

MONDAY MARCH 2011

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

Members

Mr J Anderson
Ms K Fraser
Mr A Johnson
Mr J Stewart
Mr M Peterson

Mr W Spence
Mr D Ristori
Mr A Angus

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Henry
Cllr C Miller

Cllr J Wills

Additional Co-opted Members

Miss J Sim

Mr T Henderson

In Attendance

Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

11/03/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/03/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from PS B Gray, Mrs A Simpson, Mr A Henry and Cllr A Wishart .

11/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2011 were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mr D Ristori .

11/03/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no further business arising from the minute.

11/03/05

Police Report

The Chairman read out the following crime analysis, provided by PS B Gray, for the year to February 2010/11 compared with that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 17 to 26, all detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Down from 33 to 21, with 13 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Down from 332 to 329, of which 217 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 250 to 155, of which 65 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 150 to 142, all detected
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Down from 423 to 343, with 324 detected
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Up from 484 to 575, with 562 detections

The Chairman advised that the figures noted in the analysis were Shetland wide and were rolled month on month from the beginning of the year.

He commented that the detection rate for Shetland was very good indeed.

11/03/06

Road Safety Around Schools

The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting of the Road Safety Panel on behalf of Bells Brae Parent Council and was pleased to report that the placement of part time 20mph signs was imminent on South Road.

Bells
situation.

Mr A Angus stated he did not find the responses to the road safety concerns helpful. He advised that traffic concerns around Bells Brae School had been an issue for a long time; the suggestion of a staggered leaving time had been raised with Brae but there was a refusal to accept it could assist in addressing the

with
around, taking

The Chairman stated that when the suggestion was previously mooted there were concerns that a staggered leaving time could cause a problem for parents more than one child at the school as they would either have to wait up a parking place, or drive about the town to pass the time.

Mr L Angus advised that was the response that had been given when the suggestion had first been put forward.

He noted that the most hazardous crossing was at the rear entrance to the school, at the top of Bells Road near Montfield; cars did not take appropriate action when driving up the hill.

Cllr J Wills stated he would discuss the road safety issues around Bells Brae School at the routine meeting, in June, between the section managers, Roads, SIC and Lerwick Councillors. He pointed out that speed detection signs, which displays the speed of oncoming vehicles, were used all round Europe and thought they might be a useful tool in addressing the road safety issues.

Cllr J Henry stated that the Police had said drivers ignored the signs once they had become familiar with them.

road

Cllr J Wills countered that the signs seemed to work well on the mainland and a 20mph speed limit should be enforced, if not by the Police, by the use of humps.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Bells Brae Parent Council in support of Cllr J Wills suggestion and send a copy of the letter to Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads, SIC.

He stated that the driving force behind any changes should be left to the Bells Brae Parent Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman suggested a part time 20mph sign at the end of King Harald Street may assist the safety of children attending Old Infants Nursery.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads, SIC with the request.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/03/07 **Padlocked Barrier, Staney Hill Road – Extracts from letters/emails between LCC & SIC**

Ms K Fraser enquired when the padlock would be removed.

The Clerk of the Council stated that Mr J Duncan, Access Officer, SIC had advised he hoped the padlock would be removed the following day, if not, certainly within the next day or so.

Mr D Ristori asked if it would be worthwhile advertising the removal of the padlock in the Shetland Times.

would be The Chairman stated that he hoped the presence of a Shetland Times reporter at the meeting would mean the removal of the padlock from the barrier highlighted in the next Shetland Times.

Ms K Fraser asked if warning signs would need to be installed.

The Chairman stated that surely Infrastructure Services would have discussed the removal of the padlock with Roads.

11/03/08 **Minute of Decisions Taken – Sub-Group to Discuss Local Protection Areas**

Cllr J Wills noted the list was very comprehensive; he asked if the walks around Knab and Sletts and the green space behind the houses at Twageos were covered.

The Chairman advised the walks would be covered by the request for no further development within 100m of MHWS.

Mr L Angus noted the green space behind the Twageos houses was a right of way and so precluded from development.

Mr W Spence asked if the area at Sands of Sound was protected.

100m of The Chairman stated that planning permission had been given for the building of three houses but otherwise the request for no further development within MHWS would have taken this area in.

Mr W Spence stated he was unaware full planning permission had been given and thought it was in outline only.

Ms K Fraser asked if Housing Zone 4 represented Ness of Sound.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to add 'at Ness of Sound' to the area submitted commencing 'Housing Zone 4'.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/03/09 **Fixed Links Socio Economic Study**

Cllr J Wills stated the study completely ignored the cheapest way of service to Bressay, Chain Link Ferry, he stated he would take up the issue with Transport, SIC.

He stated Chain Link Ferries were cheap to run as because it was not a boat, technically it did not need a captain, just a boat manager, labourer and mechanic.

Cllr J Henry stated the main reason Ports and Harbours were not happy with the proposal was that any vessel dropping anchor could get caught up in the chain.

Cllr J Wills stated it was a good argument but no vessel would drop anchor in the area the Chain Ferry would be.

were not Cllr L Angus advised that 40% of Shetland Island Council's carbon emissions were created by inter island ferries and the community would be fined if targets met for cutting down on emissions.

11/03/10

Pitt Lane Housing

Cllr J Wills stated it would be a mistake for Lerwick Community Council to comment at this stage as there were many very good architects in Shetland; any plans would come to Lerwick Community Council for consultation in the usual way.

11/03/11

Correspondence

11.1 Deterioration of Buildings-Queens Hotel to Copelands Pier – Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC

Cllr J Wills stated that the area in concern was unique and architecturally and culturally important; he wanted to see a conservation scheme for the whole area whereby owners could be brought together and assisted.

He advised that from his boat he could clearly see the deterioration; possibly he was more aware of it than the owners.

Cllr C Miller agreed with Cllr Wills comments, she stated the colossal costs involved would be prohibitive for any owner and the only way to conserve the buildings would be with the assistance of public funds.

She noted the current grant of £5,000 was not sufficient and Shetland Islands Council had to take a serious look at the situation before part of the tourist trail was lost for good.

Mr L Angus agreed stating that even thirty years ago there were concerns. He advised that the Harbour Trust had considered putting in a breakwater but the idea was scrapped due to lack of funding.

He noted there appeared to be all sorts of funding for other projects which started out as a group of volunteers who formed trusts and became more eligible to attract funding.

Mr L Angus suggested Lerwick Community Council could contact residents in the concerned area to ascertain who would be interested in forming proactive a group in order to seek and secure any available funding.

The Chairman stated that writing to all residents would be a big undertaking and perhaps it would be more the remit of Gwenan Hughes, Conservation Officer, SIC, to see if Shetland Islands Council could be more proactive in helping to see what assistance and funding could be available.

Cllr J Henry advised he would be attending the forthcoming meeting of Shetland Amenity Trust, Wednesday 16 March 2011, and would raise the subject at that meeting.

The Chairman stated Lerwick Community Council could assist in the setting up of an action group if it would help move things forward.

Cllr J Wills advised he would be happy to take people out in his boat so they could see the state of the buildings from the seaward side.

The Chairman stated it would be a very big project as there were many buildings from The Queens Hotel to Dennis Coutts in need of conservation.

11.2 Da Voar Redd Up-Funding to Participating Groups – Sita Hughson, Environmental Improvement Officer, Shetland Amenity Trust

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to arrange for an advert to be placed in The Shetland Times advising that groups considering participating in Da Voar Redd Up in the Lerwick area may be eligible to receive a grant and could contact Lerwick Community Council for a grant application form.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11.3 Da Voar Redd Up – Covering Letter & Registration Form

Noted

11.4 Viewpoint, North Stoney Hill – Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC, Anita Jamieson, Head of Housing, SIC & Robert Sinclair, Head of Capital Programming, SIC
The Chairman stated he hoped the areas identified by the sub-group to discuss Local Protection Areas would be taken into consideration when considering any future developments.

11.5 Proposed Closure-Lerwick Coastguard Station – Tavish Scott MSP

11.6 Earth Hour 2011: Request to Switch off Broch Flood Lighting – Steven Cooper, Head of Environment & Building Service, SIC
There were no objections to the Broch lighting being switched off to back the international environmental campaign 'Earth Hour 2011'.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to advise Mary Lisk, SIC of Lerwick Community Council's support and write to thank Mr R Bremner, Electrician, for offering to arrange the lighting to be switched off at no cost.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11.7 Grant Thanks – Islesburgh Pyrotechnics
Noted

11.8 Letter of Appreciation Following Notification of Grant Approval – James Ratter, Hon Secretary, Nautical Institute, Shetland Branch
Noted

11.9 Knab Road Parking Restrictions – Colin Gair, Senior Engineer, Traffic & Road Safety, SIC
Cllr L Angus stated that there appeared now to be a complete change of view. In the past driveways had been discouraged due to visibility splay but it was his view that taking a car off the street served to improve visibility.

He advised that he had been trying without success to secure a proper traffic management plan for Lerwick and parking had become a real issue.

The Chairman stated, for safety reasons, the obvious thing was to reverse a vehicle off the street and into a driveway.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mrs Carol Gray and include a copy of the letter from Mr I Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/03/12

Financial Report

The Chairman informed members that the grant funding from SIC to Lerwick Community Council for 2011/2012 would be £29,892.00, an increase of £250 from the current year.

Members agreed that as much of Lerwick Community Council funds as possible should be allocated to the Knab Viewpoint.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/03/13

Traffic & Parking Orders

13.1 Glenfarquar, Lerwick – Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle – Order 2011
No objections.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.2 Bruce Crescent, Lerwick – Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle – Order 2011
No objections.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.3 Various Roads, Shetland – Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle – (Revocation No 2) Order 2011

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The following document arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion.

SIC (Various Roads, Lerwick, Hamnavoe and Aith) (Parking Places for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2011

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Cllr C Miller declared an interest as a member of the Planning Board and declined to take part in any of the discussions involving the following Planning Applications.

11/03/14

Planning Applications

14.1 2011/43/PCO – Extension to Abattoir (Permission in Principal), Abattoir, Stoney Hill Industrial Estate

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr L Angus, declared an interest as Councillor, declined to comment on the following application.

14.2 2011/11/PCD – Change of use to house of multiple occupation, 12a North Road, Lerwick

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

14.3 2011/28/PCD – 3 Storey side extension, 4 Hayfield Lane, Lerwick

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

14.4 2011/25/LBC & 2011/024/PCD – Replacement of roof slates, ridge & flashings, Replacement of rooflights, fitting of vent slates and replacement of sash windows to gable end, J R Whites, Commercial Street, Lerwick

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

14.5 2011/26/LBC – Re-painting Existing Fascia, updating corporate details & hanging replacement sign – Boots Chemist, Lerwick (proposed works to listed building)

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

14.6 2011/29/ADV – Re-painting Existing Fascia, updating corporate details & hanging replacement sign – Boots Chemist, Lerwick (description of proposed advertisement)

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

14.7 2011/56/PCD – Single storey side extension, 8 Kirkland, Upper Sound, Lerwick

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

14.8 2011/44/PCD – Sub-division of single apartment to create two residential apartments & external removal of chimneys on single stack, 17 Hillhead, Lerwick

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The following document arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion.

2011/67/PCD 1.5 Storey side extension to provide garage, wet room and additional accommodation, 16 Fogralea

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/03/15

Lerwick Applications March 2011

Noted

11/03/16

Any Other Business

Pathway Along Beach

Mr D Ristori stated that the path, at Lower Sound, running from the Ramsay's house to the Kirkyard was falling into disrepair. He advised it had become very narrow and he was concerned people may try to grip the barbed wire fence in order to keep their balance.

Mr W Spence stated that there was no path as such.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Jonathan Duncan, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC and ask him to investigate.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Shabby Walls

Mr D Ristori noted that some of the garden walls surrounding properties in Knab Road and King Harald Street looked shabby and cracked; he enquired if there was a plan to get them tidied up.

The Chairman stated that if the walls were part of private property there was nothing the Council could do, unless they were a health and safety issue.

He asked Mr D Ristori to make a list of the walls in question for the Clerk to submit to Shetland Islands Council.

(Action: Mr D Ristori)

Accountancy

Mr J Stewart asked if alternative quotations had been sought with regard to accountancy fees.

The Chairman replied that quotes had just been received that day and they were much more competitive than Lerwick Community Council's current accountants.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to write and accept the quotes.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Esplanade

Cllr J Wills commented on how well the work was going on the new rails and wooden decking. However, he raised concern that the gaps between each plank appeared wide enough for a child's leg to get trapped.

Cllr C Miller advised she would be attending a meeting of the Harbour Trust the following day and would raise the concern at the meeting.

Proposed New Anderson High School

Cllr L Angus stated he hoped Lerwick Community Council would continue to keep closely involved and perhaps have a representative at project meetings.

The Chairman advised that he hoped to invite Mr R Sinclair, Head of Capital Programming, SIC to a meeting of Lerwick Community Council when he was ready to give an update on the situation.

(Action: Chairman)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL