

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 22nd January 2024 via Zoom.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Agnes Tallack	Irvine Burgess	Dawna Phillips
Vicky Tylsar	Helen Moncrieff	Aileen Brown	Ana Arnett (SIC)
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)		

APOLOGIES

Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)	Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)
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ABSENT

Allen Sinclair	Michael Duncan
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

23/82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Robbie McGregor declared an interest in any planning matters.

23/83 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 27th November 2023 was adopted on the motion of Helen and the Minute of the meeting held on 18th December 2023 was adopted on the motion of Fiona.

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23/84 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for the months of October and November 2023 had been received and reported as follows:

There have been 5 incidents recorded for Dunrossness which can be summarised as follows:

- Road Traffic Collision
- Concern for Person (2)
- Firearms Seizure (2)

23/85 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

a) Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light: The Clerk had emailed SIC Roads for an update but had received no reply. She will email again.

b) Sumburgh Airport A970 Standing Water – There was nothing new to report. The Clerk had asked Cllr Duncan for an update and he had agreed to make enquiries and report back.

2) Proposed Kirk Yard Bench: Nothing new to report.

3) Church of Scotland Brigades Fund – The Clerk had emailed the Church of Scotland in October to confirm the Community Council was willing to take over the Brigades Fund currently held by the Church but had received no reply. The Clerk will email again.

23/86 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

There were no grant applications for consideration.

23/87 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils – A meeting of the ASCC took place on 7th December 2023 and Michael Duncan reported as below via email:

- **Community Council Scheme Review**

The Phase One consultation options were discussed and following a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed that the ASCC supports Boundary Proposal Option 1 (the status quo).

23/87/1

23/87 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils (Continued)

- **Digital Switch Over**

Discussion took place under matters arising about the Digital Switch Over presentation that was delivered by Openreach at the June meeting of the ASCC. ASCC members continue to be very concerned about the implications of switching off analogue service and moving to a digital service by the end of 2025.

- **Shetland Way**

The Shetland Way was also raised under matters arising. There was a feeling from some members that a number of community councils did not get enough time to contribute towards the discussion. Shetland Way may be put forward as an agenda item to the next meeting if a request is received.

- **Lerwick Lanes Master Plan**

The recently launched Lerwick Lanes Master Plan consultation exercise was discussed as an agenda item. ASCC members discussed concerns about the potential impact on parking spaces so close to Lerwick town centre. Consultation is open to 14 January 2024.

- **Northlink bookings**

A concern was raised at the end of the meeting about Northlink, and the issue that longer term bookings cannot be made on the Northlink website. The matter is linked to budget setting. It was agreed that the ASCC would contact Transport Scotland to ask if the booking system can be changed to allow bookings to be made beyond Easter 2024.

- **Next meeting**

Next meeting of the ASCC will take place on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at the Town Hall, from 6pm - 8pm.

23/88 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) **A970, Levenwick:** Cllr Alex Armitage reported that, although drivers of large vehicles consider the whole length of the A970 from Levenwick to Robins Brae to be too narrow, unfortunately the south section isn't even on the agenda for upgrading at this stage. Alex is currently in discussions with Neil Hutchison, SIC Roads, and although the Levenwick upgrade will happen eventually, Alex felt that if small improvements such as a narrow strip of hard shoulder instead of the current soft verge could be made in the meantime, this would be advantages.

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23/88 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (Continued)

- 2) Service 6 Buses:** Alex reported that constituents are asking for a third evening bus service from Lerwick to Sumburgh, departing at 7pm. The current services are Monday to Thursday 5pm and 9 pm and Friday 5pm and 11pm. An additional service at 7pm would be especially beneficial for children wishing to attend after school activities in the town etc. Alex will be bringing this up with the council and felt that there was a good chance this request would be met with favourably as part of the new bus service contract which is scheduled to come into effect at the end of this year / beginning of next. Helen enquired how the Community Council can put forward any bus service requests to SIC. Robbie replied that there will be a Review which the Community Council will be able to feed into. Alex asked Helen to email him directly with any specific requirements which she has been approached with.

23/89 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

- 1) Ferry Project:** The ferry consultation team had provided information on the various possible scenarios for delivery of the project. It had been agreed that scenario one (full roro service) was financially unattainable and therefore not an option. The middle scenario (lift on lift off) was the most realistic and so this was settled on. Fiona considered that a combination would be best as some vessels (MV Snolda & MV Filla) within the SIC fleet can carry larger plant/equipment which is useful on occasion. The options will be discussed at a Full Council meeting to be held in private. Robbie confirmed that meetings where contractual issues are to be discussed, are always held in private. Robbie also reiterated that the South Mainland Councillors will be backing Fair Isle with regard to this project. Agnes enquired if this Council meeting was to make definitive decisions or just further discussions? Alex replied that he understood a decision will be made at this meeting as to which option will be adopted.
- 2) Mobile Phone / Broadband:** The Isle has been without Vodafone coverage for 3 weeks and has been experiencing various tech issues recently.
- 3) Electricity System:** The Isle is experiencing problems with their electricity system. Only one generator is currently operating, and islanders have been asked to conserve energy. An engineer is due to arrive in the Isle tomorrow and stay until all the issues are resolved. There are also plans to discuss resilience / emergency plan with SSE.

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23/90 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW

The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the Community Council's responses to the first consultation, as per the Special Meeting held on 18th December 2023.

23/91 CORRESPONDENCE

1) SSE Bench Donations: SSE are currently working with people undertaking community service to give them meaningful tasks and projects. To that end, there is an opportunity for the community service team to construct a bench of each community council area. Community Councils are asked to consider this offer and confirm if they would be interested to receive such a bench. Ana suggested the bench could possibly be gifted to somewhere like the Levenwick Community Garden etc. It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire what the benches are constructed from and the size.

2) Shetland Partnership: Locality profiles for the seven localities in Shetland, alongside a profile for Shetland have now been published. The Locality Profiles provide detailed information at a local level. They are useful for a number of reasons including service redesign, local plans and maximising opportunities to seek external funding to support community development. The profiles provide data on demographics, economy, education, environment, health and housing. Profiles will be updated every two years, however, the data will be monitored more regularly, with the most recent data available on request. The profiles are now available on the Shetland Partnership website.

Vicky commented that some of the statistics for the South Mainland were 'alarming', particularly the level of folk who are lonely and the number of young people who are not in work, education or training. The members discussed possible ways to address loneliness in the area. Along with a few groups which operate in the local area eg gardening group, and various events in the Boddam Hall, Vicky and Dawna reported that the SWI are actively trying to run a few afternoon workshops as they had received reports that some people didn't feel able to come out in a winters evening. Irvine suggested that the South Mainland Community Association (SMCA) might be able to look into how to provide transport for people wishing to attend local events/groups. Ana suggested it would be really useful to have a meeting of local community groups to see what could be done to combat loneliness in the area and asked anyone who is on the committee of any such group to pass their contact details to her so that she could try and organise a meeting. Helen reported that Yell produce 'welcome packs' with useful local details for anyone moving to the isle.

Aileen joined the meeting at 7:50pm

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23/91 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 3) PSTN (Landline) Switchover:** SIC Chief Executive, Maggie Sandison, emailed ref the PSTN switchover and reported that *‘the Secretary of State for Technology in UK Government has intervened and Telecoms providers have now signed a Charter committing to concrete measures to protect vulnerable households, particularly those using personal alarms, known as telecare, which offer remote support to elderly, disabled, and vulnerable people – with many located in rural and isolated areas. The move represents a positive step by industry to make sure safety continues to be at the heart of the nationwide switchover and provides reassurance to vulnerable households. Under the Charter, all providers have agreed to not forcibly move customers onto the new network unless they are fully confident they will be protected’.*

23/92 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Bus Shelter:** Helen enquired how to go about requesting a bus shelter near Mainlands Minimarket. Cllr Robbie asked her to send the details to him.
- 2) Snow:** Helen suggested that a ‘thank you’ to everyone who went the ‘extra mile’ during the recent snow be recorded in the Minutes.
- 3) Grutness Toilets:** Cllr Bryan Peterson had previously offered to make enquiries regarding what plans there are, if any, for the provision of new toilets at Grutness in conjunction with the new ferry project. It was agreed to ask Bryan if he had been able to obtain any information.
- 4) Shopping Bus:** Vicky enquired if a shopping bus service operates in the Dunrossness area. It was noted that details of this service can be found on the ZetTrans website.
- 5) Inter-Island Ferry Docking in Lerwick:** Fiona reported that the Chair of Skerries Community Council had been in contact with her recently regarding issues with inter-island ferry docking in Lerwick. Previously ferries docked at Hays when sailing to Lerwick but, since Huws Gray took over, Shearers Pier has had to be used and it isn’t big enough. Fiona is keen to gathering further information on the situation in conjunction with Skerries CC. Irvine offered to see if he could get more information on the matter.

Cllr Robbie McGregor left the meeting at 8:05pm

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23/93 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

- 1) **2023/286/PPF – Application for new purpose built building to be used as a commercial gym. Access upgraded in line with SIC Roads conditions and parking made on site, Williamsetter, Bigton by Miss Shelby Hopkins:** There were no objections. Cllr Armitage also confirmed that he was not aware of any objection within the Bigton community.
- 2) **Marine Licence Application 00010648 – Shetland Islands Council (per Stantec) – Capital Dredge & Sea Disposal – Grutness, Shetland:** There were no objections. Helen raised concerns regarding the possible effect these works might have on tides at Grutness. She noted that the application stated “predicted changes to local hydrodynamics.....are considered to be negligible”, however, there had also been no suggestion that the lengthening of the Sumburgh Airport Runway would alter tides in the area but Grutness appears to have seen more erosion in recent years. It was also noted that within the approved plans for the Fair Isle ferry project, is the provision of a breakwater.
- 3) **Marine Licence Application 00010439/00010529 – Shetland Islands Council (per Stantec) – Ferry Terminal Development, Capital Dredge & Sea Deposit of dredged material – North Haven, Fair Isle, Shetland:** Marine licences have been issued for the above works.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2024.**