

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Zoom Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Aileen Brown	Helen Moncrieff	Dawna Phillips
Vicky Tylsar	Agnes Tallack	Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)	
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)		Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)	

APOLOGIES

Irvine Burgess

ABSENT

Allen Sinclair	Michael Duncan (SIC)	Ana Arnett (SIC)
Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)		

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

24/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Robbie McGregor declared an interest in any planning matters.

24/26 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 27th May 2024 was adopted on the motion of Aileen, subject to the amendment that it was an 'in person' meeting held in Dunrossness Primary School and not Zoom

24/27 POLICE REPORT

There was no Police Report available.

24/28 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

a) Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light: Nothing new to report.

2) 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.

6) Dunrossness Kirk Yard War Memorials: Following Cllr Duncan's report that the War Memorials require cleaning, the Clerk had emailed SIC Burials Dept to enquire if they have a schedule for maintenance. Yvonne Scott had replied that, unfortunately (since 2017) no such schedule exists and explained that "the majority of war memorials were originally created through committees raising funds for their installation, therefore the council does not own or are now in a position to take responsibility for cleaning and maintaining war memorials in the first instance. However, Burial Services will undertake make safe measures if war memorials within burial grounds become dangerous". Grant applications to assist with the repair and conservation of war memorials can be made through the War Memorials Trust. Yvonne also pointed out that works to memorials within council burial grounds must be undertaken by council approved memorial stonemasons. The Clerk had also reported the issue of flooding around the base of the memorials and Yvonne had schedule this into the services maintenance plan to see if any improvements can be made.

7) Bus Shelter Bike Racks: The Clerk reported that she had emailed both Elaine Park & Jarryd Jamieson in SIC Transport but had not received a reply to date. The Clerk will follow this up again.

24/29 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

1) Shetland Community Benefit Fund: The main Viking Community Fund is scheduled to come online later this summer and the AGS will be replaced by the Community Grant Scheme (CGS). SCBF are keen for the Dunrossness Community Council to actively participate in the CGS. With this in mind, a new Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement had been received for signing. Fiona, as Chair of Dunrossness Community Council, agreed to sign these.

24/30 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW

The Community Council's response to the Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 2 proposals was agreed as follows:

1) Funding:

Proposal - merge Community Council funding sources into one.

Response - the members were in favour of this proposal which would reduce the administration burden on both community councils and the SIC.

2) New Funding Scheme Formula:

Proposal - 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.

Response - 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 Community Councils receive.

3) Meeting Attendance:

Proposal - introduce new rules regarding attendance requirements with some flexibility for special circumstances.

Response – the members were in favour of this proposal providing there is the option for offering a period of leave of absence in special circumstances as they would not like a lack of available flexibility to jeopardise future membership.

4) Community Council Membership Numbers:

Proposal - 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.

Response - the members saw no benefit in reducing maximum numbers and felt the more people involved the better.

5) Standing Orders:

Proposal: to introduce a set of Standing Orders or similar document which details how Community Council business is to be arranged and conducted.

Response – the members were in favour of this proposal.

6) Code of Conduct:

Proposal - it is proposed that the current Code of Conduct is updated.

Response – the members were in favour of this proposal and suggested that guidance on the use of social media should be included.

24/30 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW (continued)

7) Young People:

Proposal - 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.

Response – the members were in favour of this proposal as they are keen to see young people involved in the Community Council

8) Elected SIC Members:

Proposal - 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.

Response – the members were not in favour of this proposal as they felt it would be no issue if the new Standing Orders and Code of Conduct are clear and concise.

9) Community Council Chair:

Proposal: 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. In exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Community Council, the Chair may be considered to serve beyond the maximum period of four years. Such exceptional circumstances would require a unanimous decision being passed by the Community Council voting members.

Response: the members were happy with this proposal, providing a Chair's time in office can be extended if necessary. The members didn't want to see Community Councils put at risk of being left without a Chair.

24/31 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils: A meeting of the ASCC had been held on Tuesday 11 June. Michael Duncan, SIC, reported as follows:

- a) Digital Switchover** - Cathrine Coutts and Rod Keay delivered an update on the preparations that are underway within the SIC/NHS regarding the Digital Switchover in January 2027. They are aiming to meet the original timeline of December 2025 and are already testing alarm systems with a number of service users. New equipment has the potential to improve services and independent at home, but there are also issues to be investigated around resilience and battery back-up capacity should there be power outages. SIM based systems are a possible option, as this includes Roaming SIMS which are able to pick up signals when power cuts occur.

24/31 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils (continued):

- a). **Digital Switchover (continued)** - Technology in this area is fast evolving so the market is being closely monitored and the SIC is liaising with other Local Authorities to determine the best solutions. BT are carrying out regional engagement so will be in Shetland in July.
- b) **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service consultation** - Matt Mason from SFRS attended and provided an update on this consultation exercise. SFRS are looking to consult to help shape its future. A lot of its infrastructure and equipment is out of date, so the status quo is not an option. There are significant risks if no action is taken, so the service needs to make changes. Whilst prevention and education has helped make significant reductions to house fires, the service is having to deal with new challenges such as the impacts of climate change and wildfires. The consultation exercise is looking to decide the best locations for fire stations and determine where resources should be allocated. In Shetland we have a further challenge, having a number of island communities which need to be covered.
- c) **Local Place Plans** - Been a good uptake across Shetland with 17 areas registering an interest.
- d) **Community Council Scheme Review** - An update was provided on the Review. Stage two consultation closes at 5pm, 28 June 2024. Stage Three of the Review is due to take place later in the year, and this will include issuing a final draft scheme for comment and potentially involve discussions about the future funding model. It will also share the result of Stage two consultation exercise. A report with the proposed new scheme is scheduled to be presented to Shetland Islands Council in early 2025, and subject to approval, the new scheme would be implemented on 1 April 2025.
The Council has this week issued a letter to all Community Councillors about extending their term for another year. Anyone not seeking to extend their term must notify the Council in writing – see letter for instructions and deadline.
- e) **Arven Offshore Wind Farm Limited – Scoping Consultation** - A discussion took place about the above which had been received by the ASCC. Deadline for responses is 29 June 2024. It was agreed the ASCC contact Scottish Government Marine Licencing and seek an extension to the above which has been done. Once a response is received, Community Councils will be notified of timescales to provide any comments back to the ASCC to collate and submit.

25 June 2024

page six of eight

24/32 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- 1) **Southend Bus Service:** Alex reported that the trial of a service departing Lerwick at 7pm for the Southend will be commencing soon. If the service is well used, it will become permanent.

24/33 FAIR ISLE

- 1) **Ferry Project:** The contract for the new Fair Isle Ferry project has been put out to tender again. Fiona reported that the Council is keeping the Isle up to date on progress.
- 2) **Bird Observatory:** The construction of the new Observatory is still progressing with the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust having taken on the contract. The aim is for the project to be completed by the end of the year but, in reality, it may be the beginning of 2025.

24/34 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Dunrossness Primary School Bus Journey Time:** As reported at the Community Council's previous meeting, this matter had been raised with the Education Dept. Cllr Duncan had provided an update via email which reported that a member of the Education Dept will be having a meeting with the parent who raised the issue initially to get further details and to look for solutions for going forward.
- 2) **SIC email ref. Vodafone Network Developments:** Following some recent reports of Vodafone network issues in Lerwick and South Unst, SIC Executive Manager of ICT, Performance & Improvement, James Cunningham reported that the Vodafone Public Sector Account Manager has been invited for an initial meeting to discuss the general performance of the Vodafone network in Shetland and to seek some assurances around their commitment to further infrastructure development. The meeting is scheduled to take place on 24th July.
- 3) **Email ref Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) in Shetland:** Lisa Steward, Development Manager for RNID had emailed to introduce herself. RNID are providing a service in Shetland which is volunteer led – providing hearing checks for non-hearing aid users, hearing aid maintenance/ batteries for NHS hearing aids and information and support. The service is led by a small group of volunteers. They would like to promote the service as they want to increase their number of volunteers so that support can be offered to more people beyond their current services in Brae and Lerwick. More information about the service can be found at www.rnid.org.uk

24/34/4

24/34 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- 4) SIC Email ref Community Councillors Term of Office Extensions:** Shetland Islands Council, at its meeting on 3 October 2023, agreed that the current Term of Office for all Community Councils in Shetland be extended by one year, to November 2025, to allow further time for the Review of the Scheme of Community Councils to be completed.
- 5) SIC email ref Lerwick Alcohol Byelaws:** The Council's current consultation concerning the Shetland Islands Council Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places Byelaws 2005 opened on 17 May 2024 and is set to close at midnight on 2 July 2024. In addition to receipt of responses from individual respondents, the Council is also keen to hear from community councils as well. Vicky suspected the Byelaw didn't reduce the level of alcohol consumed but merely hid it away from public view making problems less easily seen, identified and addressed. Following further discussions, it was agreed that the situation of Dunrossness means the Byelaw doesn't impact greatly on its population.
- 6) SIC email ref Winter Maintenance Policy Review 2024:** Neil Hutcheson, Executive Manager, Roads writes "*the Council's winter maintenance operations have been reviewed on a number of occasions in recent years. We are now in the process of undertaking a further review in response to concerns that have been expressed regarding the current policy. It is recognised that there is an increasing number of drivers travelling out with the hours that the Council's winter service currently operates. This includes early mornings, evenings and the festive public holidays. There is also an issue with the lack of footpath gritting on Sundays and difficulties with the treatment of footpaths in rural areas. The current policy was approved in August 1991. We are proposing a new policy to account for the changes that have been approved and implemented over the years. This new policy will also include the changes that are proposed to address the above concerns*". Having read the proposals, the members agreed that they considered the Levenwick Loop should be upgraded from Priority 2 to Priority 1 due to it serving the Doctor's Surgery and local Care Centre.

24/35 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

There was no other current business for discussion.

Cllr Robbie McGregor left the meeting at 8.55 pm

24/36 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

- 1) Arven Offshore Wind Farm – Scoping Consultation:** Arven Offshore Wind Farm Ltd are proposing developing a windfarm approximately 30km east of Mainland Shetland. Cllr Bryan Peterson pointed out that offshore development is out with Shetland Islands Council control and is therefore controlled by the Government and the Developer. Lengthy debate took place on renewables in general. The members believed that Shetland is a very attractive place for developers considering renewable projects and were concerned what impact such developments will have on Shetland as a place and life in Shetland. It was agreed to write to the ASCC expressing Dunrossness Community Council's concerns and also suggest that they invite offshore developers Arven and Stoura to meet with Shetland's Community Councils to discuss their proposals.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chair

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