

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

**Present**

Mr J Anderson  
Mr R Anderson  
Cllr L Angus  
Cllr G Feather  
Ms K Fraser  
Cllr J Henry  
Mr A Johnston

Cllr E Knight  
Mr J MacLeod  
Mr T Nicolson  
Mr M Peterson  
Mr P Scarsbrook  
Mrs A Simpson

**Additional Co-Opted Member**

Mr W Spence

**In Attendance**

PS G McCarthy, Police Station, Lerwick  
Shetland Times Reporter  
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

05/11/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

05/11/02 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Cluness, Cllr J Irvine and Mr M Shearer.

The Chairman took the opportunity to extend his sympathies to Cllr Irvine following the death of his wife Maureen. It was agreed to write a letter of condolence to Cllr Irvine and his family.

He noted that he had received a letter of resignation from Mr I Bruce, and he stated he was sad to see him leaving Lerwick Community Council but understood the pressures of work commitments. It was agreed to write and thank Mr Bruce for his time, which was very valued.

05/11/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2005 were approved by Mr J Anderson and seconded by Mr M Peterson.

05/11/04

**Business Arising**

**05/09/05 Speeding Motorists at Lochside**

The Chairman noted that Shetland Islands Council were preparing a report for the Roads Committee. It had been asked following the last meeting that the traffic indicator be erected at Lochside. The Chairman felt this did deter speeding, but had been informed that for many other people it has an adverse effect.

**05/10/11 Financial Report**

Mr M Peterson asked if the Association of Shetland Community Councils had met yet and discussed the guidelines on payment of grants.

Mr R Anderson stated that it had been agreed to pass it to the Liaison Group for discussion. However, this group was convened by Mr J Riise of SIC Legal & Admin and to date no meeting had been arranged. Mr Anderson will report back to Lerwick Community Council when he could.

05/11/05

**Police Report**

548 incidents in Lerwick

25 Breaches of the Peace

6 Thefts

7 Assaults

3 Drink Drivers detained

1 Drug Driver detained

7 Road Accidents

15 Drunk People

18 Fixed Penalties issued

19 Drug Searches

12 Vandalisms

2 Fires

8 Missing Persons

1 Shop Lifting

Dogs Against Drugs had been used on 26 occasions

PS G McCarthy noted that this had been a busy period. The special constables were being used regularly and were proving to be very helpful. They will continue to deploy officers to areas of concern, such as Lochside. He was aware that a report was going before the Roads Committee, but did not know what was recommended within the report.

He agreed the Intelligent Road Sign was a very useful tool, as it told law abiding motorists to keep their speed down. It was also possible to gather evidence of speed habits, although not individual motorists. However, a small minority will have a burst of speed to see how high they can make the indicator go. There was a built in mechanism to stop the indicator from displaying in these cases, and it was used to discourage speeding motorists.

Cllr L Angus noted that at a recent meeting of Councilors and Roads Engineers, the engineers had advised against a permanent speed indicator.

PS McCarthy agreed that it was not a good idea to use the indicator as a permanent solution as motorists got used to it and started to ignore it. Also it

was needed in other areas of Shetland, not just in Lochside, so worked more effectively if it was moved from place to place.

Cllr J Henry asked if officers had noticed any difference in the speed of motorists on the A970 at Baila where a lot of checks had been carried out recently.

PS McCarthy noted that they used to catch a lot of people exceeding the speed limit in this area but recently there had not been the same level of speeding or numbers of speeding motorists. He felt the speed in this area was slowly coming down. He thought the police presence was having the desired effect.

Mr R Anderson asked where they were now with the proposed CCTV cameras, and PS McCarthy confirmed that they were still awaiting to receive a quote from a third company before they can move on.

The Chairman asked if anyone had been charged with the vandalisms to the lighting at Clickimin Broch and PS McCarthy confirmed that one 14 year old had been reported to the Reporter of the Children's Panel.

The Chairman thanked him for attending and he left the meeting at 7.20pm.

05/11/07

#### **Elections - Mr J Riise, SIC Legal & Administration**

The Chairman confirmed that Mr Riise had been unable to attend as he had injured his back. This item would be included on the agenda for the December meeting. He had been invited along to keep the members informed of boundary changes, etc, prior to next year's Community Council elections.

Mr J MacLeod asked if, due to the length of time that will elapse before the Liaison Group is convened, would it be possible for Mr Riise to give his opinion on the restrictions on paying grants, as he felt Lerwick Community Council were not currently acting strictly within the guidelines.

The Chairman agreed to ask Mr Riise for his view. He noted, however, that any changes to the guidelines had to be done through the Liaison Group.

Mr MacLeod said he disagreed with the use of the guidelines, as LCC regularly gave to groups in "exceptional circumstances".

Mr M Peterson asked if there was a code of conduct for Community Council members as he did not appear to have a copy.

The Chairman confirmed that there was, and he instructed the Clerk to send out a copy to each member.

#### **Tavish Scott - Free Travel for Pensioners' Scheme**

The Chairman noted that this item had been received too late to be included on the agenda, but he felt it should have been, and he distributed copies of the consultation to the meeting.

Mr R Anderson expressed his concern that Cllr W Stove had requested air travel to be made available instead of sea travel, and noted that many people would like to take the boat if they were travelling with their cars. He stated that to satisfy the wishes of all, they should have an option as to whether they could travel by air or sea.

The Chairman agreed to write to Tavish Scott again clarifying the wishes of Lerwick Community Council.

Cllr L Angus asked if the opinion of the Association of Shetland Community Council was known at this time and noted that it would not be effective lobbying the Scottish Executive without the support of ASCC.

The Chairman agreed to send them a copy of the letter to Mr Scott.

05/11/07

#### **Lighting at Clickimin Broch**

The Chairman noted that the lights had not been operational since they were extensively damaged a few months ago, and that it had been agreed LCC would discuss whether to continue funding the cost of lighting and maintenance.

He referred to a report from the Clerk which noted that the lighting had cost £5573 in the last 3 years to maintain and run. Repairing the last lot of damaged lights would cost just over £1000. He had received a phone call from a member of the public who had offered to make stainless steel covers for the lights and he was due to meet with him to discuss this further.

Mr J MacLeod asked if Historic Scotland had been approached to contribute to the cost as they light other public buildings in Shetland.

Mr M Peterson noted that Historic Scotland had not had a custodian for the Broch for over 2 years. When there was a custodian in place he was only instructed to lock the top gate on South Road, and not the high fence and gate at the bottom of the path. He felt they had a duty of care to Clickimin Broch and to the public. They had also removed a sign from the South Road gate stating that anyone under the age of 16 had to be accompanied by an adult.

Mrs A Simpson felt that a locked gate would be no deterrent to youngsters who were determined to vandalise the lights and thought that there should be more people watching the area at night.

Cllr L Angus suggested that Lerwick Community Council continue to meet the cost of lighting and maintenance, and that they write to Historic Scotland to arrange for the gate to be locked each night. Mr R Anderson seconded this.

05/11/08

**Correspondence**

**8.1 Disabled Parking Space - Noted.**

**8.2 Scottish Health Council**

The Chairman suggested inviting them to a meeting in the future to give their views on NHS 24 and the Lerwick Health Centre's new telephone system. He agreed that there were bound to be teething trouble with any new system but these were both causing concern.

05/11/09

**Financial Report**

Noted

05/11/10

**Draft Financial Statement**

Mr R Anderson moved to accept the statement, seconded by Mr J MacLeod.

05/11/11

**Planning - Change of Use to Food Takeaway, 11 Harbour Street**

No objections.

05/11/12

**Any Other Business**

**Coastal Erosion**

Mr W Spence noted that grass bank between the fence and shore at the Sands of Sound was diminishing and stated his concern at the rate of coastal erosion.

Cllr L Angus noted that the area from the Sands of Sound to Dales Voe needed to be the subject of the Waterfront Trust, but the planners appeared reluctant to include the Sands of Sound. He suggested writing to the Chief Executive saying that this situation was becoming urgent. He also noted that the Sletts had eroded to such an extent that emergency remedial work was about to be carried out to protect it.

Mr J Anderson expressed his concern at the extent of work being carried out at the Sletts and Cllr L Angus confirmed that the work would be graded out by 60 metres to protect the roadway.

The Chairman agreed to write and to request the plans for work in this area.

**Old Cemetery, Knab Road - Dykes**

Cllr L Angus stated that he had never received a response from Shetland Islands Council regarding the condition of dykes around the Old Cemetery, Knab Road, which were deteriorating badly. Recent works in the area had weakened them further and parts of it may soon need to be demolished if remedial works are not undertaken urgently.

Some of the memorials are built right into the walls, so any demolition of the dykes will cause destruction to the memorials, and distress to the public. It was agreed to write to Jim Grant at Shetland Islands Council noting that the

whole wall was in serious need of repair, and a structural engineer's report would have to be done.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

MR T R NICOLSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL