



**Minutes of Video Conference meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2020
at 7.00pm**

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer – chair
Linda Tulloch
Dilys Evans
Winston Brown
Neil Leask
Catherine Hughson
Moraig Lyall
Ian Scott
Karl Mills - clerk

2.0 Apologies: Michael Duncan
Theo Smith
Steven Coutts
Roselyn Fraser
Davie Sandison
Angela Sutherland

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Catherine Hughson and Moraig Lyall declared an interest in item 13 - Planning.
Linda Tulloch and Winston Brown declared an interest in item 10 – Viking Energy.
Andrew Archer declared an interest in item 7.0 – Whitedale Snooker Club application.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Dilys Evans and seconded by Neil Leask the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2020 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6.0 Police Report

The latest Police Report, dated 10th October 2020, was circulated to community councillors prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

7.0 Finance

The latest Finance Report, dated 11th November 2020, was circulated to community councillors prior to the meeting.

After discussion and vote by show of hands, it was agreed to make the following awards:

- Whitedale Snooker Club to receive a grant of £200 towards the cost of construction of an internal partition in their premises.
- Westside Sharks to receive a grant of £500 towards the cost of purchasing swimming equipment. (This grant will come from the Communities Recovery Fund as the application is to purchase equipment that can no longer be shared between members due to COVID).
- Mind Your Head had asked whether the Community Council could fund more of the “feel good bags” that they produce. Andrew pointed out that when the community council supported this earlier in the year, the funds had come from

the Supporting Communities Fund (i.e. the COVID grant) but that the new Community Recovery Fund had much tighter criteria and could not be used for this. As a result, any award would have to come from the community council's core fund. It was decided to review the budget in January to decide whether to encourage MYH to make a formal application.

8.0 Correspondence

The community council received an e-mail from Beatrice Wishart advising that, despite her efforts, SSE still refused to undertake routine testing of all employees and contractors being brought to the Islands.

9.0 COVID activities

After discussion about sending letters to elderly people offering help and company during the darker winter period, it was decided to ask local schools to produce Christmas cards which could be sent with the letters. In addition, it was thought to be a good idea to include a £20 gift voucher to be used at the local shops.

This was followed by a discussion on the possibility of writing to local businesses to ask for financial support with this scheme. It was decided to write personalised letters to around 40 to 50 businesses. Andrew Archer will draft a letter to send to local businesses highlighting the difficulties faced by elderly folk due to isolation and loneliness at the present time and asking for their support. It was also agreed that any donations made should be publicly acknowledged.

10.0 Viking Energy

The minutes of the Viking Liaison Group meeting held in November are due to be published soon. The minutes will be posted on Facebook as soon as they are available.

Ian Scott raised the issue of the decommissioning bond. The bond is meant to be in place prior to work starting but negotiations between SSE and the council are still ongoing. Ian said that he had written to the council officials to find out how the situation had been allowed to arise.

11.0 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

As a result of the larger sums of money which shall soon be available from the SCBF the community council has decided to adopt Participatory Budgeting (PB) as a means of including the whole community in the decision making process when it comes to deciding how to spend this money.

It is not likely to be possible to hold a physical meeting early in 2021, so the community council is aiming to hold a community-wide event around October 2021.

12.0 Roads

The community council reviewed the Shetland Active Travel Strategy 2020-2025 consultation document and asked the clerk to reply with the key points from the discussion. The clerk has submitted the following response:

'Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council reviewed the draft Shetland Active Travel Strategy 2020-2025 at its recent meeting held on 18th November.

The community council would like to comment that, although measures to encourage walking, cycling and wheeling, including wheelchair use, across the islands, are highly laudable, greater effort needs to be directed towards providing safer road-side paths for pedestrians, push-chairs and wheelchair users, so that these activities can be undertaken safely, which in many areas at present they cannot.

Until road-side path safety is materially improved, such as by the provision of wider verges with level and even surfaces, the public are likely to remain discouraged from taking up such outdoor activities in any numbers.'

Several road safety issues had been raised with members in the last month. After some discussion of the issues, the clerk was asked to write to the SIC Roads department with the following questions:

1. Haggersta to Cova. This is obviously still an issue and could they tell us what the next steps are to this being progressed. Where does this sit in the Roads department capital projects list? What needs to happen for work to start?
2. South Whiteness junction to Whiteness primary school. This isn't much better than the Haggersta to Cova section. Given that there now appears to be some flexibility in where speed limits can be reduced, what would need to happen for this section to be reduced to 50mph (or preferably 40)? Alternatively, what would they suggest that could make this safer for pedestrians?
3. The Gaet a Gott development at Tingwall means that the staggered junction on the A970 at Veensgarth now has more turning traffic which obviously increases the danger. What measures could the roads department suggest that would make this junction safer? Are there specific criteria (e.g. traffic volumes or speeds) that determine what sort of junction is appropriate? What data do they have on speeds and traffic volumes there? (and how old are they?)

13.0 Planning

There were no new planning applications to consider.

14.0 Councillors' Reports

Catherine Hughson reported people had raised issues about roads and broadband with her during the month.

Moraig Lyall asked whether members had any comments that they wished to make on the council's ORION project (formerly known as the Energy Hub). Members felt that they did not know enough to be able to comment but were keen to learn more so Moraig agreed to circulate the report that had been given to councillors.

15.0 AOCB

Winston raised the offer by Beatrice Wishart to take part in a community council meeting and the decision last month to decline her offer. After some discussion, it was decided to consider this again at January's meeting with a view to inviting her.

16.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th January 2021