



## TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Community Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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<b>1.0 Present:</b>	Andrew Archer (Chair)	Ian Scott
	Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Catherine Hughson
	Neil Leask	Moraig Lyall
	John Clarkson	Angela Sutherland
	Martin Randall	
	Charlie Hodge	

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**2.0 Apologies:** Birgit Wagner, Margaret Cooper, Paul Stevens, Davie Sandison.

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**3.0 Declarations of Interest:** Andrew Archer declared an interest in decisions for the SCBF, Linda Tulloch in anything relating to Tullochs, Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning, and John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking.

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#### **4.0 SCBF** *[brought forward]*

- Angela Sutherland reported that the SCBF had been working on the survey findings, which would be published in due course, and had sought financial advice on how to maximise existing funds that had yet to be allocated. Discussions were ongoing concerning future wind farm benefit schemes.
  - Andrew Archer asked whether there were any guidelines from government about community benefit frameworks for off-shore wind farms. Angela replied that these were expected but did not currently exist. Moraig Lyall suggested that control of any benefits from off-shore schemes was expected to be retained by the Scottish government.
  - Andrew then asked whether, based on feedback about the Advanced Grant Scheme, there were any insights as to what could be done differently in future. Angela replied that island-wide applications, which varied as to which CCs were applied to, had been difficult to manage but she felt that the process was still useful in some cases.
  - Andrew asked whether there had been any further feedback regarding benefit schemes for the Yell wind farm. Angela said that there had been further contact with the Yell CC, and SCBF was happy to work with the CCs on ideas to retain more localised benefits.
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#### **5.0 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion proposed by John Clarkson and seconded by Neil Leask, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

- Wormaldale crash barriers and Whiteness 50mph signs: A reply had been received from Neil Hutcheson (Roads) about the crash barriers. Andrew Archer had subsequently talked to an SIC survey crew working in the area, who said it was with a view to widening the road. Catherine
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Hughson had sought answers regarding the 50mph signs and had been assured that delays had been due to supply issues but that these had been resolved and signs would soon be in place, along with the school crossing signals.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to Roads to ask for more detail on the crash barriers/road widening issue

- Policy changes regarding speeding on Laxfirth Road: a reply had been received from Colin Gair (Roads) saying that speed limits were set in line with national guidelines. While the Laxfirth road residential developments were not sufficient to impose a 30mph speed limit, the perceptions of speeding and its detrimental impact on active travel (i.e., discouraging walking or cycling) would allow the use of a 40mph limit. This will therefore be proposed and put out for public consultation.
- Nesbister Böd: there had been no further developments.
- Section 96 arrangements for the A97 (VCLG): this has been scheduled to be considered at the end of the project, with any specific safety issues looked at on an ongoing basis.
  - ACTION: Members to send Andrew Archer the What3Words coordinates of any issues, to be collated and passed on to SSE.

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## 7.0 Decisions since last meeting

A letter was sent (10th October) to Chris Bunyan (SCBF Chair) re. Mossy Hill, saying that TWWCC was happy to have SCBF as the mediating organisation but that the benefits scheme currently used with Viking would not be suitable in this instance. A reply had been received confirming that the current scheme was not being considered for the Mossy Hill development.

Catherine Hughson reported, at their most recent meeting, Scalloway CC had indicated they wished to meet with representatives from the SCBF and TWWCC, but that there should be a meeting first between TWWCC and SCC. The SCC clerk was going to contact Andrew to sort out the details.

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## 8.0 Police Report

No report had been issued this month.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact Inspector Barry to ask whether there is an Aug/Sep report.

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## 9.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, was distributed to members.
- A request had been received from the Whiteness and Weisdale Welfare Committee (WWWC) to fund some refurbishment of the war memorial. Given the low level of CC funds at this point in the year, members felt that the best route would be to advise the WWWC to apply to the SCBF Advanced Grants Scheme and the CC will then look favourably on this application. It was noted that the CC could not guarantee any future support via SCBF beyond this specific case.
  - ACTION: The Clerk to advise the WWWC to submit an SCBF application.
- A grant application had been received from the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall Committee to purchase stage safety curtains.
  - ACTION: The Clerk to advise the Committee to wait until February to see what funds remain at that point.

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## 10.0 Correspondence

In response to the CCs advert about the available defibrillator from Vestas, there had been interest from the Scalloway Caravan Park, Junior Up Helly Aa, Shetland First Responders, Brakes/Alma riding

schools, and the Toll Clock Shopping centre. Members considered the points that: maps from the defibrillator network showed a gap in the Veensgarth area; the First Responders were trained professionals who likely covered the whole area; the equipment at Tingwall Airport was only available when manned; that the Herrislea Hotel would be a good central location but the most obvious placement would be the porch, which was not open at night. The E&H Building shed was also suggested as being accessible, with the added benefit that a first aider likely to be on site during the day. Members felt that they would like to initially approach Shetland First Responders to find out what coverage they offered.

→ ACTION: As a first step, Andrew Archer to enquire from First Responders as to whether the defibrillator would be based in the local area.

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## 11.0 Planning

There were three new planning applications to be considered:

- 2023/234/PPF Erect dwellinghouse with air source heat pump, Virdibrek Wadbister Girlsta
- 2023/235/PPF To construct permanent bellmouth access junction off the A970
- 2023/252/PPP Proposed four house sites and access road, Wormadale, Whiteness,

Andrew Archer, Charlie Hodge and Linda Tulloch declared an interest in 2023/252/PPP. Members discussed this proposal and felt that the extra traffic would be problematic, particularly in addition to other approved developments in the area, so wished to object to the proposal.

→ ACTION: Clerk to respond “No comment” to 2023/234/PPF and 2023/235/PPF, and object to 2023/252/PPP on the grounds of insufficient road capacity and safety.

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## 12.0 Viking

- Two weeks ago, Andrew Archer and Birgit Wagner visited the west side of the wind farm site and met with Julie Graham (Community Engagement Manager) and David McGinty (Environmental Site Manager). The most recent reports on water pollution issues were inconclusive regarding the efficacy of remedial measures to date but monitoring is ongoing. Some of the borrow pits have now been capped with several yet to be completed. Pit number 2, highlighted in previous minutes in regard to mineral leaching problems, was now mostly completed. BW and AA felt that the visual aspect looked somewhat unnatural, due to the shorter grass, the terraced effect of the infilled material, and the “too neat” contrast with the surrounding landscape of pre-existing, exposed-peat scars. But hoped that this would look more natural over time, especially from a distance. Mr McGinty said that the plans for the largest borrow pit were still being finalised so Andrew had suggested that this could be used for the green burial area that many people have said they would like to see. Moraig Lyall said that she would raise this at the next meeting of the Shetland Wind Environmental Advisory Group.
- At the last VCLG meeting, it was reported that the Sandwater Road handover would likely be in the middle of next year. Andrew Archer asked for clarification regarding access to the wind farm site during construction, to which the reply was that members of the public should keep well away from the tracks. A post-meeting proposal to reduce the number of VCLG meetings per year (from four to three per year) is under discussion — members were happy for this to happen. Moraig Lyall asked how community liaison was planned to work post-construction e.g., contact points to report issues.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to raise the question of post-construction liaison arrangements at the next VCLG meeting.

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## 13.0 Footpath

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- The Win Furt AGM had gone as planned. A Tingwall resident suggested that part of the land that offered a potential part route was still owned by the Church of Scotland, which online maps appeared to support.
- Andrew Archer learned that the Scalloway Community Development company had been discussing plans to put in a path from Scalloway to the campsite, so is meeting with various people there to see how their interactions with landowners might inform WinFurt's proposed routes.

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#### **14.0 Roads**

Charlie Hodge raised the issue of fast-moving traffic on the Stromfirth Road, especially the blind summit near the Haggersta end where the national speed limit still applied. Members suggested that the speed limit area might be extended to include that area.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to Roads to ask what might be done to improve safety in that area.

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

- Catherine Hughson reported that, post-conversion of the sheltered housing to general needs housing, the lack of parking at Kalliness was a concern for residents. Moraig Lyall had agreed to raise the issue with Environmental Health, with possible plans now being discussed.

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#### **16.0 AOCB**

Linda Tulloch asked about Christmas card gifts for local elderly residents. There was no money currently allocated for this so funding would need to be sourced from local businesses and power companies.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer will liaise with Linda regarding business contacts.

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

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.

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