

BURRA AND TRONDRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the above Community Council was held in the foyer of the Burra Public Hall on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 6pm.

Present

Mr. N. O'Rourke (Chairman)
Mr. R. Black
Mr. G. Laurenson
Mr. M. Fullerton
Miss N. Fullerton
Ms M. Garnier

Apologies

Mr. B. Adamson
Mrs. C. Smith
Cllr. C. Hughson
Mrs. R. Fraser, SIC

In Attendance

Cllr. D. Sandison
Cllr. I. Scott
Cllr. M. Lyall
Mrs. J. Adamson (Clerk)

1. Invitation to Participate in the Next Phase of the Marine Restoration and Enhancement Action Plan

The Chairman welcomed Tanya Riley, PG Marine Scientist, and Rachel Shucksmith, UHI Shetland, to the meeting. They had requested attendance to present a summary of the project and gather our response for the next stage of this work. The Marine Restoration and Enhancement Action Plan (MREAP) for Shetland aims to co-create a roadmap tailored to Shetland's unique environmental and socio-economic needs. The project seeks to guide restoration, and enhancement efforts through a collaborative approach.

A variety of engagement processes have been implemented, resulting in feedback from 160 individuals. These included targeted interviews with marine industry, environmental and government groups/organisations, public drop-in sessions, presentation and feedback sessions delivered to nine community councils, and an online survey that was accessible for 60 days. Participant responses highlighted key concerns and priorities for action in Shetland's marine environment. Participants also expressed a preference for local governance and decision-making in marine restoration and enhancement projects. Marine litter was consistently identified as a widespread issue. They are now moving into the second phase of this project and the full report for the initial phase is now published together with the executive summary.

(These had been received from Tanya and circulated to the members prior to the meeting.)

This next phase focuses on gathering valuable feedback to guide the development of the Plan and they are looking for input on the following two areas:

Guiding Principles: These potential principles have been developed based on the collective insights from initial participant responses.

Community Feedback: Participants will be invited to rate their agreement with various statements.

With regard to the survey, Tanya pointed out that they are still taking new ideas and it is not just the opinions they have in the survey. The online survey will be open until 14th February 2025.

The problem of sea litter was brought up and they advised that larger items can be reported to Ruth Henderson who will arrange for it to be removed. It was also noted, however, that the Meal Beach is not as bad as it used to be as members of the public are now taking responsibility for cleaning up the beach.

The Chairman thanked Tanya and Rachel for attending and they left the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest – Cllr. Sandison declared an interest with regard to the Planning Applications to be discussed.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of 6th January 2026 were approved. Proposed by Narene Fullerton and seconded by Mhairi Garnier.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Active Travel Audit

The last update on this was received from Alistair Hunter, SIC Transport Planning, at our December meeting when he advised that Robina Barton should be back in post in the new year. This will be kept on the Minutes meantime.

(b) Burra Early Years – pick up/drop off sign

This sign has still not been put in place. It was noted that various signs are now been attended to so hopefully this will be done soon. The Clerk will send a reminder to Neil Hutcheson.

ACTION: Clerk

(c) Shetland Community Benefit Fund - Director

Cllr. Scott had spoken with Michael Hannah and he is willing to take on this role. He is away on holiday until the middle of March. The Clerk will let Eleanor Gear know and his contact details will be forwarded to her in due course.

ACTION: Clerk

(d) Road at Meal – white centre lines/arrows

The Clerk had contacted Barrie Scobie again and he replied that they will be doing something about this but it won't be until Spring as it's weather dependent.

(e) Coastal erosion – Minn Beach

Niall reported that Scott Johnson from Tulloch's is coming out this week to give options.

(f) BT Phone Box, Hamnavoe

Cllr. Scott had been in touch with Richard Stove from BT who had given him an email address to contact. As there are also phone boxes in Scalloway in a bad state of repair it was agreed that it might be worthwhile joining with the Scalloway Community Council to make a case. Cllr. Scott will speak with the Scalloway Community Council and report back.

ACTION: Cllr. Scott

(g) CPR & Defibrillator Training

Mr. James Tulloch, Lerwick Fire Station, was to get back to us once he'd spoken with the ambulance service re dates for the training but we have not heard from him. The Clerk will get in touch with him again.

ACTION: Clerk

(h) Multicourt lights at Hamnavoe School

Cllr. Sandison and Cllr. Hughson had met with Neil Watt and other officer regarding the lighting and they are looking for a solution from existing budgets. Ben Ward has also met on site with Magnus Malcolmson to discuss the lights where it was agreed they would repair the lights later this year. Ben was happy with the proposed work and also the proposed operational arrangements e.g. lights probably disabled between 10pm and 8am. Cllr. Sandison also reported that they are looking for alternatives to column lights. The members were delighted to hear that progress has been made and the lights are to remain in place.

(i) Light outside school

It was noted that this light has still not been reinstated. Cllr. Scott has looked into this and apparently there is no one available to fix it at the moment as they are off sick. Cllr. Scott also noted that there is now another light out in this area.

(j) Bus Shelter – Burra Hall

There has been no reply from Neil Hutcheson regarding our request for a bus shelter alongside the Burra Public Hall. It was pointed out to him that there is only one bus shelter in Hamnavoe at The Glen and another at the Meal junction (which is hardly ever used).

(k) Road Gritting – Sanik (top road)

Cllr. Lyall had looked into this and if the road was asked to be gritted by the Council they would charged £34.35 plus VAT per visit as it is an unadopted road. Another option would be for the residents to purchase a grit bin at a cost of £250 plus VAT from the SIC stores and they could refill when needed at a cost of £21.54 plus VAT. All this information was emailed on to James Pottinger who had inquired about this. He replied stating that he did not think residents would be interested due to the cost involved and thanked us for looking into it.

(l) Tree planting

Dr. Reeves, who lives at Bridge End, had contacted the chairman as she is keen to plant some trees in Burra and wondered about the park below the Hulsidale playpark along the fence, just beyond the stile. Niall offered to speak with the land owner.

ACTION: Niall

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Planning Applications:

(i) Ref: 2025/012/PPF – erect dwellinghouse, Duncanslate, Papal, Burra
Applicant: Mr. Steven Anderson

(ii) Ref: 2025/010/PPF – erect dwellinghouse, Grindadale, Trondra
Applicant: Mr. Owen Halcrow

The above planning applications were discussed by the members. There were no objections raised.

(b) ASCC meeting – Tue 11 March 2025

Meeting papers had been received from Michael Duncan and had been circulated to the members. (Attendance to be confirmed to Michael by 2pm on Wednesday 5th March.)

(c) Healthcare Improvement Scotland (North Region)

An email had been received from Alison McCrossan who is the new Engagement Advisor (Community) within Health Care Improvement covering the North Region. This is a new role with a focus on building relationships within communities to:

- inform people of the different ways that they can feedback about healthcare experiences
- promote the work of their directorate and the opportunities for people to get involved
- learn about what is important to local communities so they can share learning and themes with colleagues to help inform future work.

She would like to attend one of our meetings via MS Teams. It was agreed this could be arranged in April/May.

(d) Invitation to meeting

Julie Graham, UHI, had emailed asking to be invited along to a meeting in the coming months to have the opportunity to hear what residents think about the current offering of UHI Shetland,

what could be done to better engage with local communities, what are the current training needs and what expectations we may have for potential future delivery. She is willing to attend in person or via Teams. This will be also be arranged for a future meeting.

(e) Various correspondence

The following correspondence had also been received and circulated to the members prior to the meeting for information:

- Local Place Plan training and webinars for Community Councils
- SIC Planning Blog - Delivery of Biodiversity Enhancement on Local Developments
- SCIS event for rural & islands Community Councils

6. AOCB

(a) Burra & Trondra bridges

It was reported that there are three potholes breaking out on the Trondra end of the Burra bridge. The east end of the Trondra bridge was also mentioned as there is quite a bump forming where the bridge joins the road and it is getting worse. The Clerk will report these issues to Barrie Scobie, SIC Roads. **ACTION: Clerk**

(b) Bridge between West & East Burra – low dyke

Back in January 2023 we contacted Neil Hutcheson regarding a section of dangerously low dyke on the bridge at Bridge End. He had advised that Garriock Bros had been instructed to install a railing on the top of the existing wall but did state it would have to be made to measure and may take time. As this work has never been completed the Clerk has contacted him again.

(b) Road materials

No more road grants will be made this financial year as we have no funding available. It was also noted that some Community Councils no longer provide funding for road materials due to the cost involved. This will have to be discussed again at a later date.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 6pm.