates.

Frances to send contract, job description and info for interviewing process and contract

4.2 Islands with Small Populations – Locality Plan

4.2/1 New Locality Plan Outline and Workshop

Juliet and Frances explained that the first Locality Plan has come to an end and that work is underway to create a new one. As part of this there is a drop in session next Wednesday at the Fetlar Hall (4:30 till 7:15) to determine priorities for Fetlar. It is hoped that one of the SIC directors will attend. Information will be sent out to the community inviting their attendance.

4.2/3 Nursing – report of Meeting Friday 15th September

Lucy reported on the meeting with the NHS. 15 residents attended. The NHS ran though lack of applicants. The potential applicant the community had been aware of was discussed. The person hadn't applied. The group discussed trying to recruit again for a Band 6 nurse, which could also be unsuccessful. They also discussed recruiting a health Care Worker at Grade 3. Attendees felt it would be better to have some kind of health care on island. The post would be 9 -5 and would be based on island. However the postholder wouldn't necessarily have to live on island. Skerries have the same model. The NHS thought working well. Juliet will speak to the Skerries IWSP reps to hear their view. The Visiting nurse service will continue, possibly when postholder is off isle on training. The advert should be able to go out quickly for this post. When the Skerries post was advertised there were 14 applicants, so it was felt it would be easier to recruit to the post.

Issues around the current visiting nursing service were also raised, which Kim, Jane and Tony promised to investigate.

Community Council discussed whether asking to be part of Unst health service would be beneficial, due to Unst having regular rotating Doctors and that practice having a smaller population. However it was felt that as there are more ferries to Yell, transport might be more difficult, both for patients and the Doctor.

The NHS are planning to post prescriptions directly to residents. The new pharmacy director seemed to be quite go ahead, he also mentioned locked box on Papa Stour, that can be accessed for medicine, and we could have that here too. It seemed to be a positive meeting. The NHS are hoping to have information and the job advertised by the end of this week

4.3 SIC Ferries

4.3/1 Emergency Timetable for Bluemull Sound

Frances Browne reported that she had heard back from Andrew Inkster that the timetable that the Community Councils had proposed could not work for various reasons. She has responded to acknowledge this, but asked that ferries consider that Emergency Timetable for longer periods while the boat is out of service and continue to work with Community Councils to find something suitable.

Action: Frances to report back to Fetlar Community Council.

4.3/2 Hamarsness Linkspan – postponed

As the work for the Linkspan has been spoken about for over for two years, it was agreed to raise concern about the delay and ask about plans going forward.

Action: Frances acting as clerk to raise this with SIC.

4.3/3 Issues raised 8th August, difficulty with 7:55 and 8:25 runs, volume of traffic, length of wait when service cancelled

There has been no response on the email sent to Ferries. Group discussed the issue with the 7:55 and 8:25 runs. If Fetlar residents book on the 7:55, if the 8:25 is full, they can usually get booked on

the 8:40 out of Unst and still catch the 9:15 out of Yell. Juliet will post this on the Everything Else Fetlar page.

Action: Juliet to post info about the 7:55 run on the Everything Else Fetlar Page.

4.3/4 Festive Timetable for Comment by 25th September

The Councillors agreed to respond with feedback, requesting Friday 22nd be a normal service if possible, with the day of lesser service to be added to early January. They will also ask that the H is added to the runs travelling to Fetlar from Gutcher and Baltasound.

Action: Frances acting as Clerk to send this feedback to ferries

4.4 Shetland Community Directory

Action: Lucy will check if added and if not do so.

4.5 Fetlar Contingency Plan

Lucy has updated the Contingency plan and formatted in the format requested. It needs to be circulated to the community for comment. Lucy will write a covering email to go with it. The people noted as first on the contact tree, is based on who responded to the questionnaire and were happy to share their contact details, it would be great if more people wanted to be added.

Lucy asked if the Community Council had heard any more about the analogue phone lines being shut down. The copper wires used for the analogue network are being removed and replaced with fibre. The landline phones will still work but using the 'Voice over Internet Protocol'. This means that when the power goes off, they will not work once the battery at the station runs out (which seems to be after an hour). Mobile masts need power, and the back batter life for these also seems to be around an hour. So communication in power cuts is going to be very difficult. The network also seems to be in poor condition, as hasn't maintained as thoroughly due to imminent switch off. Frances can check with Michael Duncan and Alison Duncan about this. Robert has also been investigating this.

F to check with Michael D/ Alison Duncan about this. Phones work uses data lines internet uses with system voice over internet protocol. Robert is investigating too. Lucy requested this be added as a standing item to the agenda, as it is a really important issue. All community Councillors agreed.

Action: Lucy to write covering letter for Resilience plan and ask Roy to circulate to the community.

Frances to follow up with Michael Duncan and Alison Duncan.

4.6 Tresta Beach – Hairst Redd Up

Agreed to do next year at similar time

4.7 Fly Tipping

Covered above.

5. Tunnel Vision Event and Fixed Links

Lucy and Juliet reported back from the Tunnel Vision Event. Alistair summarised where the Unst and Yell Tunnel Action Groups had got to. Most of meeting speaking about Ferry issues. Beatrice promised to raise this issues with Morag Lyall. The group also spoke about the nursing issue.

The Councillors also discussed the Shetland Forward document, which only considers four island links for tunnels. Councillors accepted that Fetlar might not be the first island on the list, but

wondered whether they should push for Fetlar to be included. Robert reassured Councillors that all communities are still under consideration.

6. Planning Application

Robert Thomson left the meeting as he sits on the Planning Board.

Councillors (bar Lucy Cummings who declared an interest) discussed the planning application. It was agreed to provisionally support the application as Councillors welcome all developments on Fetlar that will bring people to the island. One member of the community council raised concerns regarding the potential noise levels.

Action: Clerk to forward this response to planning

7. Finance and Administration

- 7.1 Financial Update, Core Funding & Administration – Norton Subscription?**
- 7.2 Association of Shetland Community Councils**
- 7.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund - Viking Community Fund AGS Summary for year**
- 7.4 SIC – Community Development Fund – Grant Applications**
- 7.5 FCC Members – Vacancy for Co-opted member**

Deferred to next meeting

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 Resident query re nursing: Information to residents and Defibrillator query 29.08.23**
- 8.2 Update on Crofting Application process 25.08.23**
- 8.3 Brough Lodge News 15.08.23**
- 8.4 Police report 13.08.23**

Deferred to next meeting

9. AOCB

Deferred to next meeting

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 31st October 2023