

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.00PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT	Mrs M Davis Mr C Clark	Mr E MacPherson	Mrs P Christie
EX OFFICIO	Cllr B Peterson	Cllr R McGregor	
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes Mrs A Arnett PC Cameron Jamieson	Campbell Johnson, CW Johnson Plant Susan Adamson, CW Johnson Plant	Stewart Douglas, SSD
CHAIRPERSON	Mr G Murray		
APOLOGIES	Miss E Copland	Mr M Duncan	
NOT PRESENT	Cllr A Armitage	Cllr A Duncan	

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor declared an interest in Planning, Item 10, as he is the chair of SIC Planning Board.

Cllr Peterson declared an interest in Item 7 – the Review of Community Council Scheme of Establishment – Phase 3.

Mrs Geddes declared an interest in the clerk’s wages and laptop discussions in AOCB.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th November were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr G Murray.

2. POLICE REPORT

This item was moved up the agenda to allow the police officer to return to his other duties. PC Jamieson explained that there had been about 50 incidents recorded in the whole of the Southend of Shetland since the last meeting. Seventeen of these did not need further police involvement.

There were a total of six in the GQC CC area – a sudden death, a road traffic collision, a fraud, a vandalism, a breach of the peace and a youth disorder incident.

Members asked if there were more drug incidents now and if they were spreading out of Lerwick. PC Jamieson agreed that there did seem to be more reports further north and that they seemed slightly more spread out. When asked what age most offenders were he said that most were in their 20s but that the average age was anything from 50 and down.

Officers have now received training and equipment to be able to do drugs tests so have the capacity to check for drivers under the influence of drugs as well as alcohol now.

When asked whether Lerwick Up Helly Aa sees any spikes in incidents PC Jamieson said that it was really only drink driving which they sometimes saw a spike. He said the squads and

stewards police themselves as they don't want to spoil their fun for either this year or further years, as bad behaviour saw strict consequences from the organisers.

----- PC Jamieson left 7.12pm -----

----- Cllr McGregor left the room for the duration of the next agenda item -----

10. PLANNING

This item was moved up the agenda to allow the members of the public attending for this item to be able to leave.

There was only one planning applications to consider:

- [2025/019/PPF](#) – Partial Change of Use from Farm Shop and Café to Café and Plant Hire Business, Mackenzie's Farm Shop and Café, Cunningsburgh, ZE2 9HA.

The applicants Mr Campbell Jamieson and Miss Adamson from CW Johnson Plant, and Mr S Douglas from SDS who was supporting them with the application process, spoke through what they intended to do with the site. They have expressed an interest in the former shop and café and will put an offer in for the premises if the plans are approved.

They propose to make it the administration base for the company and intend to reopen the café, though on a smaller scale. They will extend the building to include a workshop for maintenance and use of the plant hire. The building will be extended to the east and the overspill car park will be extended to the south. The café will be reduced in size but the kitchen, offices and toilets will remain as they are, with a total separation between the café and the workshop. They see the café as catering for the working trade who will be welcome to come in with work boots and boilersuits, but all members of the public would be welcome.

They'd promote the sale of tyres and MOTs for the public and all of the plant hire and workshop business will be self-contained in the overspill car park. They do have a large fleet vehicles but these are working all over Shetland during the working day unless in for repairs.

They have spoken to the people who are looking to start a café in the church building and as they are planning to target tour bus business, there is no competition.

Members were pleased that a business is looking to make its base in the community and also had intentions to provide services to the general public, bringing more people and services to the area. They had no objections to return and wished the applicants all the best with their plans.

ACTION: Clerk to send comments to the SIC planning department in response to the planning application considered.

Members also noted Planning Advice Note 14 – Delivery of Biodiversity Enhancement on Local Developments, published in the latest SIC Planning Department blog.

----- Mr Jamieson, Miss Adamson and Mr Douglas left 7.25pm -----

----- Cllr McGregor came back into the room -----

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. Shurton Brae Bins

The large bins at Shurton Brae have been secured with some wood to ensure the lids do not blow too far open. Members were very appreciative of the work done but unfortunately the wood has broken and needs fixed. There are also potholes in front of the bins which are making it difficult for residents to put their bruck in the bins.

ACTION: Clerk to email thanks and follow up as one member reported that it doesn't look like there has been any progress recently.

2. Benches

The location to site the community benches has still not been decided.

ACTION: Mrs Christie to speak to Cunningsburgh and other members to try to progress Quarff and/or Gulberwick locations.

3. School Voucher

As the January meeting was cancelled the clerk has not delivered the thank you voucher to the school yet.

ACTION: Clerk to deliver thank you voucher to school.

2. POLICE REPORT

This agenda item was moved further up and heard earlier in the meeting.

3. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The bank statement on February 6th reads £6,066.50.

The grants - £2,000 to the Quarff Hall, £925 to the RVS, £736.36 to the Cunningsburgh Football Club and £150 to the Gulberwick Hall were paid out, as was £182.84 for backpay for the clerk.

All of our grant money allocated from this year's budget has now been awarded.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS

A Shetland Community Benefit Fund applications was considered in between meetings via email. Members awarded the full £400 asked for to the South Mainland Amateur Swimming for their race fees.

Information was received about the Viking Community Fund and read and noted.

All grant money from GQC CC 24/25 budget has been awarded. 'Thank you's were received from Cunningsburgh Football Club (£736.36 for exercise bikes for the community gym), Royal Voluntary Service (£925 for a Christmas dinner for over-60s in the community), Quarff Public Hall (£2,000 for new window) and Gulberwick Hall Community Party (£150 for Christmas Party).

5. ROADS AND PATHS

1. Cunningsburgh Road Safety Concerns

The next step was for Michael Craigie, SIC Executive Manager – Transport Planning to attend one of our meetings for an update prior to holding a separate meeting with interested parties. Mr Craigie is currently off work sick so things are at a standstill until he returns. The clerk is keeping everyone updated.

2. Dandiesgarth Paths, Cunningsburgh

A member of the public has been in touch to ask that something be done about the poor state of some of the paths at Dandiesgarth, Cunningsburgh. Cllr McGregor spoke to Roads and an engineer is to visit the site soon. The clerk has let the complainant know.

3. New Cycle Path at Gulberwick

Mr MacPherson reported that he spoke to a professional cyclist who regularly cycles the Shetland roads. He has explained that for cyclists, that section of road has never been an issue and that the money would have been better spent by putting paths in on sections of road where there are slow inclines – places where cyclists have to slow down and traffic can get piled up behind them, often leading to dangerous driving and risky overtaking manoeuvres. Mr MacPherson agreed with the cyclist that crawler lanes should be put in on these sections of road for all slow-moving traffic to be able to be use, allowing the most bang for their buck with funding.

Other members noted that while it may not be the most useful path for road cyclists, it is being well-used by walkers and recreational cyclists and families. It was also noted that the rules for Paths for All funding can be quite restrictive and are more about linking up populations of people with services or workplaces, so some of the identified inclines may not qualify for funding.

4. Pothole at East Voxter Road Junction

Mrs Christie reported at the November meeting that there is a puddle-filled pothole on the corner of the east Voxter road junction which is growing larger and which could end up causing damage to cars if the drivers are unaware of how deep it is. The problem has been made worse as it looks like there is a blocked drain there. The clerk had been in contact with SIC Roads and they replied to say they would look at it, but the pothole is still there so she will follow it up.

ACTION: Contact Roads for update about East Voxter road junction pothole.

6. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

With just a few busy people trying to move this forward, not much had been achieved since the last meeting. The work done by Tingwall Community Council to progress paths in their area is something that would be good for GQC CC to do, along with other ideas. The Local Place Plan work is also something which goes hand in hand with this (see Item 9.9).

ACTION: Meeting to be organised to sort out a constitution and next steps.

7. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT – PHASE 3

With the January meeting being cancelled, the deadline for this has passed, though members were given the opportunity to submit a response if they felt strongly about any of the proposed changes. Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan has said that comments can still be sent in as it would be useful to have them on file.

Members felt that many of the changes were just tinkering and that the SIC could have been far bolder. The administrative changes have been useful for the clerk.

ACTION: Clerk to look out original response to the consultation and send it to Mr Clark for him to contact SIC Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan with his own response.

8. UPDATES FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

1. National Speed Management Review

Cllr Peterson shared that a consultation on changes to national speed limits has been launched in Scotland. The Scottish Government is considering cutting the national speed limit on single carriageways to 50mph, while increasing the speed limit for goods vehicles over 7.5 from 40-50mph, and to 60mph on dual-carriageways.

It is looking likely that it will go ahead, and if it does so it will happen by default. Local authorities can then make decisions on whether they would like to go back up to 60mph on all or on some sections of roads.

As Shetland's road network is relatively new and doesn't have issues with trees blocking visibility which many of the mainland's roads have, there was discussion about the benefit of this for Shetland. It was agreed that there were several sections of road which communities would like to see go down to 50mph – in our community the Quarff road and the Cunningsburgh road past Mackenzies – but that most of the network is probably fine at 60mph.

There may be changes to speed limits in the town too, with increased areas going to 20mph.

The consultation closes on March 5th and can be found here: [National Speed Management Review - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

ACTION: Members to fill out National Speed Management Review Consultation if they would like to.

2. A Fair Share for Shetland – Guidance and Principles for Community Benefit in Future Negotiations with Energy Developers.

Cllr Peterson shared that the report titled – A Fair Share for Shetland has been approved by SIC Councillors. Negotiations were bespoke in the past, but the documents now sets out robust guidelines and principles which can be used to try to get the best deal for Shetland. Cllr Peterson said there is a lot of information and increased understanding within the document thanks to help from local companies such as NORN, VOAR and the Shetland Net Zero Forum.

The Scottish Government is looking at it with great interest and may use it as a basis for a new piece of legislation. He believes it could be one of the most significant things the SIC has done in years. The report can be viewed here: [241211-a-fair-share-for-shetland.pdf](#) with background information and details of an amendment here: [Councillors approve principles for community benefit negotiations | Shetland News](#)

Cllr McGregor has updates on the Dandiegarth paths and the Cunningsburgh glass recycling facility in other places in the agenda.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Information on Council Tax for Second Homes

After a presentation at the ASCC about increased council tax for second or empty homes members had several questions, queries and comments, which were fed back to SIC Finance.

Paul Fraser – Executive Manager – Finance replied immediately and Siobhan Johnson, Senior Revenues Officer sent a letter a few weeks later which addressed each of the points and questions individually. A flowchart to take someone through the criteria to figure out

whether an uninhabitable property is exempt from council tax was also attached to the email.

Members were very impressed with the response – one member describing it as probably the most comprehensive and detailed response they had ever seen. Members were keen for a thank you to be sent with their appreciation for the work that had gone into it.

ACTION: Clerk to send thanks to Finance Department

2. Stoura Offshore Windfarm Update

The Stoura Windfarm Community Liaison Officer emailed on 18.12.24 to share that their website had been updated and people can now access a copy of the information boards displayed at the recent public exhibition. The page can be found here: [Project Information](#).

3. Mossy Hill Windfarm Project

Mr Clark spoke to someone from Statkraft in December and they have subsequently sent on links to more information on the project. The original plan had 12 turbines but they are proposing a redesign which will reduce the number of turbines from 12 to eight while increasing the maximum tip height from 145m to 155m.

Details of the redesign, from the August exhibition, can be found here:

<https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/mossy-hill/virtual-exhibition-mossy-hill-redesign/>

Further details on the project can be found here: [Projects | Mossy Hill Wind Farm - Statkraft UK](#)

The December email said that the second public exhibition is planned for February but no details have yet been received.

4. Marine Restoration and Enhancement Plan Update – Online Survey Now Live

The online survey for the UHI project to look into a Marine Restoration and Enhancement Plan is now live. The survey will remain open until the 14th of February. You can access the survey via the following link: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/uhi/mreap>

5. Community Council CPR Skill Sessions

Both the fire service and the ambulance service are teaming up with the British Heart Foundation to offer free CPR and defibrillation skills to communities. They would like CC help to promote these sessions and are also offering them to CC themselves. Members were interested in a session and agreed it could be open to others in the community at the same time. A few emails have gone back and forth about a date and time but members decided to ask them to just choose a date and time – probably evening and at the Cunningsburgh Hall – and any CC members who can make it will go.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the organisers to arrange a session.

6. R100 Broadband Evaluation Survey

The Scottish Government Reaching 100% (R100) programme aims to improve broadband infrastructure and has launched a survey to find out how well it is going.

The £600+ million programme is extending access to faster broadband to sub-30 Megabits per second homes and businesses who are unlikely to receive upgrades through commercial plans. You can find out more about R100 at: gov.scot/digitalconnectivity.

To understand whether and how households and organisations have benefited from R100, the Scottish Government is undertaking an evaluation of the programme. As part of this, we are surveying households and organisations who are eligible or have received broadband access via R100. An address will only come up as an option on the postcode section of the survey of this applies to you, so it is worth checking out the survey so you can give feedback.

The survey is open until March 3rd and are available online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/R100Evaluation>

ACTION: Members to fill out survey if they wish to. Clerk to share survey on Facebook page.

7. Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting – 11th March 6-8pm

The next meeting of the ASCC is due to take place on 11th March at 6pm. Mr MacPherson has agreed to go on behalf of GQC CC.

ACTION: Clerk to send agenda papers on to Mr MacPherson.

8. Tunnel Vision Roadshow

Alistair Carmichael MP and Beatrice Wishart MSP have sent details of a week long roadshow they are hosting in the week beginning 18th August 2025. It will be a series of events to report back and listen to community views on inter-island connectivity and tunnel proposals. There will be events in Unst, Yell, Fetlar, Bressay and one in Brae too.

9. Local Place Planning – Free Training Events and Possible Collaboration with Other South End Community Councils

Details of a range of free sessions to introduce and help groups with Local Place Planning have been announced. Mrs Arnett encouraged members to attend as the SIC have bought in the help and if groups have any plans to do a LPP this is probably the best opportunity to get support to get going with it.

The sessions will take place between 5:30pm and 6:30pm on Wednesday nights on MS Teams and you can sign up for all the sessions, or choose ones you are particularly interested in.

[Wednesday 12 February](#) - Introduction to Local Place Plans 1: What is a Local Place Plan and how is it different from a Community Action Plan?

[Wednesday 19 February](#) - Introduction to Local Place Plans 2: The Who, When, Why and How of Local Place Plans.

[Wednesday 26 February](#) - Project managing your Local Place Plan.

[Wednesday 5 March](#) - Designing an Engagement Strategy for your Local Place Plan.

[Wednesday 12 March](#) - Processing the Data you gather for your Local Place Plan.

[Wednesday 19 March](#) - Writing your Statement of Regard to Statutory Plans: An Intro to National Planning Framework 4 for your Local Place Plan.

[Find out more and sign up for free Local Place Plan training](#)

Cllr Peterson in his role as Sandwick CC chair suggested that the three Southend Community Councils teaming up to do work on LPPs together might be a good idea – increasing support for each other, chances to get funding, and possibly sharing resources such as a project officer. The first step could be to all get together and watch recordings of the workshop together, allowing time to pause the videos and discuss. Several members agreed this was a good idea.

ACTION: Cllr Peterson to send details of next steps. Members to sign up for workshops or get access to them once recorded if the Wednesday evenings are not a good time for them.

10. Community Conversations – Community Benefits from Offshore and Onshore Renewable Energy Developments

An email was received from The Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) on February 5th detailing the 'community conversations' they are holding across Scotland to gather local peoples' opinions on community benefits generated through offshore and onshore renewable energy developments.

This is part of a bigger, national conversation so they are holding two online webinars to allow people to find out more about what is planned, and how to get involved. [You can find out more about the webinars by following this link.](#)

The webinars and conversations are open to individuals as well as community groups. You can [register your interest and find out more here.](#)

ACTION: Members to sign up if they are interested.

11. Gremista Grid Supply Point – SSEN Draft Strategic Development Plan

The draft strategic development plan for the Gremista Grid Supply Point is now available online for consultation. It closes on March 14th. The paper can be found using the following link: [DSO Consultation Library - SSEN](#), and the consultation survey can be accessed here: [Survey Details | Gremista GSP \(Shetland\) Strategic Development Plan - Draft for Consultation](#). The plan encompasses the current state of the network along with potential options for strategic network planning.

ACTION: Members to complete the survey if they would like to.

10. PLANNING

This item was heard earlier on in the meeting.

11. AOCB

1. Cunningsburgh Glass Recycling Update

An enquiry from a fellow SIC councillor prompted Cllr McGregor to seek an update on the glass recycling facility formerly known as Enviroglass. Brydon Gray, Team Leader Sic Waste Management informed the clerk that the site is now under the ownership of SIC Assets and the local authority will have the job of trying to clear the site – a job he described as 'unenviable' due to the costs and difficulties. SIC Assets have already been in touch about disposal options and one of the possibilities is to use the glass when they are constructing the new landfill next year. He said they don't yet have a plan of action but the clerk will keep in touch for further updates.

----- The clerk left the room during the discussion for the next two items, returning following a decision by members.-----

2. Clerk's Pay

The Local Government Employee Salary Scales have been updated with a 5p per hour increase to Distant Islands Allowance. Members agreed to award the pay increase and backpay of £6.80.

ACTION: Clerk to increase the pay direct debit by £1.70 a month and transfer £6.80 of backpay.

3. Replacement Laptop

Members agreed to the cost of a replacement laptop after the clerk accidentally knocked a cup of tea over the current one. Members enquired as to whether there is insurance held by the SIC which could cover accidental damage in future, or if other Community Councils took out their own business insurance. SIC Community Involvement and Development Officer Mrs Arnett said she would ask Michael Duncan.

The clerk came back in the room after the decision had been made, thanked members and apologised again for the accident.

ACTION: Clerk to transfer the money for the laptop and Mrs Arnett to speak to Michael Duncan about insurance.

4. Community Resilience Plans

Mrs Arnett explained that the Scottish Government is keen to have Local Resilience Plans created to supplement the local authority and national plans already in place. She has been tasked with finding groups and organisations which could create the plan for their area, using templates provided and with support from SIC Community Planning and Development.

Members agreed that they would do what they can to populate the template.

ACTION: Mrs Arnett to send the Community Resilience Plan template and information on for members to look at.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th March 2025.

Meeting Ends – 9.10 pm.

CHAIR

13. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

August 2024 – bench locations to be decided and planning permission sought.