



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Video Conference meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.00pm

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer – chair
Linda Tulloch
Dilys Evans
Winston Brown
Neil Leask
Catherine Hughson
Moraig Lyall
Ian Scott
Karl Mills - clerk
Roselyn Fraser

1.1 By invitation: from SSEN - Simon James, Chris Finnigan, Lesley Dow, Sharon Powell

2.0 Apologies: Michael Duncan
Davie Sandison
Theo Smith
Steven Coutts

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Linda Tulloch and Winston Brown declared an interest in item 12 – Viking Energy.
Moraig Lyall declared an interest in item 15 – planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Neil Leask and seconded by Dilys Evans the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2020 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Members asked Ian Scott whether he had managed to get an answer from the council about who had authorised the start of the Viking project whilst the decommissioning bond was not in place. Ian reported that he had had no success in finding this out. Members felt that the failure to have in place a formally-agreed Decommissioning Bond for the Viking Wind Farm prior to the commencement of its construction is a matter of concern. It was agreed that the Community Council should send a letter to SIC requesting an explanation of why construction was allowed to start before the Decommissioning Bond had been agreed and approved.

6.0 Decisions taken since the last meeting

Decision 017, made by e-mail vote on 14th December 2020, outlined the specific steps to be taken to distribute funds resulting from the TWWCC Christmas Appeal. It was agreed as an accurate record.

7.0 Police Report

There was no Police Report submitted this month.

8.0 Presentation from SSE Networks on cable works at Cott

Chris Finnigan of SSEN delivered a short slide presentation, giving details of the planned cable installation at Cott. The planned start date is still uncertain as the Traffic Management Plan still has to be agreed with SIC and the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will not be submitted to SEPA until next month. Members had several questions for SSEN on environmental protection, peat slides, cable safety, planning implications of the cable (i.e. within what distance of the cable would building be prohibited). SSEN committed to provide answers to the community council's questions.

Members asked about reinstatement of the ground after the work is finished. The answer was that the ground would be returned to the previous levels and condition, unless the landowner submitted a planning application to keep the track that would be built to facilitate construction between Weisdale and Kergord.

9.0 Finances

The latest Finance Report, dated 13th January 2021, was circulated to community councillors prior to the meeting.

- There was an un-budgeted cost of £820 in January 2021 for the purchase of a new lap-top computer to replace the old computer which failed in December 2020.
- It was agreed that the Community Council would publicise on Facebook the grant funds still available in this financial year for distribution to applicants.

10.0 Correspondence

In October 2020 the Community Council received an offer from MSP Beatrice Wishart to attend our meeting to answer questions. At the time this offer was declined, but the Community Council now feels that this would be of benefit. Andrew Archer will reply to Beatrice Wishart accepting the offer.

In December 2020 a letter was sent by TWWCC to members of SIC and NHS Shetland expressing concern over the lack of COVID testing of contractors being brought to Shetland to work on the Viking wind farm project. A reply has been received from Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive of SIC, saying that she is petitioning the Scottish government to set up a pilot scheme to be implemented in Shetland for all visitors to the Islands to be tested at their point of departure before being allowed to travel.

The Community Council's Christmas Appeal has been very successful, and several letters of thanks have been received from people who we have been able to help expressing their deeply-felt appreciation. There are still funds remaining and much thought is being given to how best to make use of these generous donations. Some sort of summer outing for older folk and a gift to Shetland Macmillan Nurses are options which are being considered.

11.0 COVID activities

Following some discussion, it was agreed that a very useful way of distributing the remaining CRF funds would be to purchase vouchers for CAB to hand out to those known to be in need of help resulting from the effects of COVID.

12.0 Viking Energy

Andrew Archer gave a summary of the recent Viking Liaison Group meeting. It was apparent that more emphasis was now being given to health & safety issues. The decision to start COVID testing was obviously welcomed by members and Neil and Andrew both reported that they were surprised and reassured by the extent of the other measures that SSE were taking and the seriousness with which they now appeared to be taking the issue.

Concerns over the concrete batching plant were somewhat allayed by learning that the material would be mixed in a 'wet' condition thereby reducing the potential for the generation of dust.

Outdoor access is still an issue, and there is a need for better consultation on this point. SSE have committed to attend the next meeting of the Outdoor Access Forum in February.

13.0 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Angela Sutherland was not present at the meeting, so no update could be given.

14.0 Roads

The community council had received a detailed reply from the SIC Roads department about the Haggersta to Cova section of the A971, the section of road from South Whiteness Junction to Whiteness Primary School and the staggered Junction on the A970 at Veensgarth. Members were concerned at a lack of clarity about how the various road improvement schemes were prioritised and how things could be added to the list. The clerk was asked to write to the roads department to ask them to explain how items were prioritised. The clerk was also asked to find out from them what the timescales were for their investigations into speeds and traffic volumes at Whiteness and the Veensgarth junction.

Catherine Hughson confirmed that the roads issues faced by TWWCC are common to the other community councils in her area and members wondered whether it might be worth getting the ASCC to ask SIC to explain what the long-term plan is.

Andrew Archer will ask for this subject to be added as an agenda item on the forthcoming ASCC meeting.

15.0 Planning

- 2020-285-PPF - change land use to garden and erect garage
- 2020-277-PPF - change land use to domestic and erect shed

The clerk will send responses of 'No comment' to SIC Planning in respect of both applications.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

Councillors had nothing to report.

17.0 AOCB

The Orion Project – Andrew Archer will arrange for a presentation to be made to the Community Council on this.

18.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th February 2021