

## Shetland Community Facilities Network Notes of Meeting (Draft)

Wednesday 28 September 2022 (Online – Zoom), 7pm

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### Present:

Caroline Breyley	Burravoe Hall
Frances Browne	SIC Community Involvement
Ruta Burbaite	Local Energy Scotland
Mark Burgess	Scalloway Youth & Community Centre, Scalloway Hall
Pat Christie	SIC Community Involvement
Heather Christie	Bressay Development Ltd
Joanne Fraser	SIC Community Involvement
Ayesha Huda	Voluntary Action Shetland
Kerry Geddes	Shetland Recreational Trust, Community Council
Raymond Imrie	Fetlar Community Association
Michelle Kerry	Bigton Community Hall
Aimee Labourne	Bressay Development Ltd
Graeme Mclellan	Brae Youth Centre
Emma Perring	Shetland Islands Council
John Poleson	Isbister Public Hall
Kathleen Robertson	Sandwick Youth & Community Centre
Michael Thomason	Voe Hall

### 1. WELCOME

Ayesha welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. **PRESENTATION:** Ruta Burbaite, Scottish Government's [Community and Renewable Energy Scheme \(CARES\)](#) Development Officer for North East Scotland and the North Isles.

CARES provides advice and funding support to community groups and other eligible organisations seeking to explore their renewable energy options. The presentation included details of the Let's Do Net Zero Community Building Fund and key steps required to submit an application. Please see attached PDF for details of the presentation.

### 3. COST PRESSURES DISCUSSION

Emma noted the Council has just approved a budget of £500,000 from funding allocated to the Council through the distribution of net revenues from Crown Estate assets to support Shetland's response to the cost of living pressures.

The purpose of this funding is two-fold:

- To support households who are experiencing very challenging financial pressures, who have already received support through the Scottish Welfare Fund and Fuelbank Foundation.
- To support communities and services to deliver activities through the autumn and winter, as they normally do; this scheme would remove any cost barriers to communities wishing to run activities that enable people to get together in a warm space, possibly with food and transport.

Emma confirmed a **SIC grant scheme will be launched to support community organisations which wish to run activities during autumn and winter. Funding requests of up to £10,000 can be used to cover transport, food and heating costs etc to hold activities.** Guidance for the scheme will be shared when it becomes available.

Groups were requested to keep the SIC Community Involvement officers informed of any activities, so they can help to coordinate and prevent duplication in each locality. They will aim to maintain a map of Shetland with details of what is happening.

A dedicated phone line will be available from the end of October for people to access if they are needing advice and support.

The Council plans to locate a shop with free items that households can access when required and there will be the option to host pop-up shops in local communities as needed.

Kerry noted the Shetland Recreational Trust is keen to work in partnership with community organisations to host activities to help people through the winter, such as relax social evenings. She also mentioned their scheme to distribute sports clothes if anyone requires them.

Pat highlighted 'Money Worries' training which is being hosted by the NHS, Citizens Advice Bureau, and the Anchor Project. The training gives people more confidence to discuss money worries and provides information of when and how to refer people for support. This training is available to individuals and organisations.

#### **4. GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

SCVO have also launched a Cost of living & the #RunningCostsCrisis hub on their website with useful information on good governance and difficult decision making, managing finances and links to relevant training. You can find it at: <https://scvo.scot/policy/campaigns/running-costs-crisis>

#### **5. HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

Voluntary Action Shetland still has vouchers left for the purchase of cleaning material/janitorial supplies so if any organisation would like a voucher please email Wendy at [wendy.hand@shetland.org](mailto:wendy.hand@shetland.org).

## 6. FUNDING UPDATE

**National Lottery Community Fund** is planning to launch a cost of living fund, under the Improving Lives, Community Led programme which will look to give in the region of £10k to £50 to help community organisations which are delivering activities in response to the cost of living crisis and this can include the cost of heating during the activities as well. Details will be shared when available.

**Ofgem Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme (Energy Redress Scheme)** will fund charities and community energy groups that support households most at risk from cold homes and high energy bills, or that work on innovation and carbon emissions reduction across England, Scotland and Wales. The closing date for new applications is 6 Oct at 5pm. If you're not ready for this deadline, you can still register and start preparing your application for when the next funding round opens in early 2023. <https://energyredress.est.org.uk/apply>

**Shetland Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Phase 2** to be launched shortly.

VAS produces a weekly funding newsletter (subscribe to the newsletter by emailing [Ayesha.huda@shetland.org](mailto:Ayesha.huda@shetland.org)) and Michael Duncan at the SIC ([Michael.Duncan@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Duncan@shetland.gov.uk)) also maintains a fundraising news mailing list.

You can also visit SIC's free Funding search engine which local groups and organisations can sign up for: [Funding Shetland – Shetland Islands Council](#) or use SCVO's free online search engine – [Funding Scotland](#).

## 7. TRAINING UPDATE

### **MANAGING RISING ENERGY COSTS WEBINAR, 11:00-12:30, 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

SCVO in partnership with [Utility Aid](#) and its sister council [NCVO](#), is running a webinar with advice on checking your energy bills are accurate and practical tips for keeping costs down.

**MONEY WORRIES TRAINING - OCT DATES** (Additional dates are 8 Nov at 10am and 1 Dec at 12pm)

Organised by NHS Shetland with CAB and the Anchor Team, the Money Worries sessions are designed as a brief, informal training session to help staff gain understanding of the impact of poverty on health and wellbeing, build confidence and knowledge about where to go and what kind of things people can get help with when experiencing financial difficulties. Bookings for 6 October (12pm-1pm) can be made by emailing: [shet.healthyshetland@nhs.scot](mailto:shet.healthyshetland@nhs.scot)

Ayesha asked what type of training would be helpful for organisations. Treasurer Training (with a focus on safe electronic bookkeeping) was requested in addition to Financial Management training and support around Employment and Recruitment.

## **8. FINANCE UPDATE**

### **Accelerate**

Organisations looking to begin or explore trading opportunities (e.g. setting up a caravan/ campsite) can get help from Accelerate - a support programme for the Third Sector and community organisations. Funded by the Scottish Government, support is free and delivered by Community Enterprise. It aims to help groups and organisations become more sustainable and enterprising. You need to complete an expression of interest form and someone from their team will contact you.

<https://communityenterprise.co.uk/what-we-do/accelerate>.

## **9. REPRESENTATION (AYESHA)**

Shetland Licencing Forum has not held any meetings recently so there are no updates. Licence renewal letters have been sent from the Council.

## **10. AOCB**

Pat noted that the Shetland Halls Facebook page could be used to share details of events. If any organisation has events they would like to highlight please share them with the facebook page.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Participants were keen for another meeting of the network before the end of 2022. Ayesha to action.