



**TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2026

1.0 Present:

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| Andrew Archer (Chair) | Moraig Lyall |
| Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair) | Catherine Hughson |
| Margaret Cooper | |
| Martin Randall | Leah Colyer (Community Development Officer, SIC) |
| Charlie Hodge | |
| Neil Leask | Gordon Bell (SSEN) |
| Birgit Wagner | |
| Selina-May Miller | |
| Steve Groom | |
| Paul Stevens (Clerk) | |

2.0 Apologies:

Ian Scott, Michael Duncan

3.0 Declarations of Interest:

Catherine Hughson declared an interest in Planning matters; Martin Randall and Moraig Lyall declared an interest in the Tingwall Hall grant application due to their involvement with the Hall committee. Birgit Wagner declared an interest in planning application 2026/060/PPF due to a business relationship with the applicant.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Birgit Wagner and seconded by Neil Leask, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Co-option for vacant seat: Steve Groom was proposed by Andrew Archer as a TWWCC member, and members unanimously voted in favour.
 - Proposed closure of Scalloway pool: a further press release was received from Shetland Recreational Trust (SRT). They stated that the closure of the pool would go ahead on 31st March 2026, as the widely-requested extension would not be possible without additional funding from the Shetland Charitable Trust (SCT), which had been requested and refused. SRT has agreed to retain ownership of the building and maintain the fabric and fittings of the building for a longer period of time to allow for community consideration of alternative
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options. Members understood SRT's position and expressed their deep disappointment that additional funding had not been made available by SCT despite widespread support amongst local communities. It was noted that a motion has been submitted by Councillors to explore whether SIC is getting best value for local leisure facilities from their current relationship with the SRT.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to the SCT to express members' deep disappointment that the exceptional funding had not been made available to SRT.

- Wind farm access routes: It was noted that media reports had announced that the public access tracks for the wind farm were now officially open. Gordon Bell will find out whether online guides or similar are available to inform users.

[Moraig Lyall arrived at this point]

- 20mph signs in Whiteness: Roads had ascertained that there was no obvious attachment point for a smiley-face sign near the Wormadale road, but that the other locations had been added to the schedule.
- Surface water near The Westings: no further investigations had been carried out but the ditches had now been cleared, so members will wait to see if this has rectified the problem.
- Stromfirth-Girlsta traffic lights: these had been quickly put in place as requested.
- Letter to Scottish Water: a reply had been received acknowledging that South Whiteness water main unquestionably needed renewal and that it was hoped that priorities and timescales for individual projects would be in place by the end of 2026. Members felt that there was nothing more that could be done by the CC at this time.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

7.0 Police report.

There was no report this month.

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 11th March 2026, was distributed to the members.
- There were two grant applications, one from Tingwall Primary School for library seating cushions, and one from the Tingwall Community Hall committee for architect fees. Members agreed to award £523 to Tingwall Primary School and £1971 to Tingwall Community Hall. This now accounts for all remaining grant funds for this financial year.

9.0 Correspondence

- Members noted the receipt of a letter sent to multiple organisations from an interested party based in Inverness. This concerned the proposed Tagdale ammonia plant and presented their critique of the financial viability of 'green (i.e., sourced via renewable energy) ammonia.

10.0 Planning

There were five planning applications to be considered this month:

- 2026/037/PPF To construct two storey extension to existing dwelling house. Tananger, Gott
- 2026/023/PPF To site 1no. glamping pod with associated formation of new access, earthworks, soft and hard landscaping. Erection of workshop, surface water soakaway and foul drainage alterations. Sudragarth Nesbister.
- 2026/002/PPF Erect 2 new traditional holiday cottages. Plot Cott Weisdale Shetland.
- 2026/060/PPF Erect PolyCrub 4 x 4 in the Dog Park at Keolka. Wadbister Girlsta
- 2023/084/NMV Reduction in the approved turbines from 12 to 8 with associated changes to tracks and infrastructure and other minor amendments to track and temporary construction compound to optimise construction. Alignment of layout to reflect newly consented substation layout approved under Ref: 2024/303/PPF.

Members did not wish to comment on any of these.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to submit “No comment” for statutory consultations 2026/023/PPF and 026/002/PPF.

11.0 Energy

- Andrew Archer and three other Shetland CC chairs had attended (via video link) the *Rural Scotland Convention on Major Energy Infrastructure* roundtable event at the Scottish Parliament. Councillor Helen Crawford (Aird & Loch Ness Ward) had given opening remarks, and Gillian Martin MSP (Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy) had attended. Several CCs gave a three minute presentation, all of which will be collated and disseminated as a document.
- The general feeling at the event was that infrastructure applications are being approved without any overall plan for connectivity, with members noting that the battery capacity approved was now greater than would likely be needed until beyond 2050. The negative view of SSEN amongst local communities across Scotland was mirrored in Shetland, where residents often felt that, despite the appearance of consultation, their concerns have no impact on outcomes. It was noted that SSEN had used the argument of peatland damage to reject buried cables north of Kergord despite having undertaken peat restoration work in earlier projects, but also that resident’s concerns about their environment covered a wider range of issues (e.g., visual amenity for residents and tourists, and the probability of more frequent repairs needed for above-ground cabling due to adverse Shetland weather) than just peatland damage.
- Gordon Bell was asked why, given there are plans for a Northern converter station and second interconnector cable, is the proposed transmission line (with larger pylons) from Kergord to Voe needed? Gordon replied that he would ask SSEN and respond to the CC at a later date.
- The proposal for the establishment of a Shetland Community Councillors’ convention is now on the agenda for the ASCC meeting in June. Background information will be circulated to Shetland CCs beforehand to allow members to consider their input to a CC Shetland

convention.

- Regarding the proposed Tagdale ammonia plant, Statkraft has offered to give an update to interested CC members on the 2nd June. Andrew Archer had received a phone call from a Tingwall resident asking if the CC thought there should be public meeting about Tagdale. Andrew responded that we should wait until the next consultation phase (due later this year) to see what revisions have been made before considering any actions.

12.0 Win Furt

- The estimate for the construction of the proposed Tingwall path route — needed for a Transport Scotland Active Travel Infrastructure funding application — had been received and passed on to Michael Craigie (SIC/ZetTrans) for evaluation.
- For the Hellister path, land ownership maps had been explored revealing there were multiple owners across the proposed route. This would be very complicated to negotiate so Trustees have decided to focus on a simpler route, running north from Shetland Jewellery towards the Swedish house. Roads have been contacted to ask for relevant guidelines.

13.0 SCBF

There were no applications this month.

14.0 Roads

- It was reported that the road surface was breaking up in three places: between the Veensarth roundabout and Herrislea House Hotel (near the chicane), near the metal inspection cover by Strand Loch, and on the A971 north of Strom Bridge.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to ask Roads to evaluate the road surface at these locations.

15.0 Report on 10th March ASCC meeting

There had been several presentations:

- The Scottish Hydroelectric Community Trust gives financial assistance for people who require a new residential electricity connection but had only ever received one application from Shetland.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer will put a post on the Facebook page to help advertise the Trust.

- The Scottish Ambulance Service highlighted the importance of defibrillators being listed on a publicly available defibrillator register. Members noted that the two TWWCC-maintained defibrillators are registered with *The Circuit*, the national defibrillator network used by NHS ambulance services and searchable on the <https://www.defibfinder.uk/> website.

- Michael Duncan talked about SIC's project to develop a list of recommended equipment to enable hybrid (in person plus video link option) CC meetings.

Andrew Archer had been elected Vice Chair of the ASCC and, in collaboration with Shayne McLeod (ASCC Chair), had circulated a questionnaire about the future evolution of the ASCC to all the

Shetland CCs. TWWCC members felt that it needed to be emphasised that the intention was that ASCC agendas should primarily be set by the CCs, which would hopefully result in a greater focus on more fundamental issues of importance to Shetland residents, such as housing issues and energy costs. TWWCC members agreed to consider their questionnaire response before the April meeting.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

- Moraig Lyall highlighted the successful extension to Sunday bus services, and that Active Travel staff were being recruited. A major issue this month had been the problems with inter-island ferries, with 4 boats currently being out of service.
 - Catherine Hughson had continued to deal with residents' concerns about the Scalloway Pool closure, as well as the ongoing issues with parking spaces at Kalliness.
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17.0 AOCB

- Members noted Tingwall Primary School's new Grounds Maintenance Pilot project, aimed at increasing local biodiversity by maintaining their outdoor areas for wildlife.
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18.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th April 2026 at Tingwall Primary School.
