

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held in Dunrossness Primary School on Monday 24 March 2014.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES

Mrs F Mitchell	Mr R Nickerson	Mr M Tregonning	Mr A Duncan
PC J McDiarmid			

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs S Leslie (Clerk) Magnus Shearer

13/75 COMMUNITY COUNCIL VACANCY

The Chairman welcomed Magnus Shearer to the meeting as prospective member for the ward of Levenwick. The members agreed to co-opt Mr Shearer and Mr Shearer accepted the position of second Community Councillor for Levenwick. The Clerk will forward Mr Shearer's details to the SIC.

13/76 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 24 February 2014 was adopted on the motion of Mr Mitchell, subject to the following amendment requested by Mr Nickerson by email. Item 13/74/2 Bigton Shop: The 2 grants received did not cover the flooring, this was paid for by the shop.

13/77 POLICE REPORT

No Police Report was available.

13/78/1

13/78 MATTERS ARISING**1. Road Matters:**

a) Vehicle Width Restriction, Levenwick to Robins Brae: Cllr Fox confirmed that the SIC have revoked the vehicle width restriction which was in place on the A970 between Levenwick and Robins Brae. This was welcomed by the members.

b) A970 Levenwick Verges: A reply to the Community Council's regarding the condition of the A970 Levenwick verges had been received from Dave Coupe, SIC Roads. The letter reads as follows:

The standard verge on Shetland's two lane roads is constructed with type 1 aggregate. This is not the national standard as the "Design Manual for Roads and Bridges" specifies topsoil and grass verges. The two types of verge have their advantages and disadvantages. When considering safety, a type 1 verge provides "hard standing" for accidental over runs or emergency use. A topsoil and grass verge provides better edge definition to drivers and discourages the over running of the road edge.

It is unlikely that the excavation of the existing verge and its replacement with type 1 would be straightforward. The underlying material used to construct the embankment may be suitable for compacting. Should this be the case then it could be left in place as a firm base for the type 1. However, given its age and the construction methods used at the time, I expect it would have to be replaced. This may be to a significant depth at which point, given the steepness of the embankment, there would be concerns about the carriageway being undermined and losing its structural integrity.

The existing verges were damaged during the rock armour haulage when large vehicles travelling in opposite directions met at narrow points in the road. The number of truck movements and the frequency of their meeting caused this damage. This is unlikely to happen again. Providing standard vehicles, having dimensions complying with the "Construction and Use Regulations" are using the road there is no need for the verges to be over-run. Bearing this in mind and the potential damage to the carriageway we are of the opinion that the existing verge should not be replaced with a type 1 hard shoulder.

The letter was noted.

c) Scatness Potholes: There was nothing new to report.

13/78 MATTERS ARISING (Continued)

d) Bus Shelter Lights: An email had been received from the SIC regarding the solar powered lights at local bus shelters which do not work. The email states that the batteries have been removed and the delivery of a battery tester for deep cycle batteries is awaited, although the delivery date for this is not until April. In the meantime, a price for new batteries has been requested.

2. Levenwick Graveyard Access: There was nothing new to report.

3. Bigton Public Toilets: The members welcomed the news that the SIC Report on the Bigton Public Toilets to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 11 March was agreed and as a result the toilets will re-open on 1 April 2014 and remain open all year round, 24 hours a day, to be reviewed in 2015/16. Mr Nickerson had emailed and stated that he was sure that he could speak for the Bigton community when he thanked Dunrossness Community Council and the local SIC Councillors for all their support on this issue.

4. MV Good Shepherd/Grutness Pier: There was nothing new to report.

5. Horseshoe Close Streetlighting Columns: A reply to the Community Council's query regarding the condition of the streetlighting columns in Toab had been received from the SIC. According to the email, the columns in Toab have recently been inspected. Most of the columns were replaced in 2009. The columns which failed earlier in the year were considered to be in serviceable condition at the time the rest were replaced. However, it has now been recommended that all the older columns be replaced.

13/79 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. Community Council Core Funding: The Chairman signed the Grant Acceptance docquet from the SIC for the sum of £9546.00. The Clerk will return this to the Grants Unit as stipulated.

2. Dunrossness Inter-Church Fellowship Day-Care – To provide a 'Comforts Fund' which meets the cost of non-statutory expenses such as Christmas gifts, short tours, entertainment, travel costs etc. for clients of Day-Care, held one day per week in the Levenwick Hall for elderly local residents in need of care and company: Mr Sinclair proposed that the sum of £500, as requested, be awarded and this was seconded by Mr Mainland.

13/79 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS (Continued)

3. Scousburgh Beach Access Road: Mrs Malcolmson declared an interest. A quotation for the sum of £451.20 to repair large potholes in the access road to the Scousburgh Sand had been obtained from S Malcolmson Plant Ltd. The members agreed to accept this quotation and proceed with having the road repaired for the benefit of users of the beach

4. Grutness Beach Parking Area: Mr Robertson informed the members that the parking/turning area at the Grutness Beach would benefit from some minor upgrading in the form of some hardcore to level off the surface. It was therefore agreed to set aside a maximum of £300 for this.

5. Da Voar Redd Up 2014: This year's Voar Redd Up is scheduled for 26th and 27th April 2014. According to Shetland Amenity Trust, last year 4,769 participants volunteered more than 13,000 man hours to collect over 68 tonnes of bruck from roadside verges, beaches and coastline. In recent years, Dunrossness Community Council have offered a reduced level of financial support to those participating in this extremely worthwhile event. However, this year, Mr Mainland proposed that the level of support be raised by £200 in recognition of the level of benefit this event has on the local community and those participating in it. This was seconded by Mr Ridland and unanimously agreed by the remaining members.

13/80 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

1. To erect two storey dwellinghouse (Planning Permission in Principle), Exnaboe, Virkie by R M & S E Donaldson - There were no objections.

2. To erect dwellinghouse, Bakkasetter, Dunrossness by Mr & Mrs S Sjoberg – There were no objections.

13/81 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1. Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council Meeting: Mrs Malcolmson had attended the February meeting of DPS Parent Council and reported that the school had had its first Jarl Squad and Junior Jarl this year for SMUHA, which had been a great success. Dunrossness had done very well again in the Music Festival and it was agreed that the Clerk should email the Community Council's congratulations to the school via the Head Teacher. The Parent Council are holding Sunday Teas in the Bigton Hall on 11 May 2014.

13/81 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS (Continued)

2. Public Partnership Forum Meeting: Mr Ridland had attended a PPF Meeting recently and reported that the main topic of discussion had been mental health and that it had been reported that Mind Your Head are providing a splendid service. Also, issues with the new Fair Isle Surgery have now been resolved. Also, as a point of interest, as far as Care Centres are concerned Shetland is classed as one locality and therefore clients might be placed anywhere in Shetland and not necessarily in the nearest one to their home.

3. Sumburgh Head Lighthouse Project: Mr Mainland reported that the project is now very close to completion and the 'handover' is scheduled for mid April. The Interpretive Designers are due up from 3 April and staff recruitment has begun. It was proposed that the next Community Council site visit will be on 26 April 2014.

4. Joint Liaison Meeting: Mr Robertson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Joint Liaison Group on 7 March 2014 and the main topic of discussion had been the Community Development Fund

5. Sumburgh Airport Consultative Committee: Mr Robertson had attended a SACC Meeting recently and reported that it had generally all been positive. Passenger numbers, both domestic and oil related, are up – especially on the Aberdeen route. Improvements to the Departure Lounge and Security area will be taking place over the next year with the upstairs of the Terminal building being re-opened and a lift installed. A presentation on the latest Runway works was also given.

13/82 CORRESPONDENCE

1. SIC letter ref. SIC Economic Development Service Roadshow: During March, the Economic Development Service has been promoting all its services and as part of this, has been visiting halls across Shetland to share information with members of the public and businesses about the support they provide. The service will be in the Boddam Hall on 25/3/14. The letter was noted.

2. SIC letter ref. Delivery of Community Work Services from 1 April 2014: The Community Work Offices in Brae, Sandwick, Scalloway and Mid Yell are closing. Community Work will continue to play a key role under a new Community Development Service. A team of 3 Community Involvement and Development Officers will work throughout Shetland. Each officer will be responsible for a different area of Shetland, and will be in touch with community groups in their area to introduce themselves shortly. The Community Involvement and Development Officer (CI&DO) for Dunrossness is Pat Christie and she can be contacted at Solarhus, 3 North Ness, Lerwick. Tel: 01595 745363, email: patricia.christie@shetland.gov.uk

13/82 CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

3. Shetland Islands Area Licensing Board letter ref. Application for Premises Licence, The Bigton Community Shop: There were no objections.

4. SIC Letter ref. Surface Dressing and Re-Surfacing Programme 2014: As part of its 2014 Roads Surface Dressing and Re-Surfacing Programme, SIC Roads Department intend to overlay with steel mesh reinforcement a 705 metre section of road between the Teevliks and Bigton and apply a surface dressing to a 700 metre section of road at Levenwick, a 690 metre section at Eastshore Virkie and a 420 metre section between Ringesta and Hardbrakes Place, Quendale.

5. 'Thank you' note letter from Eric Gray Services for Voar Redd Up donations received: This was noted.

13/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bigton Telephone Box: The Clerk reported that she had received email replies to her enquiries from BT regarding the doors on the Telephone Boxes at Bigton and Robins Brae. The emails state that both doors have been damaged and are due to be replaced when they have new ones in stock. This was noted.

2. Radio Shetland: Ms Mainland asked that the Clerk cancel the Community Councils announcement on Radio Shetland's 'Whats on Diary' for next week since the March meeting was brought ahead a week.

3. Apologies: Ms Mainland enquired if it would be acceptable to remove Pat Christie's name from the 'Apologies' list on the Community Council's Minutes in future. This was agreed.

Cllrs Fox and Smith left the meeting at 2045

13/84 SANDWICK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONSULTATION

Mr Mainland stated that the consultation on the proposed closure of S3 and S4 at Sandwick Junior High School had commenced on 13 February and responses must be in by 28 March 2014. A public meeting was held on 4 March 2014 at Sandwick School and was attended by approximately 80 people.

13/84 SANDWICK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONSULTATION (Continued)

Mr Mainland reported that it has now become apparent that those taking an interest in this issue are not in favour of the proposal to make Sandwick an S1 – S2 school and would prefer it remain an S1 – 4 school, even if that meant fighting against a full closure proposal in the future. It was considered that the S1 – S2 model could mean a slow death for the secondary department as it is currently not supported by parents and is considered unworkable by some teachers. Both Sandwick Junior High School Parent Council's and Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council's submissions will be to reject the Council's proposal to make Sandwick a S1 – S2 school. Their preferred option would be for the school to remain an S1 – S4. Following the closure of the consultation period, Education Scotland will have a period of 3 weeks to review the consultation and the submissions. SIC Children's Services will then prepare a report by 19 May 2014 for consideration by the SIC Education Committee and the Full Council at least 3 weeks later. If the Council then rejects the proposal to make Sandwick a S1 – S2 school, it is feared that a second proposal will be made which will be to close the secondary department entirely. If the Council decides to proceed with the original proposal, the Scottish Government has 6 weeks to call in any decision made. Mr Mainland also reported that a new law is due to come into force whereby if any proposal to close a school is rejected, then a further closure proposal cannot be made again within 5 years, although it is feared that any decisions taken at this time on the future of Sandwick JHS will miss the implementation of this law by a matter of weeks. However, the Minister for Education has recently asked that all local authorities act in the spirit of this law, even though it is not in place yet.

Mr Mainland stated that with a reported decline of 16% in under 25's since 2001, Dunrossness is very close to being classed as a fragile area and everything must be done to protect the area, including retaining the nearby Junior High School and thereby maintaining a very good secondary school within an acceptable travelling distance for Dunrossness pupils. Sandwick is currently the largest Junior High in Shetland and by 2017, it is projected to be larger than Brae High School which also has S5 and S6 pupils. By national standards Sandwick is not a small secondary.

By making Sandwick JHS into a S1 – S4 school, the estimated savings to the Council will be in the region of £223,000 once the cost of the additional transport costs for pupils to travel to Lerwick have been taken into consideration.

Mr Mainland concluded by stating that it was the hope of the Parent Councils' that Dunrossness Community Council would endorse the reports and consultation submissions being made by each Parent Council. This was agreed unanimously.

And finally, the Clerk was asked to record in the Minutes the Community Council's recognition of the amount of hard work done by both Parent Councils in preparing their consultation submissions.

24 March 2014

page eight of eight

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL TAKE PLACE IN DUNROSSNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.30 PM ON
MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014.**

Dunrossness Community Council's Response to Sandwick Junior High School Consultation:

Sandwick Junior High School Secondary Department Proposal to discontinue stages of education (S3/S4) Dunrossness Community Council Response

Dunrossness Community Council fully endorses the response submissions prepared by Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council and Sandwick Junior High School Parent Council. The Community Council rejects the proposal to discontinue the education stages S3 and S4 and wishes the school to remain a vibrant and successful learning environment for the children of the South Mainland up to and including S4.

In particular, Dunrossness Community Council has concluded that:

- Sandwick JH School is a well attended and highly successful secondary school, with excellent grades for the Secondary 4 year group consistently superior to both the Shetland average and the Anderson High School.
- There appears little or no educational benefit to this proposal, it is purely motivated by money.
- This consultation has been fundamentally compromised by the situation in which it has placed S2 parents and pupils.
- This consultation has been conducted with the threat to parents of a rapid move to a full closure consultation if the S1-S2 proposal is rejected. There is also the possibility of a subsequent threat to close two out of three of the South Mainland Primary schools. It has been very difficult to compare S1-S2 with the current model with these threats lying ahead.
- It is very important to maintain a secondary school in the South Mainland
- It is very important to maintain choice in secondary education for children in the South Mainland.
- Travel times for the proposed bus routes to Lerwick could exceed 65 minutes each way for some children, which is unacceptable for children of this age.
- It is very important to maintain quality of secondary education and equality of provision and opportunity in education across Shetland.
- The partial or complete closure of the school is likely to lead to depopulation in the Dunrossness area leading to detrimental effects on the local economy.