

MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2018

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall, Lerwick, at 7.00pm

Members

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| Mr J Anderson | Mr A Wenger |
| Mrs A Simpson | Ms K Fraser |
| Mr A Johnston | Mr E Knight |
| Mr P Coleman | Mr B Johnston |
| Mr A Carter | Mrs M Hall |

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell
Cllr S Leask
Cllr C Smith
Cllr A Westlake
Cllr B Wishart

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr G Robinson
Miss L Cluness
Mr P Jones

In Attendance

Mrs P Christie, SIC
PC Joe McLeod, Police Scotland
PC Emma McKay, Police Scotland
Ms F Valente, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chair, presided.

02/18/01

Circular

Mr Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02/18/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Bell, Mr S Hay, Mr M Peterson, Mr A Johnston, Mr B Johnston, Mr D Ristori and Mr W Spence.

02/18/03

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 8th January 2018 were approved by Mr A Carter and seconded by Mr E Knight.

02/18/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr Carter asked about the proposal that had been discussed in January to consider closing the Community Council office. Mr Anderson replied that the clerk was

investigating the pros and cons, and in particular the cost savings that might be realised from closing the office.

02/18/05 **Police Scotland Monthly Report**

PC McLeod reported on the crime statistics for the month of January which included a very quiet Up Helly Aa as far as the police were concerned with only one arrest on Wednesday morning. Other incidents for January included two serious road traffic accidents which had involved bringing accident investigation teams to Lerwick. There had been 50 other incidents of road traffic offences.

There had been 25 incidents of violence/assault both in public and domestic settings. Three missing persons had all been found safe. The Dogs Against Drugs team had been used for house and street searches and had been successful.

Cllr Westlake asked whether the figures had been higher than normal. PC McLeod replied that there had not been anything unusual in the figures for the month, and that the Police had been particularly pleased with the low incidence of problems as a result of Up Helly Aa.

02/18/06 **Correspondence**

Hjaltland Housing Association had been asked to comment on the roads/lighting at the new Observatory housing scheme and had replied that the scheme had been completed. Mrs Hall, who had raised the issue at the January meeting, said that she thought the part of the road she had complained about was probably the responsibility of the Council as it was outside of the scheme. The clerk was asked to write to SIC Roads to highlight the difficulty in seeing where the junction was at night time and to ask whether there was any plans to improve this. **Action: Clerk**

Mr Robinson had received correspondence from SIC Roads in response to visibility at the Ladies Road junction and had sent photos showing a van parked on the road near the junction which obscured the view. This had resulted in a more positive response in terms of whether yellow lines could be used to dissuade people from parking on this stretch of road. This issue had been back and forth with SIC Roads for a few months and until now the extent of the problem appear not to have been fully appreciated.

Action: Clerk

02/18/07 **Finance – core funding report dated 29 January 2018**

There were no comments about the financial report other than to point out that there did not appear to be much money left after taking into consideration all the planned expenditure for the rest of the financial year.

02/18/08 **Planning Application 2017/096/PPF**

Members were happy with the revised application and the changes to the parking and vehicle turning provision.

02/18/09 **Planning Application 2018/016/PPF**

There were no objections to this application.

02/18/10 **Funding Opportunity – Garfield Weston Foundation**

The Garfield Weston foundation had announced very generous funding opportunities starting at a minimum £30,000 for capital expenditure. This could be used by charities and community groups to buy equipment or minibuses for example. Cllr Westlake said she would like to see money spent on playgrounds, however, the grants were not available for councils and therefore it would not be possible to access funds for things that would be sited on public land. However, kirks, sporting clubs and other groups could apply. The closing date was 30 June which gives enough time to apply and Members were asked to pass on the details to anyone they thought might be able to make use of it.

The Postcode Lottery had announced funding opportunities for community gardens. The clerk was asked to pass this on to the Park Lane Community Garden team.

Action: Clerk

02/18/11 **Public Health Annual Report 2017 & Public Health Activity Report 2016/17**

Two reports published by NHS Shetland had been circulated for comments. Mr Carter commented that it appeared that life expectancy appeared to be decreasing and that despite our many sports centres there was a significant number of people who were inactive or unfit. However, there were some positive developments, particularly for mental health services and Mrs Hall announced that a new consultant psychiatrist had been appointed and this was expected to improve matters further still. Cllr Leask said it was heartening to hear a local radio interview with someone talking about being bipolar, as an open and upfront discussion about these issues was to be welcomed.

There was a discussion about the link to alcohol related health problems and the large percentage of licensed premises in Shetland. Cllr Westlake commented that whilst this might be the case it would seem that many public houses were struggling for business so it would appear that more people are drinking at home. Cllr Leask said that there was a particular problem for under-age drinking with alcohol being readily available for activities such as party buses. He said this was an issue that needed to be addressed. As a member of the Licensing Board, Cllr Smith, declared an interest in this subject but pointed out that statistically speaking there was no overprovision of licensing in Lerwick, the overall statistics of licensed premises was skewed by the inclusion of country halls in the figures. Mr Carter said that the reports were a useful yardstick which could be used to compare progress in following years.

Action: Clerk

02/18/12 **ASCC Meeting on 24th March 2018**

The next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils was scheduled to take place on 24th March. Members were asked if they had any items they wished to put on the agenda, however, there were no suggestions forthcoming.

02/18/13

A.O.B.

- a. The Chairman announced that 7N Consultants would be in Shetland in relation to the Knab Site Masterplan. They had invited Lerwick Community Council to meet with them on Tuesday 13 February at the Town Hall at 7pm to update members on the progress of the project.
- b. The Lerwick Town Centre Health-check was about to be published. An invitation to discuss the report prior to publication had been issued too late for this meeting but the clerk would invite Simon Pallant to attend the meeting in March to discuss the report.
- c. Beervana had applied for a licence for off-sales and on-sales at their premises in Commercial St. There were no objections to the application.
- d. Cllr Westlake said that she had been speaking to some of her constituents who had complained that there wasn't enough affordable activities for children to do in Lerwick. She said that with the cost of travel to the mainland being so high that many families with young children did not have an opportunity for a holiday away from Shetland, and to make matters worse they sometimes struggled to find activities for their children during holidays. The cost of membership of the leisure centre is prohibitive for many people. Some of the popular activities such as Scouts/Brownies and other clubs had long waiting lists to join as there was a shortage of volunteers to run such clubs. Some clubs and activities did not appear to be advertised very well which makes it hard for some families to access them. Cllr Westlake said she would be raising this issue with Council Officials, but was interested in hearing what the Community Council had to say.

This led to a discussion about what kind of activities were available for children and what could be done to improve things. It was acknowledged that parents were not as keen on letting their children roam as freely as for previous generations and that there was a need to provide affordable safe alternatives to sitting around on iPads all day. Cllr Wishart commented on the excellent services provided by parent volunteers at the Scalloway Youth Club and referred to the free and popular activity of geocaching as something that young people can do in Shetland. Mr Carter asked whether there were things going on that parents simply didn't know about. Mrs Christie said there was a comprehensive directory of community and sporting groups available on the Council website which included details of how to contact groups and get involved. It was possible that some further awareness raising was needed to inform people about where to find it and Mrs Christie said she would speak to her colleagues about this. The Clerk was asked to circulate information about the website which can be found at <http://www.communitydirectory.shetland.gov.uk/>.

Action: Clerk

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....