



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whiteness Hall on Wednesday 20th April 2022

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer – chair
Linda Tulloch
Neil Leask
Martin Randall
Angela Sutherland
Charles Hodge
Birgit Wagner
Karl Mills – clerk

Catherine Hughson
Moraig Lyall
Davie Sandison
Theo Smith

2.0 Apologies: Patrick Ross-Smith, Dilys Evans, Steven Coutts, Ian Scott, Roselyn Fraser

3.0 Declarations of Interest

- Moraig Lyall declared an interest in matters relating to Tingwall Hall.
- Davie Sandison declared an interest in Planning.
- Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Viking.
- Andrew Archer declared an interest in Planning application 2022/077/PPP.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Angela Sutherland and seconded by Charles Hodge the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

There were no Decisions made by e-mail vote since the last meeting.

7.0 Police Report

The latest police report had been circulated prior to the meeting and members had no questions about it.

8.0 Recruitment of new clerk

The closing date for applications is Monday 25th April 2022, and three applications have been received so far. It was agreed that interviews would be conducted by Andrew Archer (chair), Linda Tulloch (community council member) and Karl Mills (retiring clerk).

9.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 12th April 2022, was distributed to community council members.
- The application for the SIC Core Grant for 2022-2023 has been approved, and the funding of £8,306 will be received shortly. The application for the CDF grant for 2022-2023 has been submitted, and is currently being processed. If the CDF grant is approved, this would mean that the CC has about £4,200 to disburse for the year to next March.
- The policy for the consideration of grant applications is now in draft form and it is anticipated that the document will be ready for discussion at the next meeting on 18th May 2022.
- The following grant applications were considered:
 - Tingwall Primary School PC – football goals £2,242.80. This application was refused.
 - Whiteness & Weisdale Guides – running costs £800. A grant of £400 was agreed.
 - Tingwall Public Hall – internal refurbishment £3,250. This application was refused.
 - Whitedale F.C. Under 12s – funding to attend competition south £200. A grant of £200 was agreed.

10.0 Correspondence

An e-mail was received on 9th April 2022 from Frank Hay of Weisdale, listing seven questions that he would like raised at the next VLG meeting.

11.0 Planning

The following planning applications were reviewed:

- 2022/079/PPF - Construction of single storey dwelling house with attached garage and heat pump, at Upper Strand, Gott. The clerk to submit a response of 'No comment'.
- 2022/062/PPF - Construction of single-storey rear extension, at Clach Na Strom, Whiteness. The clerk to submit a response of 'No comment'.
- 2022/080/PPP - Planning permission in principle for 3-bedroom dwelling house and agricultural shed, at Swinister, Tingwall. The clerk to submit a response of 'No comment'.
- 022/077/PPP - Planning permission in principle for three house sites at Wormadale. Andrew Archer declared an interest in this item and left the meeting while it was debated. After discussion by the other community councillors present, the clerk was asked to submit the following response:

'TWWCC objects to application 2022/077/PPP on the following grounds:

 1. The road infrastructure currently extant is inadequate to handle safely the additional traffic which would accrue from the proposed development.
 2. The resultant housing density would be inappropriate to the general environs'.
- 2022/076/PPF - Erect house with air source heat pump, at Nesbister. Members felt that this application should be refused on the grounds that that the development encroached towards one of Shetland's most historic and picturesque buildings. Members also felt that the proposed development set a precedent for expansion of Nesbister further to the south. It was agreed that the chair would draft a response for submission to the planning department.
- 2022/067/PPF - Erect 6kw 9m wind turbine to provide renewable electricity to existing dwelling, on land adjacent to Calders Lea, Weisdale. The clerk to write to SIC Planning with a request that the points raised in Frank Hay's letter of 30th March 2022 are taken into consideration.

12.0 Viking

Andrew Archer gave an update on the Viking Community Liaison Group meeting held on 19th April 2022.

- A question was raised about the compound at the Scord of Sound, as it has not yet been put to any use. Whether it is developed will depend upon the delivery route chosen by VESTAS for turbine components. If items are delivered via the new Sandwater road, then the Scord of Sound compound will be redundant and the area re-instated, but this decision has not yet been made.
- Some statistics were presented on the general progress of the project. There are currently 300 people working on the windfarm site; 95 of 103 crane pads are in place; 83 of 103 bases are excavated, 36 of which have been poured. RJM have 133 travelling personnel and 68 locals. About £20M has been spent locally so far. The next major job is cable-laying along the mid-Kane ridge, which is likely to be the first section completed and ready to receive turbine components.
- Local residents questioned why smaller vehicles were still using the old B9075 road instead of the new route. The response was that they were doing so because they were permitted to do so.
- A question was asked at the meeting about drug testing. SSE replied that drugs testing is being carried out both routinely and randomly. SSE also stated that the Dogs Against Drugs team routinely visit the site. Members asked the chair to find out whether the Dogs Against Drugs team also visit the Sella Ness accommodation and what percentage of the drugs tests are failed.
- Poles erected at the roadside to monitor traffic volumes have been in place for about a year. The solar panels on some of these poles have not survived the winter gales and a question was asked about whether this would mean that there was a gap in the data recording. SSE replied that the instruments are fitted with batteries in addition to solar panels to ensure that data-gathering is not interrupted.
- In response to a question on the effectiveness of peat restoration, it was stated that the peat restoration would be monitored through SWEAG.
- The question of litter was raised, especially in the area towards Aith, and residents are asked to bring any issues to the attention of Aaron Priest, who would deal with it.
- Following an incident of discourteous road usage, SSEN had given toolbox talks to its employees telling them to give more consideration to other road users.
- The A971 up to the Scord of Sound will be resurfaced around August/September 2022.
- A question was raised concerning cable drum deliveries being made in the vicinity of houses near Setter between 8.00pm and 11.00pm in the evening. The chair had asked SSE why the Traffic Management Plan agreed with SIC did not seem to apply here and SSE stated that, as the work was being done under permitted development rights, it was not a matter for the planning department. Neil Grant, who had attended the CLG meeting for the council, confirmed that they could not enforce it, but said that he expected SSE to follow it.

13.0 SCBF

Angela Sutherland said that SCBF would be carrying out a survey to find out residents' perceptions of how the grant application system had been handled so far.

The following grant applications were considered:

- 180180 - Ability Shetland £812.50. A grant of £812.50 was agreed.
- 180147 - Shetland Gymnastics £5,888. This application was refused.
- 180164 - Shetland Rape Crisis £400. A grant of £400 was agreed.
- 190207 – Shetland Family History Society £500. A grant of £500 was agreed.

The clerk was asked to advise Eleanor Gear accordingly.

14.0 Footpaths

At the last CC meeting, it was agreed that a small working group, comprising Andrew Archer, Dilys Evans, Angela Sutherland and Martin Randall, would be formed to take this project forward. Andrew reported that this group had met and had started work on the structure and constitution of the group. They had decided that the most appropriate structure would be a two-tier SCIO. The group had also looked at the Tingwall and Girsta Development Association (TAGDA) to see whether that could be an appropriate vehicle for the footpath projects but that, as TAGDA was unincorporated, it was not suitable in its current form. The members of the group had agreed that Andrew should contact TAGDA to see if there was a possible way forward. Since then, a resident had been in touch with Martin (and others) about the possible resurrection of TAGDA. Andrew had spoken to John Scollay, the treasurer of TAGDA, who said that he wanted to speak to the other two TAGDA trustees but agreed that the structure of TAGDA was not appropriate for the projects that the community council wanted to carry out and that it made sense for the CC to go ahead with the creation of a SCIO.

Since then, Martin and Andrew had met with several local people who were interested in becoming the founding trustees of the SCIO and a meeting was scheduled for that group on 21st April. Andrew asked the CC members whether they still wanted to be involved in the set-up of the SCIO, given that the group now seemed to have its founding trustees. The CC members agreed that the potential SCIO trustees should get on with it (although one more person from the Whiteness / Weisdale side would be approached to see whether they wanted to join). To minimise the conflict of interest, members agreed that there would be minimum overlap between the new group's trustees and the community council members. Andrew said that he would keep the CC informed of progress.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

As the election for SIC councillors is currently underway, there were no councillors' reports.

16.0 AOCB

Charles Hodge raised the issue of sheep wandering into residents' gardens in Nesbister. It was believed that this was due to the cattle grid being infilled with debris, which enabled sheep to walk over it. The cattle grid in question is on the road at the Wormaldale/Nesbister boundary, not far from the pumping station. The clerk was asked to write SIC Roads with a request that the cattle grid be cleared of debris. The question was also raised about whether it was the residents' or landowner's responsibility to keep the sheep out. Members didn't know but did not feel that this was a subject for the community council and that the residents should seek legal advice.

17.0 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th May 2022, at Tingwall Hall