



## TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 7.00pm

**1.0 Present:**

Andrew Archer – chair	Theo Smith
Angela Sutherland	Catherine Hughson
Linda Tulloch	Moraig Lyall
Dilys Evans	Ian Scott
Neil Leask	Steven Coutts
Karl Mills – clerk	Davie Sandison
	Ian Hutchison - Police
	Ania Darnowska - Police

**2.0 Apologies:** Winston Brown

Michael Duncan  
Roselyn Fraser

### 3.0 Declarations of Interest

Linda Tulloch declared interests in item 11 Viking Energy.

Moraig Lyall and Davie Sandison declared an interest in item 10 – Planning.

### 4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Neil Leask and seconded by Linda Tulloch the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

### 5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

1. The clerk contacted Ian Bray of Hjalmland Housing Association and it was agreed that the wording for the signs at Gaet a Gott would be: 'CAUTION – CHILDREN AT PLAY'. The clerk has arranged to purchase two signs with this wording from Art Machine, at a cost £30+VAT each.  
When the signs have been received the clerk will liaise with SIC Roads to agree suitable locations for their installation.
2. Safety concerns about some of the local roads and particularly the absence of safe footpaths was discussed, and this led to a lengthy debate on how the community council could most effectively influence future improvements. The key points arising from this discussion are:
  - Timescales for any improvements are likely to be long, with no realistic expectation of tangible results for any substantial scheme in less than 5 years.
  - Financial constraint is a significant factor leading to slow progress with road and footpath infrastructure, and Councillors pointed out that the use of SIC reserves to fund improvements more quickly is not an option.
  - Councillors advised that the Scottish Government is keen to support the Active Travel Strategy in the future, and the community council should explore whether the proposed Settlement Audits can be used to achieve anything. It was felt that a single high-priority improvement project should be chosen, rather than a number of different projects, and that this should be promoted as energetically as possible.

- A number of actions were identified for immediate implementation. These are:
  - a. Liaise with Robina Barton – Active Travel Strategy, to find out whether a settlement audit is planned for the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale area, and if not, to request one.
  - b. Write a letter to SIC – Roads, stressing the need to improve the A971 to make it safer for pedestrians, specifically the stretch between Kalliness and Whiteness School, and to express the community council’s concern at plans by SSE to ship very large components such as turbine blades along the A971 through Whiteness and Weisdale.
  - c. Write a similar letter to SIC – Planning, expressing the community council’s concern at plans to ship very large loads along the A971 through Whiteness and Weisdale.
  - d. Write a letter to Viking Energy, asking if they would consider building a path for the community so that pedestrians can walk safely between Kalliness and Whiteness School.

## **6.0 Decisions made since last meeting**

Two decisions were made by e-mail vote since the last meeting. These are:

1. To submit a response of 'No comment' to SIC Planning, regarding planning application 2021/201/PA – to construct a track from Stenswall to setter.
2. To submit a response to SIC Planning, objecting to planning application 2021/204/VCON – for SSE to make the current temporary change to their working hours permanent.

## **7.0 Finance**

1. The Financial Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 was distributed to members.
2. Andrew Archer confirmed that the community council’s internet banking facility had now been set up.
3. There were no TWWCC grant applications to consider.

## **8.0 Police Report**

Ian Hutchison and Ania Darnowska of Lerwick Police joined the meeting. They said the main issues being addressed by the Police in the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale area were traffic-related, of which speeding and dangerous overtaking were prevalent. Speeding on Herrislea Hill was raised as an ongoing problem, and the Police agreed to look into this.

Ian said that he would send the latest Police Report to us in due course.

## **9.0 Correspondence**

A reply has been received from Maggie Sandison to the community council’s letter requesting information on ‘sterilised zones’ resulting from the subterranean HVDC cable. She indicated that she was not aware of any development restrictions beyond the defined corridor of 30m which allows for maintenance of the cable.

## **10.0 Planning**

Planning applications have been dealt with in section 6.0 – Decisions made since last meeting.

## **11.0 Viking Energy**

Since the last meeting, Andrew Archer had spoken to Duncan Goudie of SEPA about how water usage was managed at the Viking project. Duncan had explained the steps taken to monitor and control water usage and the auditing process used to ensure compliance with the rules. He said that the record keeping at the site was excellent and that SEPA had no concerns currently with the management of water usage at the site.

Andrew Archer gave a summary report on the Viking Liaison Group meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

- The work on the steel reinforcements for the turbine bases has started, and major concrete pours start in August.
- Planning applications are still being processed by SIC for two concrete batching plants. If these planning applications are approved, the batching plants currently at the North compound will be moved to these new sites.
- Concerns about dust from the tracks were still being raised by the public but SSE / RJ McLeod felt that they were doing as much as they reasonably could to keep it down.

## **12.0 SCBF**

Angela Sutherland gave an update on SCBF.

- Approximately 50% of this year's funds have been allocated. Funding for the next financial year will be available from September, and added to the 50% remaining from this year.
- In order to protect SCBF resources, the money has been distributed through a number of bank accounts (maximum protected amount is £85,000 per account).
- SCBF will carry out a Shetland-wide consultation in 2022 to establish how communities would like the core fund to be spent.
- SCBF are in discussion with other energy companies (including off-shore), with the aim of extending and increasing the total sum of money available for distribution to communities.

Members agreed last month that the community council should carry out its own local consultation with residents later in 2021 to establish how they would like SCBF funding to be spent. The chair and the clerk reported on work done since then to look at how this could be done most cost-effectively but whilst also making sure that people not online were not excluded. It was agreed that a questionnaire will be printed and distributed to local households by hand, together with a pre-paid reply envelope.

A grant application has been received from Shetland Classic Motor Show, asking for £400 to assist with costs of hosting the 2022 show. After discussion, it was agreed to approve this application, and the clerk was asked to inform Eleanor Gear – Administrator SCBF accordingly.

## **13.0 Councillors' Reports**

Following concerns raised to the community council last month, Catherine Hughson said that trees had been pruned and paths pressure-washed at Kalliness. She also said that potholes had been filled-in near the recycling bins at the shop, and she would look into the problem of broken glass on the ground around the glass recycling bin.

Moraig Lyall said that community councillors would be welcome to visit the new children's home prior to its opening.

Davie Sandison reported that funding had been secured for a new caravan park at Asta, and went on to say that with the noticeable increase in the number of camper-vans and caravans visiting the Islands more facilities like this one will be needed in the future.

## **14.0 AOCB**

- Andrew Archer reported on a meeting that had been organised by Roselyn Fraser to look at how communities were emerging from the pandemic and how local facilities (e.g. halls) were reopening. One of the issues raised at the meeting was that users of the halls were unclear as to what they were allowed to do (e.g. food and drink). VAS are issuing guidance to halls on how to make safe use of their facilities on emergence from the COVID epidemic and the meeting recommended that something similar should be produced that could be distributed to the users of the halls.

- The community council agreed to invite a conservation expert to join a future meeting, to give a short talk on peat restoration.

### **15.0 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021