



**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

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<b>1.0 Present:</b>	Andrew Archer (Chair)	Catherine Hughson
	Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Ian Scott
	Charlie Hodge	Moraig Lyall
	Neil Leask	Davie Sandison
	John Clarkson	
	Martin Randall	
	Birgit Wagner	

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**2.0 Apologies:** Margaret Cooper, Paul Stevens (Clerk), Michael Duncan, Roselyn Fraser.

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**3.0 Declarations of Interest:** Andrew Archer declared an interest in grant decisions for the SCBF, Linda Tulloch in matters relating to Tulloch Developments and for planning application 2024/004/WL, John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking, Neil Leask for planning application 2024/016/PPF, and both Catherine Hughson and Davie Sandison in matters relating to planning.

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**4.0 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion proposed by John Clarkson and seconded by Charlie Hodge, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

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**5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- Defibrillator: Moraig Lyall had brought this up with Andrew Inkster but there had been no further response. Members therefore decided to approach E&H Building Contractors to see if they would be willing to host the defibrillator, which the TWWCC would maintain.
  - Safety on Stromfirth road: There had still been no response from SIC Roads. Charlie Hodge had talked to local residents, who felt that the entire Stromfirth to Girlsta road should have a 40mph limit. However, it was pointed out by other members that most of Shetland's single-track roads with few dwellings have the same 60mph limit.
    - ACTION: The Clerk to contact Colin Gair at SIC Roads again, copying in Neil Hutcheson, regarding the Stromfirth road.
  - Roads past Dale golf course/Ladies Drive Junction: a reply had been received from Neil Hutcheson saying all major roads get inspected every month and no issues had been observed on those roads. However, they would re-inspect again under wet conditions, which members felt was important given ongoing concerns, and the Ladies Drive junction was due to be resurfaced this year. Members additionally noted that water had recently been collecting on roads just north of the
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houses at Olligarth and between Whiteness shop and the “otters crossing” sign at Olligarth bridge.

- ACTION: The Clerk to reply to Neil Robertson to thank him for his response and agree with the need to check the road past Dale golf course specifically under wet conditions. There are ongoing concerns with this stretch of road as well as new observations of significant water on the roads in Whiteness/Olligarth.

*[Davie Sandison arrived at this point]*

- Flooded junction at Strand Loch: there had not yet been a response.
  - ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact Neil Hutcheson again.
- Bench offer: Andrew had gone back to Julie Graham who said that they could provide a bench but could not install it. Installation and future maintenance would need to be organised by the CC. Catherine Hughson said that the local school was looking for a bench so members agreed that this was the best course.
  - ACTION: Andrew Archer will reply to Corinna Scholes (Julie’s replacement) to accept the bench offer for provision to the school.
- Radio Teleswitch Service: John Clarkson updated the members, saying that the current switch off date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 reportedly may be pushed back to the summer or even the end of 2025. Currently three types of replacement meters could be installed, each of which have their issues, including a lack of supply for all of them. Ofgem had reportedly written to energy providers emphasising the need to identify which meters needed replacement. Pre-programmed (non teleswitch) meters are available but are not responsive to real-time weather conditions. As a personal example, Birgit Wagner had contacted Octopus to query whether a smart meter could instead be controlled via the mobile phone network, which they confirmed and agreed in principle to supply one, though they would not guarantee that it would work. John Clarkson highlighted that there are two types of smart meter, only one of which is capable of using a 4G (mobile phone) signal, so people with an existing smart meter could not assume that they could be switched over.

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## 6.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

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## 7.0 Police Report

The report for December/January 2023/24 was circulated to Members on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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## 8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024, was distributed to members.
- A grant application had been received from Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall for £2650.46, to replace the stage curtains with fire-safety ones. Members felt that this would be of benefit to the local community and it was unanimously approved.
  - ACTION: The Clerk to inform the applicants that the full amount had been awarded.
  - ACTION: Andrew Archer to post a message on the Facebook page asking for applicants before the end of the financial year. Member to also highlight any potential causes.

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## 9.0 Correspondence

- Citizens’ Participation and Public Petitions Committee: there is [a petition on the Scottish Parliament site](#) to require bodies such as the Highlands and Islands Airports to include local

representation on their boards. While this wasn't something the CC could sign as a body, members were encouraged to sign as individuals, and a link would be circulated.

- Consultation on Shetland's next Local Development Plan: individual respondents are being asked to give their opinions on the channels through which they are consulted. The issue will be on the agenda for the next ASCC meeting. Moraig Lyall added that there would also be engagement with local communities starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March to ask about the development of localities plans.
- Mossy Hill wind farm meeting: the new project manager is due to visit Shetland in March and will organise a meeting at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall at 6pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March to give CC members and local Councillors an introduction to the project. Andrew Archer reported that last week's Viking CLG meeting included an update on the power connection to Lerwick, which would now take place in 2025.

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## 10.0 Planning

- Application 2023/252/PPP for 4 houses in Wormadale: The Roads department has objected as entrance would be next to existing house access which would need revised sightlines. The application has been paused by the developer.
- 2024/016/PPF Construct timber access ramp with handrails and concrete base plate to entrance door of property, Midfield South Whiteness [*Neil Leask recused himself from this decision*]
  - ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment"
- 2024/009/PPF Extension to existing MOT garage to form new customer waiting room, Shetland MOT & Repair Garage Gott Tingwall
  - ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment"
- 2024/004/WL To vary a Works Licence (ref:2020/030/WL) to change the approved marine renewable device to an experimental water wheel device and extend the expiry date [*Linda Tulloch recused herself from this decision*]. Members felt local energy production was to be encouraged, particularly with designs that would leave no permanent impact on the landscape when retired. Issues of visual amenity were felt to be a matter for local residents to object to if they desired to do so. Informal discussion with some local residents had found the only concern was whether approval might set a precedent but, given the limited locations which were suitable for privately-owned tidal power generation, this was thought unlikely to be a significant issue.
  - ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment"

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## 11.0 Viking

- Andrew Archer reported on last week's CLG meeting, which he and Neil Leask attended on behalf of the TWWCC (the only CC to have sent representation).
- They raised the issue of the poor state of the verges where the 33kV cable had been buried. SSE replied that they were due to meet with SIC to look at this. Andrew will follow up on this in a couple of weeks.
- The main compound at Sandwater will be completely reinstated. There will be small car parks next to the new Sandwater road, and at the North end of the site of the existing batching plant.

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## 12.0 Footpaths

- Andrew Archer reported that there was one week remaining for people to vote on their preferred route, with 260 people (~18% of local residents) having done so to date.

- There was a WinFurt meeting last week where they discussed a proposed cycle path in Tingwall going from the bus stop by Strand loch to the corner of Laxfirth road (a stretch of approximately 260m). They had looked at Transport for Scotland's *Cycling by Design* guidelines and were wondering whether a dedicated cycle path was needed or whether a pavement would be sufficient. Neil Hutcheson provided information about traffic volume in that area, which is low.
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### **13.0 SCBF**

There was no update this month.

Andrew Archer and Linda Tulloch were hoping to arrange a meeting with Mark Burgess at Scalloway CC to meet regarding community benefits from the future Statkraft development. Previous contact with the SCBF had indicated that they would be willing to administer the benefits alongside their work with SSEN, but an alternative option might be to have it managed via the Scalloway Community Development Company. Davie Sandison felt that, given they would be a beneficiary of any funding, there would be a conflict of interest, but raised the possibility of constituting a dedicated community development company. Moraig Lyall wondered whether SCBF-administered funds would still be governed by Shetland-wide priorities or if there could be a proviso for relevant funding decision to be made solely by the two local CCs. Members agreed it would need to be the latter option.

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### **14.0 Roads**

SIC Christmas gritting policy: Moraig Lyall highlighted the need for a reconsideration of the policy given the increased demand for homecare staff needing to use roads over public holidays.

- ACTION: The Clerk to write a letter to John Smith (SIC Infrastructure Director) to express concerns about lack of road gritting over Christmas and other public holidays, especially re. the safety of key workers.
  - ACTION: The Clerk to contact Roads regarding the give way sign being missing on the connecting road between A970 and corner of Laxfirth Road, and a hole in the road on the Nesbister side of the cattle grid, by the sewage pumping station.
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### **15.0 Councillors' Reports**

- Davie Sandison said that the next council meeting will be discussing an increase in council tax on second homes and empty homes. He had been contacted by constituents with specific circumstances (e.g., empty homes that are only used when working on croft, or a house inherited from family that needs refurbishment to be habitable) who would be impacted by this, and felt that there needs to be more consideration as to who should be exempted.
  - Moraig Lyall highlighted that a consultation about bus contracts was due to start soon and wanted to encourage people to engage with this.
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### **16.0 AOCB**

None.

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### **17.0 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, in the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.

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