



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Community Hall on Wednesday 19th July 2023

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

2.0 Apologies: Moraig Lyall, Davie Sandison, Angela Sutherland

3.0 Declarations of Interest: Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning, and John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking.

4.0 Scottish Sea Farms

Three representatives from Scottish Sea Farms (SSF) — Richard Darbyshire (Northern Isles Regional Manager), Mark Steward (Development Manager), and Robbie Coutts (Area Manager, Scalloway) — attended this section of the meeting to answer members' questions. Andrew Archer highlighted local residents' priority concern as being HGV movements on the South Whiteness and Kergord roads, with Catherine Hughson emphasising pedestrians' worries about the speed of such traffic, especially for people with prams and at school start/finish times. Mark Steward replied that SSF HGVs do not use the Kergord road (that traffic is for Cooke Aquaculture). Currently, the company's main use of the South Whiteness road was by employee cars (typically 2 cars per day as a car share scheme was in operation), although the twice a day skip cart had previously been in operation linked to a now-competed development project. Most large traffic goes through Scalloway. Timing should not be an issue as transit is outside of school times, but he will bring up the speed issue. Robbie said that there is no planned increase in the number of vehicle movements, in fact the development should see a reduction.

[John Clarkson arrived at this point]

Charlie Hodge asked about the reason for consolidation of the sea farms to one area. Mark said that their strategy was to farm fewer, larger farms, chosen from most profitable and practicable existing farms. Richard Darbyshire added that bigger sites were associated with better fish, and would also allow more silage transport via sea rather than road.

Andrew asked whether the increased activity would mean an increased impact on marine life in the area. Mark replied that consolidation means an overall reduction in the area of sea bed impacted in terms of fish waste, nutrient escape, and sea lice dispersal. There will be ongoing assessment (including angler reports of any catches with sea lice) along with predictive modelling to avoid problems. A monitoring plan was available from the company. Richard said that sea lice are generally not a problem in Shetland. SSF rarely use medicines, instead utilising pressurised sea water jets and

holding the fish for 24 hours in freshwater (produced on site by a reverse osmosis process). The major issues in Shetland are instead plankton blooms and micro-jellyfish warms, both of which physically affect the fish. Robbie Coutts said the recent bloom in Whiteness Voe, related to this year's seawater temperature being two degrees above seasonal averages, had not been a toxic species but care was still needed as the plankton could still damage fish gills.

Neil Leask asked whether a fallow period would be needed for decommissioned sites. Mark responded that these were not needed as SEPA modelled a given location's capacity and set ongoing limits which avoid ecological degradation of the sea bed from waste deposition.

Charlie asked whether consolidation would reduce employment in the area. Mark responded that the sites due to be decommissioned have not been in use for a while, so there would be no loss of jobs. Robbie added that decommissioned sites can be opened up for fishing again, so could be an asset to the area.

In response to a question from Andrew about timescales, Mark said that a planning application would be put in around September this year, which would be followed by a SIC scoping process (with a probable environmental assessment then being required).

[Richard, Mark and Robbie left at this point]

5.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by John Clarkson and seconded by Linda Tulloch, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

6.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Wornadale crash barriers: there have been no further updates.
- Burial ground consultation response: local feedback to the idea of a green burial facility like [Hundy Mundy](#) has been positive, with John Clarkson highlighting the additional carbon sequestration effect of woodland burial. Members felt that the closure of local cemeteries to new burials was inevitable if they are nearing capacity, but that there should still be a commitment to upkeep — notably lacking in some current cemeteries.
 - ACTION: the Clerk to respond to the consultation as above
- Fallen passing poles: There had still been no response from Grant Anderson (Roads).
 - ACTION: the Clerk to contact Roads again.

7.0 Decisions since last meeting

The allocation of £500 towards the ongoing purchase of adult defibrillator pads for the Weisdale shop site (one set now purchased).

8.0 Police Report

- There was no report this month.

9.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 12th July 2023, was distributed to members.
- SSEN Community Benefit Fund consultation: Thea Groat will organise a webinar for CCs on the planned operation. Date TBD.

10.0 Correspondence

- Request for speed limit review at Laxfirth (and also comments about industrial vehicles on the Laxfirth road): It was believed that Ness Engineering had taken over the waste management site

at Vatster and their vehicles were using the Laxfirth Road through Gott, whereas traffic from the quarry at Vatster typically avoids it by using the northern section of the road to reach the A970. In regard to the question on changing the speed limit, Ian Scott felt that the issue was a lack of speed-limit enforcement rather than a need to change existing limits, whereas Neil Leask suggested that, while lower limits were not necessarily adhered to, they did lead to a proportional decrease in traffic speeds.

- ACTION: the Clerk to write to Ness Engineering asking if they could avoid using the Laxfirth Road through Gott.
- ACTION: the Clerk to write to Roads asking, given ongoing requests from residents in populated areas of Laxfirth Road and recent pedestrian-prioritising changes to the Highway Code, what are the relevant planned or possible policy changes.

- Chris Bunyan had contacted the CC to ask about community benefit fund plans associated with Statkraft's Mossy Hill wind farm site. He asked about support for a potential meeting between Statkraft, Scalloway CC, and TWWCC. Members discussed the possible benefits and disadvantages of a separate scheme versus there being an extended SCBF, but felt that they should wait until Scalloway CC had also discussed this at their next meeting (in August) before reaching any decision.

11.0 Planning

There were two new planning applications to be considered:

- 2023/156/PPF Erect dwellinghouse, install new replacement septic tank and soakaway, install air source heat pump, Tingview Griesta Tingwall
- 2023/154/PN Erect Polycrub 12M x 4M, 13 Veensgarth Gott Tingwall
 - ACTION: the Clerk to respond with 'No comment' for both of the above.

12.0 Viking

- Converter station visit. Members had visited the site on 5th July. A joint site visit to the windfarm with other CCs has been pencilled in for the first week in September.

Report on Viking Community Liaison Group meeting on 18th July.

- Burying of the cable where it comes ashore in Weisdale Voe was not yet complete, so residents should expect another boat in the voe at some point. It was due to be finished before the end of the year. In response to a question from Neil Leask, it was confirmed that the visually-more-appropriate scraped peat was being prioritised for use on the surface of reinstatement sites. Excessive noise from the site was thought to be due to the protective nets at the end of blades, which are secured by ropes that 'clang' if they come loose. Vestas now been instructed to monitor these and tighten as necessary.
- Clarification was provided as to when SEPA would become involved in any reported issues. The process is that an environmental clerk of works (e.g., within SSE) takes a water sample and tests it for cloudiness (*turbidity*). There are then standardised criteria for when the turbidity level needs to be reported. Any fuel spills are assessed & reported 'if necessary', with the decision being taken by SSE's environmental staff.
- Markings have appeared on the Cott Road, relating to proposed repairs. It was felt that these seemed limited given the whole road seems to have deteriorated (especially regarding the drop-off towards the sides). Discussions with SIC are continuing regarding Viking's responsibility for

rebuilding the road. Andrew is organising a meeting between local residents and SSE so that they can point out the issues.

- Neil Leask asked at the CLG meeting whether there had been any progress with the decommissioning bond. Neil Grant (SIC) had replied that it was nearly there. Members felt that they had heard this message before.
- Wind farm convoys are due to finish in 2 weeks, later than the original date of the end of June.

13.0 Footpaths

Win Furt is still progressing talks with landowners, with there being some concerns about allowing dogs to have access to proposed path routes.

14.0 SCBF

Angela Sutherland sent in an update for members.

15.0 Roads

Cott Road repairs: covered earlier in item 12.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

- Catherine Hughson had primarily been meeting with constituents about local concerns, Council meetings currently being in recess.
- Ian Scott did not wish to report anything.

17.0 AOCB

- Charlie Hodge had still not received any response to his letter to the Lerwick Community Council about dogs around the Clickimin Loch.

18.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 16th August 2023, at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
