



Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7.00pm

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer – chair
Winston Brown
Linda Tulloch
Dilys Evans
Neil Leask
Angela Sutherland
Karl Mills – clerk

Theo Smith
Catherine Hughson
Moraig Lyall
Ian Scott
Steven Coutts
Davie Sandison

1.1 By Invitation: Sharon Powell – SSE
Steven McMillan – SSE
Corinna Scholes – SSE
Chris Finnigan – SSE
Jen Stout – BBC Radio Shetland

2.0 Apologies: None

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Linda Tulloch and Winston Brown declared interests in item 6 – SSEN, and in item 12 - Viking Energy.

Moraig Lyall and Davie Sandison declared an interest in item 11 – Planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Winston Brown and seconded by Dilys Evans the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

The clerk contacted Hjalmland Housing Association to advise them that the community council had agreed to fund the purchase and erection of ‘Caution - Children at play’ signs at Gaet a Gott. The Housing Association was very happy to accept this offer.

Two signs will be purchased from Art Machine. When the clerk has been advised by Hjalmland Housing Association of the proposed locations for erection of the signs, SIC Roads will be informed before their installation to ensure that the signs do not cause visibility issues for road users.

6.0 SSEN

Steven McMillan, SSE Project Manager – Connections, gave a slide presentation to the meeting, and answered questions on several aspects of connections to the power station and other windfarms.

Steven explained how technical, environmental and cost criteria were all taken into account when determining the optimum route for the cable, and explained why the cable would be underground for part of its route and suspended from poles on other

parts of the route. The intention to carry the cables on two lines above ground for part of the route led to considerable discussion and questioning of the rationale behind the plan. The community council did not believe that the arguments made by SSE to support their case for overhead lines were persuasive.

After subsequent discussion the community council decided that it should write a letter to SSE objecting strongly to their intention to carry the cables overhead for part of the route and recommending that the cable should be buried for the whole length from the power station to Kergord.

Chris Finnigan, project manager for SSE on the HVDC cable, attended the meeting to answer questions on the traffic management plan for the HVDC project. Concerns had been raised with the community council about the proposed access point at Setter but, following a visit from SSE to the family that had raised them, their concerns had been allayed. In response to questions about the quantity and nature of the traffic that would be using the Cott road, Chris explained how as much of the materials required as possible would be transported down from the A971 in ton bags, rather than along the Cott road. The community council did not feel that it needed to make any further comment to SIC about the traffic management plan.

The need to work on Sundays was challenged, and SSE said that although they have permission to do so, they would endeavour to keep Sunday working to a minimum.

7.0 Finance

1. The Financial Report dated 7th June 2021 was distributed to members.
2. There were no TWWCC grant applications to consider.

8.0 Police Report

There was no Police Report received.

9.0 Correspondence

A letter was received from John Sinclair of Kalliness expressing his concerns over rumours of an intention to erect wind turbines on the east side of the Kergord valley, and asking the community council to look into this. None of the members had heard of any plans for this and the clerk was asked to write back to Mr Sinclair to tell him this.

10.0 Report on Association of Shetland Community Councils

Andrew Archer gave a report on the recent meeting.

1. Following a request from TWWCC, the SIC roads department gave a presentation to explain how the roads budget worked, how capital schemes were prioritised and how maintenance was scheduled. The main message was that, since 2012, the department had been under instruction “not to increase the asset base” without a proper business case. This meant that measures to improve the condition of roadside verges to make them safer for pedestrians will not be undertaken as no funding is available for this purpose. There was considerable discussion about these issues and members decided that:
 - a. As Improvement of the Cova to Haggersta road is not being prioritised at present a letter should be written to Robert Sinclair, Chief Executive - Asset Management, emphasising the safety concerns on this section of road and requesting that crash barriers be installed.
 - b. A petition should be started calling on the council to improve the safety of pedestrians on some single-track roads. A comment was made that,

whilst the roads department argued that making all the single-track roads suitable for pedestrians would be a multi-million-pound project, this was not actually what was required. In most areas there were just a few stretches that would need attention.

2. Fixed links to outer islands were not included in the government's latest strategic transport review. SIC is now working with the Orkney and Western Isles councils to try to change the government's view on these projects.

11.0 Planning

The clerk was asked to submit a response of 'No comment' to SIC Planning in respect of planning application 2021/190/S37SIM - Proposed erection of one new 2-span EHV 33kv overhead line off P265 on the existing line near Kergord Farm, as part of the works proposed for the connection of the Viking Energy Windfarm at Kergord Farm, Weisdale.

12.0 Viking Energy

1. The community council wrote a letter to SSE Renewables requesting that residents in the Kergord-Setter area be notified prior to blasting operations taking place. A commitment to do this has been made by SSER.
2. Despite three reminders, no reply has been received from SIC to the community council's letter requesting information on the possible 'sterilizing' effect of buried power cables on future land development. It was decided that another letter should be written to the Chief Executive of SIC requesting a response.
3. Several questions had been received from Frank Hay about issues to do with the windfarm construction. After some discussion, it was decided that some of them would be directed to the next Community Liaison Group meeting and the questions regarding water usage would be forwarded to SEPA.

13.0 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Angela Sutherland gave an update on the SCBF.

1. The SCBF are having ongoing discussions with other groups, including offshore groups, to try to expand involvement in the scheme, and Angela said that Shetland Aerogenerators had now signed up to the scheme.
2. The SCBF is intending to start a Shetland wide consultation in early 2022 to explore how best to spend the scheme's funds. Members had decided last month to explore how to run a more local consultation, primarily because the SCBF consultation would be mainly focused on the larger, central pot of money that would start in 2024. Angela said that she was pushing the SCBF to widen their consultation process to include specific local plans as well. After some debate, members decided that they would go ahead with a local consultation anyway. This was for two reasons. Firstly, it would happen sooner and secondly, the results could be fed into the planning of the SCBF consultation. Members agreed that the consultation should take the form a reply-paid questionnaire that would be sent to all the households in the TWWCC area. Angela agreed to draft an initial questionnaire to be sent out to local residents.

Two grant applications have been received from the SCBF:

- 180034 – Whiteness Primary School Parent Council - £1,800 for purchase of Outlast Nursery classic set.
- 180055 – Dogs Against drugs - £5,000 to support the organisation's core activities.

After discussion it was agreed unanimously to approve both of these applications, and the clerk was asked to advise Eleanor Gear accordingly.

14.0 Community Resilience Forum – 22nd June

Andrew Archer agreed to be in attendance at this forum.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

No reports were made by councillors.

16. AOCB

There was no other business.

17.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21st July 2021