



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Community Hall on Wednesday 15th March 2023

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer (Chair) Ian Scott
Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair) Moraig Lyall
Martin Randall
Charlie Hodge
John Clarkson
Neil Leask
Birgit Wagner
Paul Stevens (Clerk)

2.0 Apologies: Margaret Cooper, Catherine Hughson, Davie Sandison, Roselyn Fraser

3.0 Declarations of Interest: Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking, and Andrew Archer in SCBF applications and 2023/022/PPF.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by John Clarkson and seconded by Linda Tulloch, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th February 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Whiteness Primary school celebration for 80+ residents will be held on the 28th April.
- SIC Emergency Planning & Resilience: there had been no reply as yet.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact them again.
- Crash barriers by Wornadale beach: there had been no reply as yet.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact them again.
- Police presence at primary school to deter speeding: Sergeant Barry had replied to say that officers have been asked to attend to the issue.
- Road department re. Whiteness Primary School: there had been no reply as yet. However, the issue has been superseded by the newly proposed speed limit reduction to 50 mph on that section of the road, along with plans for additional signage and a more prominent crossing point.
- South Whiteness water supply issues: Beatrice Wishart MSP had contacted Scottish Water and their reply indicated that the quantity and type of reported faults meant that South Whiteness was third in line for planned maintenance work. In light of their concerns about previous repair work and potential pipe degradation due to age, residents had contacted the CC to ask about water quality testing. This was discussed, and members contributed some useful online articles which summarised the health guidelines from governing bodies (e.g., the World Health Organisation).
→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond to thank the MSP for her assistance and ask her to further

request a timescale for the replacement of the main from Scottish Water, additionally suggesting that the company adopt a more proactive approach to replacement supplies (i.e., bottled water) for times when the supply was turned off.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to reply to the resident about water testing.

- Gott Cattery Glasshouse: there had been one tentative enquiry but this had not progressed any further.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

A response had been sent regarding planning application 2023/040/PPF Vehicle access site off A971 near Midgard. Members had no objection to the entrance being retained but would like to see access to the northern part of the track — possibly as a gated path — also being retained for walkers and cyclists, etc. The need to fix the issue of water running out of the entrance onto the carriageway was also highlighted.

7.0 Police Report

There was no report this month.

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 8th March 2023, was distributed to community council members.
- Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall, WiFi installation, £2000: the full amount was awarded.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to inform applicants.
- Members noted that the 1st Whiteness and Weisdale Brownies had put in an SCBF application for a small amount and wanted to instead offer them the asked for sum from CC funds.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact the Brownies so say that TWWCC would like to award them £500 from CC funds, in lieu of their SCBF application.

9.0 Correspondence

- Scottish Water reply to Beatrice Wishart MSP: this had been covered under Matters Arising.
- A response had been received from Aaron Priest re. the Burn of Lunklet: no further action was needed at present.
- An invitation to take part in a consultation on the sale of peat in Scotland had been received, and was discussed by members.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to submit a response to indicate the TWWCC's support for a ban.
- An invitation to take part in a consultation on Highly Protected Marine Areas had been received, and was discussed by members.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond that, as currently envisioned, such areas would be both inappropriate and disproportionate for Shetland.
- An invitation to comment on a Marine license for marina construction by South Nesting boat club had been received. Members felt that this was outside their geographical remit.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to return 'no comment'.

- An invitation to take part in a SEPA 2023 opinion survey had been received. Members felt that, based on locally-expressed opinions, SEPA was felt to be very much in the background, and needed to be seen to be more proactive with regard to the windfarm construction.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to respond to the survey.
- A letter had been received from Johan Henderson — supported by Jeanette Leask of the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale History group — regarding access to the Sound kirkyard, alongside the ruins of the home of John Clunies Ross and the Aamos kirk. Andrew Archer and Birgit Wagner had arranged a visit to the site, to meet with Liam Drosso (SIC Outdoor Access officer) and Steve Mathieson (VisitScotland). Two possibilities for accessing the site from the road were noted: one is a very steep and slippery track with obstructing trees and a derelict building; the other is a path specifically going to the kirkyard but the top section is also steep, and the bottom is waterlogged. Liam Drosso will investigate possible rights of way in the area. The letter suggested the possibility of another route using the temporary track that has been constructed to allow installation of the HVDC cable.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer will contact Johan to clarify what she would like to achieve.
- An opportunity to undertake an *Introduction to the Scottish Planning System & What's Changing* training event had been offered to Shetland's Community Councils. John Clarkson and Andrew Archer will attend as TWWCC representatives.

10.0 Planning

- 2023/041/PPF To erect a 5kW Wind turbine & cabling, Kergord Farm [Andrew Archer recused himself from this discussion].
 - ACTION: The Clerk to respond 'No comment'.
- 2023/022/PPF Single storey rear and gable extensions, Setter House.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to respond 'No comment'.

11.0 Viking

- Graham Robinson (Robinson Transport) had contacted the CC to say that the 6pm feeder bus from Nesting to Weisdale often encounters large amounts of traffic leaving the windfarm converter section site at that time, and felt that some of the drivers were acting without due regard to other road users. Graham also asked why the vehicles were using the public road rather than the site road, and members felt that, while there was no legal bar to using the public roads, avoiding it would build goodwill with local road users. Andrew Archer had raised this with SSEN, who replied that safety is their priority and that they would provide a 'toolbox talk' on this issue.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact SSER and SSEN again regarding the flashing lights.

12.0 SCBF

- An update from Angela Sutherland was circulated to members on the 11th March. Birgit Wagner noted that, in the list of project types granted money, only one was categorised as poverty alleviation, and expressed her wish that more wind farm money was allocated to this.
- 180390 1st Whiteness and Weisdale Brownies £500. This had been covered under Finance.

13.0 Footpaths

- Andrew Archer reported that Win Furt had been awarded a Shetland Charitable Trust grant as well as the TWWCC funding.
- The settlement audit findings had been published for the Tingwall area and confirmed the local knowledge base without any novel elements.
- Win Furt Trustees have decided that they would like to include some smaller projects such as bulb planting, so this is being progressed. They had applied for, and been awarded, £700 from the community wellbeing fund administered by Voluntary Action Shetland to carry out these projects.

[Moraig Lyall left at this point]

14.0 ASCC Meeting on 14th March

Andrew Archer had attended the recent ASCC meeting and provided an update:

- A new Chair (Ian Walterson) and Vice Chair (Shane McLeod) had been elected.
- The remit of the upcoming SIC Community Council review was discussed. Jan Riise highlighted the issue of not enough people putting themselves forward as candidates for CC membership. Andrew Archer felt that this might actually be beneficial as uncontested elections plus co-options might be less off-putting for CC candidates and actually encourage applicants.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to indicate to Michael Duncan the TWWCC's support for the current election process.
- A restructuring of the funding system was a possibility, potentially combining the Community Development Fund with the core funding. Also under discussion was a potential change of CC status to allow legal indemnity for Members, thus allowing a wider project remit (e.g., footpath provision could have been a TWWCC project rather than needing a separate legal entity).
- Yell CC proposed asking for more equipment/funding to allow community halls to be hubs in events like last December's power outage, but it was felt that the existing SSEN help scheme could be adapted to Shetland's needs. TWWCC Members also noted that many communities had put in a lot of effort and organised this themselves during the power outage.
- By 2025, all existing fixed-line phones will have been switched to digital infrastructure. Unlike the existing system, this means that phone lines would be unavailable during power outages, and mobile phone networks in some areas of Shetland, as with other rural communities, were not always available as a backup. The ASCC will stress this to the SIC Emergency Planning & Resilience team, the MP, MSP and OpenReach. OpenReach will be invited to a future ASCC meeting.

15.0 Remote/Hybrid CC meetings

SIC has been encouraging CCs to implement meeting attendance via internet video link, either in a hybrid (some members in person and some online) or as a completely online meeting if needed. Members did not feel that there was currently any benefit from such a system, nor would it be possible without additional funding for the necessary equipment.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

- Ian Scott had been involved in debating the new budget, and had attended the latest meeting on this earlier the same day.
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17.0 AOCB

- Martin Randal noted a recent BBC news article describing how, in response to public feedback regarding spoiled views, SSE planned to bury a 15km stretch of power line on Skye.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to SSE to highlight the inconsistency between this and plans for Shetland.
- Andrew Archer had been contacted by Debra Nicolson, who writes the “Wast Owre” column in the Shetland Times, to say that a volunteer is needed to write occasional articles about SCBF news. No volunteers were forthcoming.
- Linda Tulloch shared the information that qualifying voluntary organisations could get free PVG disclosure checks via Volunteer Scotland.

17.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19th April 2023, at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall (in the small hall).
