



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2025

1.0 Present:

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

2.0 Apologies:

Davie Sandison, Michael Duncan

3.0 Declarations of interest:

Andrew Archer, as Chair of Win Furt, declared a financial interest in grant decisions for the SCBF; Catherine Hughson, as a member of the SIC Planning Committee declared a non-financial interest in matters relating to planning.

4.0 UHI

Julie Graham (UHI Engagement Officer) attended the meeting to seek the CC's views on issues such as access to courses and training, and engagement with business and industry. Julie confirmed the importance of traditional skill-sets — like administration, agriculture, and maritime studies — but said that there was also demand for skills in machinery maintenance areas, and textiles and knitting. She highlighted the popularity of a recent course in welding aimed at women. Members suggested one-off courses in life skills, and local culture and history might do well, and would offer opportunities to tie-in with existing events (e.g., Shetland Wool Week). Members felt that more publicity and an improved website would raise awareness that courses based in UHI colleges outwith Shetland could also be accessed online, and included book loan schemes. Members also raised the issue that students from the islands, and North and West Mainland were unable to arrive on time for morning lectures if they used public transport, suggesting that later start times would be useful, especially with the increased focus on the Scalloway campus.

[Police Sergeant Alan Patrick arrived at this point]

Julie thanked members for their input, which would be collated with feedback from the other CCs and a report submitted. *[Julie Graham left at this point]*

5.0 Police report

Sergeant Patrick reported on recent crimes in the area, asking members of the public to be vigilant after a house break-in. Members raised the ongoing issue of speeding, especially on the road past Herrislea House Hotel and outside Whiteness Primary School. Sergeant Patrick confirmed that schools are one of the current target areas for speeding detection and emphasised that the public are encouraged to report speeding, or any other concerns, by emailing contactus@scotland.police.uk. Alternately, see <https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/> for other ways of contacting the police. Reports can be investigated if sufficient detail is given, and the volume of calls is always recorded.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to post contact information on the Facebook page.

Members also asked if a periodic publication of new scams would be possible, and this is apparently in preparation.

[Sergeant Patrick left at this point]

6.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Birgit Wagner and seconded by Neil Leask, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 were approved as corrected.

7.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Upgrades to Wormaldale viewpoint: Quotes for the improvements have now been received, and a pre-application planning advice submission made.
- Wormaldale crash barrier extension: the reply from Roads confirmed that this was unlikely to be resolved in the near future.
- Wormaldale car park: members could not see any way to proceed this issue.
- South Whiteness water supply: Scottish Water had replied to Moraig Lyall to say that, due to “a very challenging financial landscape”, they were reviewing their commitments. They acknowledged the need to renew the local water network and said they would provide a further update at some point.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to (a) draft a letter to MSP Beatrice Wishart asking her to intervene with Scottish Water, and (b) highlight the issue with local media.

- CC Scheme Review: the review had now been finalised, and included a revised standing order for enhanced reporting of declared interest as well as the amalgamation of the core and CDF grants into a single funding grant to CCs.
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8.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

9.0 Finance

The Financial Report, updated to 9th April 2025, was circulated to members. There were no grant applications this month.

10.0 Correspondence

Strand bus stop: A resident whose house is adjacent to the bus stop wishes, for reasons of privacy, to have it relocated to outside Tingwall Community Hall. They indicated that they would be willing to pay the associated costs for this. Members understood the resident's concerns and could additionally see accessibility benefits of a relocation. They had no objections if there was no cost to the public purse, and also suggested that asking for the previous stop be used as the timed waiting stop instead of the one by the resident would reduce the loss of privacy.

- ACTION: The Clerk to reply to the resident that the CC has no objection to the bus-stop being relocated if no public funds are used, and that they will also suggest a change to the wait stop.
- ACTION: The Clerk to contact Elaine Park to ask that the wait stop be relocated to an earlier point in Tingwall.

11.0 Planning

There were no planning applications to be considered this month.

12.0 Viking / Statkraft

- Andrew Archer had spoken to several banks and potential funders about the practicalities of obtaining funding for a community ownership scheme: Thrive Renewables, Triodos, and the Scottish National Investment Bank had all indicated that this kind of project was within their remit. The most likely scenario would involve 'non-recourse finance', where any risk is limited to specified assets (in this case, the wind farm share). It was noted that continuity insurance might be required against the possibility of interconnector failure.
- Gary Hughes at SSEN had replied regarding the possible community benefit fund, indicating that he was hopeful that this would be going ahead, with funds being distributed via TWWCC, and that an update would be provided as soon as possible.

13.0 Win Furt

- For the Tingwall path, Paths for All had now approved the remaining funding claim for the design phase. SIC had indicated to CASE that, due to drainage issues, there is a presumption against any construction in the area. It is hoped that this applied to building construction rather than for a path, and a planning application will be submitted this week with a hope to start construction next Spring.
- Plans for the Hellister path are currently on hold pending the update on SSEN funding.

14. SCBF

There were no applications to be considered.

15.0 Roads

- A large pothole on the South Whiteness road was causing concern.
→ ACTION. The Clerk to inform Roads about the pothole.
- The re-surfacing on the Cott road is much higher than the verge, creating a potential hazard for pedestrians.
→ ACTION. The Clerk to ask Roads whether work is still underway on the Cott road.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

- Catherine Hughson had been engaged with constituent business.
- Moraig Lyall was on recess but still busy with energy-related projects.
- Ian Scott was on recess and did not wish to report anything.

17.0 AOCB

Members were asked to pass on any ideas for publicity about local CC elections to Michael Duncan.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 21st May at the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
