



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Community Hall on Wednesday 16th August 2023

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

2.0 Apologies:	Paul Stevens (Clerk), Rosalyn Fraser, Michael Duncan, Davie Sandison
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3.0 Declarations of Interest:	Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, Andrew Archer in decisions for the SCBF, Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning, and John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking.
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4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by John Clarkson and seconded by Birgit Wagner, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Wornadale crash barriers: There had been no further response from Roads.
→ ACTION: the Clerk to contact Neil Hutcheson again.
- Fallen passing poles: Our follow-up email had been acknowledged but there had been no further response from Roads
→ ACTION: the Clerk to contact Grant Anderson again.
- Planned or possible policy changes regarding speeding on Laxfirth Road: there had not yet been a response from Roads
- Defibrillator pads
→ ACTION: Andrew Archer will contact Shona Slater to tell her we have some spare pads available for the Strom Park defibrillator.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

The Clerk was asked to respond “No Comment” to planning application 2023/187/PPF

7.0 Police Report

The report for June/July 2023 was distributed to members on 11th August

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 9th August 2023, was distributed to members
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9.0 Correspondence

- A reply had been received from Ness engineering, who thanked us for bringing the matter to their attention and said they will speak to their drivers about avoiding the Gott end of Laxfirth Road.
 - Andrew Archer had received an email from the Shetland Amenity Trust suggesting they would like to talk to him in his dual role of CC Chair and Win Furt Chair about ideas for the future of Nesbister Böd. He has responded that he is happy to be contacted.
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10.0 Planning

- There were no new planning applications to be considered.
 - Andrew Archer asked Catherine Hughson if there had been any updates on the new Local Development Plan. Catherine replied that publication timescale of the NPF4 meant progress had stalled. John Clarkson felt it would be useful to have clarity from Planning on the current situation.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to Planning for an update on the Local Development Plan status.
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11.0 Viking

- It had been reported at the weekend that the track at Dale (along the end of the golf course) would be closed for two years to allow for electricity cable works. Andrew Archer contacted the Planning department on 14th August, who informed him that, despite it being a right of way, there is no requirement for a public consultation in this case. They additionally thought that any closure would actually be less than two years, given the wind farm was planned to be in operation by the end of 2023. Members felt that this was a well-used track, being one of the few truly 'off-road' paths available in the area. Moraig Lyall suggested that, given that there were only two fixed entrance points to the track, one at each end, it should be possible to close the track using signage on an as-needed basis, rather than the proposed blanket closure. Given the difficulty in providing a viable alternative route, members supported Moraig's suggestion. Any planning application comments are due by the end of this month.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to respond to Planning, saying that a two-year blanket closure is disproportionate given this is a well-used track, and is surely in conflict with the Shetland Active Travel Strategy. If granted, conditions should be put on SSE to minimise closure periods.
 - A site visit to the wind farm has now been scheduled for Monday 4th September, arriving at the Sandwater compound at 17:45 for an 18:00 start. Members who wish to attend are asked to confirm this with Andrew Archer, providing their boot size. Members are particularly interested in seeing the borrow pits that are due to be reinstated.
 - At the last Viking CLG meeting, it was asked whether the membership of the group should be expanded to include communities which would be affected by the converter station connection projects. This was supported and so the relevant CCs will be invited to attend future CLG meetings.
 - A meeting has been arranged with SSE and the residents of the Cott Road regarding potential plans to repair the road.
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12.0 Footpaths

- Win Furt had continued to hold meetings with local landowners. While it would not be feasible to relocate any stone walls, some initial areas on the Tingwall side were identified where fences could be re-sited further back from the road, to allow the construction of safe walkways. The idea of planters at bus stops was also well received, with the first planter now in place at the Strand Loch bench. The identification of path options for the Whiteness side have been slowed by ongoing estate administration issues and problems in identifying landowners. However, Win Furt hopes to have an initial list of options to present to the community in the next few months.
- The Win Furt AGM is due to be held before the end of September.
- Members were happy for Andrew Archer to post a summary of Win Furt activities on the TWWCC Facebook page.

13.0 SCBF

- Angela Sutherland had sent in a brief update, which had been circulated to members.
- Scalloway CC meeting will be meeting next Monday. Andrew Archer wrote to Mark Burgess last week regarding a joint response to Chris Bunyan regarding community benefit fund plans associated with the Mossy Hill wind farm site. Moraig Lyall will be attending the Scalloway meeting so can also feed TWWCC's suggestions into the meeting.
- Several members plan to attend the opening of the Whiteness Primary School polytunnel, which was funded by the SCBF.
- John Clarkson asked whether Shetland's community benefit funds were determined by a percentage of profits, as was suggested by UK government guidelines. Andrew Archer thought that the figure used was £5000 per installed megawatt, as per the Scottish government's best practice guidelines for wind farm developers. John wondered whether there might be an argument for aligning with the UK guidelines on this?
 - ACTION: The Clerk to identify the latest version of, and any planned changes to, the best practice guidelines for community development of wind farms in Scotland and the UK respectively.

14.0 Roads

Members discussed actions to date on the 50mph speed limits through Whiteness. Catherine Hughson reported that a crossing was going to be installed in front of the school but that there was a delay while power was installed.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to Roads to inquire about progress on the 50mph signs.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

- Catherine Hughson reported on progress with laying rubber crumb on the play area at Whiteness school.
- Andrew Archer raised the issue of whether uncut verges were more problematic for pedestrians. Members pointed out the biodiversity issues associated with frequent or overzealous cutting, and felt that there was a need to balance safety (in terms of visibility and access) with conservation. It was felt the status quo met these needs.
- Moraig Lyall and Ian Scott did not wish to report anything.

16.0 AOCB

John Clarkson raised the issue of defunct cars being left on public roads for extended periods of time, including the ineffectiveness of requesting that the Council remove them. Ian Scott suggested that the timescale of removal was inversely related to the scrap value of the car. Neil Leask suggested contacting the Police was more effective. Generally, members felt that any direct action was not within the CC remit, but that it would be useful to have information as to existing removal schemes, to pass on to owners.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact the Shetland Amenity Trust and ask for details of any car removal scheme or guidelines.

17.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th September 2023, at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
