



## TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of Video Conference meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm

<b>1.0 Present:</b>	Andrew Archer - chair	Catherine Hughson
	Linda Tulloch	Moraig Lyall
	Dilys Evans	Ian Scott
	Angela Sutherland	Davie Sandison
	Winston Brown	Steven Coutts
	Karl Mills – clerk	Theo Smith
		Roselyn Fraser

**1.1 By invitation:** Beatrice Wishart MSP

**2.0 Apologies:** Neil Leask

#### **3.0 Declarations of Interest**

Linda Tulloch and Winston Brown declared an interest in item 11 – Viking Energy.

Davie Sandison and Moraig Lyall declared an interest in item 14 – planning.

Moraig Lyall also declared an interest in Tingwall Hall grant application.

#### **4.0 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion proposed by Linda Tulloch and seconded by Dilys Evans the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

#### **5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

1. The Community Council has requested a presentation from the Orion Project, but has been advised that they are aiming to make a presentation to the Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) in the first instance, with no immediate plans to talk to individual community councils. It is therefore likely to be many months before the community council gets an Orion Project presentation.
2. The community council has now registered with Saltire Awards, which is the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers in Scotland. The TWWCC scheme will be for beach cleaning by youngsters in the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale area. A small-scale trial has been conducted successfully, and it is anticipated that the scheme can be formally launched in the very near future.

#### **6.0 Decisions taken since the last meeting**

There were no decisions made by e-mail vote since the last meeting.

## **7.0 Police Report**

There was no Police Report submitted this month.

## **8.0 Finance**

The latest Finance Report, dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, was circulated to community councillors prior to the meeting.

On a motion proposed by Linda Tulloch and seconded by Winston Brown the following grant applications were approved:

1. Whiteness Primary School Parent Council was awarded £474 towards the cost of purchasing a Wendy House.
2. Tingwall Primary School was awarded £1,750 to cover the cost of setting up a sensory room.
3. Tingwall Public Hall was awarded £930 towards the cost of carrying out general repairs to windows, doors and heating system.

## **9.0 Discussion with Beatrice Wishart re COVID**

Beatrice Wishart MSP attended the meeting to answer questions on COVID-related and other issues affecting the community. The following points were raised:

1. A letter had been written to the Transport Secretary in December 2020 on the subject of testing of visitors coming to the Islands. A reply was received in February 2021 which was non-committal, and it is still unclear whether universal testing of visitors will be undertaken.
2. The suspension of regular clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic was raised as an issue of some concern. Ms. Wishart indicated that the restoration of normal NHS services on emergence from the pandemic was complex and needed to be undertaken very carefully. She agreed to write to Michael Dickson, Chief Executive of NHS Shetland, to state the importance of reinstating clinics as soon as possible. Members agreed that TWWCC would also write to Michael Dickson to stress the importance of restarting clinics as soon as possible.
3. HIAL's plan to centralise air traffic control at Inverness was raised. Ms. Wishart said that the Impact Assessment report had been published, which confirmed that jobs would be lost in Shetland. She went on to say that HIAL had received a copy of the report but the chief executive had not read it when he was questioned by MSPs about the proposals.
4. Other issues of local concern, including energy prices, movement of livestock and worrying of livestock by uncontrolled dogs had all been raised with the relevant agencies at parliamentary level.

## **10.0 COVID activities**

An enquiry had been received from a resident in Weisdale regarding the provision of hot meals for elderly or vulnerable folk in our area. They cited a scheme being operated in the Cunningsburgh area where Mckenzie's produced and delivered the hot meals and the community council paid for them. The clerk was asked to contact Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningsburgh Community Council to find out more details about how their scheme works.

## **11.0 Viking Energy**

1. On 19<sup>th</sup> February the community council received a reply to their letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> January sent to Maggie Sandison regarding the failure to have in place a decommissioning bond prior to the commencement of work on the Viking wind farm. The reply stated that SIC did not share TWWCC's concerns. It was decided that the community council would do nothing directly at present, but would await the result of Save Shetland's action via the ombudsman on this issue.
2. At the time of this meeting no response had been received from SIC Planning regarding the community council's objection to Viking's application to extend working hours to include Sunday working. However, shortly after the meeting a reply was received from John Holden indicating that permission would be granted for a period of four months to allow Sunday working.
3. The community council has requested data from SSE to demonstrate that any electrical and magnetic fields generated by the underground cable are within safe limits. This information has not been received yet, but in the meantime the clerk has been asked to write to SIC Planning to get clarification on the extent of the 'sterilised' area in the vicinity of the cable in which future development would not be permitted.

## **12.0 Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

Angela Sutherland gave an update on the fund:

- SCBF had revised its Memorandum of Understanding (M.o.U.) and Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) documents and re-issued them, reflecting, at least in part, the feedback it had received from individual community councils and the Association of Shetland Community Councils. After some discussion it was agreed that the revised documents would be signed.
- Angela said that many community councils were keen to implement participatory budgeting and those that do should start planning now. Participatory budgeting would be instrumental in advertising the fund and securing maximum community involvement.
- A policy for processing applications needs to be put in place and Angela agreed to send examples of other groups' rules to us for reference.

## **13.0 Report on ASCC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Andrew Archer gave a summary of the items covered at the meeting:

- The two-year review of the offices of chair and vice-chair took place and resulted in the current holders being re-appointed.
- There was some criticism of the Active Travel Strategy, it being felt that more action was needed in its implementation. Settlement Audits would be carried out, but there was some doubt whether adequate resource was available to do this effectively.
- A number of changes had been proposed to community council constitutions:
  1. Hybrid meetings would be allowed, whereby a physical meeting could be joined by an attendee electronically.
  2. The minimum age limit for community council members would be reduced to 16 years.
  3. The auditing rules would be relaxed, with the aim of lowering the audit costs for those community councils who undertake a formal external

audit of their accounts. TWWCC would not be affected by this as its accounts are examined by VAS.

- Community council elections are due to be held in September. TWWCC currently has two vacancies, and a call for candidates will be put on Facebook with a specific request for somebody from Tingwall, which is currently not represented directly.
- Worrying of livestock by dogs is a concern. There has been a change in the law to enforce better control of dogs, though there is still no legal requirement for dogs to be on a leash.
- SIC Roads have been invited to give a presentation to the next ASCC meeting and to answer any questions put to them. Community councillors should advise the clerk of any points they would like raised, so these can be forwarded to ASCC and SIC Roads in good time. Two questions already included are: How are roads projects prioritised? and: How is the roads budget allocated to particular works?
- Michael Duncan reported that the privacy statement for grant application forms had been updated and a new version of the form was now available. Community councils would either need to use the new form or, if they use their own, bespoke forms, adapt them to use the new privacy statement. Dilys Evans agreed to review the TWWCC form to see which option was most appropriate.

#### **14.0 Planning**

The following planning applications were discussed:

- 2021-095-PPF - Erect dwelling-house with access track and air source heat pump with connection to existing septic tank pertaining to New Farm House, Griesta Farm, at new plot, Griesta, Tingwall.
- 2021-093-PPF - Erect two dwelling houses with air source heat pumps, adjacent to Fairview, Tingwall.
- 2021-009-MAR - To remove remaining equipment at an existing fallow finfish farm and create a temporary cage storage site for 8 x 120m-circumference cages, at North Havra, Scalloway.

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

#### **15.0 Councillors' Reports**

All councillors reported that there had been a busy schedule of meetings this month, with the budget being a dominant issue.

Moraig Lyall said that a new feeder bus request service had been introduced for Braewick and Califf, and that two more feeder services would be introduced shortly.

Davie Sandison said that the current levels of residential development in the Tingwall area and its resultant population increase is likely to require a further enhancement of local bus services in the future.

**16.0 AOCB**

Problems are currently being experienced with the water supply in South Whiteness. Residents have reported regular occurrences of burst water pipes and low water pressure. The clerk was asked to write to Scottish Water to bring these issues to their attention and to request a timescale for their remedy.

**17.0 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021