

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2015

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson	Mr D Ristori
Mr J Fraser	Mr A Johnson
Mr W Spence	Mr A Wenger
Mr E Knight	Mr F Gibson
Mr A Carter	Ms K Fraser
Ms G White	Mr M Peterson

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr A Wishart

In Attendance

Envoy Angela Nunn, Salvation Army
Helen Budge, Executive Director Children's Services, Shetland Islands Council
Pat Christie, Community Planning & Development, Shetland Islands Council
Constable David Smith, Police Scotland
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

03/15/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

03/15/02

Apologies for absence

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

Mr Anderson welcomed the new members to the meeting prior to their becoming fully elected members on 26 March. Introductions were made.

03/15/03

Minutes

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

03/15/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr Knight asked if Ms Lisa Watt had come back with figures yet. The clerk offered to chase up and ask Ms Watt for them.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mr Anderson welcomed Angela to the meeting.

03/15/05

The Salvation Army – Presentation by Envoy Angela Nunn

Angela said it had been 150yrs since The Salvation Army was established and 115yrs in Shetland. They had two different aspects of work, firstly the Church services, Thursday meetings and school visits. The other, community work such as helping people keep warm with blankets and hot water bottles, during the winter.

‘Front Room’ was a service providing household goods, due to the lack found in temporary housing equipment. Items such as kettles, microwaves etc are often a huge struggle to find. Food parcels statistics were up dramatically from 30, up to 283 last year.

Many of their clients, about 96%, were referred by agencies, such as the Job centre, Housing, SYIS, Hub, SIC Benefits Office. The reasons varied and ages ranged from 16+ up to pensioners, people on benefits, waiting for benefit for various reasons. People often found themselves homeless, with bills to pay and no income. Statutory sick pay often didn’t meet their needs and they needed help. Mortgage/rent payments meant that they ended up falling into debt.

Some help was given due to learning difficulties or issues with addictions. They were not trying to prop up people, but help them in times of need. Claims regarding phone bills due to not reading the small print on bills and been over charged. Difficulties in attending appointments in town to job search, and various reasons needing help with expenses. Problems when, earning the minimum wage and the cost of living being high. Hospital stays and all sorts of reasons.

She hoped she had been able to explain some of the strands of work that they did.

Mr Anderson asked if there were any questions for Angela.

Cllr Wishart thanked Angela for the presentation which was not only very interesting, but also sobering to learn that there are such levels of need in Shetland at this time. He said that he had sometimes heard an opinion expressed, by a few people that many of those who received this kind of support could do much more to help themselves. He wondered whether or not Angela had heard such views been expressed and her reaction to that view.

Angela replied that propaganda was generally the cause of this attitude, which led to stigma and polarization. There was a small element of truth regarding some people on benefits, but unfortunately that encouraged people to think along those lines.

Cllr Wishart thanked Angela again and appreciated her knowledge having seeing it firsthand.

Mr Carter commended Angela for the work she did and wondered if there was any way in which they could offer support.

Angela remarked that it was nice to be invited along to make people aware of the work they did. She mentioned that many of us were only one step away from falling into hard times, it could happen to anyone.

Mr Fraser agreed it was a sobering presentation. He mentioned about the stigma around making claims which was alluded to by Cllr Wishart. He asked if she thought anything could be done to remove the stigma.

Angela said they always tell people not to worry about taking parcels and would encourage them to give back in some way when they can. They supply goods in normal Tesco bags, so it was discreet and looked like they had been to the shops.

Mr Anderson asked about referring folk to the local credit union and wondered if they were having much joy with that.

Angela replied that they did encourage use of the local credit union and would also advise people to stay clear of the likes of Wonga etc.

Mrs Simpson expressed her admiration for what they were doing.

Angela said that people might suggest the work was depressing, but she said that been part of helping and support, was a huge privilege.

Mr Anderson thanked Angela for giving her time to come along.

Envoy Angela Nunn left the meeting at 7.20pm

03/15/06

Road name for road into new Anderson High School – Helen Budge, Executive Director Children's Services

Mrs Budge handed around pictures from the old museum showing the area behind the Clickimin. She advised that due to new school going North of Burgess Street they would be creating a new road. A name was needed for the new road. They had a few suggestions, but no preferred name as yet.

Suggestions were read out, such as North Loch Road, North Loch Drive, Nor Loch Drive, Arras Road, Menin Road, John Graham Road and VC Bruce Road. It was stated that names couldn't have apostrophes or be similar to those already in use. Mrs Budge hoped to gather the thoughts of the community council and asked for any suggestions.

Mr Knight suggested Old Dump Road and Mrs Budge replied that she had heard that one before.

Mr Gibson made the suggestion of Anderson Road.

Mrs Budge informed councillors that they preferred not to have 'street', as it was not part of a full development. She mentioned that the name, North Lochside showed a clear connection, if not knowing the area.

Mr D Ristori suggested using the name of Arthur Anderson.

Mrs Budge commented that as Anderson Road already existed, they felt it was too close.

Mr Fraser suggested Hunter's Drive acknowledging the first head teacher Mr Hunter.

Mr Budge added they were not keen to have any names of those still alive. Although she realised that this would not be the case and had written that one down.

Mr Ristori said he like the old spelling of Norloch and suggested Norloch Drive.

Mr Gibson thought that using Old Norse or Norwegian for a local name associated with the area might be a good suggestion.

Cllr Wishart suggested it may be more appropriate to use a Pictish name.

Ms Fraser proposed the name of John Graham, not just held in regard as being a prominent head teacher, but also for his work on the Shetland Dictionary. She also liked to see streets named after people.

Mr Knight commented that Mr John Graham didn't want the school to be built there.

Cllr Wishart pointed out that quite a few roads were named after famous people, but if you were to ask young people who they were, they probably wouldn't know. We know these people, such as John Graham and his efforts, but in few years they may become less well known.

Ms Fraser suggested not just using the surname, but also first name. She thought having information plates below the street name, to say who they were and something about them might be an idea.

Mr Anderson proposed North Loch Drive and Mr Knight seconded.

Mr Ristori proposed Norloch Way seconded by Ms White.

Ms Fraser proposed John Graham Drive seconded by Mr Wenger.

Voting took place resulting in North Loch Drive being the preferred choice of the community council.

Mrs Budge thanked the community council.

Mr Anderson thanked Mrs Budge for attending the meeting.

Mrs Budge left the meeting at 7.35pm.

03/15/13

Mr Anderson asked if everyone was happy to discuss item 13.2 regarding the planning application for the Observatory, since Mr & Mrs Sinclair, residents of 18 Observatory were in attendance.

13.2 2015/040/PPF – Change of use to residential land and to erect 21 no. residential dwelling houses – Old Observatory Site, Lerwick – Hjatland Housing Association.

Mr Anderson invited Mr Sinclair to speak.

Mr Sinclair said he was not against the plan to build 12 one-bedroom flats, but at the moment their house was in a nice family area, he could understand the demand. He said that there were already 22 one-bedroom homes close by. The plans submitted were just far too much accommodation for size of the area. His young children and children in the houses close by had the freedom of playing out. If all the homes were to be built it would have a huge negative impact on the area. They strongly objected to the plans. If they were more family orientated, he wouldn't be objecting. Mr Sinclair thanked the community council for their time.

Mr Anderson displayed the site layout up on screen and asked if there were any questions.

Discussion took place on what was planned. The plans were to erect 21 dwelling houses, comprising of, 12 one-bedroom apartments, 8 two-bedroom apartments, and 1 three-bedroom apartment, over two floors mirror imaging what was in place at the moment.

Cllr Wishart asked Mr and Mrs Sinclair if they had formally objected.

Mrs Sinclair acknowledged that letters of objection had been sent by themselves and the other residents.

Mr Anderson said he had spoken to Hjalmland to get numbers and there were about 450 people in Lerwick on waiting list and 600 in Shetland. Sixty per cent of folk were in need of one-bed properties and twenty-five per cent looking for two-bed properties, making up eighty-five per cent of the demand for one-two bed properties; leaving just fifteen per cent looking for three or more bedroom properties.

Mr Fraser said he appreciated it was a family friendly area. He queried Mrs Sinclair's concerns regarding the proposed changes to the neighbourhood, with regard to children's freedom, traffic and the impact of more single people in the area.

Mrs Sinclair said that with twenty one properties there could probably be forty two extra vehicles and the parking in place was insufficient. She was concerned about the access as at the moment it was closed off at the fence. They never hear or see the other residents, but if they open up Nordavatn and have these all pulled together there will be a small ratio of family homes to single. If more of the 12 were two-bedroom three-bedroom they wouldn't mind.

Mrs Sinclair stated it was not just them, but all her neighbours objected. She said she understood the need for one-bedroom accommodation, but felt because they were not in the middle of town; it was a quiet countryside area. It would create an urban area and they had bought a house to be out of that.

Mr Knight suggested it may be worth a site visit.

Mr Anderson replied that he had been there today and the area was fairly run down. He thought that the development would tidy up the area and be a vast improvement to the area, especially to the access road that was in poor condition.

Mr Carter suggested that if there were a lot of objections then maybe they would need to invite Hjaltland Housing along to talk about it.

Mr Anderson said that he was hoping that Bryan Leask from Hjaltland would be at the meeting that evening. He understands concerns about the size of the units, but the actual density was much less than would be if it were in the centre of Lerwick, where 30 units would have more likely been squeezed on the site. He noted that there wasn't enough family housing in Lerwick, but agreed that they must build what folk are looking for.

Mr Carter asked about a possible compromise and enquired as to what kind of development might be acceptable.

Mrs Sinclair replied that if they were to go ahead with one-bedroom properties a different entrance would be better, so it would be separate from the private houses and keep everyone happy. It was just the fact that out of the twenty one properties, there were too many one-bedroom and a more mixed development would be better.

Mr Fraser said his impression of her concern was about the demographic and the take up of anti-social behaviour. He thought it might be appropriate perhaps to ask the Police Constable present to give them an idea if this was a reasonable concern or just a perception.

Constable Smith said that they may be an attraction to the construction site by certain individuals, but it was difficult to say at this time. The Police would maintain a presence to ensure there were no issues. He thought that anti-social behaviour could be an issue.

Ms Garrick-Wright pointed out that a lot of young people were having a hard time finding housing. Most were looking for one or two-bedroom. She thought that personally it would be nice for folk to be able get a house. She wondered if the road access was changed they would feel happy and maybe a compromise could be reached.

Mrs Sinclair stated she'd prefer if the new development was to use the new access to the new observatory road.

Mr Wenger enquired if the road to the Met Office could be used for access.

Mr Knight asked if they would be happy with a change to access.

Mrs Sinclair said that if the plans go ahead then they would like a different access or if they change the plans then the access road would be fine.

Mr Anderson asked if anyone had anything else there would like to add or draw attention to.

Mrs Sinclair mentioned that the Met Office had concerns regarding the electromagnetic 'noise'. E&H have asked the Met Office to move their equipment, something to do with transformer interference.

Mr Anderson asked if members were happy to adjourn this item and wait to see if Bryan from Hjaltland turned up.

There were no objections so Mr Anderson thanked Mr and Mrs Sinclair for coming along.

Mr & Mrs Sinclair left the meeting at 8pm.

03/15/15

Additional Agenda Item – Police Report – Constable David Smith, Police Scotland

Constable Smith said that the detection rate was high at 81.9%. There had been an increase in the number of assaults reported, but detection rate remained high. It was hoped to extend the front desk and two posts are being advertised, first internally and then externally. He suggested that if anyone suitable sprang to mind, to let them know.

Regarding road safety issues they were continuing to monitor parking. The parking issues outside Bell's Brae School had led to meetings with the SIC Chief Executive, Education & Roads departments, in order to propose a solution. Liaison with Petrofac security had taken place, regarding reports of dangerous driving to and from the site in order to prevent that. On the issue of road safety, calls from the public had resulted in direct action been taken.

Mr Anderson queried what the new opening hours would be once the extra staff were in place.

Constable Smith replied that the station would be open from 8am until midnight.

Ms Fraser asked if due to the increase in assaults, they had seen any pattern or reason.

Constable Smith replied that they appeared to be random with no apparent trends, but said that the detection rate was high.

Mr Knight asked if he could let them know about on the spot fines for the area opposite the Post Office, along Commercial Street.

Constable Smith said that he could get that information.

Mr Anderson thanked Constable Smith for coming along and said that the figures were heartening.

Constable Smith left the meeting at 8.05pm

03/15/07

Informal consultation on proposed diversion of Staney Hill Road (PROW) along with co-existing Core Path CPPL06 (PROW), Lerwick, to enable the development of the new Anderson High School

Mr Anderson asked if there were any questions or concerns. He commented that it was his understanding that the red line marked on the map was the existing road. This was to be replaced by a new path. He pointed out the green line showing the new vehicle access that was planned.

Mr Carter enquired about vehicle access over existing road over Staney Hill Road.

Mr Knight stated that Staney Hill Road was a private road, but with right of access. He could see it being used by school pupils coming over the road, where more houses over the hill are planned.

Mr Carter stated that he had no objection.

Discussion ensued regarding the existing right of way and the future use in relation to any new housing development and access to the school.

Mr Anderson asked members for any comments on the actual proposal to divert the Public Right of Way. He proposed no objections to the plan.

Ms Fraser reminded members that the community council had tried to stop cars using the Staney Hill Road, as some cars were becoming a nuisance. As the lower part of the road is being re-aligned she proposed that we request that a new gate is provided across the bottom of the new access.

Mr Anderson asked if anybody was otherwise minded. He thanked Ms Fraser for her comments.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

03/15/08

Association of Shetland Community Councils – Meeting 18th April 2015 – Agenda Items

Mr Anderson informed members that he and Averil were happy to continue as representatives at the ASCC meetings. He asked if anyone had any items for the forthcoming agenda. No items were noted.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

03/15/09

Shetland Community Benefit Fund – List of Management Committee & Chairman's Report

Mr Anderson noted that LCC currently didn't have a representative on the SCBF and enquired if anyone was keen to represent LCC at SCBF meetings.

Ms Fraser responded that due to a lack of time she couldn't really take it on. She hoped to see things happen in future.

Mr Wenger said he was interested and asked when the meeting was.

Mr Ristori nominated Mr Wenger and Mr Carter seconded.

Mr Anderson thanked Arwed for accepting.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mr Anderson suggested that Mr Wenger's first task as LCC representative on the committee would be to enquire about community benefit from new and proposed wind turbines at Gremista and Dales Voe.

(Action: Mr Wenger)

03/15/10

Correspondence

10.1 Copland's Pier – Mr Robert Sinclair, Executive Manager – Capital Programme, SIC

Mr Anderson noted that the letter asks for suggestions of any groups who may want to take on the building, with the possible sale below market value. He asked if anyone had any ideas.

Discussion ensued regarding the state of the building. Mr Anderson asked if anyone had any ideas, they were to bring them to the community council or to Mr Robert Sinclair.

10.2 Parking Concerns – Chief Superintendent Julian Innes, Divisional Commander – Police Scotland

Mr Anderson noted that a letter had been received, but this had been surpassed by the local constabulary. He asked if there were any further questions.

10.3 Community Council By-Election 2015 – Anne Cogle, Deputy Returning Officer, SIC

Mr Anderson welcomed Peter and Amy to the community council, taking up office on 26 March. He thanked them for putting themselves forward. He commented that sadly some of the community councils were still poorly represented, but it was good to see that they had no vacancies.

10.4 Met Office Visit – Ms Jenny Challenger

The Chairman said that a visit between the preferred dates of 14 April until 21 May needed to be decided on. He suggested that a Saturday might suit the majority. Saturday 18th April was agreed upon.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

10.5 Road Sign for Shetland Museum – Dave Coupe, Executive Manger Roads, SIC

Mr Anderson noted the letter received from Mr Coupe and asked if anyone had any comments.

Ms Garrick-Wright commented that a number of folk had reported the fact they had been looking for the museum.

Mr Simpson said there was a need for further signs at the road entrance showing the way to Mareel and the Museum. She suggested we contact Shetland Arts.

Mr Anderson agreed and suggested a sign attached to the side of the council building at the North Ness.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

10.6 Community Development Fund – Open for bids

Mr Anderson informed members that the community council was entitled to apply for grant funding from the community development fund. They were hoping to complete two separate applications, one grant of £3K for the distribution fund to disperse to community groups and organisations. An opportunity for a further £1k could be applied for a specific project. He asked if anyone had any proposals.

Discussion took place about signs for a few sites in Lerwick such as Queen's Lane, Tollbooth and Lodberries. These had been mentioned before and both Shetland Amenity Trust and Douglas Sinclair were keen for moving forward with this.

Other suggestions made were information for existing road names, and a tree planting scheme for behind Netherdale.

The costs of the projects and the timeframe for spending grant funding was discussed. Members agreed to try and secure funding and were happy with the idea for the information boards.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

10.7 Dog Control – Willum Spence, Executive Manager, Environmental Services, SIC

Mr Anderson pointed out that Mr Spence had come in with Dog Owners leaflets. He informed members that signs would be put up in the spring time.

Mr Spence said you can put sign up asking for dogs on a lead, but you can't stop dog fouling. If anybody knows of any incidents they can be reported. The poster will emphasise that. Using text, folk can report anonymously when and where. They plan to put wardens around. Plans are to put the contact number up on signage and painting on pathways.

03/15/11

Applications for Grant Funding

11.1 Junior Up-Helly-Aa – Ian Spence – Shared toilet within small shed

The chairman outlined the project from the application form. The grant requested from the community council was £4600, with a project cost of £5400, which included a donated labour charge of £800.

Mr Ristori asked about the link to the sewer.

Mr Johnson declared an interest, as member of the committee. He said they had been trying to get a connection, but it was going to be impossible.

Mr Fraser mentioned that at the last mass meeting of guisers, they were in a relatively healthy financial predicament. He suggested that the Up-Helly-Aa Committee might be able to help with this project and that we could forward this application on behalf of the Junior Up-Helly-Aa.

Mr Anderson suggested we could inform them of alternative sources of funding. He wondered if this might be something that the CDF project could support and would save us time next week.

Mrs Christie stated that the project funded by the Community Development Fund, had to be carried out by the community council. She would check this out with Michael Duncan.

Mr Anderson asked about the estimated free funds at the end of the financial year, which was at the end of the month. He made it clear to new members that even though the grant application was for £4600, the council might offer an amount of funding towards it.

Mr Carter proposed the community council offering a grant of £2,000.

Mr Knight seconded the proposal.

Mr Anderson asked if there was anyone otherwise minded. As there were no further proposals, a grant of £2,000 was awarded.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

03/15/12 **Financial Report**

Noted.

Mrs Pat Christie left the meeting at 9pm.

03/15/13 **13.2 2015/040/PPF – (Continued)**

Mr Anderson asked if anyone had any other proposals.

Mr Knight said that he was sure that if the access was moved, the folk would live with the development.

Mr Anderson asked if there were any other comments.

Cllr Wishart asked if everyone had seen the application and letters of objection.

Discussion ensued regarding the letters of objection submitted by a number of people. The need for an objection coming from the statutory consultee, such as the Lerwick Community Council.

Mr Anderson proposed that they had no objections. 450 were on the waiting list; of that eight-five percent were looking for one-two bedroom housing. He asked members to think back two years ago, regarding, North Staney Hill and Pegasus Place;

there was a similar objection at that point. He said they needed to look at the demand and that was for one and two bedroom housing.

Mr Fraser expressed concern that the objections may simply be 'not in my back yard'. He said speaking about stigma earlier on this evening, there was a need to integrate everyone.

Mrs Simpson stated that was not a reason, not to build the houses.

Mr Anderson reminded everyone that the objectors had stated that the existing neighbours were not a problem.

Mrs Simpson seconded the proposal.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

13.2 2015/037/PPF – Change of use from offices to residential apartments – 92 St Olaf Street, Lerwick – Mr N Timberlake

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

13.3 2015/050/PPF – Change use of first and second floor to a flat – 141 Commercial Street, Lerwick – Mr Raymond Watt

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

13.4 2015/063/VCON – To vary condition 24 of Planning Permission 2014/117/PPF to vary construction hours – Clickimin, North Lochside, Lerwick – SIC

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Additional Agenda Items

13.5 2015/061/PPF – 11 Hill Lane, Lerwick – Change use from office to nursery

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

13.6 2015/062/PPF – 51 St Olaf Street, Lerwick – Conversion of existing dwelling house into 4 separate units.

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

03/15/14

Any Other Business

Parking large vehicles

Mr Ristori asked about the rules for parking vehicles in residential areas for long periods, overnight.

Mr Anderson said that he was aware that HGV vehicles required a 'O' licence and be parked in a designated yard or depot overnight, but was unsure if the regulations extended to PSV vehicles.

Mr Ristori said that he had seen up to four a night parked in King Harold Street, and that it was like, a game of dodgems, driving from Harbour Street to Scalloway Road.

CLlr Wishart queried if it was not simply a police matter.

Mr Anderson requested Clerk to write expressing concern to Roads and copy to Police Scotland.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Crossing for South Road

Mr Fraser raised concern about the need for a safe crossing on the South Road. Families in West Baila properties have reported the need, so children can make use of the play park and amenities across the road.

Mr Anderson replied that we received representation to Roads at that time. Unfortunately there was no support, as there was not the vehicle count. Look at push to 30mph. He asked the clerk to look out the minute and send to Mr Fraser.

Ms Fraser mentioned that it was more to do with the number of driveways along the road. Legally more length needed.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Garrison Theatre

Mr Carter said that he had been approached about the Garrison Theatre been starved of support. He said that the Garrison Theatre was part of the heritage of Lerwick. He wondered if we could make these concerns known and perhaps invite someone from the Shetland Arts Trust to review the situation.

Mr Anderson agreed that we should invite Mr Graeme Howell, General Manager to come along to the meeting.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....