



Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 21st August 2024

1.0 Present:

Andrew Archer (Chair)	Moraig Lyall
Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Ian Scott
Charlie Hodge	Elaine Park
Martin Randall	Cherelynn Wiseman
Birgit Wagner	
Margaret Cooper	

2.0 Apologies:

John Clarkson, Catherine Hughson, Paul Stevens (Clerk).

3.0 Declarations of interest:

Andrew Archer declared an interest in grant decisions for the SCBF, and Linda Tulloch in matters relating to Tulloch Developments.

4.0 Next generation of public bus contracts

Elaine Park and Cherelynn Wiseman from the SIC Transport Planning Service gave a presentation on Shetland's bus services. They wished for feedback from the CC as well as help in informing local residents and businesses about the consultation, which would be used to inform the provision of bus services over the next 5 to 10 year cycle. The deadline for any feedback is 19th September.

[Ian Scott arrived at this point]

Existing buses include 28 timetabled services and 30 pre-booking services (bookable the day before by 4pm and available even to one passenger in an area), split across 15 different operators. Foula, Fair Isle, Whalsay, and Skerries do not have any on-island services, but Bressay and Fetlar both have one pre-booking service. There were almost 100,000 passenger journeys in 2023-24 (including school bus services), which was a 12.5% increase on pre-pandemic numbers. Of these, the busiest route was the Lerwick-Sumburgh service and the most common bus usage times are 7am-8am and 3pm-4pm.. Passengers holding concession passes made up 61% of all the journeys. This free travel option is available to people who are 60+, disabled, or under 22. Costs are partially refunded to SIC from the Scottish Government, meaning any increase in usage can improve SIC's ability to provide services. The introduction of the under-22 passes also reversed the earlier yearly decline in bus usage by that age group.

In response to members' questions, Elaine said that:

- as part of planning to improve community transport, volunteer dial-a-car services in areas
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lacking bus access would be one of the options looked at, with various organisations across Shetland already having expressed interest.

- while there were specific plans to consult on bus use by secondary school children's and youth groups' bus use, shopper services, and GP services, it was difficult to target the mid-range age groups who tended to use cars the most. People will be surveyed on a range of variables including scheduling, ease of use of timetables, comfort and convenience, and usage according to weather conditions, and help would be appreciated to advertise the consultation to people who could use bus services but do not currently do so.
- Scalloway health centre appointments can currently be made to match up to the dial-a-ride service.

Members felt that improving services between the TWW area and Scalloway should be a priority, both for GP appointments and for access to the Scalloway swimming pool. Suggestions to achieve this included a new 'triangular' Scalloway-Tingwall-Lerwick service, or an extension of the current Whiteness-Scalloway service.

→ ACTION: Elaine will email the Clerk with a survey link for local residents and businesses, to be advertised on the Facebook page.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Birgit Wagner and seconded by Margaret Cooper, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

6.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Upgrades to Wornadale viewpoint: funding discussions were moved to the next meeting.
- Copper-line cutoff: there had been no response to the most recent letter to Ofcom but members could see no benefit pursuing this further given previous responses.
- SCBF Director nominee: any appointment would be until May 2025, with eligibility for reappointment at that time. After further discussion, members agreed to put forward Mairi Thomson as the TWWCC nomination.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to the SCBF with this nomination.

- Letter to SHEPD re. verge reinstatement: SHEPD had responded to say that this was progressing and it was hoped that work would start by the end of August.
- Water testing schedule: pre-construction testing had not yet started but the planning redesign meant that construction would not now start until 2026.
- Roadworks on Stromfirth Road: no reply had been received but the problem appears to have been resolved.
- Wornadale gullies: no reply as yet.
- Crash barrier extension: no reply as yet.

An issue was reported regarding the junction between Ladies Drive and the A970, which always appears to have surface water. This does not seem to relate to rainwater so may indicate a leak.

→ ACTION: As this is outside the TWWCC area, Andrew Archer will contact Jim Anderson at Lerwick CC.

7.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

8.0 Police Report

There was no police report this month. Members agreed with a suggestion from Scalloway CC that a twice-yearly meeting with a police representative would be useful for CCs.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact the police to ask for a meeting with a representative roughly every six months.

9.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 14th August 2024, was distributed to members.
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10.0 Correspondence

- Local Place Plan: members maintained their position that producing a local place plan was not feasible for members at this point and that they would wait to see how other community councils progressed.
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11.0 Planning

- Mossy Hill Windfarm redesign: members discussed the various proposals, which included fewer (but larger) wind turbines and different financial models.
 - ACTION: the Clerk to respond that, while TWWCC would still prefer that the windfarm development were not going ahead, members felt that the proposed redesign was better than the alternative, i.e. the already consented design. Members also agreed that they should encourage SIC to pursue the community ownership options and suggest that, despite the planned lower capacity, Shetland community benefit funding should be maintained at the previously indicated level by increasing the per MW amount.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to research the history of how the £5K per MW amount was determined and why it has not increased to match inflation.
 - SCOP-0054 Dales Voe ultra deep water quay development: there had been no responses to the CC's Facebook post on this.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to respond 'No comment'.
 - 2024/096/NMV Non-material variation - proposal to change fence material, Setter Weisdale
 - ACTION: The Clerk to respond 'No comment'.
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12.0 Viking / Statkraft

Thea Groat had contacted the CC to offer a presentation on SSE Transmission future plans. This would primarily be about the network north of Kergord so very little falls within the TWWCC area.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to invite a representative to the October meeting.

13.0 Win Furt

The Trustees met last Monday and the invitation to tender for the design of the path opposite Strand Loch has now gone out. Plans will now start for the Hellister route.

14.0 SCBF

There were no applications this month.

15.0 Roads

Members noted that there had been no visible progress on the Stromfirth-Girlsta road 4 months after it had been indicated that changes would be made.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to ask for an update from Roads.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

- Moraig Lyall did not wish to report anything.
 - Ian Scott did not wish to report anything
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17.0 AOCB

Members wished to repeat the Christmas card voucher scheme again this year.

→ ACTION: Linda Tulloch to contact local businesses to see if they wished to donate to the scheme..

18.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on the 18th September, in the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
