

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2014

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Mr D Ristori
Mrs A Simpson	Mr A Henry
Ms K Fraser	Mr A Carter
Mr A Johnston	Miss S Sinclair
Mr W Spence	Mr F Gibson
Mr E Knight	Ms G White
Mr A Wenger	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Stout	Cllr M Bell
Cllr J Wills	Cllr A Wishart

In Attendance

Chief Inspector Edwin Graham, Area Commander, Police Scotland
Mrs Pat Christie, Community Involvement & Development Officer, SIC
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

12/14/01 **Election of Chairman**

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr E Knight proposed Mr J Anderson, seconded by Mr D Ristori. Mr J Anderson took the Chair.

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

12/14/02 **Election of Vice Chairman**

Mr J Anderson asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Cllr J Wills proposed Mrs A Simpson, seconded by Mr A Johnson. Mrs A Simpson accepted.

Mr J Anderson welcomed Mrs A Simpson as the Vice Chair.

12/14/03 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Hay, Mr M Peterson, Mr A Henry, Cllr P Campbell and Cllr C Smith.

12/14/04

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November were approved on the motion of Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mr A Carter.

Mr J Anderson welcomed new member Ms G White and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Ms G White thanked everyone for the welcome.

12/14/05

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr J Anderson informed members that he had received an estimate from a contractor for the excavator hire, transportation and supply, necessary for the repairs to the rock armouring at the Sletts Pier. He proposed that this could be forwarded to the council.

Discussion took place on the background to the situation.

Cllr J Wills commented that it had been fixed before. Although not having much in the budget, he was sure that the council would do what they could.

Cllr A Wishart suggested asking the Chair of Roads & Transport Department.

Cllr M Stout referred to the correspondence and stated it was clear from the letter of response what the situation was. He was not sure what other could be asked from the department.

Mr A Carter pointed out that another issue of concern was the dumping by contractors in the area. It was turning into an eyesore and was in a worst state due to this.

Cllr M Stout commented that he was not suggesting that the community council couldn't write further regarding the situation.

Mr J Anderson remarked that the council had done some work in the way of tidying up the area, but suggested writing further to see how far the LCC could gain their support.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mr A Carter asked about the progress with the new car parking and access road.

Cllr M Stout replied that as things stand at the moment they were waiting for the new planning application to go in. An amended plan from roads for a smaller car park was to be submitted.

Mr J Anderson asked if anybody had any other business arising. Nothing further was mentioned. He welcomed Chief Inspector Eddie Graham.

12/14/06

Police Scotland – Chief Inspector Edwin Graham, Area Commander

Chief Inspector E Graham said that in terms of performance the command area was operating at a high standard. At 79.6% it sits above all the other command areas at present.

There had been a spike in crimes of dishonesty such as housebreaking and shoplifting. Housebreaking offences had gone up from 17 last year to 19 this year.

In terms of resilience, Shetland should have 37.6 full-time equivalent officers, but we are sitting below that. One new officer was due on 15 December. She was transferring from Glasgow, plus 2 officers from the central belt. They were down on numbers from a year ago.

Police Scotland was advertising over a wider area. In an operational context they were sitting at a severe state of alert and when actively engaged at a heightened state of alert. Recently they had been out and about working with 9 schools regarding speeding. Sergeant Ian Brown had accompanied him around the islands.

On the 5th December there will be a change in the drink/drive limit. The limit has been lower by about a 3rd. Drink driving was taken seriously. Over 50% of calls were due to people phoning in, which was a credit to the local community. The message is clear – nominate a driver, or don't drink. Also consider next morning if you are fit to drive.

Drug/Alcohol abuse was a high priority with a rise in novel substances and a high number of seizures. They were trying to put the message out, by educating at the high schools of the dangers. Being preventative by informing of the effects these substances can have. Govt legislation will be making changes; they wait to see the outcome. They continue to seize and test these substances. There has been a change with a move to these. It's a national problem. He was open to any questions.

Mr J Anderson asked if there were any questions for the Chief Inspector.

Cllr M Bell had a query about the recorded figures regarding the crime and detection rates.

Chief Inspector E Graham replied that they fluctuate from week to week. He discussed the figures. Speeding was up but was being pro-actively chased down. The mobile users/seat belt offenders was a strange one.

Mr E Knight asked about the situation with the traffic warden.

The Chief Inspector replied there had not been one for a year now, and they had no intention to appoint one to Lerwick.

Mr E Knight stated that there were serious parking problems. Outside of the Post Office and the Queen's Hotel blocking the road leading to Twageos Road. He asked if he was right in assuming a traffic offence was a criminal offence.

The Chief Inspector said he was right in saying it was a criminal offence. He reported that if vehicles were causing an obstruction then it was a fixed penalty offence. Incidents had occurred at Bells Brae Primary School and been dealt with.

Cllr J Wills commented about the persistent parking problem outside the Queen's Hotel and suggested that an officer could have a word with the persistent offenders.

The Chief Inspector replied that he would have a look into it.

Cllr J Wills remarked that it would be difficult for emergency vehicles to gain access. He asked a question about the detection rate.

The Chief Inspector explained that the detection rate meant crimes that were reported to the procurator fiscal, and not necessarily prosecutions.

Mr J Anderson pointed out it may not necessarily be a successful prosecution.

Chief Inspector E Graham said that it shows that the police had done their job.

Mr D Ristori mentioned he had received a complaint about tail gating.

The Chief Inspector had not heard of a problem, but suggested if evidence then it would be advisable to call and have the driver reported.

Cllr M Bell commented that Mr E Knight had raised a good point regarding the parking issues and that this could be a serious problem. There was a range of difficulties. He said that issues like this were important.

Mr A Carter queried the previous recruitment and cadet programme that had operated.

Chief Inspector E Graham said that two officers had come through the cadet programme. He had been on the selection panel in Inverness. Nationally they were not recruiting through the cadet programme, but were trying to recruit an officer to Shetland, so if we knew of anyone.

Mr A Carter informed the Inspector that during his time with the Careers Service there had been a link up with the Police.

The Chief Inspector said that this had not been done nationally at present.

Cllr M Stout wanted to pick up on Cllr M Bell's point that every local authority has encountered problems since Police Scotland announced it was to step back from dealing with parking issues. Some areas were experiencing severe difficulties with rush hour traffic being hindered by car parking on yellow lines, where car parks were available but unused. Police Scotland's unilateral decision without consultation has been raised both at COSLA and at Regional Transport meetings. He stressed that at a local level, the Police in Shetland were willing and able to deal with specific parking issues, but that Police Scotland's national policy including deregulation of parking offences was the real problem.

Cllr A Wishart asked about the move from 24 hr operating, he said fears had been expressed. He asked if this had worked out alright and what was the situation.

Chief Inspector E Graham replied that before the move into Police Scotland they had not operated 24 hrs. When Ian Ross had been up he had decide how they operated. The Shetland station was a class B. It was run by 2 at present, but should have 3. As yet the position is not filled this will allow us to extend the hours. When fully operations we can extend the hours to midnight. We don't want officers left to answer the phone when they could be out on patrol. The majority people are carrying a mobile phone and calls are direct to them. Regarding the issue relating to 101 he had no control over. It allowed them to operate during closed hours. They had looked at the foot fall and there had been little or no engagement with the public. It was his opinion that when the vacant post was filled they would be open till midnight. It was unfortunate that the employment market was so strong at the moment, that as such they had not been able to fill the post.

Cllr J Wills said he appreciated what being done and approved the plans to open 7am until midnight. He stated that the problem lies south. A member of the public had phoned at around 2am as they could see people taking some kind of substance outside their front door. They were asked for their postcode even though they had given a Lerwick address. He said they needed somebody to answer the phone locally. Older people didn't always have a mobile phone. The local police station was a refuge and point of contact. He remarked it should be possible with modern technology. He suggested starting a petition to parliament to get something done as people were fed up of bureaucracy.

Chief Inspector E Graham responded that you had to be realistic. The call handler has to know the postcode to correctly identify the right area. We have what we have at present. Once the extra post is filled then we can extend the hours.

Mr J Anderson asked if there were any further questions. He thanked the Chief Inspector for his time.

Chief Inspector E Graham left the meeting at 7.40pm.

12/14/07

Shetland Local Development Plan

7.1 Local Landscape Areas

7.2 Local Nature Conservation Sites

7.3 On Shore Wind Energy

Mr J Anderson asked members for any comments or if they had noticed anything omitted, that they thought should be included.

Cllr J Wills observed that particular sites of geological interest were perhaps under the water and had been completely ignored.

Cllr M Stout commented that it would be worthwhile going through them. Overall the more feedback the better it will be. He noted the constraints of national criteria. Whilst he appreciated many of the issues didn't impact on Lerwick, any comments would be welcome and the supplementary guidance would be the better for it.

Ms K Fraser pointed out that one of the reasons we had been sent them was to allow for feedback on behalf of the community. Noting that the deadline for comments was

13th January 2015, she suggested reading through them and reporting back by the next meeting at the beginning of January.

Cllr J Wills remarked that the documents were large and suggested that the deadline should be extended to 6 months. He commented that a lot was happening between now and then.

Mr J Anderson proposed that members read them and report back at the next meeting. Any sites that had been omitted and should perhaps be included. Comments could be emailed to the clerk. They would be included with next month's papers.

12/14/08

Joint Lerwick Schools Parent Members Meeting

Mr J Anderson mentioned that a meeting had been organised for the Lerwick Schools and was open to all community council members to attend.

Mr A Simpson asked that it be included on the LCC Facebook site.

Mr J Anderson said he had recently requested that they open up the invitation to include Shetland wide councillors.

12/14/09

Correspondence

9.1 Peerie Jewels Parent and Toddler Group – Grant thanks

Noted.

9.2 Shetland Moving Image Archive

Mr J Anderson stated that they were looking for support to further their digital archive.

Cllr A Wishart pointed out that it was unclear how much support they were looking for.

Mr J Anderson suggested that they be contacted and ask to complete and send in a grant application form.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.3 Funding Opportunity - Keep Scotland Beautiful

Mr J Anderson asked if anybody had any ideas that would be appropriate.

Mr A Carter suggested the work needed at the Sletts, if other areas of funding were not available.

Mr J Anderson agreed that it would be an idea to enquire.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mrs P Christie noticed the deadline was 15th December.

9.4 2014/278/PPF – 8 Thorfinn Street, Lerwick – Further review

Noted.

9.5 World Aids Day 2014: Light-Up Scotland

Mr J Anderson explained that the red gel filters were installed at the Clickimin Broch the same as last year. Mrs Wendy Hatrick had informed them that Broch had been included on the website as they were impressed with the pictures.

9.6 Invitation - Unveiling of Commemorative Paving Slab

Mr J Anderson commented that this was a duplicate slab. The original slab was to be laid in Edinburgh in honour of Capt William Bruce.

Cllr M Bell responded that Capt Bruce was the only person in the Shetland Roll of Honour who was awarded the V.C. Due to the strength of his Shetland connections, in particular Dunrossness and Whalsay, it had been considered relevant to have a paving slab laid here on the 19th December to mark 100 years from the day of his death. A remarkable story had been shared by Mr Jon Sandison regarding the events. He said it was entirely appropriate that we mark this day.

Mr J Anderson said that the invitation was open to all the community council members to attend on the 19th December and to reply to the clerk if attending.

9.7 Sea Scouts

Mr J Anderson informed members that the building formally used by the Sea Scouts had failed its survey and was deemed unsafe.

Cllr J Wills commented that he had raised the issue of alternative accommodation for the Sea Scouts, but apparently what was offered was not suitable. The buildings along the waterfront are all listed and are seen from the sea. The building is at increasing risk, not caused by the sea, but from being left to rot inside. He stated that it was an important building and the suggestion that it be sold was saddening. He had suggested using the contingency fund, as mentioned in his letter and you could see the reply he received.

Discussion ensued regarding when the Sea Scouts last used the building and the continued use of the pier for launching boats. Concern for saving the building was agreed and the possible effect on the other buildings in close proximity.

Mr J Anderson suggested writing and asking the council what the proposals were for the building and the concern for the other buildings in the area.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Cllr J Wills advised that Shetland Amenity Trust could be approached and may help if LCC expressed an interest.

12/14/10

Application for Grant Funding

10.1 Living Lerwick – Winter Festival – Santa’s Grotto

Mr J Anderson informed members that Santa’s Grotto was to be held over the weekend 6/7 December in the Masonic Hall and Living Lerwick were looking for £1,000 towards the event.

Mrs A Simpson suggested using the Community Distribution Fund and asked how much was available. The clerk replied that £700 was remaining.

Mrs A Simpson proposed to support the application with £700 from the CDF fund and £300 from core funding.

Mr D Ristori seconded the proposal.

Mrs A Simpson wanted to express a well done for what they had achieved on Sunday with the large turnout of people on the street. They had raised a lot of money and it had been a great success.

Mr A Carter agreed it had been a great event. He had been involved as a Marshall and suggested an informed word with one or two of the organisers might help for the future. He commented on the remarkable good weather for the event.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

10.2 St Margaret’s RC Church, Lerwick

Mr J Anderson reported that the grant was to help towards converting a spare room in the manse into a prayer room.

Discussion ensued about the past grants given to churches and the church being open to all. Previous grant funding had been given towards an organ for the Lerwick Free church. Members were informed of the large numbers of Polish and Eastern European’s attending the church in recent years.

Mr J Anderson was happy to move the funding and noted the supporting letter mentioned that the church and prayer room was open every day to anybody and all were welcome. He proposed to approve the grant of £300.

Mrs A Simpson seconded the proposal.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

12/14/11

Financial Reports

11.1 Core Funding Financial Report as of 10 November 2014

Mr J Anderson asked if there were any comments or queries.

11.2 2014 – 2015 CDF Financial Report as of 24 November 2014

Mr J Anderson stated that the Community Distribution Fund, of which we applied for £3000 for distribution, had all now been awarded. The £1000 for project funding had been allotted towards the Information Panels for Harrison Square.

Cllr A Wishart queried the sales of the Town Hall guide books amounting to £24.96 and thought they could perhaps be advertised further. He suggested speaking to Billy Sandilands about them and perhaps Malcolm or Michael could comment.

Cllr M Bell pointed out that many visitors came off the cruise ships to look at the windows. He thought the free Wi-Fi might be a factor. As far as he was aware guides were available.

Mr A Wenger mentioned he acted as a tourist guide and agreed that having them more on display, perhaps behind glass would encourage visitors to spend money on them.

Mrs A Simpson suggested having a box available to put money in.

Mr J Anderson proposed looking at getting some posters, or other, to better publicise the guide to try and boost future sales.

12/14/12

Planning Applications

12.1 2014/328/PPF – Erect extension to rear elevation – 9 Church Road, Lerwick

Cllr M Bell declared an interest as a member of the planning committee.

Mr J Anderson drew attention to the letter from residents at number 7 Church Road regarding the planned extension.

Cllr A Wishart pointed out that he had heard the application had been withdrawn.

Discussion took place on the concerns of the neighbours, the poor state of an adjoining garage and the lack of maintenance access.

Mr J Anderson declared that these were fairly legitimate concerns and proposed writing to object based on the loss of privacy, and loss of light to the neighbouring property.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

12/14/13

Any Other Business

Mr A Wenger had read about the possible sale of the Sullom Voe Port. He queried the percentage of interest that was mentioned.

Cllr M Stout replied that it was very clear that the Port was not for sale. They had been looking at the long term report based on financial modelling that was done for the council. The implications were that the current mode of operation had to change. Much more work was needed to be done to get the potential value of the port. It was part of the work being done by the council to access its assets.

Mr D Ristori mentioned Burns Lane car park and that the white lines were needed repainted to separate the car park from the main road. Shop-keepers had shared their concerns about this.

Mr J Anderson replied that we could write and pass this on.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mrs A Simpson pointed out the lack of a sign post directing to the Museum. She had met people who were not sure where they were going. At the roundabout there was nothing to show that they needed to turn down towards the North Ness. She mentioned contacting Shetland Amenity Trust to point this out.

Mr J Anderson suggested writing to Roads and Shetland Amenity Trust.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mr E Knight expressed concern at a report he'd read in the paper that parking offences were being passed to local authorities to police. He said that the Police were picking and choosing which crimes to tackle and that set alarm bells ringing.

Mr J Anderson said that they were in the process of decriminalising it.

Cllr M Bell stated that it was a serious constitutional point stating what crimes they were going to investigate. What Police Scotland wanted to do was decriminalise illegal parking and let local authorities take on any parking laws.

He mentioned that this was happening in Aberdeen and Edinburgh, but was an expensive option for us here. Long term it would take several months to achieve. It wasn't something that small councils could do as the revenue was not worth it. The one size fits all approach wouldn't work.

Cllr M Stout pointed out that ultimately it was a national issue which COSLA were challenging the Scottish Government on. He would only suggest that we continually keep reminding the Chief Inspector if we are not happy with it and that it should be a police issue.

Mr J Anderson suggested we write to Tavish Scott to raise our concerns at a Scottish Government level.

Cllr M Bell agreed to copy Tavish in. It was an issue he was aware of.

Cllr J Wills pointed out that as it stands it was possible to park anywhere and get away with it.

Cllr M Bell said that there were a few grey areas. It was minor in the greater scheme of things. There was a wider constitutional issue at stake in deciding off his own bat.

Mrs A Simpson observed that on the radio that evening she had heard about fixed penalties incurred and wondered how many they had done.

Mr J Anderson replied that it might be relevant to write and enquire.

Cllr M Stout commented on the general attitude and the necessity to promote locally and to avoid the juvenile outlook. If parking was bad then we needed to plug away at it. It was a community responsibility.

Mrs A Simpson suggested it could be a campaign taken on by the LCC. We could write to the local safety panel and offer to discuss the attitude to bad parking.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Cllr A Wishart mentioned contacting our regional MSP's.

Cllr J Wills was unable to attend the meeting on Saturday to discuss the effect on the Lerwick Schools and in fact the effect on all the schools in Shetland. He hoped that other councillors would be able to attend.

Mr A Carter mentioned the graffiti on the wall of the new cemetery in the NE corner. He suggested we might contact the council about it.

Mr W Spence offered to look into it and said to leave it with him.

(Action: Mr W Spence)

Mrs P Christie mentioned that she was available to offer support to the community council if needed, such as help with completing application forms.

Mr J Anderson was aware of a loose flag stone outside the old people homes at Leog. He suggested we write to Roads about it.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....