

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Zoom Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Thursday 27th May 2024.

PRESENT

Aileen Brown (Chair)	Helen Moncrieff	Dawna Phillips	Vicky Tylsar
Ana Arnett (SIC)	Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)		

APOLOGIES

Fiona Mitchell Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)

ABSENT

Irvine Burgess	Agnes Tallack	Allen Sinclair	Michael Duncan (SIC)
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)			

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

24/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Dawna declared an interest in the Dunrossness Central Public Hall's grant application.

24/14 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 2nd May 2024 was adopted on the motion of Dawna.

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24/15 POLICE REPORT

There was no Police Report due this month.

24/16 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

- a) **Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light:** Nothing new to report.
- 2) Proposed Kirk Yard Bench:** Nothing new to report.
- 3) Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** Nothing new to report.
- 4) Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** Nothing new to report.
- 5) Hestingott Dog Poo Bin:** Nothing new to report.

24/17 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) Community Development Fund Grant Scheme:** The Clerk reported that the £3000 Distribution Fund Grant application had been successful.
- 2) Dunrossness Central Public Hall – To assist with the costs of purchasing materials to redecorate the hall both internally and externally:** It was agreed to award 90% of the total cost of the project as proposed by Helen and seconded by Vicky.

24/18 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW

Ana Arnett provided an update on the Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 2, the consultation for which is currently open for comments until 5pm, Friday 28th June. Scheme proposals and the online survey form can be found at: www.shetland.gov.uk/news/article/2637/consultation-on-new-scheme-for-community-councils Paper survey forms are available in local shops.

The draft changes proposed are:

- 1) Funding:** Currently Community Councils receive their funding via a Core Fund and an additional Community Development Fund which they can apply for a maximum of £4000 from. The proposal is to merge these into one grant scheme.

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24/18 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW (continued)

Cllr Allison Duncan joined the meeting at 7:50pm

- 2) New Funding Scheme Formula:** It is proposed that the new formula will be based on a fixed allocation to cover core expenses with the remainder of the funding calculated on head of population in each community council area. The members agreed that more information on this proposal was required as they would not be supporting a proposal which reduced the level of funding the Community Council received.
- 3) Meeting Attendance:** Shetland is the only area in Scotland where a person can be a member of a Community Council but not attend any meetings. It is proposed to introduce new rules regarding attendance requirements with some flexibility for special circumstances.
- 4) Community Council Membership Numbers:** It is proposed to introduce population bands to determine membership numbers of Community Councils. The maximum number of members Dunrossness CC can have at the moment is 12 and the minimum is 4. Under the new proposals this would change to 10 and 4. The members saw no benefit to reducing numbers and felt the more people involved the better.
- 5) Standing Orders:** Standing Orders set out rules for conducting meetings. There are currently no set standing orders for Community Councils in Shetland. It is proposed that this is addressed.
- 6) Code of Conduct:** It is proposed that the current Code of Conduct is updated.
- 7) Young People:** It is proposed to introduce a Young People category to Community Councils for 12 to 16 year olds. Young people joining a Community Council in this category would not have voting rights.
- 8) Elected SIC Members:** Currently elected SIC members can join Community Councils as full members. It is proposed that elected SIC members and members of the Youth Parliament will no longer be able to join a Community Council and have voting rights.
- 9) Community Council Chair:** It is proposed that Community Council Chairs will only be allowed to serve a maximum of 4 years before stepping down for a minimum of 2.

The members were urged to have a good look at the review survey with a view to compiling Dunrossness Community Councils response at the next meeting on 24 June.

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24/19 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

No relevant external meetings had been attended.

24/20 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) Safety & Resilience Board:** Cllr Duncan reminded the members that he is Chair of the Safety & Resilience Board. He urged as many people as possible to complete the current Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) "Shaping Our Future Service" consultation survey. As noted in last month's Minutes, the online survey can be found at SFRS.PublicInvolvement@firescotland.gov.uk. He also reported that the stations at Hillswick, Walls and Bressay are totally inadequate and he had taken this up with both the local MP and MSP. Beatrice Wishart, MSP, has written recently to the Chief Fire Officer regarding the matter and is awaiting a reply.
- 2) Police Board:** Cllr Duncan reported that Chief Inspector Cleminson is moving to Inverness around the end of June. Vicky enquired about current staffing levels in Lerwick and Cllr Duncan replied that he believed they were currently fully staffed but that it had been necessary to bring in additional temporary staff from Inverness quite recently.

24/21 FAIR ISLE

- 1) Ferry Project:** Cllr Duncan confirmed that the Council has requested an extension to the Levelling Up Funding expiry date.

24/22 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Association of Community Councils Meeting:** The next meeting of the ASCC is scheduled to take place on 11th June. Irvine had stated that he should be able to attend on behalf of Dunrossness. Helen and Vicky also put their names forward provisionally.
- 2) 'Thank you' letter from Mind Your Head for Voar Redd Up donation:** This was noted.
- 3) Email Announcement ref PSTN switch off:** BT had initially intended to switch off the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) in December 2025. This has now been rescheduled to 31 January 2027 which allows Service Providers more time to safely migrate their vulnerable customers off of the PSTN and onto Digital.

24/23

24/23 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) **War Memorials:** Cllr Duncan reported that the War Memorials in the Dunrossness Kirk Yard are in need of refurbishment. Ana reported that the SIC Burials Dept have a schedule for the general maintenance of war memorials. If the memorial was in a dangerous state of repair, works would be undertaken immediately. The National War Memorial Trust also has a fund which any community group can apply to should a memorial require major repair. It was agreed to contact SIC Burials initially and find out when the above memorials are scheduled for maintenance.
- 2) **Dunrossness Primary School Bus Journey Time:** Allen had raised via email the fact that it often takes the primary school children who live south of the school 40 minutes to get home at the end of the day and parents are considering this to be too long. The current bus route in the afternoon from the school is Noss, Quendale, Exnaboe, Scatness, Toab and then Hestingott. Cllr Duncan confirmed that he had received correspondence regarding this matter from a parent and it had been passed to the SIC Education Department for their attention.
- 3) **SSE Bench:** Ana enquired if the Community Council had put their name forward for one of the garden benches which SSE had been advertising earlier. The Clerk replied that she had tried but had received an email bounce back saying the person who had originally been in contact no longer worked for the company and no alternative contact details had been given. Ana will try and follow this up.
- 4) **Bike Racks:** Vicky raised the subject of the possible provision of bike racks at bus stops in the Dunrossness area. She had noted, especially at the Robins Brae stop, that there were often quite a few bikes left and some were even in the bus shelter restricting the number of people who could use the shelter. It was also noted that a bike rack beside the bus shelter at Robins Brae might not be possible due to its close proximity to the main road, however there may be other suitable sites close by. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Elaine Park, SIC Transport, in the first instance to see if she had any knowledge / advice on the subject.

24/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

- 1) **Underground Salmon Farm:** As agreed at last month's Community Council meeting, the Clerk had contacted SIC planning and enquired if they have been approached in any official capacity regarding the reported proposal to construct a large scale underground salmon production venture near Spiggie. The following reply had been received from John Holden, Team Leader – Development Management, SIC Planning:

24/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

1) Underground Salmon Farm (continued):

"I can advise that as a potential applicant the Company, Norwegian Mountain Salmon, has taken advantage of the free pre-application enquiry service that we the Planning Service provide. This is a service that is available to all, and is a confidential one, but on this occasion the Company concerned has chosen to go public Underground salmon farm is proposed | The Shetland Times Ltd in advance of any formal planning process that would require consultation, including from the Council as planning authority.

Should the Company proceed and decide to lodge a planning application, depending on the proposal's scale, if it falls to be classed as a Major Development the Company will as a prospective applicant be obliged by the relevant planning regulations to consult with the Community Council and serve on it a Proposal of Application Notice. The Scottish Government's guidance on the consultation activity needing to take place for Major Development suggests that when planning their statutory pre-application consultation (PAC) prospective applicants should contact relevant community councils as regards when and how best to seek their views. If the Company decides to proceed, may I suggest to them that they should do this and contact you in the first instance?

PAC does not take away the need for, and right of, individuals and communities to express formal views to the planning authority during the planning application process itself. This should be emphasised by the prospective applicant during PAC. Even were the proposal not to turn out to be Major Development, when processing any application for it I consider it will be highly likely that the Planning Service would consider it to be development likely to affect the amenity in the area (if what have been understood will be the visible elements to the proposals are taken into account), and so the Community Council would then be consulted.

Noting the Community Council's request to be kept informed of future developments I have put on a note on the file against the pre-application enquiry."

DRAFT MINUTE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 24th JUNE 2024.**