

**MONDAY 14 JULY 2008**

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

**Members**

Mr J Anderson  
Mrs A Simpson  
Mr D Ristori  
Mr L Angus  
Mr W Spence

Mrs K Greaves  
Mrs M Robertson  
Ms K Fraser  
Mr R Leith

**Ex-Officio Councilors**

Cllr C Miller **left 8.15pm**  
Cllr J Henry

Cllr A Wishart  
Cllr J Wills

**In Attendance**

PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary  
Mr Ryan Taylor, Shetland Times Reporter  
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

08/07/01

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

08/07/02

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr L Henry, Mr A Johnson and Cllr C Smith

08/07/03

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2008 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr W Spence

08/07/04

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**08/06/06** Mrs K Greaves raised the subject of the poor visibility of signs indicating restrictions to driving on Commercial Street.

She asked if there had been any feedback from Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council following his intention to make them more visible.

The Clerk stated no information had been received.

The Chairman suggested that the area of Commercial Street between Church Road and Market Cross could become a two way system, as this may alleviate the problem of just cars driving through with no intention to actually parking.

08/07/05

**Police Report**

PS B Gray provided the following details of offences compared to those of the same time last year.

Class 3 - Crimes against the person – up from 3 to 5, all detected  
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – down from 10 to 4, of which 3 were detected  
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – down from 84 to 64, of which 51 were detected  
Class 4 - Crimes of vandalism – up from 64 to 101, of which 83 were detected  
Class 5 - General Crimes – up from 52 to 53, with 51 detections  
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – up from 139 to 151, with 148 detections  
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – down from 188 to 153, all detected

Mr L Angus asked what the classifications stood for.

PS B Gray noted the following; Class 1 – Crimes against the person, Class 2 - crimes involving indecency, Class 3 – crimes involving dishonesty, Class 4 – predominantly vandalism, Class 5 – other crimes, Class 6 – miscellaneous offences and Class 7 - road traffic offences.

He stated the main difference between Class 5 and Class 6 crimes were that Class 5 crimes were predominantly common law crimes whereas Class 6 crimes were statutory offences.

PS B Gray reported an overall detection rate of 93% and stated this was well above average for Northern Constabulary.

He stated much of their successful detection rate could be attributed to the assistance of the general public.

Mrs K Greaves noted that since the loss of a Traffic Warden the problem of cars parking on double yellow lines and restricted areas seemed to be on the increase.

PS B Gray stated officers were policing the street, particularly on a Saturday. He noted 6 or 7 tickets had been issued, one to someone who had received one the previous week.

He stated that unfortunately there would always be an element of those who would not take heed.

The Chairman asked if parking offences were included in the Traffic Offences section of the report.

PS B Gray replied that they were not.

Ms K Fraser enquired if the fire in the bins at the Grand Hotel had been deliberate.

PS B Gray replied someone had been traced and charged with the offence.

Mr R Leith stated that as a delivery driver he had to drive on Commercial Street up to six times a day. He noted that one establishment had seating and tables outside their premises where people would be eating before 11.30am when the street was not fully pedestrianised.

He pointed out the impossibility of driving past and asked the Sergeant if this practice should be allowed before 11.30am.

PS B Gray replied that if the establishment was obstructing the public road by encouraging their customers to use the seating and eat outside, drivers should call the police and they would come down and try to resolve the situation amicably.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for the report concluded at 7.15pm

08/07/06

**Bullet Point Report from Meeting with Mr Craig Harrow, Tesco Corporate Affairs**

Noted

08/07/07

**Correspondence**

**7.1 Cllr J Wills – Email and reply – Proposed new Anderson High School**

Noted

**7.2 Cllr J Wills – Comments and questions on the report ‘New Anderson High School Project; Way Forward’**

Mr L Angus stated the current plans were to move the footprint of the school downhill towards the east and investigate if A block, containing asbestos, could be safely demolished while still running the school.

He stated the proposals were undergoing a complete investigation, plans were being prepared for consultation and a traffic impact assessment will be undertaken to assess the impact it will have while the new school is undergoing construction.

Mr L Angus stated that some concern had been expressed as to why the alternative site evaluation did not include lower Staney Hill and a request had been made for the area to be included.

He noted there was still a great deal of uncertainty and lack of information.

The Chairman stated he understood the current games hall was to be retained and asked if it was included in the maximum 15,000m<sup>2</sup> floor area.

Mr L Angus stated that it was included; the council would proceed on the basis the school was no more than 15,000m<sup>2</sup>.

The Chairman noted that the Clickimin was currently already being used by pupils for swimming and some dry sports and stated the loss of the gymnasium would mean less facilities for pupils than at present.

Mr L Angus affirmed that would be the case.

The Chairman noted the project team was now going to do a report as to why the current site had been chosen. He felt this was rather putting the ‘cart before the horse’.

Mr L Angus stated the choice of the Knab site had been arrived at democratically and plans would continue on that basis until proven unsafe to do so.

He noted he could give no further information other than to say costs had been capped at 49 million based on a cost per square meter. There was still uncertainty if the Janet Courtney Hostel can or will be demolished as it is listed.

Mrs A Simpson asked if anything had been done to delist the building.

Mr L Angus stated an application could be made to demolish the building but not to delist it and this had not been done.

Mrs M Robertson enquired if residents in the area would be consulted when things were further forward.

Mr L Angus replied that they certainly would and it was hoped issues could be resolved amicably.

Mrs A Simpson enquired if the extra costs in demolishing A Block were known and expressed concern of the safety aspect in light of the asbestos contained within the building.

Mr L Angus stated costs depended on how safely the building could be demolished and if pupils would have to be decanted.

Cllr J Wills stated the political management of the project was a scandal and external auditors should be called. He noted there had been three failed design attempts on an unsuitable site leading to a waste of 2.6million.

He stated it was obvious A Block could not be demolished safely and 20% of pupils would have to be decanted. He pointed out teachers and head teachers were promised there would be no disruption or decanting 2 ½ years ago.

Cllr J Wills stated lower Staney Hill had deliberately been left out of the alternative site evaluation.

The Chairman noted the wet heating system was rusting and in a very poor state of repair. He stated that it was unlikely to last much longer and needed priority.

Mrs A Simpson stated the same heating system was used at the hostel and if it failed pupils would have to be sent home.

Cllr A Wishart stated the consultation process had been severely lacking, particularly in the early stages and more and more issues come to light as time goes on.

He stated it was time to 'think out of the box' and look at alternative sites. He pointed out that lower Staney Hill should be reconsidered, as over the years construction methods had improved and there may no longer be problems where there was before.

He noted there was now an agreement to recruit a project manager to oversee the project.

Mrs A Simpson enquired if the position had been advertised.

Cllr A Wishart replied that it had not.

Mr L Angus noted that any prospective Project Manager must have a proven record of undertaking projects of the size and style of the proposed new AHS.

He stated that as a Community Council we were 'all over the place' and if Lerwick Community Council wanted to object or comment it should be done in a concise manner.

He pointed out that at the last council meeting it was stated that whatever had to be spent should be spent to keep the school going to a certain standard.

Mr L Angus stated he had been assured by the contractors that the asbestos problem could be dealt with safely.

Mrs K Greaves asked if it was usual to have a preferred contractor but no plans.

Mr L Angus replied it was known as 'early contractor involvement', it was more usual to approach an architect and then a contractor. He stated that he had initially found it a concern but had been assured by the Capital Projects Team that they had found the 'best deal in town'.

He stated that as a Community Council concerns should lie more with where the school is built rather than the size.

Cllr J Henry stated that as a Community Council we should recommend that the school is made safe.

The Chairman noted that he would like to be assured the Council would not allow pupils to use the school if it was unsafe.

Cllr J Wills pointed out that until we know if A Block can be demolished safely we do not know if it is acceptable to continue on the current site and expert advice needed to be sought.

Cllr L Angus stated that the original feasibility study on the Knab site deemed the existing road network unable to cope.

The Chairman called for the need to stop and take stock of all the options, everything it will affect and all the hard facts.

He noted it seemed senseless to spend more money on another design which would be wasted if the Knab site proved to be unsuitable.

Cllr A Wishart stated we could not comment until we had all the facts but Lerwick Community Council could ask questions.

He thought it was good to have an idea of the size of the school, the structure and the facilities – the design could be tweaked.

Mr M Robertson enquired if, given the poor state of repair of Bells Brae school, Shetland Islands Council would consider building a school to house both primary and high school pupils.

Cllr J Wills noted it was an issue people were both for and against for a variety of reasons.

Mrs M Robertson asked why the idea was not considered.

Cllr A Wishart replied it was estimated Bells Brae School still had 15 years of life in it whereas there was an urgent need for a new Anderson High.

Cllr J Wills noted the basic problem was that they were trying to build a bigger school on a site which is considerably smaller than the current one. This led to the design being multi storey causing costs to rocket.

He stated it would be much quicker and cheaper to build on a greenfield site.

Mrs M Robertson asked if residents could be consulted following the meeting of the services committee at the end of August.

Cllr L Angus stated that there would not be much to tell at that stage.

The Chairman suggested the Services Committee be presented with a list of questions from Lerwick Community Council and asked members of Lerwick Community Council to send questions to the Clerk of the Council to forward on to the Committee.

He asked that all questions be given to the Clerk by 24 July 2008

### **7.3 Paul Moar – Street Name ‘Arheim’**

Noted

### **7.4 Mark Burgess – Original Street Names**

Ms K Fraser suggested that with his permission, a copy of the email from Mark Burgess should be sent to Hjaltland Housing Association. She also suggested an additional plaque could be added to explain the history related to the name chosen.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr B Leask, Properties Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association with the suggestion.

### **7.5 Neil Hutchinson, Engineer Network & Design, SIC – SIC (Leog Lane, Lerwick) (Parking Place for Disabled Person’s Vehicle) Order 2008**

Noted

### **7.6 Mervyn Smith, SIC – Street Lighting, Chromate Lane, Lerwick**

The Chairman noted according to the Provisional Street Lighting Replacement Programme, the Street lights at Chromate Lane were due to be replaced 2012/13.

Mr L Angus stated all replacement lights would be down lighters to minimise light pollution.

Cllr J Wills stated Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council would shortly be getting a supply of new lamp post inspection panels. He was glad; at long last, to see at least some improvement could be expected soon.

Mrs K Greaves enquired as to why the alcoves where bins were kept were lit up at night.

The Chairman replied the areas probably had to be lit for safety reasons.

Mrs K Greaves stated that she would write to Mr G Spall, Executive Director, Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council and request an explanation.

### **7.7 Margaret Dunne, Service Manager Environmental Health, SIC – Sewage Smells**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to forward a copy of the email to Sandy McConnachie, Customer Operations Team Manager, Scottish Water and ask for comments to his investigations.

**Cllr C Miller left 8.15pm**

### **7.8 Mr W Ross, Cunningsburgh & Districts Agricultural Society – Information on Funding Received form Community Councils**

Mr L Angus proposed £500 should be awarded to Cunningsburgh & Districts Agricultural Society.

This was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

### **7.9 Charles H Simpson – Town Hall Guide Book**

Noted

### **7.10 Lowrie Farmer, General Manager, Highland Fuels – Lerwick Port Authority**

Noted

### **7.11 Jennie Atkinson, Planning Officer, SIC – Supplementary Planning Guidance – Public Safety and Safeguarding Consultation Zones within Shetland Hazardous Substances, Pipelines, Explosives, Quarries and Airports**

Noted

**7.12 Kathy Greaves – Planning Information Meeting, 6 June 2008 – Notes from Briefing Session**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Bessie Barron, Planning Department, Shetland Island Council and ask for copies of the documents.

**7.13 Tony Dobson, Technical Officer, SIC – Provision of Communal Refuse Stores at Staney Hill**

Mr L Angus stated that anything that improves the situation regarding the storage of refuse until collection should be supported.

Noted

**7.14 Gavin Douglas, Historic Scotland – Clickimin Broch, Lerwick**

Cllr J Wills pointed out the letter from Mr Gavin Douglas was unhelpful.

He stated the vandalism at Clickimin Broch was a disgrace and something had to be done. He felt that speaking to primary school, children would not tackle the issue when the vandalism was clearly being carried out by older youths.

Mr L Angus agreed it was not primary school children who were vandalising the Broch. He noted there was clear evidence that substantial stones had been deliberately dislodged.

Cllr J Wills stated Clickimin Broch was one of the finest monuments in Europe and had to be protected.

Cllr J Wills proposed Mr Gavin Douglas, Historic Scotland be written to and asked to reconsider the suggestion that Historic Scotland installs CCTV at the Broch.

The Chairman agreed with Cllr Wills suggestion. He stated that costs may be reduced as power cables were already there.

He asked the clerk of the council to write a letter to Mr Gavin Douglas and strongly suggest the monument be protected by CCTV before it is vandalized even more.

**7.15 Graham Johnston, Head of Service, Finance, SIC – Community Council Grant**

Noted

**7.16 Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC – Gilbertson Park Games Hall Chairs – Up Helly Aa Hosts and Hostesses**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to send the Gilbertson Park, Up Helly Aa Hosts and Hostesses a copy of the email from Magnus Malcolmson.

He asked the Clerk of the Council also to write and ask the Up Helly Aa Hosts and Hostesses to submit a new application near the end of the year.

08/07/08

**Financial Report**

Noted

08/07/09

**Financial Assistance**

**9.1 Mr R Tulloch – Application for Road Grant**

The Chairman explained the area of road which qualified for a grant was limited to a predetermined width over the length of access from the public road to the residence.

Mr L Angus proposed a Grant of up to £500 should be awarded.

The proposal was seconded by the Chairman

The Chairman stated he would measure the access to establish the eligible area for grant. He asked that meantime, the Clerk of the Council contact Infrastructure Services, Shetland Islands Council and enquire what they currently charge for surfacing dressing.

He proposed that in line with Conditions of Grant, once the area is established and the value calculated with the figure received from Infrastructure Services, the applicant be awarded with 50% of the total.

**9.2 Ingrid Gallacher, Guide Leader, Ist Lerwick Guides – Trip for Brownies and Guides to Girl Guiding Scotland's Training Centre, Scottish Borders**

Mr L Angus proposed the Ist Lerwick Guides be awarded £500.

This was seconded by Mrs A Simpson

08/07/10

**Planning Applications**

**10.1 2008/217/PCD** – To alter and extend building and change use to residential care home, Montfield Hospital, Burgh Road, Lerwick by NHS Shetland

No objections

**10.2 2008/223/PCD** – To construct builders compound with storage area, hardstanding and site 1 portacabin and 2 containers, Staney Hill, Lerwick by GB and AM Anderson

No objections

**10.3 2008/232/PCD** – To alter store entrance, glaze fire escape doors and erect ATM Pod, enclosed cage marshalling structure, refrigeration plant and trolley bay shelters, Tesco Stores Ltd, South Road, Lerwick by Tesco Stores Ltd

No objections

08/07/11

**Any Other Business**

**ASCC Meeting** - The Chairman stated there was to be an ASCC meeting and asked if there were any suggestions or questions that members would like to raise.

Mrs A Simpson asked that the problem of lack of attendance at meetings without an apology be could discussed. She noted that a letter sent previously to members who rarely attended and did not apologise had had little effect.

The Chairman suggested that any other questions or suggestions should be given to the Clerk of the Council to forward on.

**New Town Hall Guide** – Mrs A Simpson noted the official launch date of the new Town Hall Guide was Monday 28 July.

There was unanimous praise for the Town Hall Guide and members of Lerwick Community Council expressed their gratitude for all the work put in by Mr C H Simpson.

Ms K Fraser noted she would like copies for the library.

The Chairman asked her to contact the Clerk of the Council and advise her how many she would need for the Library and also school libraries.

**Town Service Bus** – Mrs K Greaves stated she had found it difficult to find information on the times of the town service bus.

Cllr A Wishart stated time tables could be obtained from ZetTrans.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to ZetTrans and request they laminate bus time tables and route planners and attach them inside bust stop shelters.

**Wheelie Bins** – Mrs M Robertson enquired as to why people did not have wheelie



bins when it was clear nets covering bin bags were clearly ineffectual.

The Chairman stated he had used one but was told the height of the bin, which was 30" caused a problem for the bin men.

Mr L Angus noted there had been arguments against the use of wheelie bins. They included problems caused to those with restricted mobility and the fact they could be a health hazard if not cleaned properly.

Cllr A Wishart said the issue was currently being looked at again, but was in the initial stages.

**Oversund Roundabout** – Mrs M Robertson stated she had been asked if Lerwick Community Council had any responsibility for the roundabout.

The Chairman noted Lerwick Community Council had no direct responsibility but had no objections when Steven Cooper presented the plans in May 2007.

He raised concerns that traffic on the approach to the roundabout from the south, going straight ahead into town was guided to the outside lane. He stated this differed from that adopted at 4-way roundabouts elsewhere in Shetland.

The Chairman noted that lanes were modified after a similar approach to the Safeway roundabout resulted in numerous near misses, if not accidents.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council and raise the concerns.

Mrs K Greavs stated she felt the roundabout was higher than originally planned. She noted her intention to write to Mr Steven Cooper, Shetland Islands Council and enquire the difference in height between the plan and the finished roundabout.

**Westerloch Lamp Post** – Mr W Spence stated the third lamp post as you head south on the path between Clickimin and Westerloch was in poor condition.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Mervyn Smith, Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council and advise him of the situation.

**Ness of Sound, Walkway** – Mr L Angus asked if Lerwick Community Council in consultation with Shetland Islands Council could do something about improving the path at the Ness of Sound.

He stated that if properly improved it would provide a nice walking path from Sletts to Ness of Sound.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Sheila Johnson, Outdoor Access Officer, Shetland Islands Council and ask what could be done to improve the walk, suggesting Lerwick Community Council may be able to assist in the project.

He noted a copy of the Shetland Draft Core Paths Plan could be viewed online at [www.shetland.gov.uk](http://www.shetland.gov.uk) or at the library should any member wish to lodge objections or make representations.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

MR J ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL