



## TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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<b>1.0 Present:</b>	Andrew Archer (Chair)	Ian Scott
	Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Moraig Lyall
	Charlie Hodge	Angela Sutherland
	John Clarkson	
	Martin Randall	
	Birgit Wagner	
	Paul Stevens (Clerk)	

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<b>2.0 Apologies:</b>	Margaret Cooper, Neil Leask, Catherine Hughson, Michael Duncan, Roselyn Fraser
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<b>3.0 Declarations of Interest:</b>	Andrew Archer declared an interest in grant decisions for the SCBF, Linda Tulloch in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking, and both Moraig Lyall and Martin Randall in matters relating to Tingwall Community Hall.
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#### 4.0 SCBF

Angela Sutherland had circulated the SCBF board minutes and updated finances to members. She reported that, as requested, the minutes now gave some more information but that much of the discussions were still confidential. The SCBF board were currently having weekly meetings to cover current activities such as:

- the opening of a new office in Market House;
- finishing up the business plan needed for the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SSE, which incorporated data from the recent survey and included the creation of promotional material;
- the final stages of the MOU negotiations;
- constructing online application forms for the new scheme, to be included on a new website which they aim to launch this autumn;
- the likely recruitment of a new project manager.

Angela said that the directors have agreed that there will be an increase in the annual money allocation to £50,000 for the community council, which will roll over from year to year and will be solely for local area projects. Shetland-wide applications will be able to apply to a separate, 'higher tier' of grants. Andrew Archer and Moraig Lyall raised concerns about the SCBF's lack of consultation with community councils before presenting these ideas. Angela replied that this was necessary due to the aforementioned confidentiality issues with the MOU but that she would enquire as to whether potential revisions would be possible. Birgit Wagner wondered what stipulations were made when SCBF was

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set up regarding such consultation and the role of SCBF directors. Andrew thought that consultation was unfortunately aspirational rather than stipulated.

While more money was welcome, members were unclear as to how the higher than expected annual amount had been determined and hoped for clarification in future updates. Ian Scott asked who would decide the higher tier money allocation, to which Angela replied that she thought this would still be decided with input from community councillors but that and more information will be released soon. Ian Scott asked whether SSE would have a say in how the fund was spent and Angela replied in the affirmative, saying that this has always been the case with the SCBF, both in terms of setting the initial parameters for the fund and for reasons of due diligence with any high-level expenditure. Angela will feed comments back to the SCBF Board.

*[Angela left at this point]*

Members continued the discussion, expressing their surprise over the ongoing lack of consultation and their desire to have input at an earlier stage in any future discussions. Charlie Hodge asked whether the SCBF was looking at investment plans for the money that they would be holding - this was confirmed by other members.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to draft a response from members to Angela Sutherland regarding increased consultation.

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## **5.0 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion proposed by Martin Randall and seconded by Birgit Wagner, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting with the following amendment: regarding item 10.0 Planning, Application 2023/252/PPP for 4 houses in Wormaldale, it should instead read "The Roads department has raised issues as...".

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## **6.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- Defibrillator spares: the cost of a weatherproof cabinet would be around £550, which was more than had been allocated to the project in this year's budget. Members felt it would be reasonable to ask E&H if they would be willing to contribute 50% of the cabinet cost, with the CC to maintain it thereafter.

→ ACTION: John Clarkson will contact E&H about funding 50% of the defibrillator cabinet costs.

- Safety on Stromfirth road: there had still been no reply from Colin Gair. Charlie Hodge emphasised how dangerous the issue was for local residents and visitors. It was decided to allow a further two weeks for a response, at which time the Clerk would contact the Roads department again.
  - Roads past Dale golf course/Ladies Drive Junction: Neil Robertson at Roads replied to confirm that the affected sections would be inspected under wet weather conditions. It was decided to allow a further two weeks for a response, at which time the Clerk would ask for an update
  - Flooded junction at Strand Loch: no further progress as yet.
  - Bench: this was due to be delivered to Whiteness Primary school within the next 2 weeks.
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## **7.0 Decisions since last meeting**

None.

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## **8.0 Police Report**

There was no report this month.

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Andrew Archer said that the topic of the copper line switch-off had been raised at the last ASCC meeting, with the decision being made to flag the issue again with Alistair Carmichael, MP. At that meeting, Jan Riise had commented that Maggie Sandison had circulated an email highlighting reports that service providers were required to be aware of vulnerable users before taking an action, but Andrew felt the issue had not been sufficiently addressed. For example, how would people contact emergency services in the case of a power cut in severe winter conditions (as many experienced last winter) in areas where there was no mobile signal or where their mobile phone had lost power? Members thought it would be useful to raise this issue with the police representative.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact the police representative for their perspective on the impact of the switch-off on emergency service calls.

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## 9.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, was distributed to members. It was noted that there was a need to reserve sufficient funds into the next financial year to cover administration costs before the new SIC grants were received (which was not until June last year).
- A grant application had been received from the Tingwall Community Hall. Members wished to fund the full amount of £300.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to inform the applicants that the full amount had been awarded.

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## 10.0 Correspondence

- The Shetland Gymnastics club had sent a general letter to all community councils, asking for financial contributions towards their equipment costs. Members did not wish to respond.
- Tingwall Community Hall had sent a letter outlining their Energy Efficiency project and asking for a letter of support. Members felt that this was a worthy and important ambition and wished to issue a letter of support, to be used for any future funding applications.

→ ACTION: the Clerk to send a letter of support from the TWWCC.

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## 11.0 Planning

The most recent ASCC meeting had included a presentation on local place plans (LPPs), which enable communities to formally register their aspirations and needs. Some key points included:

- LPPs must be created by communities – SIC cannot create an LPP
- Communities can define the boundaries of their own place
- Communities are under no obligation to create an LPP
- The new law requires some simple rules and requirements to be followed to create a valid LPP
- Valid LPPs must be registered by SIC and incorporated into the next Local Development Plan (LDP2)
- LPPs will focus on the siting of things such as new housing, footpaths, bus stops and tree planting as well as the protection of valued assets such as buildings and open spaces
- LPPs may also contain an action plan for delivering a community's aspirations
- SIC are putting in place a tool kit to help and support communities who wish to create an LPP
- SIC will be issuing a formal invitation to create LPPs

Members noted that Scalloway already has a LPP and, despite having used both grants and consultants, found it still required a lot of time and effort. However, the process has now been simplified

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and an online toolkit has now been developed to aid LPP creation. Andrew Archer emphasised that local communities do not have to produce a LPP but that having one would be a material consideration for future planning considerations, although members noted that Scalloway's LPP appeared to be ignored during the recent application for a new Co-operative store. Andrew said that the feeling at the ASCC discussion was that LPPs would be additional administration work for already hard-pushed CCs, as well as potentially causing friction between different local stakeholders. Moraig Lyall suggested that a TWW LPP might be a useful document for Win Furt future funding applications.

There were several planning applications to be considered:

- 2024/051/PPF Change of use of land from agricultural to glamping site. Proposal seeks to erect 3 glamping pods, with associated services plus drainage, parking provision and site access, Site at North Ustaness South Whiteness.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment"
- 2024/040/PPF Creation of access track, Off the A970 and 2024/038/PPF To construct permanent bellmouth access junction, Off The A970. These both related to the entrance to Dale golf course, widening and extending the existing track parallel to the main road. Andrew Archer had talked to the golf club Chair and determined that the club is very much in favour of these applications.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment" to both
- 2024/059/PPF Install timber ramped access with concrete plat to side entrance door of property, South Califf Gott. This had already been decided so no action was needed.
- 2024/048/PPF Proposal seeks to demolish existing porch and erect new larger porch (part retrospective), 37 Kalliness Weisdale Shetland ZE2 9LR.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment"
- 2024/070/PPF Construction of three houses with air source heat pumps and road access, Wormadale. This was a revised application, the earlier version of which the CC had objected to on the basis of insufficient road infrastructure and existing housing density. Andrew Archer had declared an interest last time based on his submission of a personal objection but this was not relevant for the revised application. John Clarkson felt that housing density was still an issue in the area but that new housing was needed in Shetland with only limited scope for where these would be permitted, which members agreed with. Birgit Wagner thought that the revised application appeared to be a well considered plan.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond "No comment"
- 2024/006/PPF The Proposed Development replaces two previously consented wind turbines at Luggies Knowe, Gremista and will comprise the construction and operation of one wind turbine with a ground to blade tip height of up to 149.9 m, battery energy storage system units, site access tracks and associated infrastructure. This application had previously sent in error to the CC in January but was determined to be outwith the TWWCC area. However, a local resident from North Califf had recently contacted TWWCC after seeing that the environmental assessment noted that the visual impact for residents in her area would be significant. Andrew contacted the planning officer and determined that there had not been any submitted objections to date. Andrew then replied to the resident explaining that the role of the CC was to reflect perceived views of the community in general, which in this case appeared to be that there was no widespread opposition despite extensive publicity of the development. The resident expressed their feeling that other residents might not have objected due to them feeling they can have little or no influence in planning matters. However, CC members were of the opinion that, with a lack of any evidence of wider opposition in the two months since the application went in, the CC could not reasonably object. Andrew did note for future reference that the local plan guidance on renewable energy developments did state that cumulative impacts on people could be taken into account when

ascertaining whether new developments were allowed. No action needed.

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## 12.0 Viking

- Andrew Archer had emailed SSE regarding the poor quality of reinstated verges. They replied saying discussions with SIC Roads were ongoing but did agree that some of the work was “non-standard”.
  - TWWCC Members met with Statkraft representatives last Monday. Previously Linda Tulloch and Andrew Archer had met with Andrew Blackadder and Mark Burgess (Scalloway CC) regarding the new benefit funds. As the majority of the development will be in the Scalloway area, it was reasonable that Scalloway CC should have the greater proportion of any funding. Statkraft were due to meet with the SCBF the day after their meeting with TWWCC.
  - Linda Tulloch had been contacted by a resident regarding the temporary traffic lights at Girlsta. They had requested that, as had been done at an earlier site further north, a 40mph speed limit be put in place as the visibility splay is reduced during the construction work.
    - ACTION: The Clerk to contact Roads to ask that, if works are to continue for a significant amount of time, a 40mph limit be put in place at Girlsta.
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## 13.0 Footpaths

- Andrew Archer reported that the vote results were in and the preferred route on the Whiteness and Weisdale side would be announced soon, The next step would be for create initial designs and undertake surveying to allow a full costing. Discussions with landowners on the other routes are ongoing to see whether a path funded from ZetTrans active travel schemes rather than Win Furt might be possible.
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## 14.0 Roads

There were no issues raised.

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## 15.0 Councillors' Reports

- Moraig Lyall had taken part in a Policy and Resources meeting earlier today, with the general focus of current work being on budgeting. In response to a question from Andrew Archer about progress on fixed links to the islands, Moraig said that there should be an announcement next month about who will be procured to produce a network-wide report on the best solution for each potential route and to establish which routes would be prioritised. Given the probable timescale, replacement ferries would still needed as an interim measure. Moraig also noted that, in the Scottish household survey that compared all local authorities on multiple measures, Shetland continued to have a high ranking. John Clarkson asked about the proposed mothballing of Skeld school. Moraig replied that, while it would doubtless be missed by the community, the fact that there would soon only be three students, it was an education issue (in terms of no longer being able to give children a good school experience) as well as a resourcing issue.
  - Ian Scott did not wish to report anything.
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## 16.0 AOCB

Andrew Archer raised the issue of the ongoing Review of the Community Council Scheme of Establishment, for which a briefing note outlining some proposed material changes had been circulated. These included:

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- The SIC grant would include a fixed allocation towards admin costs, with the remainder being based on the current population in each CC area, was welcomed. Moraig Lyall pointed out that this was more of an update to better reflect current populations than a significant change.
- Community Councillors who do not attend meetings for a period of 6 months can now be expelled by a member vote, with allowances for exceptional circumstances.
- There would be new CC standing orders and code of conduct
- New restrictions wherein Councillors cannot also be Community Councillor
- There would be a new youth membership category

When discussed at the last ASCC meeting, members felt that the current CC areas should not change, and that the current separation of Core and CDF grants was senseless and they should be merged, with restrictions lifted as to where CDF money could be spent. The TWWCC members felt that the proposed changes were sensible, and agreed with the ASCC opinions.

Linda Tulloch raised the issue of the bin at the Wormadale viewpoint, which continued to have its content be spread around by birds. Members felt that there should be more robust bins, similar to the ones installed on the Victoria Pier. It was also suggested that the area would benefit from general improvements, possibly to include a new bench and viewing telescope.

→ ACTION: the Clerk to contact SIC regarding a bin upgrade

→ ACTION: Linda Tulloch to contact the Amenity Trust, suggesting that the viewpoint area needs refreshing (including the information board)

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## **17.0 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on the 17th April, in the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.

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