

Skerries Community Council (SCC)

Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 26th April 2024

In Skerries Community Hall

Present:

Paul James – Chair
Bertha Anderson
Frances Anderson
Janice Hughson

In attendance:

Lynsey Hall – Community Support Worker for Skerries
Matt Mason – Group Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Services
Jim McConnachie – Resilience and Business Continuity Officer - NHS
Louise Robertson – Community Safety Officer, Community Planning and Development - SIC
Peter Stevenson – Community Safety Advisor, Scottish Fire & Rescue Services (from 2.40 pm)
Robert Thomson – SIC Councillor – joined through Teams link
Violet McQuade - Clerk (notes)

1) Apologies

Marina Anderson, Jilly Ash, Kia James and Marina Tait.

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced Matt and Jim and thanked them for coming to Skerries and for attending the meeting.

2) Declaration of Interest to any agenda item

Chairperson asked for declaration of interests – there were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th March, were approved.
Proposed by Bertha Anderson, seconded by Frances Anderson.

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

4.1 Follow up on broken toilet lights

Councillor Thomson reported the broken lights. Bertha said it has been found that the reason for the toilet lights not working is to do with the magic eye. Councillor Thomson agreed to follow this up again.

Action: Councillor Thomson to follow up on broken lights

4.2 Follow up on bins/skips

There appears to be a lack of availability of the types of bins that could be suitable. Councillor Thomson had hoped to be able to come to Skerries to see at first-hand what the problem is, but has so far not been able to do so. He asked if someone could send him photos of the current skips. Paul agreed to do a short video, and send it over.

Action: Paul – do a video and send to Councillor Thomson

4.3 Follow up with Ferry Services re deep freeze

A deep freeze is available on the Fivla. This item is now closed.

4.4 Write to MSP re ferry berthing problems

The Chair has written to the MSP, and has also had a conversation with her about the problem with finding a suitable berth in Lerwick for the Skerries ferry. The MSP will be taking this forward, and will get back to the SCC with any updates. This is ongoing.

4.5 Contact booking services regarding voicemail message

This was done, but there was some confusion on what was required. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Chair will get back to the Booking Office with more detail on what was being asked for.

Action: Paul - contact the Booking Office

4.6 Contact Chief Nurse regarding emergency procedures

The Chair has contacted the Chief Nurse regarding the emergency procedures. He will provide an update when any information comes through. This is ongoing.

4.7 Contact Hall Committee regarding Scottish Island Passport plaques

The Clerk emailed the Hall Committee about the possibility of putting the Scottish Island Passport plaque for the West Isle at the hall, but so far has not received any reply. In case the email had not been seen by the Hall Committee the Clerk asked if the Chair would speak to the committee face-to-face. The Chair agreed to follow this up.

Action: Paul speak to Hall Committee re plaques

5) Funding

Update on the current funding of the Community Council.

Running costs - The Clerk had provided an estimate to the Community Council Liaison Officer, detailing the expected SCC running costs for the current financial year (2024/2025). After the paperwork went through, the Council agreed to grant the Community Council additional funds to help with running costs. The new grant is a more realistic figure, which means that the SCC should not be in the red with running costs for the current financial year.

Distribution Fund – The forms have been completed and submitted – the Clerk has applied for the maximum amount, which is £3,000.

Skip Fund – The forms have been completed and submitted - the Clerk has applied for the maximum amount, which is £1,000.

The accounts for 2023/2024 are currently with the accountant.

6) Ferry re-fit

The new engine for the Filla is now in Shetland. It is still estimated that it will be early June before she will be back in service.

There was a discussion about the possibility of getting the Filla's annual re-fit done during the summer, rather than the usual slot earlier in the year. Paul has already made enquiries about this, and has been informed that this would not be feasible, partly due to the fact that booking the council's ferry fleet in for re-fits has to be done years in advance.

The shops are managing to cope with the current ferry service, most of the recent problems were caused by the poor weather.

7) Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

7.1 Meeting

The Clerk reminded members that a SCBF meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 2nd May. The information has been circulated, and members can join in remotely. The Clerk has volunteered to join the meeting.

7.2 Skerries representation

Following a request from that came from SCBF, looking for a representative from Skerries to join the SCBF Board as a Director, the Clerk circulated an email asking for a volunteer to take on the role, one person, Paul James, has come forward to volunteer. After discussion members agreed to put forward Paul as the Skerries representative. The Clerk will inform SCBF that Paul has agreed to join the SCBF Board.

Action: Clerk to inform SCBF on Skerries representation

8) Correspondence Received

All correspondence has been circulated electronically.

8.1 Remembering together - Plaque

A letter was circulated regarding the proposal that a 'Remembering Together' plaque be

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displayed in a public area in Skerries. The plaque is to commemorate the outbreak of Covid 19, and the effect that the virus had on communities. A number of these plaques will be put on display in communities around Shetland. After discussion it was agreed that the Community Hall would be the best place for the plaque to be displayed.

Action: Clerk to inform on where plaque to be displayed

8.2 Voar Redd Up – uplifting

The Clerk has been in correspondence with Shetland Amenity Trust regarding the uplift of the Voar Redd Up bruck. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk was to book the uplift of the bruck; the date agreed on was for it to be uplifted on Tuesday, 7th May.

9) **AOCB**

9.1 Locality Plan

There are no further updates on the Locality Plan at the moment – currently looking to find out what the priorities are for Skerries. Priorities so far identified include housing, tourism and jobs. The plan includes resilience, as well as aims and objectives, and links to the Risk Register and Issues Log. At the moment the Skerries Risk Register is in progress, but not yet completed.

9.2 Lock on toilet door

The lock for the toilet door has arrived, but is completely different from the one that was on, so does not fit. A Skerries resident was going to put the lock on, but as the lock is different it may need a council joiner to do the work. Bertha to follow this up with the council.

9.3 Tree planting

The tree planting will be taking place between the 17th and 19th May. The trees to be planted will be arriving in Skerries on the 17th May. A reporter from Radio Shetland will be coming to Skerries on the 19th May. The Clerk will circulate an email asking for volunteers to help plant the trees. Notices asking for volunteers will also be displayed in the shops.

9.4 Presentation by Jim McConnachie - Resilience and Business Continuity Officer - NHS

Mr McConnachie explained that his role is to give support to overcome disruptive incidents and provide emergency planning for the NHS in Shetland, and to ensure that acute and primary services keep running. Over the past couple of years there have been some significant incidents in Shetland, such as power loss, communication loss and problems serving the communities due to those incidents. They are looking at how to improve things to keep the community safe, and have been in touch with SSEN regarding what funding is available to help. One of the SSEN priorities is that there should be a Community Emergency Plan. Some of the islands in Shetland have started on this.

There was a discussion on which group would be the best to produce an Emergency Plan. There is no process in place, as yet, for doing a consultation. Jim and Matt are here to listen to find out where there are gaps in services.

A discussion was held on the gap in medical services. Although there is no nurse on the island, there is a Health Care Support Worker (HSCW), but this service is only available for three days a week. The community had been led to believe that the HSCW would be working in Skerries five days a week. The residents are happy with the HSCW, who is a lovely person, but feel let down by the lack of service, the service only being available for three week days. Jim will feed this back this to the Chief Nurse.

Also discussed was what would happen in emergencies. Jim asked if there was anything that he could ask the Chief Nurse in relation to Skerries. The main problem is finding cover for when the HCSW is away. She is away every week from Sunday to Tuesday evening, working in Skerries Wednesday to Friday. Even in emergencies the ferry cannot always get into Skerries; sometimes a helicopter has been sent to Skerries in emergencies, and/or when there was no medical person available. There have been a number of days this past winter that the ferry could not get into Skerries; there are no flights to Skerries. It was agreed that the days that the ferry cannot get to Skerries should be logged. It was also noted that the Filla can come into Skerries with heavier seas than the Fivla can.

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Also, it would be helpful to have a list of what to do when emergencies happen, particularly during out-of-hours. It was noted that the NHS is keen to promote the 111 (non-emergency) and 999 (emergency) numbers, this is the same for the rest of Shetland.

9.5 Presentation by Matt Mason – Group Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Services

A lot is expected from remote communities when it comes to resilience. The safety of a community comes from forward planning and foreseeing potential risks. Mr Mason said he appreciates that there was once a fire station in Skerries, but that now there are no trained Fire Fighters in Skerries, so there is a gap there.

Emergency Plan – a copy of one that has been already done will be sent to Skerries, to get an idea on what needs to be looked at. The Council's new Resilience Advisor is keen to come out to communities to find out what is needed. All islands are different, and have different types of emergencies. The community needs to have confidence that the plan will work.

Currently, for fire fighters, whether part time or full time, there is a single standard for entry, attempts have been made for a two-tier entry, but this has not yet been successful. Getting an on-call fire station in Skerries would be a challenge.

The impact of a fire happening in Skerries was discussed. The priority is for prevention of fires happening at all.

Peter Stevenson - Community Safety Advisor, Scottish Fire & Rescue Services, joined the meeting

The advice from Fire Services would be how to prevent fires from happening, having alarm systems in place, and having an escape plan. Early detection is important, every domestic property is legally obliged to have an interlinked fire alarm system in place, and a carbon monoxide alarm if there is a solid fuel fire in the property. For people who are hard of hearing special alarms are available.

People's safety is the most important, Fire Services advice would not be to tackle a fire, but to exit the building. Fire services do not promote fire extinguishers for domestic properties, although due to the remoteness of Skerries there may be a place for them there. Peter goes round people's houses doing fire checks and offering advice on fire prevention. The importance of having a home fire safety check is to give advice on escaping a fire. There are significant challenges of getting fire assistance to a place like Skerries.

Jim said that having someone like Louise as a point of contact made it easier to keep up-to-date with risks and how to overcome emergencies, and to provide information on who to contact in the community when an emergency arises.

Matt will have a look at the Risk Register and Issues Log, then will get back to Paul on the best way forward. He will likely involve the Coastguard as well.

There was a discussion on working through different scenarios to find out what would work best. It was suggested that a Table Top exercise could be done, to work out how to deal with emergencies. Paul gave an overview of how the Table Top exercise would work. It was agreed to organize a Table Top exercise; Paul will take this forward.

Action: Paul to organize Table Top exercise

A survey is being done, as part of a strategic review for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, which rolls out on the 29th April. Matt encouraged everyone to have a look at the information available and to complete the survey. There is a two-month consultation period.

Fire Services could visit Skerries once a year, there was a discussion on whether this should be routine, or on request from the Skerries residents. Advice is available all the time, contact numbers will be passed to Paul.

Peter – There is a new system coming out later this year – Fire Safety Visits may not be taking

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place, but will be done by phone call or survey, which may not lead to a visit if it is not deemed necessary. Small island groups are slightly different, as there is no fire service available for the islands. Matt is happy to commit to visiting Skerries periodically.

Emergency Services have regular contact with Louise concerning safety issues. Peter said that the Islands Partnership Plan has made it easier for their services to contact people in the community. It was agreed that Paul can be the single point of contact for Skerries, and will be provided with contact details.

9.6 Next meeting

Staff from Community Planning and Development will be attending scheduled Community Council meetings. This is to carry out a 1:1 discussion with each Community Council regarding the draft scheme and proposed material changes.

It is expected that all meetings will be attended by the end of May so that should give each Community Council and its members another 4 weeks to submit any responses to the consultation survey.

10) Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, 31st May 2024.

The meeting concluded at 3.35 pm

Actions:

Councillor Thomson:

- Follow up on broken lights

Paul James:

- Do a (skip) video and send it to Councillor Thomson
- Contact the Booking Office re voicemail message
- Speak to Hall Committee re plaques
- Organize Table Top exercise

Violet McQuade:

- Inform SCBF on Skerries representation
- Inform on where plaque to be displayed

<p>Chair Signature</p> <p>Signed.....</p>
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