



Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025

1.0 Present:

Andrew Archer (Chair)	Catherine Hughson
Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Moraig Lyall
Charlie Hodge	Ian Scott
Neil Leask	Roselyn Fraser
Martin Randall	
John Clarkson	
Birgit Wagner	
Paul Stevens (Clerk)	

2.0 Apologies:

Margaret Cooper, Davie Sandison, Michael Duncan

3.0 Declarations of interest:

Andrew Archer declared an interest in grant decisions for the SCBF, Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning, and John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Linda Tulloch and seconded by Birgit Wagner, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Upgrades to Wormadale viewpoint: funding discussion to be postponed until the next meeting.
- Wormadale crash barrier extension: there had been no further response.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to Roads to ask for an updated schedule on the barrier work.
- Christmas Cards for residents aged 80+: This had been a great success, with several letters and comments of appreciation. The CC members thanked Linda Tulloch for all her hard work on this, as well as the staff and children at both Whiteness and Tingwall Primary schools for creating the cards.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

7.0 Police Report

The latest police report had been circulated to members on 16th December 2024. Members did not wish to raise any issues from this.

Concerns had been raised by local residents about cars driving too fast in the 20mph zone outside Whiteness Primary School.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to the police to highlight concerns about cars speeding outside the school.

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 7th January 2025, was circulated to members.
- Members were concerned about a recent letter from the bank informing them that there would subsequently be charges applied to community accounts.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact Voluntary Action Shetland to seek their opinion on possible joint actions.

9.0 Correspondence

- A local resident had written to express dissatisfaction that a large pile of tree prunings had been left in the southwest corner of Sound Church Yard.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to the SIC Environment and estate operations manager to raise the issue of the unsightly tree prunings.

- A letter had been received regarding excessive car speeds in the 20mph zone outside Whiteness Primary school. This issue had been covered earlier under item 7.
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10.0 Planning

There were two related planning applications to be considered this month: 2025/002/PPF and 2025/004/PPF (To construct a permanent access track off the A970; to be used on a permanent basis to access the construction site as per Traffic Management Plan and access SSEN transmission infrastructure). These concerned providing access to the over/underground cable switching point. Members did not have any issues with the applications but expressed ongoing dissatisfaction as to how the fragmentary release of SSE planning details prevented any meaningful overview of the overall developmental impact.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to respond "no comment " to 2025/002/PPF and 2025/004/PPF.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to SSE expressing the CC's dissatisfaction with the piecemeal nature of release of planning details, and to ask SIC's Planning Department for their view.

11.0 Viking / Statkraft

- Andrew Archer and John Clarkson had met before Christmas with Neil Grant (SIC), who said that he will try to organise a meeting between Statkraft and the relevant community
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councils, to discuss potential community ownership ideas.

- John Clarkson had recently organised a useful meeting with [VOAR](#), to find out more about what they were doing and whether they had a role to play in any community ownership plans.
 - SSE had informed the CC that there will be a road closure on the Kergord road one night (7pm to 7am) on January 21st. Details have been posted on the Facebook page.
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12.0 Win Furt

- A kick-off meeting for the Strand Loch combined foot and bicycle path had been held with CASE Shetland on the 14th January.
 - Win Furt had now received confirmation of funding from [Paths for All](#) (approximately £35,000) and from the SCBF (approximately £13,000).
 - Paths For All had suggested that there should be more consultation on aspects of the Tingwall path, particularly lighting. Win Furt members will soon be canvassed for their views on this.
 - The planned Invitation to Tender for the Hellister design work is currently being adjusted to incorporate guidance feedback from [Ability Shetland](#) members on specific details e.g., the best types of wheelchair-accessible surface materials.
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13.0 SCBF

- There was one application to be considered this month: CG50020 Tingwall Parent Council, £1000 for netball training, equipment, and associated travel. Members felt that there was insufficient information about other funding sources, and that some of the quoted costs were surprisingly high. *[Andrew Archer recused himself from the discussion]*
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to Eleanor Gear with questions to be passed on to the applicants about costs, sponsorship, and VAT exemption.
 - Members felt that they would like the CC to do more to publicise the SCBF grants to community groups in the area.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact the SCBF for publicity materials.
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14.0 Roads

- After the recent snow, there had been reported problems with impassable roads in Stromfirth. Unfortunately, there are no grit bins along the road between Clach-na-Strom and the Girlsta junction.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to Roads to enquire whether (a) it would be possible to provide two new grit bins along the Stromfirth Road (connecting the A971 and A970), preferably on the hills; and (b) whether there is a specific policy regarding road gradient or traffic level for when grit piles would be provided.
 - There had been reports of significant standing water on Weisdale roads after the recent snow and rain, especially near the cable access road on the hill bend to the Scord of Weisdale, and also near Brakes. In subsequent freezing conditions, this created a dangerous ice hazard.
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- ACTION: The Clerk to write to Roads to ask that surface water drainage is checked on the A971: (i) around the hill bend by the interconnector track (A971 Weisdale to Tresta); (ii) between Olligarth and Brakes; (iii) on the hill bend below the Westings Inn; and (iv) near the entrance of Vatster Quarry.
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17.0 Councillors' Reports

- Catherine Hughson had been dealing with school bus problems and land access issues, as well as attending ongoing budget meetings.
 - Moraig Lyall had been involved with the [Shetland Youth Voice \(SYV\) Transport Summit](#), hosted by Northlink Ferries on board the H.M Hrossey. This meeting focused on transport issues — voted as the number one issue for young people at SYV's first meeting — and will continue to hold meetings on other issues in future.
 - Ian Scott did not wish to report anything.
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18.0 AOCB

- During the recent poor weather, members noted that online groups (e.g., on WhatsApp) had been a good way for people to support one another but were unsure as to which areas currently had active groups. Members felt it would be good to put out a call to find out what groups already existed as well as to encourage communities to set up new ones where needed.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to put a post on Facebook asking for details of existing groups or wished-for groups, which the CC would then help publicise.
 - Prompted by a recent media report on possible asbestos use in older water mains, members noted that work to upgrade the mains in Whiteness, Nesbister, and Wormadale had been scheduled for November 2024 but had not yet happened.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to Scottish Water to enquire about the timetable for the water mains upgrade work.
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Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 19th February at the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
