

(Draft Minutes of the February 2025 S&WCC Meeting subject to approval at the next meeting)

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

Mr I F Walterson
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Draft minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7 pm at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)

M Forrest
E Johnston
S Johnston
J Puckey
C Venus
Cllr L Peterson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chair's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies:

F Macbeath (Vice Chair), J Laing, R Fraser, M Macgregor, J Haswell, R Smith

3. Declarations of Interest

Re: 9 Shetland Community Benefit Fund grant application CGS 0023-02 & CGS 0024-02 - E Johnston declared an interest.

Re: 10 S&WCC Grant application from Sandness P.S. S Johnston declared an interest.

4. Police Report

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No report was available for this meeting

5. Minutes from 14/1/25

The adoption of the minutes from 14th January 2025 was proposed by J Puckey and seconded by E Johnston.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 16.2 of 1/25 Presence of a Free-Range Cockerel at the Stove Cottages at Walls

This matter has been reported to the SIC Environmental Health Department.

Re: 6 of 1/25 Community Council Scheme Review- Phase 3 Consultation

The Clerk confirmed that the Sandness and Walls Community Council's responses to the Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 3 have been submitted to Mr M Duncan.

7. Housing

M Forrest stated that she had spoken by telephone to Paula Nicolson of the SIC Waste Management Department regarding the storage of waste at the Stove Cottages. M Forrest went on to say that no action had been taken by the Waste Management Department since her call. M Forrest displayed photographs she had taken at the bin sites at Stove Cottages which she will forward to Paula Nicolson. Cllr L Peterson offered to raise the matter with the Waste Management Department.

Action: 1. M Forrest to forward photographs of bin sites at Stove Cottages, Walls to Paula Nicolson of the Waste Management Department.

2. Cllr Peterson to raise the issue of the bins at Stove Cottages, Walls with the SIC Waste Management Department.

8. Roads

Re: 19.2 of 11/24 Street Lighting in Walls

Reference was made to an email from Mr Neil Hutcheson, (Team Leader - Road Asset and Network Management) regarding the street lighting issues at the bus stop adjacent to the Walls Shop and at the Forralea Houses also in Walls. One possible solution

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suggested by Mr Hutcheson would be to wait until the results of the Active Travel Survey were provided, Members felt this to be unsatisfactory because of the timescale for any physical improvements to take place. Given that a serious accident had occurred at the Walls bus stop, the Clerk was asked to email Mr Hutcheson requesting more urgent action and the attendance of Mr Colin Gear (Safety Officer) to assess the situation. As regards the lack of street lighting beside the Forralea houses, it was proposed that a video be made to illustrate the hazards at this site.

Actions: 1. The Clerk to contact Mr Hutcheson requesting more urgent action at the Walls bus stop and to request a site visit by Mr Colin Gear to discuss the best solution.
2. M Forrest to video the road and path adjacent to the Forralea houses and email this to Mr Hutcheson.

8.1 Verge Damage at the Gallow Hill on the A971

Damage to the verge at the Gallow Hill on the A971 was reported. M Forrest agreed to take photographs of the site and email them to Mr N Hutcheson. The Clerk was asked to send an email reporting the problem.

Actions: 1. M Forrest to photograph the verge at the Gallow Hill on the A 971 and forward the pictures to Mr N Hutcheson.
2. The Clerk to email Mr N Hutcheson to request remedial action on the verge.

Re: 9 of 1/25 Construction of a Two Lane Carriageway on the A971 from the Murrister Quarry to Da Punds in Walls

Cllr L Peterson provided Members with an update on the progress being made towards the presentation of a business case for the construction of a two lane carriageway on the A971 between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds in Walls. She explained that the Outline Business Case should be completed in the next fortnight. It would then go before the Asset and Investment Group which consisted of SIC Officers. Thereafter, it would be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee at either their March 2025 meeting or June 2025 meeting.

9. Shetland Community Benefit Fund Grant Application CGS 0023-02 & CGS 0024-02

(E Johnston declared an interest and left the room.)

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Following a discussion regarding applications from the Aith Rainbows and Brownies for grants of £500 for each group, Members were unanimous in approving the applications.

Action: The Clerk to inform the administrator of the Shetland Community Benefit Fund of this decision.

(E Johnston returned to the meeting.)

10. Sandness and Walls Community Council Grant application from Sandness Primary School

(S Johnston declared an interest and left the meeting.)

Consideration was given to a grant application from Sandness Primary School for a grant of £500 to construct a pond in school grounds to attract wildlife and enhance the quality of Environmental Studies at the school. Members agreed to use the remaining funds from Invest in the West for this project and the application was approved unanimously.

Action: The Clerk to send a cheque for £500 to Sandness Primary School.

(S Johnston rejoined the meeting.)

11. Voar Redd-up Funding

Following an enquiry from S Johnston regarding the possibility of receiving Community Council funding to support a Voar Redd-up activity involving Sandness Primary Schoolchildren, the Chair indicated that the Sandness and Walls Community Council Members had made a decision to no longer provide funds for Voar Redd-ups.

12. Local Place Plan

The Chair commented on the fact that access to 6 webinars on Local Place Planning had been included in a recent email from Peter Mogridge. The Chair voiced his opinion that this was potentially very time-consuming. Cllr L Peterson indicated she was aware of a suggestion by Mr Bryan Peterson to employ someone to assist Community Councils wishing to generate Local Place Plans. This temporary post could be funded through the Shetland Community Benefit Fund. It is hoped this can be discussed at the next Association of Shetland Community Councils meeting.

13. Request to attend meeting by Julie Graham, UHI

A request from Julie Graham to attend a future Community Council meeting was discussed. Given that it may be possible to complete a questionnaire instead of having a visit, The Clerk was asked to access the questionnaire and report back to the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk to access the UHI questionnaire and report back to the next meeting.

14. Facebook Page for S&WCC

E Johnston reported that the Community Council Facebook page is still proving a popular means whereby information on Community Council activities and local events are being accessed.

15. Financial Update

Members acknowledged receipt of the most recent Community Council's financial spreadsheet. The Clerk stated that funds were becoming limited for the current financial year and that he was still awaiting an invoice for work that had been carried out earlier in the year. A brief discussion took place concerning the financial year when the funding changes proposed in the Community Council Scheme Review would commence. Cllr L Peterson offered to request this information.

Action: Cllr L Peterson to find out when the changes to Community Council funding as outlined in the Community Council Scheme Review would commence.

16. Suggestions for a Special Project for 2025/26 Financial Year

Given the uncertainty of there being a need for special projects in the 2025/26 financial year, this matter was deferred.

17. Correspondence (Including Emails)

The Clerk read a letter had been received from Mrs Alma Duncan thanking the Community Council for the support given to the visit to Walls by the Lerwick Brass Band. Enclosed with the letter

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was a receipt from the Shetland Food Bank for £503.74, this being the donations received at the Brass Band Concert.

18. AOCB

18.1 Request by Billy Mycock to attend a Sandness and Walls Community Council Meeting

The Clerk referred to a recent email from Mr Mycock, Environmental Health Officer, to attend a future S&WCC Meeting. After a brief discussion, the Clerk was asked to invite Mr Mycock to the March meeting.

Action: The Clerk to invite Mr Mycock to attend the March meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council.

18.2 R100 Evaluation

Members acknowledged receipt of an email in relation to the R100 Evaluation. Given that much of this Community Council's area is excluded from the roll out of fibre optic broadband, members requested the Clerk to draft a response to the R100 Evaluation Team expressing their disappointment at this situation.

Action: The Clerk to draft and circulate a response to the R100 Evaluation Team expressing the Members' disappointment at the lack of progress in providing fibre optic broadband coverage for this area.

18.3 Decision not to Un-mothball Papa Stour School

The Director of Children's Services decision not to un-mothball Papa Stour Primary School was discussed. Members echoed the disappointment expressed by Cllr L Peterson and J Puckey.

18.4 Electric Vessel Sea Trials between West Burrafirth and Papa Stour

Members were informed that the company constructing the electric vessel have not responded to recent emails from the Ports and Harbours Department. Because of this it would appear unlikely that the sea trials scheduled for March 2025 are unlikely to take place.

19. Date of Next Meeting

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The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 4th March 2025 and will be a hybrid meeting which is scheduled to commence at 7.00pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.