

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held in Dunrossness Primary School on Monday 24 June 2013.

PRESENT:

Mr D Robertson	Mr R Mainland	Mrs S Malcolmson	Mr J Sinclair
Mr J Ridland	Mr R Nickerson	Ms E Mainland	Mr A Duncan
Cllr B Fox (ex-officio)	Cllr G Smith (ex-officio)		

APOLOGIES

Mrs F Mitchell	Mrs B Leslie	Mr M Tregonning	Mr S Mitchell
PC J McDiarmid	Mrs Pat Christie (Community Worker)		

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs S Leslie (Clerk)

13/16 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 27 May 2013 was adopted on the motion of Mr Sinclair.

13/17 POLICE REPORT

There was no police report available.

13/18 MATTERS ARISING

1. **Road Matters:** There was nothing new to report.

13/18/2

13/18 MATTERS ARISING (Continued)

2. Levenwick Graveyard Access: Cllr Duncan had requested an update from the SIC regarding progress in relation to the formalising of an agreement on the use of the field adjacent to the Levenwick Burial Ground for car parking during funerals. Grant Gilfillan of SIC Capital Programme Service had replied to Cllr Duncan as follows:

'Unfortunately I can confirm the Councils preferred route to formalising this agreement through the granting of a servitude right of access appears to no longer be an option. Provisional agreement had been reached sometime back however the inclusion of a condition by the Landowner late in the process has created a deadlock we have been unable to overcome despite our best attempts. The problem was in relation to an insurance matter with the Landowner being unwilling to take out appropriate insurance cover. Instead the Landowner has insisted the Council accept all liability in connection to the use of the land, however, this is not something the Council could accept as we are simply acquiring a right of access and would not be considered the legal owner or occupier of the land. Liability would therefore remain with the Landowner in the unlikely event of a claim being made.'

The Landowner has since confirmed that he is willing to sell land to the Council. Mr Gilfillan has discussed this matter with the Burial Service and will be requesting an instruction as to whether they are willing to pursue this option. He has also asked Governance & Law to give an opinion as to any legal implications which need to be considered when acquiring land, particularly in relation to crofting legislation. The Landowner has confirmed in writing that he is happy for the current informal arrangement to continue until such time as a deal can be done to acquire land.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Gilfillan thanking him for his efforts so far and to enquire what he considered the timescale to be for bringing this matter to a close as it has been on-going since at least 2005.

3. Bigton Public Toilets: Mr Nickerson wished it noted for the record, that at no time has the SIC formally approached Bigton Community Enterprise Ltd regarding taking over the running of the Bigton Public Toilets. However, the matter was discussed at the last meeting of Bigton Community Enterprise, at the request of the Community Council, and Mr Nickerson reported that it had been decided to refer the matter back to the Community Council as the Bigton Community Enterprise's constitution does not permit them to operate anything other than the Shop and Post Office. A petition asking the Council to rethink its decision to close the toilets if it cannot transfer their operation to a local group has been started by 5 community organisations and circulated in the Bigton area.

13/18 MATTERS ARISING (Continued)

3. Bigton Public Toilets (continued): Cllr Smith stated that in the papers for the forthcoming Environment & Transport Committee it states that there has been an expression of interest in the form of the Shop in taking over the toilets. Mr Nickerson pointed out that this was not true, as has now been stated twice in the Community Council Minutes. Cllr Duncan enquired who the SIC should contact to ascertain if there was any interest in the Community in keeping the Toilets open. Mr Nickerson and Mr Sinclair agreed that they can both be contacted as Community Councillors for the area. Mr Smith stated that he would suggest to Jonathan Emptage, SIC, that he contact Mr Nickerson and Mr Sinclair before Wednesday's E & T meeting and that the South Mainland Councillors would be seeking for no decision to be taken on the future of the Bigton Public Toilets at this stage since they had not been offered to anyone in the community.

4. MV Good Shepherd/Grutness Pier: There was nothing new to report. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Ken Duerden, Head of SIC Ferries, and request a copy of the seabed survey done at Grutness some time ago.

5. Horseshoe Close Street Lighting Columns: Cllrs Fox and Smith reported that a report on street lighting will be presented to the Environment & Transportation meeting on 26 June 2013 and that, as the lighting at Horseshoe Close is not being removed but recommended for part night lighting, any columns in a poor condition will be replaced.

13/19 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. Community Council Budget: The Clerk reported that the Community Council has now received its 2013/2014 budget of £9,546.00 from the SIC

2. Community Development Fund: It was reported that it has been agreed that Community Councils can apply for a maximum of £4000 from the fund, £3000 to assist with funding for a package of items and £1000 for a specific project. The decision to allow Development Companies to apply cannot be altered for a period of 6 months from the original decision date in March 2013. The first application deadline is to be the end of July and the Clerk will forward the application documents to the members when they become available.

13/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

1. To erect dwellinghouse and upgrade access, Yaafield, Bigton by Ronald Obern and Gemma White – There were no objections.

13/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS (Continued)

2. Convert and extend existing building for use as dwellinghouse, Cloddyknowe Meeting Hall, Scousburgh by Dr Andrew P Jennings & Mrs Alexis M S Jennings – There were no objections.

3. Shetland Telecom Phase 3, Overland Route, Maywick to Quarff – SIC are currently going through the Pre Planning Application period for the proposed plans of installing a fibre optic cable from Maywick to Quarff. The Community Council are asked to let SIC know of any matters which they need them to address or any questions relating to the proposed works. The letter was noted.

13/21 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1. Geese: Cllr Duncan reported that he had attending a meeting in Glasgow on 11 June 2013 regarding the proposal to have a cull of Geese in Shetland and that it was recognised that Shetland does have a problem with escalating numbers, particularly in the South Mainland. The proposed cull scheme will be based on the Orkney model and the next meeting to discuss the matter will be held towards the end of July in the Lerwick Town Hall with Tavish Scott MSP and some potential shooters. The cull will take place before the beginning of October when the migrating geese arrive. Funding is being sought to cover a 3 year period. Also landowners must apply to SNH for a licence for geese to be shot on their land.

2. Sumburgh Head Lighthouse Project: Mr Mainland reported that the project is still progressing well.

13/22 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email ref Otters at South Voe: SIC Roads had replied direct to the member of the public who had enquired about getting signs to warn road users of otters potentially crossing the road at South Voe. A copy had been sent to the Community Council. The letter states that SIC Roads will not be erecting the requested signs as they have been found to be ineffective and are not statutory as prescribed by "The Traffic Signs and General Directions 1994"

2. Letter ref. Voluntary Action Shetland AGM: The AGM of VAS will be held on Tuesday 25th June at 7pm in Market House, Lerwick

13/22 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

3. Letter ref. 'Direct Payments' Coffee Morning: Community Council members are invited to attend a Self-directed Support (Direct Payments) Awareness and Recruitment Coffee Morning in Market House, Lerwick on Saturday 13 July 2013. Direct Payments are made by the Local Authority to the client so that they can buy their own care services – such as hiring a personal assistant. Direct Payments aim to give more flexibility in how services are provided and more independence to the client.

4. Email forwarded by ASCC ref. 'Get it Right for Every Child Consultation': A public consultation is taking place as part of the current review of Getting it Right for Every Child in Shetland. Should the Community Council wish to make a response this should be done by 28 June 2013.

5. Shetland Liberal Democrats email ref. Jo Grimond Centenary Celebrations: The local Liberal Democrat Party is hosting a celebration on 21 September 2013 of the centenary of the birth of the late Jo Grimond who was the MP for Shetland for 33 years. A lecture will take place in the auditorium of the Shetland Museum and a gala dinner will take place in the evening in the Shetland Hotel.

6. Email from Sean Batty (weather presenter) ref. STV Appeal 2013: The STV Appeal was launched in 2011 by The Hunter Foundation and STV is committed to helping children and young people affected by poverty in Scotland. As part of this appeal, Mr Batty will be taking on a cycling challenge in the Northern Isles and is looking for as much support as possible to reach his fundraising goal. The trip will take him on a 150 mile route from Burrafirth in Unst to Sumburgh Airport followed by Kirkwall to Burwick, via Stromness in Orkney. More details can be found at www.stv.tv/appeal

7. ASCC email ref. Public Partnership Forum: The ASCC has been invited to nominate a representative to attend the Public Partnership Forum. The Shetland Public Partnership Forum is a network of local people with an interest in improving NHS services in Shetland. John Ridland already attends the meetings on a regular basis so, having consulted Mr Ridland, it was agreed that the Clerk will pass this information to the ASCC.

8. SIC letter ref. Roads Service – Customer Satisfaction Survey: According to the letter, the SIC Improvement Plan is to “make sure we have systematic information from the public on a range of subjective measures of satisfaction”. The Roads Service has previously issued customer satisfaction surveys to Community Councils, the last being issued in July 2009. They are now updating these surveys in order to meet the improvement objective and the Community Council is therefore asked to complete the enclosed forms.

13/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Doctor's Visits to Fair Isle: The Clerk reported that she had emailed Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland, regarding the matter of the recent lack of doctor's visits to Fair Isle. She had also contact Karen Ellis, Practice Manager at the Levenwick Surgery. Mrs Ellis had informed the Clerk that, since the withdrawal of funding for an additional GP at Levenwick, it was extremely difficult to release a GP to attend Fair Isle. The Surgery had been in contact with NHS Shetland regarding the matter and had been informed that they were carrying out a 'needs assessment'. In the meantime, the Surgery are in the process of trying to organise a Doctor's visit to the Isle.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL TAKE PLACE IN DUNROSSNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.30 PM ON
MONDAY 26 AUGUST 2013.**