

MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2010

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson
Mr W Stove left **8.05pm**
Ms K Fraser
Mr W Spence
Mrs K Greaves

Mr J Anderson
Mr A Henry
Mr A Johnson
Mr M Peterson left **8.40pm**

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr C Miller left **8.40pm**
Cllr C Smith left **8.40pm**
Cllr A Wishart left **8.40pm**

Cllr J Henry
Cllr L Angus

Additional Co-opted Members

Ms Caitlin Watt

Mr Jordan Thomason

In Attendance

Chief Inspector Bushell, Northern Constabulary
Mr I Kinniburgh, Chairman, Shetland NHS Board
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

10/01/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

10/01/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from PS B Gray, Mr E Knight, Mr D Ristori and Cllr J Wills.

10/01/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2009 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Ms K Greaves.

10/01/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

09/12/11 Proposed Parking Charges at Sumburgh Airport by Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) Mr Peterson asked the Clerk of the Council to correct the spelling of his name from 'Paterson'.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/12/06 Item 6.14 Information Boards – Proposed Knab Viewpoint

Mr L Angus asked if the amendments noted at the meeting had been passed on the Shetland Amenity Trust.

The Clerk advised she had had a meeting with Mr Alan Blaine, Shetland Amenity Trust that morning and the suggested amendments would be discussed at the Trust meeting 13 January 2010.

It was agreed a draft including the amendments would be send to Lerwick Community Council for approval.

09/12/06 Item 6.16 Proposed Future Governance of Shetland Charitable Trust

Cllr J Henry noted his disappointment that less than 100 responses had been received by Shetland Charitable Trust.

He advised there would be a public meeting on Thursday 11 February 2010.

10/01/05

Police Report

PS B Gray did not attend the meeting but emailed the following crime analysis for December 2009 compared to that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 13 to 15, with 14 detections
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 16 to 23, with 20 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 242 to 275, of which 185 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 255 to 214, of which 94 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 174 to 138, all detected
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Down from 488 to 376, with 352 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 381 to 370, with 365 detections

The Chairman introduced Chief Inspector D Bushell.

Chief Inspector D Bushell stated he had been in the post since August 2009 and was keen to make sure there was a consistent approach as to how Community Councils were kept informed. He advised that if an officer could not attend a meeting a written report would be sent instead.

He advised funding had been secured to appoint a Traffic Warden/Caretaker on a part-time basis and he hoped someone would be in the post by Easter 2010.

He stated he was keen for the Traffic Warden to take a pro-active approach and visit Schools, Youth Clubs and Nurseries.

Cllr J Henry asked if a police presence could be provided at Sound School at the start and close of the school day. He explained that many cars could be seen parking on yellow lines and was concerned at the danger this may cause to children.

Chief Inspector D Bushell advised he would take Cllr J Henry's comments on board.

Cllr C Miller expressed concern at the recent spate of vandalism and the breaking of shop windows in Commercial Street. She asked when CCTV would be up and running.

The Inspector stated he hoped it would be very soon. He explained that the system, which was hoped to have gone live just before Christmas, had been delayed due to technical issues. He advised that everything was in place and once the technical issue was addressed CCTV could begin running.

He noted that if CCTV had been live, perhaps the vandalism would not have taken place, or at the very least the perpetrators would be more easily identified.

Chief Inspector D Bushell went on to advise the Force was showing success in all areas and had certainly disrupted the drug trade. He stressed the importance of support from the public by way of reporting any suspicious activity.

He advised they had a good detection rate regarding road crimes and would continue to concentrate on the crimes which could cause accidents, for example, speeding, using mobile phones and not wearing seat belts.

He stated he encouraged his officers, to be accessible and on patrol and visible either in vehicles or on foot.

Mr L Angus stated he was delighted to hear the pro-active approach to drug crimes and welcomed the employment of a Traffic Warden. He noted he was anxious to have a traffic management plan for Lerwick.

Mr L Angus stated there were areas of road where the yellow lines were obliterated by road works, particularly in Market Cross, Commercial Road and the south end of Commercial Street. He asked if the new Traffic Warden could take note and report to Roads, SIC.

Chief Inspector D Bushell agreed that eroded yellow lines caused confusion and in all fairness road markings should be made as clear as possible. He advised he would take note and stated he was hopeful to work hand in hand with Roads Department, SIC.

Mr W Stove advised some road signs were also unclear and caused confusion. He stated concern was first raised with Roads department, SIC two years ago, but nothing had been done. He hoped the police could work together with SIC to rectify the situation.

Mr W Stove asked if the Traffic Warden could issue fixed penalty fines.

Chief Inspector D Bushell advised that the Traffic Warden could issue fixed penalty fines for minor offences such as parking crimes. He explained it would be up to the discretion of the Warden as to whether a ticket was issued or a warning given.

Mrs K Greaves expressed her concern regarding youths and vandalism and asked if officers visited schools on a regular basis.

Chief Inspector D Bushell stated that throughout his career he had a regular involvement with schools. He thought it was an excellent approach to engage with schools and youth groups and advised a drugs programme co-ordinated by specially trained officers had also proved beneficial.

Mrs K Greaves asked if there was a Police presence in areas where crimes had previously been committed.

Chief Inspector D Bushell replied that although people may comment that officers were not seen in an area it did not mean there was not a Police presence. He explained there was a technical way of working out the patrol patterns, the system was very detailed and based on calls, demand, intelligence and where and when it was thought incidences may occur.

He stated that although quite detailed organisation went into the patrols they could be disrupted by a call and affirmed that every area was patrolled to some extent but it varied according to need.

He advised officers would patrol in marked vehicles, unmarked vehicles, in high vis clothing or dark uniforms.

Chief Inspector D Bushell again stressed the importance of public input and advised his door was always open if anyone had issues or concerns they wished to discuss.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector D Bushell for attending the meeting.

Chief Inspector D Bushell left the meeting at 7.30pm.

10/01/06

Mr I Kinniburgh, Newly Appointed Chairman, Shetland NHS Board

Mr I Kinniburgh advised he was appointed Chairman of Shetland NHS Board in August and had been on the board for seven years and in Shetland for twenty.

He stated that for the first two years of his employment with the Board, Shetland NHS was in a position of growth but for the last five had been struggling to balance the books. He stated they were cutting back on expenditure and saving money through efficiency so there was no impact on front line service, however, things were becoming increasingly difficult and services may potentially be affected.

Mr I Kinniburgh advised Shetland NHS Board had commissioned a piece of work to look at whole clinical strategy and look at property strategy for 3-5 years and engage the public on how services are delivered.

He stated it was their intent to involve the public at the beginning in order to arrive at a variety of options.

Mr I Kinniburgh stated they had been advised by Edinburgh that the Board's had been performing well and an independent inspection had taken place at the hospital by the Health Care Environment Inspectorate (HEI). He advised the report was due at the end of January and any comments would be taken on board.

He stated he was aware people were not happy with the performance of the Lerwick GP practice, in particular difficulty in getting appointments. He advised they were now operating a triage service which had been in place for 2-3 months.

He explained that in the past people had been registered with a Doctor but now it was with the practice. This often led to dissatisfaction as some people only wanted to see a particular GP which could lead to increased waiting time for an appointment.

Mr Kinniburgh advised an additional GP had been appointed in an attempt to reduce the waiting time for an appointment and this had helped a little.

* He stated that taking into account the number of people registered at the Lerwick surgery there were 4,000 appointments made each month compared to 3,000 at other comparable practices, one third more appointments made.

He stated that there was a need to understand why this was the case as it was not thought that people were more ill.

Mr I Kinniburgh advised there was still a difficulty where people created problems by going for repeat visits until they were given the answer they wanted.

Mr I Kinniburgh went on to discuss parking provision, an area of concern which had been raised by members of Lerwick Community Council at previous meetings.

He advised car parking facilities were available at Brevik where staff had been asked to park whenever possible. A large area of car parking, earmarked for patients, would be available once DITT moved from the site and again staff would be discouraged but not prohibited from parking there.

Mr I Kinniburgh stated there were 2,000 people who waiting to register at a Dentist. This paved the way to create a new dental practice and encourage an independent Dentist to come to Shetland.

Mr W Spence asked if people from the country getting appointments at Lerwick Doctors could in some way account for the 50% more appointments per month at Lerwick Doctors compared to other comparable practices.

Mr I Kinniburgh stated he believed this was not the case as you had to be registered at the practice to get an appointment.

Cllr C Miller enquired as to the percentage of people failing to turn up for an appointment.

Mr I Kinniburgh replied that it was 5%.

8.05 Mr W Stove left the meeting

Mrs K Greaves asked if any research had been done as to what symptoms came up and asked if they could be psychosomatic or attributed to SAD.

Mr I Kinniburgh advised he was not aware of any pattern like SAD but work had been commissioned to look into all possibilities. He advised if it was something like SAD it would be expected to be seen at other Shetland practices, not just the Lerwick practice.

The Chairman asked if Mr I Kinniburgh still hoped it was possible to have a new hospital or would they persevere with the current site.

He replied that it appeared more difficult than ever to get a new hospital but it remained the aspiration of the Board.

Cllr A Wishart asked if the Triage system was proving a success.

Mr I Kinniburgh replied it was too soon to tell as it had only been in place for 2-3 months, however, it had proved successful elsewhere and so far feedback was positive.

Ms K Fraser raised concern regarding the hygiene issues surrounding Aberdeen Hospital as many Shetlanders had to use the hospital.

Mr I Kinniburgh replied that a significant amount of pressure had been put on the hospital to improve their standards and by the time the report was published positive changes were already in place.

He advised the hospital had received an unannounced visit within a month of the report and all major issues had been tackled and standards met.

The Chairman thanked Mr I Kinniburgh for his report which concluded at 8.10pm

Note

***Figures corrected post meeting**

10/01/07

Correspondence

7.1 SIC Corporate Plan: Action Plan for the Maintenance, Improvement and Use of Road Network – Mr Neil Robertson, Network Engineer, Roads, SIC (Maps for plotting will be brought to the January meeting)

Roads requiring improvement were noted to be Knab Road; South Commercial Street; Commercial Street; South Road and foot of Mill Lane.

It was also agreed that yellow lines should be repainted where necessary and a pelican crossing installed on King Harald Street near Cockatoo Brae to assist children safely walking to school and going to the parks.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.2 Litter Issue, Plastic Foam Cups and Trays – Ms Lillian Leslie, Education & Social Care, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to request a more detailed response from Val Hall.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.3 Conservation Grant Scheme, Replacement Windows – Ms Gwenan Hughes, Planning Officer, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to request a copy of the draft revised Grant Scheme from Ms Gwenan Hughes, Planning Officer, SIC.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.4 Traffic Warden – Mr Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC

Noted

7.5 Traffic warden for town to be appointed in the New Year - News Item,

[www.shetland Times.co.uk](http://www.shetlandtimes.co.uk)

Noted

7.6 Planning Application Consultations – Mr Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC

Noted

7.7 Proposed Future Governance of Shetland Charitable Trust, Letter of Acknowledgement – Ms Ann Black, General Manager, Shetland Charitable Trust

Noted

7.8 106 King Harald Street, Mould Growth on Wall – Kristina Leask, Technical Officer, Housing, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to include the letter in the February agenda in order for Mr D Ristori to comment.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.9 Area between Cee & Jays and Baroc – Mr Michael Laurenson, Director, Cee & Jays

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to chase a response from Mr Ma.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.10 Tunester – Grant Acknowledgement

Noted

10/01/08

Discuss – Current Public Unrest and Concern Regarding Shetland Islands Council and the Perception that the Council is Failing

Mr L Angus advised he was unsure what the item was saying but if perception was that the Council is failing he would like to know where it is failing. He stated that, without being complacent, he felt a high quality service was being provided compared to that in other places.

He noted that he was not trying to pretend there were not issues which needed to be addressed but felt that overall a good service was provided by Shetland Islands Council.

Mrs K Greaves advised she was surprised Councillors were unaware of public concern and stated she had heard a great deal of complaints. Those included Mareel, Bressay Tunnel, Viking Energy, Proposed New Anderson High School, Shetland Charitable Trust, Standards Commission, 12 million given to SBS and Judane's £400,000 worth of debt, written off by SIC.

CLlr C Miller declared an interest.

Cllr A Wishart stated the complaint given by Mrs K Greaves regarding SBS was incorrect as there had been a sale and leaseback agreement.

He went on to advise that Shetland Charitable Trust had managed 2 ½ billion over the last 30 years and noted that if the costs for all the mistakes were added up it would come to less than 1%. He stated that he was trying to put things into perspective, not make an excuse.

Cllr A Wishart advised that the projects had generated a lot of trade and employment but Shetland Islands Council were bad at "telling their story" and this had to change.

Mr L Angus stated that there were spectacular losses but less than 1% was more favorable than the 30% reckoned by any development agency. However, he conceded that 1% losses was noticeable in a small place like Shetland.

He noted Cllr A Wishart's statement that the projects created trade and employment was a point well made and pointed out that although the incinerator was a "big white elephant" and a "financial disaster" it gave employment and had environmental benefits.

Mr L Angus stated that without investment there would be no Salmon Farms and arguably no White Fish Fleet

Cllr A Wishart stated Councillors were painfully aware of what was being said and efforts had to be made to "steer people around".

The Chairman noted it was possible that people were becoming concerned as they had the impression that, financially, 'the end is nigh' and are waking up to the fact that the 'golden years' are running out.

Cllr A Wishart stated Councillors did have to get more balance news out and advised it was essential to see that children and grandchildren have a future.

8.40 Cllr A Wishart, Mr M Peterson, Cllr C Miller and Cllr C Smith left the meeting.

10/01/09

Financial Report

Noted

10/01/10

Financial Assistance

St Magnus Church – New Bell

Mr L Angus proposed a grant of £500 should be made.

Mrs A Simpson proposed the grant offered should be £1,000 and Mrs K Greaves seconded Mrs A Simpson's proposal.

Mr L Angus withdrew his proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/01/11

Planning Applications

No applications received

10/01/12

Lerwick Applications December 2010

2009/378/PCD Mrs K Greaves stated she thought the footprint of the extension looked quite large and would investigate further.

(Action: Mrs K Greaves)

10/01/13

Any Other Business

SIC (South End, Lerwick) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2010 and Knab Road , Lerwick: Road Humps Traffic Calming Scheme

The above order arrived too late for inclusion in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion.

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

SIC (King Harald Street, Lerwick) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2010

The above order arrived too late for inclusion in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion.

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

North Ness Car Parking

Mr L Angus raised concern that agreed additional car parking spaces, planned for North Ness, to accommodate parking for Mareel and new Social Care Council offices had been dropped.

He stated the car parking facilities for the area were already insufficient.

The Chairman noted that during a presentation by Mr Craig Nicolson, Senior Project Manager, Capital Projects, SIC to discuss planning application 2009/228/PCD - Erect Office Accommodation, North Ness Business Park (**Minute Ref 09/09/10**), provision was planned for 122 car parking spaces.

Mr L Angus advised that due to cost the proposed parking facilities had been dropped.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Craig Nicolson, Senior Project manager, Capital Projects, SIC and ask for reassurance that sufficient car parking spaces would be provided at North Ness to accommodate the proposed new Social Care Office, Mareel and Museum overspill.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Ms K Fraser stated SIC should come up with a plan to reduce the use of cars.

Mrs K Greaves noted people from all over Shetland worked in Lerwick and needed the use of their cars.

Blocked Drain – Burgh Road

Mrs A Simpson stated she had reported a blocked drain which was overflowing with raw sewerage on the morning of Christmas Eve but no one came out to tend to it until the first working day after New Year.

The Chairman stated that as Scottish Water had previously been called out to the same spot on several occasions they should be written to and asked to remedy the problem on a permanent basis.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL