

**MONDAY 21 APRIL 2003**

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

**Present**

Mr P Scarsbrook  
Mr K Watt  
Mr I Bruce  
Mr J Anderson  
Mr T Nicolson  
Mr A Johnston  
Mr W Henderson

Mr J MacLeod  
Mrs S Newcombe  
Ms K Fraser  
Cllr W Stove  
Mr E Knight  
Cllr R Anderson  
Mr M Peterson

Cllr A Cluness

**In Attendance**

Chief Insp. Andy Cowie, Northern Constabulary (left 7.45pm)  
Mr J Tait, Shetland Times  
Mrs M MacLeod, Clerk

**Chairman**

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council presided.

03/04/1

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

03/04/2

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Begg, Cllr L Angus and Cllr J Irvine.

03/04/3

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March were approved on the motion of Mr W Henderson, seconded by Mr M Peterson.

03/04/4

### **Business Arising**

#### **Gilbertson Park Gates**

The gates were on site and it was hoped that they would be hung by the end of the week.

#### **Cemetery Gates**

Mr W Henderson reported that the cemetery gates were still not being closed.

#### **Bike Racks**

Mr I Bruce reported that two sets of bike racks had been acquired for the Viking Bus Station. Provision of racks in the area around C&Js was being considered.

#### **Pond at the Cemetery**

Mr E Knight reported that there was still no through running water supply to the pond.

03/04/5

### **Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Andy Cowie who had recently taken up his post in Shetland. CI Cowie had been impressed with the high degree of community support he had noticed since his arrival. He informed members that he intended to implement a policing plan which would focus on four main areas, namely: road safety; drug dealing; sustainable crime reduction and public reassurance. The plan would be circulated for comments and contributions when it was reassessed in the winter.

Ms K Fraser noted that police policy on drugs had recently been controversial with apparently random searches being carried out and the impression of zero tolerance being given with most arrests being for possession of cannabis. She felt that the public the public were more concerned about hard drugs such as heroin. CI Cowie responded that searches were only carried out where there was reasonable suspicion and that the use of passive drugs dogs provided this. He pointed out that cannabis was still an illegal drug and policy on this would be operated as instructed by the law. However the emphasis would be on targeting class A drugs through intelligence led policing. Policy would focus on reducing the number of dealers, reducing demand through education and working with agencies dealing with people suffering from drug abuse. He confirmed to Mr M Peterson that the passive drugs dogs were trained to detect all commonly used drugs.

Cllr W Stove had received a complaint from a visually impaired person who had been troubled by cyclists weaving about on pavements. He enquired as to whether it was a legal requirement to have a bell on a bicycle. CI Cowie would get his sergeant to report back on this at the next meeting. He added that cycling must be done with due care. He confirmed to Cllr Stove that allocating police officers to council wards was part of the policing plan.

Cllr R Anderson felt that sustainable crime reduction was an admirable aim but would be hard to accomplish. CI Cowie aimed to have the most successful crime detection rate in the UK but he admitted that this was not an easy target.

Mrs S Newcombe drew attention to the problems faced by residents living in the lanes at the weekends. This had been highlighted to CI Cowie and he was considering various options to address the problem such as high profile and intelligence led policing. Mr T Nicolson hoped that every effort would be made to tackle the recent trend of attacks on individuals around the Market Cross area.

Mr J MacLeod suggested that the provision of CCTV in the centre of the town may be helpful. CI Cowie felt this was an effective tool which would be considered but that it needed to be used advisedly. There were architectural considerations in the centre of Lerwick as well as funding difficulties. There had previously been a funding available to local authorities for this but it had now been allocated to community safety in general. He felt that the best option would be a partnership between the private sector and public agencies. Cllr R Anderson reminded members that provision of CCTV in the North Road area had previously been considered but opinion at the time had been that monitoring costs were too high. CI Cowie felt it was better if monitoring took place as it was much easier to catch the perpetrator of a crime at the time than 24 hours later.

Mr T Nicolson expressed concern at the high rate of fatalities on Shetland roads in recent years. CI Cowie agreed that there was a disproportionate number of fatalities in Shetland and this would be tackled in the policing plan by focusing on speed, drink driving and seatbelts. Mr J MacLeod noted that most fatal accidents occurred in the early hours of the morning and yet there were no speed checks done at this time. CI Cowie responded that the police now had speed detection equipment which could be operated at night and this would be done.

The Chairman thanked CI Cowie for his attendance which had been very much appreciated and looked forward to the opportunity to comment on the plan.

03/04/6

**SIC Education Best Value Service Review**

This item deferred to the next meeting.

03/04/7

**SIC Charlotte Street Disabled Parking Order**

No objections.

03/04/8

**Financial Report**

Noted.

03/04/9

**Financial Assistance – Dogs Against Drugs**

It was agreed to invite Gill Hession from the Shetland Community Drugs Team to the next meeting to provide information on the drugs problem in Shetland. It was decided to defer a decision on the grant application until this had taken place.

03/04/10

**Planning Application – District Heating Scheme**

There was concern that the works would cause disruption around Anderson High School. Cllr W Stove informed members that the works were scheduled to take place in the school holidays. Mr W Henderson moved to object to the application but found no seconder. Mr J Anderson suggested that pipes should be laid at the side of the road where possible such as in Breiwick Road. It was decided not to object to the application but to request that disruption was kept to a minimum and pipework should be kept off roads where possible.

03/04/11

**Any Other Business**

Mr E Knight had received enquiries from members of the public wondering who their community councillors were. Cllr R Anderson responded that the results of the election had been published in the Shetland Times. However it was felt that more publicity should be carried out about LCC in general and it was suggested that the Shetland Times might perhaps run a feature. Ms K Fraser suggested placing a short report in the Shetland Times after each meeting similar to that of the SWRI.

Mr E Knight noted that the area around the Norwegian memorial at the North Ness was needing attention, as was the area at the back of the boatshed at the Malakoff. It was also noted that the play area at Voder View was in an unsafe condition. It was agreed to write to the relevant parties to request that action be taken.

Ms K Fraser informed members that the SIC Community Directory was now available online. She felt however that the information relating to LCC was very basic and that contact details for all members be included. Mr J MacLeod agreed to see that this was done as he was involved with the project.

Mr W Henderson was keen that the possible relocation of Anderson High School be discussed. It was agreed that this be included on the agenda for a future meeting.

Mr J Anderson reported that a flagstone at the bottom of Navy Lane had been sporadically lifted and had caused falls. It was agreed to write to SIC to bring this to their attention.

Cllr R Anderson noted that raw sewage was being discharged at the back of the Lerwick Hotel. There was some discussion as to which agency had responsibility for this and it was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of SIC Infrastructure Services.

T R NICOLSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LCC