

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson

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Minute of Special Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held via Zoom on Monday 18th December 2023

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Aileen Brown	Irvine Burgess	Dawna Phillips
Vicky Tylsar			

APOLOGIES

Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)	Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)
Ana Arnett (SIC)	Michael Duncan

ABSENT

Helen Moncrieff	Agnes Tallack	Allen Sinclair
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

23/70 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITIY COUCILS

As part of the above exercise, the first consultation period addresses "Plan of Community Councils' Areas and Composition'. The members of Dunrossness Community Council met to discuss the Community Council's response.

Five options were suggested for consideration. The members discussed these in depth and decided on the follow responses to each:

DRAFT MINUTE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

Option 1 – no changes to current areas or composition.

This is Dunrossness Community Councils preferred option. This is the only option which retains Fair Isle as part of Dunrossness without amalgamating Sandwick & Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningsburgh. Dunrossness Community Council does not consider amalgamating the 3 South Mainland Community Councils to be in the best interests of each population. Dunrossness is a very spread-out, rural area in relation to its population which creates a different set of requirements to the other 2 Community Councils. Concerns were raised that rolling the three current Community Councils into one might make recruitment even more difficult as members usually join because they have an interest in their immediate area.

Option 2 – Fair Isle, Foula, Fetlar, Papa Stour & Skerries amalgamated to form small islands Community Council

Dunrossness Community Council are not in favour of this option. Although the small islands of Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Papa Stour & Skerries no doubt have much in common, they are also very different from each other in many ways and therefore their requirements are varied. It would be difficult for a representative from every isle to attend a Community Council meeting regularly, however, the already established Forum for islands with small populations provides a connection for the small islands should the need arise. Also, in the case of Fair Isle, the departure location of its Ferry service is in the ward of Dunrossness which reinforces the case for Fair Isle remaining part of Dunrossness Community Council.

Option 3 – Small islands Community Council formed (see above), Dunrossness, Sandwick, Cunningsburgh, Quarff & Gulberwick amalgamated to form Shetland South CC, plus further changes to other areas

Dunrossness Community Council are not in favour of this option. Although the small islands of Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Papa Stour & Skerries no doubt have much in common, they are also very different from each other in many ways and therefore their requirements are varied. It would be difficult for a representative from every isle to attend a Community Council meeting regularly, however, the already established Forum for islands with small populations provides a connection for the small islands should the need arise. Also, in the case of Fair Isle, the Mainland departure location of its Ferry service is in the ward of Dunrossness which reinforces the case for Fair Isle remaining part of Dunrossness Community Council. Dunrossness Community Council does not consider amalgamating the 3 South Mainland Community Councils to be in the best interests of each population. Dunrossness is a very spread-out, rural area in relation to its population which creates a different set of requirements to the other 2 Community Councils. Concerns were raised that rolling the three current Community Councils into one might make recruitment even more difficult as members usually join because they have an interest in their immediate area.

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Option 4 – Shetland South CC (see above) joined by Fair Isle, plus further changes to other areas

Dunrossness Community Council are not in favour of this option. Dunrossness is a very spread-out, rural area in relation to its population which creates a different set of requirements to the other 2 South Mainland Community Councils. Concerns were raised that rolling the three current Community Councils into one might make recruitment even more difficult as members usually join because they have an interest in their immediate area. Any disproportionate number of members in one/other areas could impact on another area. Finance and the distribution of funds allocated to larger areas could see current and regularly supported projects dropped.

Option 5 – Dunrossness CC area kept as is but Fair Isle to have its own CC, plus further changes to other areas

Dunrossness Community Council are not in favour of this Option as it does not retain Fair Isle as part of the Dunrossness area. Fair Isle have not expressed a desire to have a Community Council of their own. The Fair Isle population are currently served by the Levenwick Medical Practice and the Mainland departure location of its Ferry service is Grutness, both of which are in the ward of Dunrossness and therefore reinforces the case for Fair Isle remaining part of Dunrossness Community Council.

Further to the above, Dunrossness Community Council also added the following comments to the consultation response:

Dunrossness Community Council feels that this review is biased towards changing the current situation of the small islands.

How would the amalgamating of some existing Community Councils and the creation of others impact on the roles of current Clerks - would the workloads of some increase and some be made redundant?

We also feel that our 'hand was forced' in relation to the requirement to 'rank' the 5 options above as we are only in favour of one option and the remaining four are therefore of an equal rank - the format of this consultation did not allow for this.

Concerns were also raised that the use of any statistics from this consultation could give false results due to its small scale and format. If all areas opt to maintain the status quo, is it productive to continue with further related consultation?

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There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024.**