

MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Mr E Knight
Mrs A Simpson	Mr S Hay
Ms K Fraser	Mr W Spence
Mr D Ristori	Mr P Coleman
Mr A Wenger	Mr A Carter
Mr J Fraser	

Additional Co-opted Student Members

Miss S Sandison	Mr I Russell
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Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr Wishart	Cllr P Campbell
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In Attendance

Chief Inspector Lindsay Tulloch, Police Scotland
Mr Dave Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

01/16/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

01/16/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from M Peterson, Cllr Wills, Cllr Stout, Cllr Bell and Cllr Smith.

01/16/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Mr D Ristori and seconded by Mr A Carter.

01/16/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

War Memorial

Mr Knight reported that he had been informed by Frank Brown from Shetland Amenity Trust that cleaning of the War Memorial was to be taken on by them.

Skatepark

Mr Anderson mentioned that Mrs Pat Christie had yet to meet with representatives of the group to look at safety issues, but had heard they felt the risk was not high. Design

of the gate met safety standards at the time. They would be willing to erect a sign telling folk to be careful when exiting the skatepark and wondered about funding from the community council for this.

Mr Anderson suggested awaiting the outcome of Mrs Christie meeting with them and sending pictures through to her that were taken by Mr Wenger showing straight through to road.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/16/05

Police Scotland December Report

Mr Anderson welcomed Chief Inspector Lindsay Tulloch to the meeting.

Inspector Tulloch reported that he was happy with the high detection rate of seventy five percent shown at the end of the year, second highest in Scotland. Concentration on drugs and road safety were still high on the list. Figures for the end of year had shown increased levels of drugs detection for both supply and possession. They plan to increase work on drugs with education in schools using the drugs dog. This was engaging for pupils and gave a strong message.

He informed members that 2016 priorities were to increase the number of pro-active approaches and more good cases would deter further offending. Another priority was Road Traffic there had been one fatality on the roads last year, a decrease in previous years. This had taken place in very unfortunate circumstances.

Inspector Tulloch mentioned that Ms Elaine Skinley from the roads department was working with schools to promote a positive message to discourage speeding. He said that the Police Report would be circulated and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr Ristori queried about travelling drug dealers in staying in guesthouses.

Inspector Tulloch replied that folk were to be aware that individuals were using guesthouses in remote places and if they had any suspicions to report them. The aim was to enforce the drugs legislation.

Mr Fraser asked if Police Scotland were able to attribute the loss of support services such as CADSS (Community Alcohol and Drugs Services Shetland) and Drugs Shetland to an increase in drug usage.

Inspector Tulloch replied that they were all about rehabilitation work, so nothing to do with an increase in drug use.

Mr Anderson enquired about the status on legal highs.

Inspector Tulloch replied that the Government had now made possession of some of these compounds illegal which makes possession of legal highs or New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) an offence. He went on to say that legal highs could not be considered legal if they are supplied or given to another person in the knowledge that they contained a substance which may endanger life. This would be considered reckless conduct.

Inspector Tulloch said that those manufacturing legal highs are aware of this and are making new chemical compounds to put into them which are not covered by current legislation. He confirmed that NPS are used in Shetland and they have seized quantities of it.

Mr Anderson thanked the Inspector for his attendance and invited him to stay.

01/16/06

Roads Department – Mr Dave Coupe, Executive Manager

Mr Anderson welcomed Mr Coupe to the meeting.

Mr Coupe mentioned the consultation was out for the proposed 20mph zone from the North Ness to the top of Church Road comprising of traffic calming measures. He stated the reason being, that the alternative of introducing a speed limit was difficult to enforce.

Mr Coupe informed members that the consultation ended on Friday of this week and following that they would look at any objections. In mid-spring they were to look at Pelican crossings, looking at reliability and alternative crossings. They were also aware of the need to look at the 30mph speed limit boundary on the South Brae, which had been brought up before. Also the speed limit on approach to the Sound Primary School which currently has a flashing sign. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr Anderson displayed the plan on screen showing the extent of the area for proposed 20mph zone.

Mr Carter commented that drivers were unhappy with speed calming measures. He enquired about the justification of use and the effect on safety figures. He asked to know how effective traffic calming would be and if no difference would they then be removed.

Mr Coupe replied that the accident rate was two per year on the Esplanade, a figure which was twice the national average. The need was to investigate and come up with a proposal. He outlined the plans and reasons for the traffic calming measures.

Mr Coupe said that it was unlikely they would be removed once they were in. He added that they were likely to reduce the statistics particularly in the town centre with parking and pedestrian accidents.

Mrs Simpson asked if the accidents had been caused by speeding cars.

Mr Coupe replied that there had been only one in nineteen. He said that the bulk of cars travelling in the area were already only travelling at 20mph and this would not interrupt peoples driving. He added that the traffic calming measures would ensure an element of self-policing.

Mrs Simpson queried the use of flashing lights at schools and wondered why this could not be done at the Esplanade.

Mr Coupe replied that these just operated on a part-time basis.

Mr Fraser thought that the measures were justified due to the volume of pedestrians in the main shopping area and that it was logical to extend the zone a few further yards to the roundabout at King Harold Street, to include the British Legion and Marlex.

Mr Coupe replied about what a recent accident study had contained and said they had no remit to go further.

Mr Carter asked about the safety figures and a review again in twelve months time. He thought that it was a lot of expensive disruption; remarking that it was taking a sledge hammer to crack a nut.

Mr Coupe responded that the two accidents last year were over the national average and the need to look at and address this.

Cllr Wishart enquired who would pay.

Mr Coupe said that the offer had been made for one hundred percent funding by Sustrans. He said this showed the level of interest the government had in the scheme.

Mr Anderson enquired as to whether any conditions were attached to the offer.

Mr Couple replied that funds needed to be spent by May.

Cllr Wishart said that he knew of only three people who were opposed and this was not high considering the population of Lerwick. There had been concern for cruise ships passengers, with a few near misses reported. He commented that one hundred percent funding was significant.

Cllr Campbell said he also heard from only one who was opposed and that this was very few out of seven to eight thousand folk.

Further discussion ensued on the reason for accidents with pedestrian error and drink reported. Vehicle speed was raised as always a way to reduce severity. Speed detection devices were mentioned with the difficulty of enforcement.

Mr Carter pointed out the outcry in Scalloway following the use of speed calming measures.

Mr Anderson responded that there was already a lot around Lerwick, observing their use on the North Road.

Mr Couple discussed the use of speed bumps and cushions and flat tables. He said that often when proposed they were opposed. He informed members about a German study in a retail area with the conclusion being, that yes it had a disruptive element during the construction, saying that this would be very limited here, but that most towns had found that businesses found that they did slightly better. He added that there was a need in a retail area to be pedestrian friendly.

Mr Anderson asked if anyone had any objection to the proposals.

No objection.

Mr Anderson enquired if the pelican crossing consultation was dependant on this scheme.

Mr Coupe replied that it was separate and not dependant.

Mr Carter commented that he would welcome a report on the effect of the measures in a year's time, as far as safety goes in the town.

Mr Coupe advised that he would, but the report would take a while.

Mr Fraser observed that he could understand what Mr Carter was looking at, but there was a need for pedestrians to feel safer and make use of the retail environment.

Brief discussion ensued about the plans to move the 30mph sign south on road?

Mr Anderson asked if anyone had any further questions for Mr Coupe tonight.

Mr Wenger pointed out that the pavement on one side of the new AHS roundabout was flooded in front of houses at Lochside, due to rain and lack of drainage.

Mr Coupe agreed that they would have a look into that.

Mr Wenger mentioned that he had already forwarded concern about the lamp stump at Gilbertson Road.

Chief Inspector Lindsay Tulloch left at 7.40pm.

Mr Anderson drew attention to agenda item 8.7.

01/16/8.7

Lighting Column Stump

Mr Anderson noted that they had been informed that this stump was to be replaced in early January as part of a wider programme for replacements in Lerwick.

Mr Coupe confirmed that a lot of columns were to be replaced, but due to limited funds they were now prioritising. A problem being that they needed good weather conditions to put men aloft for replacing the eight to ten metre columns. The main areas of risk were the crossing areas for pedestrian and vehicles and also the main 'A' roads.

Mr Wenger pointed out the danger of the small stumps and the safety concerns due to the cables particularly near the school.

Mr Coupe replied that it was unusual to cut them down that low but it was due to corrosion. He advised they were to be replaced, but the programme had been put back due to the weather conditions.

Mr Anderson thanked Mr Coupe for attending.

Mr Coupe left at 7.45pm.

01/16/07

Draft Primary Care Strategy for Consultation – Dr Sarah Taylor

Mr Carter commented that it was a fairly lengthy piece of work. One thing that stood out was the shortage of GP's in Lerwick, although overall figures were over the Scottish average.

He wondered if Shetland Health Board had given any thought to sponsoring young Shetlanders to study for a medical degree and return giving a certain amount of time to work in Lerwick. He suggested that this would be more cost effective than the use of locums and could be made as a comment on the consultation.

Mr Fraser thought there was a need to be careful with such a proposal due to someone feeling that after a few years it was not for them.

Mr Carter pointed out that it had been done before and he had himself seen three graduates come back to work in the Isles.

Mr Anderson agreed that they make that comment. He suggested that they also look at it from a different angle and perhaps the further use of Advance Nurse Practitioners who can take on more duties.

Mrs Simpson agreed with the suggestions and said that the community council should make both comments.

Mr Fraser mentioned the first years of studying were fairly general and most undergraduates were not yet sure of their area of speciality and would not be ready to be cohersed into General Practice.

Mr Hay said the principle should be raised as a valid comment. He raised the question on how community councils can make a corporate judgement on something as big as this.

Mr Anderson proposed that we respond with the collated statements that we can pull together from the community council.

Cllr Wishart said it was an interesting question to do with the fundamentals of democracy. He spoke about the council reading the report and debating it, with the outcome based on the majority. He pointed out that you could sponsor someone, such as seamen for ferries or pilots for air service you couldn't legally bind them to a contract.

Mr Hay mentioned the 'Golden Hello' offered in the past by the government when sponsoring physics and maths teachers.

Mr Anderson thanked everyone for their comments.

01/16/08

Correspondence

8.1 By-Election Timetable 2016

Mr Anderson reported the two vacancies and the forthcoming By-Election dates. He informed members about the recently resignation of Ms White. He asked members if they were aware of anyone who was keen and willing to pass their information to the either Anne Cogle or the clerk.

8.2 CDF Grant Scheme – Budget Update – Michael Duncan

Mr Anderson noted the letter from Mr Duncan pointing out that they were not in a position to confirm dates for CDF funding or confirmation of core funding. He informed members about the good news regarding the match funding offer from the Scottish Government and the hope to have ten thousand for the PB Pilot in May.

Mr Fraser volunteered as part of the working group for the Participatory Budgeting. Mr Anderson added that dates for the working group meetings would be arranged.

8.3 Fireworks Display Clear Up

Mr Anderson commented that the complaint was sent to the community council due to thinking that we had funded the event. He pointed out that organisers hadn't got the chance to clear up until a few days after, due to other commitments.

8.4 Skatepark Gate

Mr Wenger had taken photographs of the Skatepark exit onto the road. Mr Anderson suggested that we forward them onto Mrs Pat Christie. He suggested that the installation of a bollard in the middle of the exit might help.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

8.5 Waste Bin – Seafield - Mr W Spence

Mrs Simpson reported that the waste bin was installed the following day after the last meeting.

8.6 Grant Offer – Letter of thanks – Filsket Riding Club

Noted.

01/16/09 Financial and CDF Report

Mr Anderson pointed out that expenditure for the lighting at the Clickimin Broch was higher than anticipated, with unfortunately repairs increasing the budget. He asked if there were any further questions.

01/16/10 Planning Applications

Additional Item – Notice of Premises Licence

Teamore, Ground Floor, Viking Bus Station, Lerwick, ZE1 0LX

Mr Anderson advised members that the Licence application had just come in and they were looking to sell alcohol on the premises from Monday to Sunday 11am until 1am. He asked if there were any comments.

Cllr Campbell declared an interest as a member of the Licensing Board.

No objections.

10.1 2015/411/PPF – To improve an area of land currently used for the rough grazing of sheep. The land shall be levelled, drainage improved and top soil spread with grass seed to improve the grazing quality. Inert surplus excavated material from local constructions site shall be imported to level the site and create the industrial site areas.

Mr Anderson displayed the location plan. He was aware that no objections were recorded. He had heard that the Marts were not aware and there may be some concern as it was land used to graze sheep in between being sold and going on the boat.

Discussion ensued about the situation of the site and the close proximity of the proposed industrial units to an area with potential for future housing. The area also was identified on the flood risk management plan due to the Burn at Gremista. Concern was raised due to the nature of the inert materials and the area becoming a temporary landfill site.

Mr Anderson proposed that we write and make comments on the issue of drainage and the risk of flooding, the use as a landfill site and the potential for future housing developments.

Mr Coleman agreed to second the proposal and commented that he didn't think that it was a good use of the land.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Additional Planning Item

2015/429/PPF – To erect shelter to external stairs – 173 Commercial Street, Lerwick – Boots UK

No objection.

01/16/11

Any Other Business

Popcorn Machine at Mareel

Mr Ristori reported that a group of folk had asked about the Mareel popcorn machine and what could be done to bring it back. Folk were not enjoying going to Mareel because of the noise due to the bags. He said staff were aware of the problem and he wondered if they could add support to get the popcorn machine back.

Mr Anderson replied that he thought the reason they were removed was because the fire alarms kept going off.

Mrs Simpson suggested that those who were complaining should write to the manager.

Sandveien Playpark

Mr Coleman enquired about the concern raised previously about the state of the play area at Sandveien.

The clerk informed members that the letter had been sent, but no response had been received.

Mr Anderson said that it might be due to the time of year and that we write again suggesting having it done before the Easter holidays as a possible target.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Beanfeast after-party

Mr Fraser expressed his concern following the incident at a beanfeast after-party. He didn't want to discourage young people from having parties, but wondered if anything could be done to make them safe and prevent further incidents.

Miss Sandison responded that the boy who carried out the attack didn't attend Anderson High School and was a school leaver. She added that they couldn't stop school leavers from coming and if the incident hadn't have happened, it would have been a successful event.

Discussion ensued as to the availability of stewards for these events. Positive feedback has been received back from a similar event held in Walls.

Miss Sandison pointed out that people over eighteen had been in attendance. The hall committee were supposed to stay, but they had left. The premises had been left in a clean state and they had been pleased with that.

Mr Fraser asked if there was anything they could do.

Mr Anderson thought that the young people should be applauded for their actions. It was unfortunate that they had gone to the effort of organising a venue and had the occasion spoiled by a gate crasher.

Cllr Campbell remarked that it was the responsibility of the hall committee renting out the premises that have a duty of care. The onus was on them to have the event looked after to their satisfaction. He said there has to be a level of responsibility by the operators of the venue.

Cllr Wishart informed members that Billy Sandilands wanted to apologise for the disappointing quality from the projector. A different cable had been used.

Hand dryer

Mr Wenger asked about the hand dryer in the toilets at the Esplanade which had been mentioned at the last meeting.

The clerk informed members that no reply had been received.

Mr Anderson agreed that we chase them up.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

HNP

Mr Anderson said that Mr Peterson had asked that we raise the question of the HNP building on the SLAP site and asked if anyone had any comments to make.

It was suggested that due to strict commercial nature of the subject, it would perhaps be out with the remit of the community council.

Cllr Campbell declared his interested as Chair of the governors of the Highlands and Islands University.

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

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....