

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

*Chairman:*

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Minutes of Zoom meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7 pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)  
F MacBeath (Vice Chair)  
J Laing  
E Johnston  
M Forrest  
J Puckey  
C Venus  
M Macgregor  
S Johnston  
Cllr L Peterson

## **1. Chairman's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present. He began by reminding everyone of the best practice for participating in a Zoom meeting He made the point that were it not for Zoom, it would not be possible to hold the meeting because of the snow.

## **2. Apologies**

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk) R Fraser

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

None were made at this time.

## **4. Visit by Mairi Keith and Chloe Kerr (SIC Childcare Officer**

This visit has been deferred to the February meeting.

## **5. Police Report**

The Chair referred to the emailed Community Council Briefing Paper October/November 2023 of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023. No comments were made regarding this report.

## **6. Minutes from 5.12.23**

J Puckey requested the following amendments:-

*Re: 8 of 12/23 Roads* The second bullet point should now read - Three cattle grids on Papa Stour were identified in a roads survey as being in need of a clean out, the third of which needs to be replaced.

*Re: 17.1 of 12/23 Electric Ferry Trials for Papa Stour*, The first sentence should now read; J Puckey alerted the meeting via email that SIBC had carried a press release stating that it is intended to carry out trials of an electric ferry on the Papa Stour run.

E Johnston was asked to highlight these amendments on the Community Council's Facebook page.

Approval of the amended minutes was proposed by F Macbeath and seconded by J Laing.

## **7. Matters Arising**

### ***Re: 7.2 of 12/23 Car Parking at Stove Cottages in Walls***

The point was made that double yellow lines on the road adjacent to the cottages was unlikely to solve the problem of cars parking on a blind bend and summit. The proposal was made to provide signs indicating that the parking was for residents only and was restricted to one vehicle per household. Members approved this proposal, but the point was made the enforcement of this would be difficult. It was suggested that disagreements be referred to Mr Billy Mycock whose job it is to deal with antisocial issues.

## **8. Housing**

### ***Re: 7.1 of 12/23 Social Housing in Central Walls***

The Chair noted that the ground works on the site were progressing well.

## **9. Roads**

### **9.1 The Cattle Grid at the Bridge-of-Walls end of the Sandness Road**

It was noted that this cattle grid has been repaired.

### **9.2 Cattle Grids in Sandness**

It was noted that all the cattle grids that had been in need of attention have now received the required maintenance.

### **9.3 Request for White Lines**

A request was made for white lines to be repainted along both sides of the A971 to Sandness and along parts of the Dale of Walls Road because the existing lines have worn away.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to make a request to the Roads Department for this work to be carried out.**

### **9.4 Upgrade of the A 971 from the Murrister Quarry to Da Punds**

Cllr Peterson stated that the business case for this project is to be presented at the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

## **10. West Mainland Digital Community Project**

M Macgregor stated that owing to her recent health issues she had not been able to progress this project to the extent she had wished. She also indicated that the contractor with whom she had been in contact was heavily involved with another project at present. She concluded by stating that she hoped to be in a better position to update the Members by March.

## **11. Planning Consultation Ref: 2023/295PPF (1 bedroom chalet and detached art studio – New Road Walls)**

### **11.1 Timescale for Responses to Planning Consultations**

Consideration of this matter was prefaced by a discussion on the timescale for responses to planning consultations. It is unclear whether this period has been reduced to two weeks or

is four weeks or remains at eight weeks. It is hoped to get clarification on this in the near future.

### **11.2 Planning Consultation 2023/295PPF**

Members were informed that several members of the public had expressed opposition to the proposed buildings but were reluctant to voice them publicly for fear of being subjected to adverse treatment by the community. The objections concerned the shape of the proposed structures given that they are prefabricated rectangular and mostly flat roofed units. The proposed colour, black, also elicited some criticism. M Macgregor stated that she was aware of some expressions of opposition to the project but were unwilling to express these views for fear of criticism from some people in the community. The Chair expressed his concern that people should be inhibited from expressing their views because they feared how some others from the community might react. He also made the point that the bodies required to make statutory comments approved the application which suggested that there were no legitimate grounds for opposition. After further discussion the Clerk was asked to respond to the application indicating the Members general recommendation for approval, but that concerns had been raised regarding the proposed colour.

**Action:** The Clerk was asked to respond to the application indicating that the Members recommended approval of the application but had reservations about the proposed colour.

## **12. Future of Health Service Provision at the Walls Health Centre.**

The meeting between Members and Shetland Health Board Personnel scheduled for 7pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at the Walls Regatta Clubhouse was noted. Cllr Peterson asked to attend and this request was approved. In response to a question regarding the possibility of attending the meeting remotely, it was made clear that this was not acceptable to the Health Board representatives. J Puckey asked if she could submit her questions to the Clerk prior to the meeting and this was approved. The Clerk was asked to email the Members with a reminder prior to the meeting.

**Action:** The Clerk to email the Members prior to the meeting to remind them of the event.

### **13. Active Travel (Request for Sandness Audit)**

A brief synopsis was provided of the form and purpose of an active travel audit in that it seeks to find ways for people to move around the community on foot or by bicycle. This entails a consideration of what infrastructure changes, if any, would be required to enable this objective. The Audit takes of the form of a public meeting followed by a review of what is practical and affordable. The final phase is to construct the necessary improvements. Cllr Peterson indicated that infrastructural improvements were currently being made in Aith. It was agreed that a request for an Active Travel Audit be made on behalf of the Sandness Community.

**Action: The Clerk to request an Active Travel Audit for Sandness.**

### **14. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

#### **180495 - AGS Application for Consideration**

An application for £100 to make improvements to the Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary was considered. After a brief discussion one Members opposed the application whilst all others present approved it.

**Action: The Clerk to complete the response form indicating approval.**

### **15. Review of Community Councils**

The Chair stated that the deadline for responses to Phase One of the review which considered Community Council boundaries has now passed and that the Clerk has submitted a response on behalf of the Sandness and Walls Community Council indicating the Members preference for Option 1, the maintenance of the status quo. M Macgregor indicated that it was possible for members of the public to make general comments on the Council's Webpage.

### **16. SSE Bench/Project**

The Chair stated that he had asked the Clerk to make a bid for one of the benches being offered by SSE. After a brief discussion it was suggested that the best place to locate it would be at the Walls Bus Stop.

**Action: The Clerk to request a bench on behalf of the Sandness and Walls Community Council**

## **17. Facebook Page for S&WCC**

E Johnston stated that he had included as much information on the current weather situation as possible including disruptions to travel and education. He went on to say that the page now has 102 followers and was amassing a large number of likes. The Members thanked Ewen for his work in this.

## **18. Financial Update**

The Clerk stated that not everyone who had applied for an unadopted road grant had submitted their final claims and that the deadline for this had passed.

### **Correspondence (including emails)**

No correspondence has been received other than by email.

## **19. AOCB**

### **19.1 SSE Project**

It was proposed that another picnic bench be requested under the SSE Project Scheme. The suggestion is to locate it close to the Bus Stop for the benefit of bus users in the summer months. It was felt necessary to check with the landowner (probably Scottish Water) if it is acceptable to locate the bench close to the bus stop.

**Actions:1. The Clerk to find out if Scottish Water (or another landowner) has any objections to a picnic bench being placed on their land.**

**2. If it is acceptable, the Clerk to request a picnic bench from the SSE project fund.**

### **19.2 Larger Communal Refuse Bins for Stove Cottages**

Members were informed that the communal refuse bins currently in use at Stove Cottages are not large enough for the quantity of waste being generated there. Bins of a size similar to those at the Walls Hall were requested.

**Action: The Clerk to request larger bins for Stove Cottages.**

### **19.3 Foot Care**

Members were informed that a local private chiropodist would be visiting Tea, Coffee and Company sessions at St Paul's Church in Walls.

### **19.4 Snow Ploughing**

There was a brief discussion about snow ploughing on minor roads. It was acknowledged that there were insufficient snowploughs to keep all but major roads open during periods of extreme weather. It was suggested that if someone is very concerned, they phone the Roads Department.

### **19.5 The Sandness Pier**

There was a brief discussion on this matter during which it was pointed out that work on the pier required considerable preliminary investigations and planning. An administrator is currently looking into the matter.

## **20. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair commented that he was pleased that the meeting had been able to go ahead thanks to Zoom and that it had not been halted by a power cut.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February which, weather permitting will take the form of a hybrid meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

(Draft Minutes of the S&WCC January 2024 meeting subject to approval at next meeting)