

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 26th February 2024 in Dunrossness Primary School.

PRESENT

Aileen Brown (Chair)	Irvine Burgess	Dawna Phillips
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)	
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)		

APOLOGIES

Fiona Mitchell	Agnes Tallack	Vicky Tylsar	Helen Moncrieff
Allen Sinclair	Ana Arnett (SIC)	Michael Duncan	
Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)			

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)	Sgt David Carmichael
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23/94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Robbie McGregor declared an interest in any planning matters.

23/95 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 22nd January 2024 could not be adopted as this meeting was not quorate.

Cllr Peterson joined the meeting at 7:15 pm

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23/96 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for the months of December 2023 and January 2024 had been received and reported as follows:

There have been 14 incidents recorded for Dunrossness which can be summarised as follows:

- Speeding
- Road Traffic Collision
- Road Traffic Collision with Minor or No Injury (4)
- Assault
- Neighbour Dispute (2)
- Threatening or Abusive Behaviour
- Mental Health (2)
- Drugs – Attempt to Possess
- Sudden Death

Sgt Camichael reported that a new Officer from the mainland is due to join the Lerwick team soon with possibly another to follow in May. Cllr McGregor enquired if drug swipes can be done on drivers in Shetland but was informed that there are currently no suitably trained officers in Shetland.

Sgt Carmichael left the meeting.

23/97 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

a) Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light: The Clerk had emailed SIC Roads for an update and had been informed that the battery had been charged and the light renewed but the solar panel had since blown off the pole. The bus shelter is a few hundred meters away from the nearest streetlight so alternative lighting solutions are going to be looked at by the Roads Dept. Daylight hours are now starting to lengthen so the members hoped that the situation would be resolved before another winter.

b) Sumburgh Airport A970 Standing Water – There was nothing new to report. The Clerk had asked Cllr Duncan again for an update. Dawna reported that there has also been standing water on the road at the Westvoe Beach car park.

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

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23/97 MATTERS ARISING (Continued)

- 3) **Church of Scotland Brigades Fund** – Receipt of the Community Council's email regarding taking over the Brigades Fund currently held by the Church had been received. Rev Henderson has forwarded the email to the Church Solicitor who will advise on the way forward.

Cllr Alex Armitage joined the meeting at 7:40pm

23/98 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) **Uncashed Cheques** - The Clerk reported that there had been two Community Councils cheques which had not been cashed and had now expired. She had spoken to both parties and the cheques will be reissued.
- 2) **Da Voar Redd Up 2023** – It was noted that 13 groups had completed the Shetland Amenity Trust Voar Redd Up survey confirming they had carried out a Redd Up. Aileen proposed that each group be awarded a donation of £100 which was seconded by Irvine. However, as the meeting was not quorate, a final decision will have to wait until the next meeting.
- 3) **SMUHA – To assist with the costs of building materials to continue with the internal fitting of the Galley Shed:** This item will be carried forward to the next Community Council meeting due to this meeting not being quorate.

23/99 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

No relevant external meetings had been attended.

23/100 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) **Housing:** Bryan reported that at a Full Council meeting on 22 February, it had been agreed to raise council tax rates to 200% of standard rates for second homes. The council tax on long-term empty homes will start at 125% for 2024/24 and then increase by 25% each year until it reaches the same level as that for second homes. There are currently approximately 200 second homes in Shetland and 400 long-term empty homes, which is roughly equal to the number of people/families looking for houses. Standard council tax rates have been frozen for another year with council housing rents increasing by 5%. Bryan reported that many Council tenants seemed happy with this increase if it meant that maintenance would be sped up. It was noted that the only way which the Council is permitted to increase the budget for housing maintenance is by increasing rents.

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23/100 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (Continued)

- 2) Service 6 Buses:** Alex reported that he had attended a ZetTrans meeting at which the suggestion of an additional evening bus from Lerwick to the South Mainland had been discussed. Alex had felt that this suggestion had been met favourably and ZetTrans will check the feasibility of an additional service.
- 3) Ferry Project:** The options for the new Fair Isle Ferry Project were discussed in private at a Full Council meeting recently. Bryan reported that a compromise on the best scenario had been decided upon where the service will not be the Shetland idea of a full roro service but one where it is still possible for ferry crew to drive on machinery/plant etc when necessary. Facilities will also be provided for passengers. It is hoped that works will start in the Autumn and be finished in 2026.

23/101 FAIR ISLE

There was nothing new to report.

23/102 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) SSE Bench Donations:** Following the Clerk's enquiry, a reply had been received stating they were of wooden construction with stainless steel bolts and screws. It was agreed to take the SSE up on their offer of a free bench and then it could be offered to a local community group.
- 2) Shetland's Next Local Development Plan:** A consultation on engagement methods for Shetland's next Local Development Plan is open. Although the consultation period closes on Friday 1st March, SIC Development Plans will accept any suggestions after that date via email. These will be taken into consideration when they co-ordinate engagement events. This was noted.

23/103 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Crofthouse:** Allen had enquired if it was the case that the Crofthouse would no longer burn peat in its fire when open to the public. It was agreed to contact Shetland Amenity Trust and enquired.
- 2) Windfarm:** Allen had raised the subject of a reduced electricity rate for Shetland homes once the Windfarm is up and running. Bryan reported that it is often a 'legislative challenge' securing a reduced tariff. Shetland's current electricity costs are also massively subsidised due to the amount of diesel which is burned. Alex suggested a reduced tariff might be something which could be pursued once the system is up and running.

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23/103 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Continued)

- 3) **Dog Poo Bin:** Irvine suggested the Community Council ask for a 'dog poo bin' to be situated at Hestingott. Homeowners in the area are currently experiencing problems with dog walkers heading to and from Quendale Beach depositing their dog poo in their private domestic bins. The Clerk will contact the SIC.
- 4) **Levenwick Medical Practice:** Dawna enquired if the Surgery would be getting a replacement for Dr Mitchell now that she is no longer working there. Alex reported that he believed she had not worked full time at the Practice and that there were a number of locums available to fill any gaps. There was no evidence of a reduction in the number of appointments available since Dr Mitchell's departure.

Cllrs Robbie McGregor and Bryan Peterson left the meeting.

23/104 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

- 1) **2023/222/PPF – Planning Application for New Access Road for Proposed Pod Development, Yaafield, Bigton by Elsa Sutherland:** The Community Council had been copied into a letter sent by a member of the public to SIC Planning Dept in reply to the Planning Departments response to points which had been raised in November 2023 regarding the above planning application. The letter was noted.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 25th MARCH 2024.**