



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2024

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

2.0 Apologies: Birgit Wagner, Davie Sandison, Michael Duncan, Roselyn Fraser

3.0 Declarations of Interest: Andrew Archer declared an interest in grant decisions for the SCBF, Linda Tulloch in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking, and Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Martin Randall and seconded by John Clarkson, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Defibrillator cabinet: E&H have agreed to pay £250 towards the cost of a housing cabinet (polycarbonate, weatherproof cabinet, heated for battery longevity). TWWCC will pay for the remainder, estimated to be around £300.
→ ACTION: Andrew Archer will liaise with E&H and organise purchase of the cabinet
 - Safety on Stromfirth Road: SIC Roads replied to say that they acknowledged that there was an issue and would erect combined signs warning of both the blind summit and bend. This will take a few months to implement as it would need a non-standard placement, but "slow" road markings will be introduced in the meantime.
 - Roads past Dale golf course/Ladies Drive Junction: a reply had been received from Neil Robertson to say there was no update yet for the stretch of the A970 by the Golf course, but that he hoped to progress this when staff time allows. The water on the road at Oligarth should now have been rectified.
 - Flooded junction at Strand Loch: no update at the moment.
 - Speed limit at Girlsta: SIC Roads had replied to say that they had processed a temporary traffic
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regulation order to restrict traffic speeds on the approaches to, and extents of, the works area. Signs are now in place and the temporary 30mph limit is enforceable by law.

- Copper switch-off: the Lerwick Police had replied to say that they were unable to answer the query at this time but had passed it on to another unit.
 - ACTION: the Clerk to contact the police again if no further information is forthcoming by the end of the month.
 - Upgrades to Wormadale viewpoint: Paula Nicolson (Waste Operations Officer) had earlier replied to say that this would be actioned. Catherine Hughson confirmed that a new, bigger bin will be in place by end of this month. The CC will talk to the Amenity Trust regarding possible bench and information board upgrades.
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6.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

7.0 Police Report

The police report for February/March 2024 was circulated to members.

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 10th April 2024, was distributed to members. The SIC Core grant had been confirmed but not yet received. The SIC CDF grant application has been submitted.
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9.0 Correspondence

[Moraig Lyall arrived at this point]

- Potentially Vulnerable Areas Consultation from SEPA: members felt that there was no benefit for the CC to respond to this directly. Instead, a notification would be posted on the Facebook page asking local residents to take part if they considered themselves to be in a vulnerable area.
 - Whiteness/Weisdale war memorial: a further email had been received on behalf of the Whiteness and Weisdale Welfare Committee asking the CC to fund some maintenance on the memorial. Members agreed that the only viable route to do this would be via the SCBF.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to contact the Welfare Committee to ask them to apply for the needed funds via the SCBF, which the CC would support.
 - An email had been received from Andrew and Davina Morrison to inform the CC that they have written a letter to SIC Planning in response to application 2024/070/PPF, highlighting their concerns about road safety.
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10.0 Planning

There were no applications to be considered this month.

Regarding the production of a local place plan, members felt that they did not have the resources to do so at the current time and would wait to see how other community councils fared with the process.

11.0 Viking / Statkraft

- Andrew Archer had received a phone call from Jared Deeney (Project Delivery Manager, SSEN Transmission) regarding the burying of the new 132 kV cables by the Dale track. The original plan
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had been to identify an alternative route for walkers while the work was underway. However, it had not been possible to obtain relevant land access so instead the work will be sequentially carried out in 20m sections, with a day-time banksman available to escort walkers past the construction activity.

- Verges reinstatement quality: there was no update on this as yet. Neil Leask compared the current state of the verges to those on the Bixter to Aith road where SIC work has achieved a much higher quality reinstatement. Moraig Lyall said that Neil Hutcheson has confirmed to her that the SSE-affected verges will be rectified properly. John Clarkson noted that the existing verge width would be sufficient for conversion to a track for cycles and/or pedestrians and felt that an opportunity had been missed.

→ ACTION: the Clerk to write to Neil Hutcheson to ask about the full rectification timescale.

- Neil Leask asked about the need to have new transformer for the Statkraft site when the existing wind turbines tie into existing 33kV line.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact John Thouless (Statkraft Principal Project Manager) to enquire about reasons for a new transformer.

12.0 Win Furt

- Andrew Archer reported that good progress had been made. Professional help had been offered for producing tenders and general project management, so the plan is to produce two invitations to tender: one for a detailed design for the Califf junction stretch, including any needed planning applications, and another for an initial plan for the Hellister Loch route (to include surveying and some design options) which would go back to the local community for further consultation.
- For the path at Gott, the plan is for a combined cycle path and footpath with a verge required between the path and road. Discussions with landowners are ongoing and there will still be a need to seek funding for the design and construction.
- Andrew had also discussed the possibility of ZetTrans support for the Olligarth to Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall route (ranked second in the public vote) with Robina Barton.

13.0 SCBF

Following up on the concerns from last month's TWWC meeting regarding the amount of money which would be annually available to the CC, Andrew Archer had written to Angela Sutherland to further express the members' dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency in SCBF interactions and their disappointment that the current Director role did not appear to facilitate accurate communication between the SCBF and TWWCC. There was no substantive reply from Angela in time for tonight's meeting.

Members then discussed:

- the issue of consultation. While noting that SCBF Directors are not beholden to their CCs, members had understood that any decisions would be informed by discussions with the community council wherever possible. Members felt that this was not happening as much as it should.
- the ongoing lack of detail in SCBF minutes. Members had hoped that more of the decision-making of the SCBF board and subcommittees could have been reported informally to the CC but this was also not happening.

Members felt that the current situation was no longer tenable and that they wished to nominate a new Director at the earliest opportunity. Linda Tulloch noted that potential candidates could attend an SCBF meeting as an observer before deciding whether they wished to proceed as a nominee. Catherine

Hughson suggested that asking for clarification from SCBF on the defined role and responsibilities of Directors would be useful at this point. Andrew Archer asked members to consider over the next few days whether they might be interested in being nominated. Nominees do not necessarily have to be a CC member.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact SCBF to inform them of their wish to change their nominated Director, with a replacement candidate put forward in due course.

SCBF will hold online Q&A sessions about the replacement funding scheme on the 22nd April and 2nd May, with Andrew Archer planning to attend the former. Members felt that issues to be raised were that:

- the restriction of only one application per twelve months is problematic given the nature of the projects that would likely apply to the scheme. For example, Win Furt route surveys would need to be more frequent and would not be easy to plan ahead en masse.
- disallowing applications which included ongoing or future infrastructure maintenance and replacement would exclude a lot of projects that would be beneficial to, and desired by, the local community.
- requiring applications to be in line with the quite narrowly-defined SCBF strategic aims would appear to exclude many projects.
- requiring all post-application queries to be directed to SCBF and not the applicant was inefficient and could be seen as disempowering.

14.0 Roads

There were no issues raised.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

- Catherine Hughson had been primarily dealing with residents' issues related to housing and parking.
- Moraig Lyall and Ian Scott did not wish to report anything.

16.0 AOCB

- Linda Tulloch noted that the issue of large groups of cruise-ship cyclists (with a group of around sixty having been seen on the roads last week) had come up again. Moraig Lyall said that, as per the CC's letter last year to the Port Authority, feedback had apparently been given to the cruise companies but it was unclear whether this had filtered down to tour group leaders. Members suggested it would be useful to produce an information flyer with Shetland-specific guidelines — to include input from SIC Roads — as well as thinking about limiting cycle group sizes and highlighting alternative routes that would be less busy. It was noted that only 2 cruise lines (AIDA and MSC) carry bikes.
- John Clarkson noted that people (thought to be mostly locals there for the fishing) had been parking in passing places on the road near Tingwall and Asta Lochs. This was causing problems for other car users on that road.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to highlight the issue on the Facebook page, requesting people to not park in the passing places.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to the police and ask if there is there anything that they can do to deter parking.
- Charlie Hodge highlighted the recent disruption to road travel after the major accident on the A970

near Sandwick. This had resulted in the closure of the only road down to the south of the Mainland (including Sumburgh Airport) so he wondered if there was any way to avoid such disruption in case of future incidents. Members acknowledged that there was not likely to be a solution but felt that advance road sign warnings further north would have been helpful.

- ACTION: The Clerk to write to the police to suggest that similar, future situations would benefit from temporary road signage closer to Lerwick (e.g., at the Black Gaet Junction) to avoid drivers heading any further South.

17.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on the 15th May, in the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
