



## TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 via ZOOM

<b>1.0 Present:</b>	Andrew Archer – chair	Steven Coutts
	Winston Brown	Theo Smith
	Linda Tulloch	Moraig Lyall
	Dilys Evans	Davie Sandison
	Neil Leask	
	Angela Sutherland	Roselyn Fraser
	Martin Randall	
	Charles Hodge	
	Patrick Ross-Smith	Andi Grochowski - Orion
	Birgit Wagner	Joe Najduch - Orion
	Karl Mills – clerk	Harry Thomson - Orion

**2.0 Apologies:** Catherine Hughson

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

Linda Tulloch and Winston Brown declared interests in Viking-related matters.

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

Winston Brown declared an interest in planning application 2021/320/PPF.

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

On a motion proposed by Winston Brown and seconded by Neil Leask the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 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 Co-opting of Community Council members**

By unanimous vote the following individuals joined the community council:

Patrick Ross-Smith – Co-opted voting member

Birgit Wagner – Associate non-voting member

#### **7.0 Orion Project presentation**

Three people from the council's Orion Clean Energy team attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the overall aims of the project. The team were asked what impact their project would have on the landscape of Shetland to which they stated that their role was not as a developer of specific schemes, but that, in concert with SIC, they were putting together a framework for transition from oil to renewable energy sources. When asked whether this risked opening the door to further Viking-style developments, they said that Shetland was 'close to capacity' for onshore windfarms and that other options for power generation were being investigated. Councillors stated that for anything above 50 megawatts, the community and the council had no influence anyway as all decisions on projects of that size were taken at Holyrood. They were also asked how the community would be asked to approve Orion's plans and there was no real answer to this. The team were about to embark on a project of public engagement to explain the project more but there was no mention of any process by which the community would decide whether Orion was what they

wanted. The team was also asked how their stated aims to tackle fuel poverty would be achieved but there was nothing concrete that they could say on this. Members also expressed concern that the involvement of the large oil companies would lead to smaller, local developments being shut out.

## **8.0 Police Report**

The Police Briefing Paper is issued bi-monthly, so there was no update this month.

## **9.0 Finance**

- The Financial Report dated 10th November 2021 was distributed to members.
- Tingwall Primary School Parent Council submitted a grant application for £756 to purchase Christmas gifts for the pupils of the school. This was approved unanimously.
- The chair agreed to find out the status of the sensory room at Tingwall School. £1750 was awarded for this in March but had not been claimed yet.

## **10.0 Correspondence**

- An e-mail was received from Mr. & Mrs. Knight of Girlsta, regarding the routing of transmission cables above ground near residential areas. Andrew Archer agreed to write to Mr. & Mrs. Knight to provide answers to their concerns.
- A letter was received from Rachel Hunter, Whiteness & Weisdale Boating and Sports Club, outlining various difficulties that the club was currently facing, and requesting support from the community council. After discussion the clerk was asked to reply to their letter, to suggest that they submit a grant application to assist with storage costs of their boats and to write a short article for publication on the community council's Facebook page to encourage new members to come forward to join and support the club.

## **11.0 Planning**

- 2021/320/PPF - Erect extension, re-roof and undertake internal alteration to existing dwelling house, at Heglabister, Weisdale. The clerk to submit a response of 'No comment'.
- 2021/319/PPF - Convert attached garage; replace existing link & sun porch; convert & extend rear workshop to granny flat; install 2 no ASHP's, at Eraclett, Nesbister. The clerk to submit a response of 'No comment'.

## **12.0 Viking**

The following points came from the VLG meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021:

- Construction of the wind farm was progressing on schedule, with the HVDC cable work slightly ahead of schedule.
- Questions were asked at the meeting about microplastics being shed from turbine blades and traffic issues on the Cott Road. On the microplastics issue, SSE dismissed the Norwegian report's concerns and stated that there were no safety issues. On the Cott Road, SSE said that a survey of the road had been conducted prior to work starting and that any repairs that were necessary would be made at the end of the project. SSE agreed to reinforce the message to Tullochs that vehicles had been travelling too fast along the Cott road.

One community council member expressed a concern regarding the possible displacement of otters from their usual areas of activity due to discoloured water flowing down the burn. Andrew Archer said that he would get hold of the construction environment management plan from SSE to see what protection measures were meant to be in place.

One community council member said that a resident had brought to his attention the fact that late-night working had been observed. Andrew Archer said that he would endeavour to find out from SSE what had been happening.

An application had been made by SSER to re-route some of the cables from wind turbines. The application, if granted, would allow the re-routing of the cables across undisturbed land rather than following the agreed routes along tracks already in existence. The community council will submit an objection to this application.

### **13.0 SCBF**

- Angela Sutherland said that the contract to appoint Glasgow-based consultants had now been signed. They will run a Shetland-wide consultation programme on how the larger fund should be used. This consultation would start next year.
- The local survey conducted by the community council has resulted in the return of 141 questionnaires. These have been analysed, and a report has been issued to members. The survey had asked what things would improve life in Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale and the overwhelming answer was footpaths. Members agreed that two projects should be tackled – a footpath between Kalliness and Whiteness School and a footpath from Tingwall School to the Veensgarth junction. Members also agreed that the report should be published on the community council Facebook page and issued to the local media. The chair thanked Karl Mills, the clerk, for all the work that he had put in to transcribing the responses and formulating the report.
- There have been two new applications for grants from SCBF since the last meeting:
  - Lerwick Amateur Swimming Club submitted an application for a grant of £600 to assist with resuming their activities on emergence from COVID restrictions. This application was approved. Eleanor Gear to be advised.
  - The Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society applied for a grant of £2,000 to assist with an expansion and updating of its activities. The clerk was asked to obtain additional clarification on some aspects of the application, so that the community council could consider this application again at its next meeting.

### **14.0 Christmas Project**

It was agreed that a similar format would be used as last year. Children at the local schools would be asked to make Christmas cards, which would be given to eligible residents together with vouchers for use in the local shops. Adverts were up in the local shops and a notice had been put on the Facebook page asking for details of anybody in the area who had turned 80 during the year.

### **15.0 Councillors' Reports**

- Steven Coutts said that SIC were trying to encourage more women to join the Council.
- Davie Sandison said that the new cycle of SIC meetings was now under way. He went on to advise that, regarding the TWWCC community survey, it was important to try to manage people's expectations of what could realistically be achieved.

### **16.0 AOCB**

- Early in the new year the community council will need to decide whether to hold its January meeting in Whiteness Hall, or to hold it remotely via ZOOM.
- A query had been received from Rod Read of Nesbister about the potential adoption of the road created for the new development there. The clerk was asked to write to him, suggesting that he looks on the SIC website for the council's leaflet on how to get roads adopted.

### **17.0 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022