

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held in Dunrossness Primary School on Monday 26 November 2012.

PRESENT:

Mr D Robertson	Mr J Ridland	Mr R Mainland	Mr J Sinclair
Mrs E Mainland	Mr S Mitchell	Mr R Nickerson	Mrs B Leslie
Mr M Tregonning	Mrs F Mitchell	Mrs S Malcolmson	Mr A Duncan
Cllr G Smith (ex-officio)			

APOLOGIES

PC N MacAngus Cllr B Fox (ex-officio) Mrs Pat Christie (Community Worker)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs S Leslie (Clerk) Representatives of Aegir Wave Power

12/47 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 29 October 2012 was adopted on the motion of Mr Mitchell subject to an amendment to the spelling of Sue Brunton's name in item 12/41/3.

12/48 POLICE REPORT

No Police Report had been received. However, PC MacAngus has forwarded the Community Council's email requesting a basic monthly report to the Chief Inspector.

12/49/1

12/49 MATTERS ARISING

1. Road Matters

a) Devils Elbow', Channerwick: The Clerk reported that she had received an email from SIC Roads stating that the 'Devil's Elbow' section of road is programmed to be resurfaced this year ie before the end of March 2013.

b) Levenwick 30 mph speed restriction extension: There was nothing new to report.

2. Grutness Car Park: Sue Brunton, SIC Team Leader – Legal had replied to the Clerks email for an update and states that 'the Grutness Car Park is somewhat on hold at the moment as the question has arisen about where the approval of the Council to this project is recorded and this needs to be clarified before any binding contracts are agreed'. Also, due to cuts to the budgets of all Council departments, there is a 'need to prioritise what is important to the Council and officers need to concentrate on those projects. The car parking at Grutness is not regarded as priority and so will be dealt with when officers have time to do so'.

3. Levenwick Graveyard Access: Sue Brunton, as above, had reported back to the Community Council that the conveyancing for the Levenwick Graveyard Access is proceeding and there is only one outstanding item which is being discussed with the Land Owner.

4. Scousburgh Sand Public Toilets: There was nothing new to report.

5. MV Good Shepherd/Grutness Pier: Cllr Duncan reported that Michael Craigie, ZetTrans, had confirmed that the Grutness Seabed Survey had been carried out as planned. It was agreed that the Community Council would like to see a copy of the results of this survey and Cllr Duncan volunteered to follow this up.

6. Boddam Böd: The Clerk had emailed SIC Building Standards for an update on the issue with the dangerous condition of the Boddam Böd and had received a reply from Alan Jarden, Team Leader. Mr Jarden states that 'the legislation concerning dangerous buildings provides for the Council to take action to remove such danger but only as a last resort. It is incumbent upon the owner of any building to maintain it in such condition that it doesn't present a danger. In the normal course of events any action taken by the Council should be recoverable from the owner; previously a charge could be levied upon the property'. Mr Jarden will make enquiries regarding the registered ownership of the property to see if the owner can be identified. If ownership can be established then the Council will consider issuing a Notice on the property to ensure that such action is taken as will remove the danger. Should this approach be unfruitful then Mr Jarden will consider taking such direct action as is necessary.

12/50 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. Dunrossness Community Council Annual Accounts – The Annual Accounts were approved and dually signed by the Chairman.

12/51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTER

1. To erect memorial plinth, 2 hardwood benches and stone windbreak wall, land adjacent to east of Overspill Car Park, Sumburgh Airport - There were no objections.

2. Shetland Local Development Plan – As requested, the Clerk had informed SIC Planning of Dunrossness Community Council's concerns at the discontinuation of Local Protection Areas (LPA's) and the lack of any policy to safeguard Good Agricultural Land from development in the new Shetland Local Development Plan (SLDP). With regard to the LPA's, the SIC Development Plans Team had responded stating that "LPA's are not being carried forward within the LDP as Scottish Planning Policy 2010 requires Local Authorities to limit non-statutory designations to local landscape area and local nature conservation sites". SIC have published two Supplementary Guidance Documents on Local Landscape Areas and Local Nature Conservation Sites. These documents are available for comment until Friday 11 January 2013 and are available at www.shetland.gov.uk/ldp . During the production of these documents sites which were previously designated as LPA's have been considered as part of the process. Further to these documents, Supplementary Guidance on Open Space will be produced after the Local Development Plan is adopted and this will also be available for consultation in due course. During the production of this Supplementary Guidance, areas previously designated as LPA's will be considered as part of the process. The members noted that they would look forward to being consulted on the subject of "Open Space". With regard to the question of development of "Good Agricultural Land", a copy of a Briefing Note which went out to Councillors earlier in the year detailing the issues surrounding good agricultural land and the SLDP had been forwarded for the Community Council member's information. The members considered the 'briefing note' to be biased against agriculture. Mr Tregonning stated that he considered the SIC's view on agriculture to be 'disjointed' as the Economic Development Dept protects agriculture in Shetland but the Planning Dept does not. Mr Nickerson stated that the Dunrossness area had some of the best agricultural land in Shetland and he believed the Council should have a principal to protect agricultural land and not just decide to have none just because it would be difficult to defend this principal. This was agreed. Mr Sinclair and Mr Robertson stated that there was no real need to develop 'good agricultural land' in Shetland as there are plenty of other options.

12/51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTER

2. Shetland Local Development (continued): Mr Nickerson therefore suggested that the Council should support the current policy in the Local Plan 2004 which states:

“Development that would permanently sterilise the best agricultural land assessed as falling within the Macaulay Land Use Institute’s Classes 4.2 and 5.1 will be refused except in housing Zone 1.

Exceptions to this policy will be granted for new dwellinghouses where the developer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that there are no alternative sites on poorer agricultural land that can be developed.”

The members agreed unanimously that the Council should adopt the above policy in the new SLDP and support it.

12/52 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1. Community Benefit Fund: Mr Tregonning reported that there had been some confusion when the SIC Chief Executive had stated on Shetland Radio that a new group would be set up to administer any community benefits from the proposed Viking Energy Wind Farm. This appears to have taken place due to the Chief Executive being poorly informed and he has since met with the already established Community Benefit Fund group. Mr Tregonning also confirmed that organisations such as Viking Energy are under no legal obligation to offer any benefits to the community.

2. Sumburgh Airport Consultative Committee: Mr Robertson had attended a SACC meeting on 30 October 2010. Along with the usual items of business, it had been noted that HIAL are actively pursuing new business. It is hoped that the memorial to those who lost their lives in the Dan Air, Chinook, Cormorant Alpha and Brent Spar disasters will be in place by May 2013 and the technical issues being experienced with the new Cabin Baggage X-Ray Machine still have to be rectified.

3. Bruce Memorial Hall: Mr Tregonning reported that the Bruce Memorial Hall is no longer financially viable and that a public meeting had been called to discuss possible ways of keeping it open. No one had attended the meeting and therefore the Hall would continue to run until approximately Easter when it is expected that all the funds remaining will have been exhausted and the Hall will be forced to close. The current committee of Martin Tregonning, Jim Beatty and Alistair Brown will remain in place until the end of March at which time everything will be handed back to the Trustees.

4. Sumburgh Head Lighthouse Project: Mr Mainland reported that the project is going well and is ‘on track’ and should any Community Councillors like to visit the site this could be organised.

12/52 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS (Continued)

5. Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council: Mrs Malcolmson reported that the planned recent meeting of the Parent Council had not gone ahead due to a lack of attendance by members

6. Crofters Commission Assessors Meeting: Mr Ridland reported that he had recently attended this meeting in Inverness. The usual subjects of mapping, rural payments etc had been discussed. There are currently 3 vacancies in Shetland but it had been 'quite a good meeting' with a high number of delegates present.

12/53 AEGIR WAVE POWER

Three representatives of Aegir Wave Power are currently in Shetland doing Community Workshops and Cllr Duncan had, with the approval of the Chairman, invited them to attend the Community Council meeting. Aegir Wave Power Ltd is a joint venture between Vattenfall, Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and Edinburgh based Pelamis Wave Power, developer and manufacturer of the Pelamis wave energy converter. Aegir has been established to explore the potential for developing and deploying wave farms off the Scottish coast.

Mr Robertson welcomed the representatives and enquired how successful the trials of the machines are going so far. Aegir reps replied that there are currently 2 machines in Orkney and these have so far been tested successfully to a level of 8 to 9 metres of wave height with reasonable power production. The machine is still being developed and there is still a long way to go with testing. The project in Shetland is expected to cost £60 million to £70 million and no one is going to invest that amount unless it has been properly tested. The Shetland project is Vattenfall backed. Following a question from Mr Nickerson, it was reported that the machine has a 20 year fatigue life span and although there has been many component failures these have all been minor things like gaskets, capacitors etc. Cllr Duncan enquired if any of the structures are likely to be made in Shetland and was informed that this was something that will need to be looked at in the next 2 years. There are currently 6 to 7 people employed in Orkney to look after the 2 machines there and Aegir would be looking at having 10 to 12 employees in Shetland. Aegir will be carrying out various development activities over the coming months including environmental impact assessments, wave resource measurement, navigational risk assessment, engineering surveys and consultation with local stakeholders and communities to ensure the final design of wave farm, including the onshore infrastructure, is the best solution. Consultants will be employed based on their skills. Aegir anticipates continuing to utilise the skills of the NAFC in Scalloway and any others in Shetland with suitable skills.

12/53 AEGIR WAVE POWER (Continued)

Mr Mitchell enquired if any environmental issues have come to light with the Orkney machines. The first of the Orkney machines was installed in 2004 and the initial results of the Environmental Impact Assessment are now coming through but show nothing conclusive to date although it is at an early stage. Over the next year or two, the potential impact on fishing etc. will be consulted upon. Aegir reported that in general the fishing sector are open and keen to work with them.

Mr Nickerson enquired, if the project went ahead, would there be any compensation to individuals for disturbance and would there be any community compensation? Aegir did not think so as offshore wave power is very different in impact terms from wind farms and the investment made will also be far above that made by a wind farm developer. Potential compensation is not something which has been discussed with the Council and Aegir considered it too early to say how this will be approached in relation to fishermen. This subject has not been encountered in Orkney so far. Mr Nickerson stated that it was interesting to see this subject hasn't come to the discussion stage yet. In conclusion it was noted that if the Viking Energy Wind Farm does not go ahead this would mean the necessary Inter Connector Cable would not be installed and therefore the wave energy project could not proceed. Cllr Smith enquired, if the technology is proven but Aegir fail to get the project up and running in Scotland, would the project be taken outwith Scotland? The answer to which was 'yes'.

12/54 EDUCATION – POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF SJHS

Mr Mainland stated that as far as he was aware there wasn't many people who were in favour of the proposal to close SJHS but there seems to be no 'stomach' for a fight although this may be because it is currently considered to be some distance in the future since it is proposed for 2015. Cllr Smith stated it was his opinion that the Council should determine priority service levels and then work around that when it comes to budgets. Cllr Smith reported that the £2m of savings being made from classroom resources now and a further £3m in 2013/14 appears to have 'gone under the radar' and he believes whatever form of education system Shetland has schools will be vastly different with less resources. The Council may well end up keeping all the schools open but, as savings will still have to be found, this could mean less resources in the classroom and we could end up with a two tier education system. Cllr Duncan felt that if subjects are cut from some schools, parents will just move their children to schools where they can get the desired subject. He continued by saying that the Council does not have the money to continue as is and although they could continue to use their reserves, this would run out in 5 years. Cllr Smith reported that 45% of the Council's annual budget is currently spent on education and they are looking to reduce this to 30%. Mrs Mainland stated that the feeling is that cuts are being proposed for country areas and are not equal in Lerwick.

12/54 EDUCATION – POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF SJHS (Continued)

Mr Sinclair stated that the Community Council's role is to represent the community on this, however, until the Community Council knows what the community wants there is very little point of members going and arguing at meetings. Mr Nickerson was not sure it was the Community Councils responsibility or that they have the mechanism to seek parents view. This is a task for the school's Parent Council. Mrs Malcolmson reported that there have been 3 public meetings to discuss the proposed closure and the findings of these are in the Sandwick Parent Council response, a copy of which had already been circulated to each of the members for their information.

It was agreed that this Community Council believes the Council should take a step back and rethink their priorities regarding spending. Education should not be 'taking the hit' it is and should be given a higher priority than currently. The Clerk will forward this opinion to the Council.

Cllr Duncan enquired where the necessary additional cuts should be made then and stated that he would be treating Social Care equally with education, as stated in his manifesto.

12/55 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Scottish Water letter ref 'Your Views Count': Scottish Water have launched a major consultation encouraging customers to help shape the future of water and waste water services in Scotland between now and 2040. Further information on their draft plans can be found on their website www.scottishwater.co.uk/yourviewscount

2. SIC Children's Services Admission Policy Consultation Report: The report will be considered by the SIC on 5 December 2012. The report was noted.

3. Maurice Smith and Shetland Times South Mainland Notes: Maurice Smith's last column for South Mainland Notes will be on Friday 30th November. Mr Smith states that he has enjoyed the 10 months that he has done the column but finds that the pressure on time means other projects and task are being neglected and thanks the Community Councils for their 'help and patience' since January.

4. Citizens Advice Bureau email ref. new Scottish and Southern Energy Scheme: SSE have launched a new scheme which can assist vulnerable customers with paying off SSE electricity debts. For further information contact the local Citizens Advice Bureau at Market House.

12/55 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

5. Citizens Advice Bureau email ref. Shetland Fuel Bills Survey: The local CAB has undertaken a piece of research this winter into difficulties with fuel bill and energy efficiency in Shetland. The survey is open until early January and the report will be published widely in the New Year. It is hoped that this will help to influence policy and decision makers to help combat the growing problems with fuel bills in Shetland, and identify the causes behind these. This is an online survey and can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/shetlandfuelbills For those requiring a paper copy, they should contact the local CAB at Market House. The more people who complete the survey the better.

6. SIC E-mail ref Inter-Island Ferry Review: As part of its Review of the Inter-Island Ferry Service, SIC is carrying out further public consultation on the proposals which have been developed to date. A consultation pack had been sent direct to Fiona Mitchell, Community Councillor for Fair Isle. The proposal for the Fair Isle Ferry Service is to re-route the current fortnightly sailings during the summer from Fair Isle to Lerwick to Grutness. Mrs Mitchell reported that the Fair Isle Community are extremely keen to retain the sailings as at present and have responded to the consultation accordingly. She also reported that businesses on the Isle have also submitted responses. Mrs Mitchell stated that any support from the Community Council would be greatly appreciated. It was therefore agreed that the Community Council would submit a response on the form provided by the SIC and copy it to Laurence Odie, ASCC representative. Mr Robertson reminded members that a number of years ago SIC had wanted to route the Fair Isle sailings to Scalloway instead of Grutness. Both the Fair Isle Community and Dunrossness Community Council had strongly opposed this and the plan had been dismissed which, Mr Robertson was sure, had saved the SIC substantial quantities of money.

7. E-mail ref. 'Pensioners, generally, and Christmas Food Parcels':

Angela Nunn of the Salvation Army reports that as Christmas approaches, she is planning for the food parcel ministry. Emergency parcels will be available throughout the Christmas and New Year period as needed. In addition to this, she is hoping to provide a bonus parcel (to be distributed/collected on Monday 24th December) to any clients who would benefit from a bit of extra help. Looking back at the records for the last 15 months, Ms Nunn has noted that approximately 2/3 of the parcels have gone to first-time recipients, with very little repeat business. However, she would like to see the service extending further, to reach more folk who are struggling but who would never ask for a parcel. In particular, she is concerned at how few parcels are done for the 60+ age group and is worried that pensioners who struggle are slipping through the net because they rarely have contact with any of the usual referring agencies. Mr Tregonning stated that he considered this project was well worth considering and would commend it to all. For further information etc. please contact the local branch of the Salvation Army.

12/55 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

8. SIC letter ref. Streetlighting Review: Lighting Reduction Options: The letter states that following on from the Council's approval of a review of Council Streetlighting, six options were presented at a series of meetings with the general public, stakeholders and Community Councils. A popular option in rural areas was the complete removal of lighting from remote housing estates. While the need for lighting in larger settlements is understandable, it would appear to be less desirable in less densely populated areas. This is especially the case when lighting has not been provided due to the local communities need or request but to comply with a blanket planning condition. The removal of lighting would only be actioned when existing lighting was in need of replacement. There would then be an immediate saving, not just on energy costs but also on column replacement costs. A greater benefit still would be the reduction in inspections and maintenance required, particularly if whole estates can be removed from the lighting network. The other option that found favour was part-night lighting this is the fitting of time clock control to existing streetlights in order to reduce the hours of lighting by switching off the lights between midnight and 6.00am when they are less needed.

SIC approved the implementation of these two proposals on 31 October 2012. The lighting schemes within the Dunrossness Community Council are that are to be considered for the options are as follows:

- Removal of Streetlights: Colonial Place, Scatness; Sandblister Place, Scatness; The Hillock; Dalsetter Wynd and Hayhoull, Bigton
- Part-Night Lighting: Turniebrae; Horseshoe Close; Thistle Court; Ninian Drive; Hestingott and Toab.

There could be disadvantages with the removal of streetlighting. Therefore, prior to the introduction of any lighting reduction scheme, a public consultation exercise and risk assessment must be undertaken. A reduction scheme would also be monitored after being implemented to ensure that there are no detrimental effects on the area.

The members approved of the above proposals as these had also been their views when consulted in the Summer.

Cllr Duncan left the meeting at 10.25 pm

12/56 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Levenwick Community Hall Fireworks: Mr Mitchell thanked the Community Council, on behalf of Levenwick Community Hall, for the donation towards their Firework Display.

12/56 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Continued)

2. Bus Shelter Lights: The Chairman pointed out that the solar powered lights at the Bus Shelters at Toab and Robins Brae are only working intermittently and asked that the Clerk report this to SIC. This was agreed.

3. December Meeting: It was agreed that the December meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 December 2012.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.35 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SUMBURGH HOTEL AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 18
DECEMBER 2012.**