



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall on Wednesday 19th April 2023

1.0 Present:	Andrew Archer (Chair)	Ian Scott
	Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Moraig Lyall
	Martin Randall	Catherine Hughson
	Charlie Hodge	
	Margaret Cooper	
	Neil Leask	
	Birgit Wagner	
	Paul Stevens (Clerk)	

2.0 Apologies: John Clarkson, Davie Sandison, Roselyn Fraser

3.0 Declarations of Interest: Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, Andrew Archer in SCBF applications, and Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Birgit Wagner and seconded by Neil Leask, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

SIC Emergency Planning & Resilience: there had been no reply to our reminder but Catherine Hughson said that the Community Safety and Resilience Board had also contacted them, and they had now engaged with the issues.

Crash barriers by Wormadale beach: there had still been no reply. The Clerk had contacted another person in SIC Roads, and the query has now been forwarded to Grant Anderson. Members noted that the barriers were originally included as part of the SIC 2022-23 budget.

Sound Kirkyard: Liam Drosso, the SIC Outdoor Access Officer, is currently enquiring about possible Rights of Way on the site.

[At this point, PC Gordon MacKay arrived. The meeting brought forward item 6 before returning to Matters Arising]

Whiteness Primary school celebration for 80+ residents: Linda Tulloch had been getting replies but most were declining the offer, with the deadline being 21st April.

South Whiteness water supply issues: there had been no further replies from the resident since Andrew Archer's letter. The clerk has written to Beatrice Wishart to see whether she can get Scottish Water to be clearer about when the water main will be replaced.

6.0 Police Report

The Police report for February/March 2023 had been circulated to Members on 13th April. PC Gordon Mackay was present to answer questions.

Neil Leask thought that the issue of cars speeding outside Whiteness School had improved. PC MacKay replied that, while manpower issues often prevented a police presence outside the school, the addition of officers brought in for windfarm convoy duty had improved matters temporarily.

Charlie Hodge raised the issue of the blind summit between the School and Olligarth — it was felt that the incoming new speed limit restriction, currently nearing the end of the public objection period, would help with this.

Moraig Lyall asked about new officer recruitment. PC MacKay said that there were currently record low officer numbers nationwide, with both recruitment and finding housing for new officers in Shetland being exceptionally difficult. Even with its full quota, Shetland has half the number of police officers per capita when compared to the rest of Scotland.

Andrew Archer asked how much information is needed to enable the police to informally talk to people thought to be driving carelessly. PC MacKay answered that a driver could be contacted or even charged if there were two written witness statements (ideally including the car registration number and other relevant details), or one statement plus corroborating video footage. Incidents could be reported by phoning 101 or via [the Police Scotland website contact form](#). However, PC MacKay suggested that charging drivers was often more effective as a deterrent. Neil Leask asked whether officers having a talk with allegedly careless drivers was still recorded. PC MacKay confirmed this was the case if the issue had been phoned in, even if there were only a single witness, and that such records were cumulative and could be acted upon,

Andrew Archer then asked about an issue due to be raised at the next VCLG meeting regarding police vehicles escorting the convoys. Some people had felt alarmed by the police 'suddenly' swinging across the road to stop traffic and would have appreciated either more advance warning or a less alarming manner. PC MacKay replied that the police involved were all trained 'advanced police drivers' (i.e., the highest level of training) but that he would pass concerns on to them. He noted that Shetland roads generally have good visibility so that a police car with blue lights flashing should be sufficiently noticeable well in advance, and that the convoys themselves occurred on a regular, publicised schedule.

[PC MacKay left at this point]

ACTION: Andrew Archer will publicise relevant information on the Facebook page, copied to the website

7.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

8.0 Finance

The Financial Report, updated to 12th April 2023, was distributed to members. The SIC Core and CDF funding had been applied for but had not yet been awarded. End of Year accounts were now being independently examined by VAS.

9.0 Correspondence

The traffic regulation order (A972 Stebbigrind to Cova 50mph) had been received.,

A local resident had queried whether the CC could provide filling material for potholes but this had been discontinued several years ago.

Photographs of damage to the road where power cable had been installed were sent to Neil Hutcheson, who replied that SIC's annual patching cycle would start soon.

A query had been received about possible grants to an individual. However, SIC regulations do not allow Core funds or the CDF to be used for this.

After a report was received about debris on the road after an on-fire vehicle had been removed, the Clerk contacted the roads department. The debris has now been cleared.

A resident had contacted Andrew Archer regarding their concern about microplastics from wind turbines. The issue had been previously raised, with scientific evidence being presented that rebutted the claims that this might pose a hazard.

Damage to the Cott Road from windfarm traffic had been reported. The issue will be raised at the VCLG meeting next week.

10.0 Planning

2023/071/PPF Erection of a rear extension with both internal and external alterations, and the installation of an air source heat pump, 18 Clach Na Strom

ACTION: Clerk to respond 'No comment'

2023/065/PPF Install timber and concrete ramped access with timber handrails, 52 Kalliness

ACTION: Clerk to respond 'No comment'

2023/059/PPF To extend existing dwelling house incorporating conversion of existing byre, Mousewall Gott

ACTION: Clerk to respond 'No comment'

Andrew Archer gave a report on the recent planning training that he and John Clarkson attended. This focused on the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) but, as the majority of attendees were new CC Members, more information relating to material issues might have been useful. Given that NPF4 is a very complex document covering wide ranging issues, it was felt it might benefit from a more understandable 'what does this mean for CCs' summary. The guidelines also state that local place planning must be taken into account in any planning decision, but this would be an expensive and labour-intensive undertaking for CCs.

ACTION: Andrew Archer to ask for summarised guidance from the planning council to be distributed to CCs.

11.0 Viking

At last month's meeting, Martin Randall had highlighted that power cables on Skye were to be buried in response to public feedback. Andrew Archer had subsequently written to SSEN contrasting this to their approach in Shetland and asking for a reply in advance of this CC meeting. He had received a last-minute offer to talk online with the Project Manager and Head of Corporate Affairs but declined; as it was an issue raised by the CC, it would need either a written response or in-person attendance at a CC meeting. This had been acknowledged and a further response was awaited.

Moraig Lyall raised the issue that the latest SSEN newsletter gave specific details of transmission pole placement despite this not yet having final planning consent. She had raised this with both Planning and the Energy Consent Unit.

The next VCLG meeting is in the week commencing 24th April, with several questions submitted.

Viking had paid for the needed Weisdale defibrillator parts, and will use photo of Neil Leask for publicity (with his permission). The defibrillator had now been registered on the [National Defibrillator Network](#).

Birgit Wagner suggested another CC site visit would be useful given several turbines were now complete.

ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to SSEN to request another site visit.

12.0 SCBF

Angela Sutherland had reported that the SCBFs main focus has been on the community survey. Members thought that the survey had somewhat leading questions and felt like a public relations exercise more than an actual consultation.

180407 The Outpost, Disability Access, £1000 [AA recused himself]

ACTION: The Clerk to inform Eleanor Gear that the full amount had been approved.

13.0 Footpaths

Andrew Archer reported that the Win Furt Trustees had met last week. They had decided to draw up several path options for both the Weisdale and Tingwall sides, and to then talk to relevant land owners. Options that were viable will then be presented to local residents for their comments and preferences. The final routes and their intended use will then allow potential additional funding to be identified.

14.0 Councillors' Reports

Councillors did not wish to provide any updates this month.

15.0 AOCB

Charlie Hodge had heard about an increase in people being bitten by off-leash dogs around Clickimin Loch, and thought that more signage reminding people to keep their dogs on a leash would be useful. As this was a different CC area, he will contact Lerwick CC.

16.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th May 2023, at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall (in the small hall).
