

MONDAY 8 JUNE 2009

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

Members

Mr J Anderson
Mr W Stove
Mr W Spence
Mrs M Robertson

Mr A Henry
Mr D Ristori
Mrs A Simpson
Ms K Fraser

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Wills **left 7.45pm**
Cllr A Wishart

Cllr C Miller **left 8.15pm**

In Attendance

PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary
PS J Beeston, Community Safety Sergeant
Ms V Simpson, Service Manager, Housing & Property, SIC
Rosalind Griffith, Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/06/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/06/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Henry, Cllr E Knight, Mr A Johnson and Mrs K Greaves

09/06/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2009 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr A Henry

09/06/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Proposed New Anderson High School

Cllr J Wills stated he hoped to prevent the special meeting of the Planning Board scheduled for Monday 15 June taking place.

He advised there were many outstanding concerns and Roads Service in particular had not had time to consider and raise several serious issues.

Cllr C Miller declared an interest as a member of the Planning Board and stated she would leave the meeting if the issue was discussed much further.

Traffic Warden

Mrs A Simpson stated it was not clear from the May minutes if Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC, was going to take forward the suggestion that a Traffic Warden is provided by Shetland Islands Council.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr G Greenhill and clarify the situation.

He also asked the Clerk to chase up the other issues that were raised at the meeting for to Mr G Greenhill to tend to.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/06/05

Police Report

PS B Gray noted the following crime analysis May 2008/09 compared with May 2007/08.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 2 to 4, 4 detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 3 to 5, with 3 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 52 to 92, of which 67 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 87 to 50, of which 11 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 43 to 36, with 36 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 108 to 119, with 102 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 79 to 63, with 62 detections

Mrs A Simpson asked PS B Gray how many fixed penalty notices had been issued to drivers on the street.

The Sergeant advised he would collate figures in time for the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

Mrs A Simpson asked if drivers could be charged and suggested that if so it would be more of a deterrent.

PS B Gray responded that for someone to be "named and shamed" they would have to go to court.

He advised serving fixed penalty notices was by far the best option whereby the notice was stuck on the windscreen on the offending vehicle for all to see.

Mrs A Simpson stated it did not seem to be much of a deterrent but attitudes may change if drivers were charged and the details reported in The Shetland Times.

The Chairman noted he had, on several occasions, seen drivers ignoring red lights at areas where Scottish Water were replacing the mains pipes.

PS B Gray stated it was a three-point offence to ignore a red light.

He advised some three point penalties had been issued to drivers ignoring red lights but it was difficult for members of the force to be "in the right place at the right time".

He advised members of the community could report such offences but they must be willing to stand up in court.

The Chairman thanked the Sergeant for giving his report, which concluded at 7.15pm.

09/06/06

PS J Beeston, Community Safety Sergeant, Northern Constabulary – Report Regarding Role

PS J Beeston thanked the Chairman for inviting him to the meeting.

The Sergeant advised he took up the role on January 2009 but had been in Shetland since August 2006 as Shift Sergeant, during which time he had got to know Shetland and the locals well.

He stated the role of Community Safety Sergeant within Shetland Area command involves giving crime prevention advice to members of the public/retail sector, giving community safety advice to members of the public as well as business sectors within Shetland, carrying out security surveys, both to dwelling houses and commercial premises, dealing with all licensing enquires under the Civic Government Scotland Act, as well as numerous in-house responsibilities which include media relations and day to day liaison with local government departments in relation to all multi-agency matters.

PS J Beeston noted he also sat and assisted in various partnerships including the Community Safety Partnership, SADAT/Alcohol & Drugs Forum, Anti-Social Behavior Working Group, Victim Support Scheme and attends Licensing Forums. This involves both giving advice but also assisting them in the running and setting up of various projects.

PS J Beeston advised that as the the sole Architectural Liaison Officer he gave advice and guidance in relation to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and dealt with all Secure by Design applications and certification.

The duties are carried out day-to-day and as well as the matters previously noted he is often asked to represent the Area Commander at various forums and meetings.

Mrs A Simpson asked if PS J Beeston was often asked for his advice on securing homes.

The Sergeant replied Social Care had asked him for advice and suitable measures had been put in place.

Ms K Fraser asked if the Sergeant could provide an update on CCTV and asked how it would be monitored when in place.

He replied there was no set date as to when the system would be in place and the monitoring and monitor management was still to be decided.

Cllr J Wills stated he was "confused". Black posts had been erected for the CCTV cameras but because people didn't like the colour they were to be taken down and replaced. He asked if the answer was not just to paint them.

PS J Beeston stated the posts were not compliant with planning and it was a mistake that had to be rectified.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Greenhill; ask who was responsible for the error and who would fund the cost of the replacements.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Ms K Fraser asked PS J Beeston if he was involved in the planning for the proposed new Anderson High School.

The Sergeant replied he had looked at the plans and put in a report showing his recommendations and observations.

He advised all aspects of the plans were covered by Secure by Design.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant J Beeston for his informative presentation which concluded at 7.25pm.

09/06/07

Ms V Simpson, Service Manager, Housing & Property, SIC – Housing Need

Ms V Simpson stated there were 697 applicants on the housing list for the Lerwick area alone, 1,005 for Shetland as a whole and an average of 49 new applications were received each month.

She explained some applications were pending, suspended, deferred or had no links to Shetland.

Cllr A Wishart asked if it was illegal to disregard applications from people with no ties to Shetland.

Mrs V Simpson replied that the applicant would have to have been offered work, need to be nearer relations, move to escape domestic violence or harassment or for medical reasons.

Ms V Simpson went on to advise the main housing need was for single people who accounted for 366 applications, 52% of the housing waiting list for Lerwick and 31%, 216 applications, came from households with children.

She explained that looking at Shetland as a whole, single people aged between 25 and retirement still formed the largest group of housing need at 48% then followed applications from households with children at 33%.

There is a larger demand for single person accommodation in Lerwick than in other areas and more demand for housing suitable for families in other areas.

Cllr J Wills asked how the housing need in Shetland compared to that of other areas.

Mrs V Simpson replied that she did not have the figures but would try to find out.

Ms M Robertson asked how many households were in need of a larger home due to overcrowding; particularly those with older children of different genders having to share a room.

Ms V Simpson responded that there were many families which were living in overcrowded accommodation and Housing, SIC had found mutual exchange to be the best way forward.

She stated there were a variety of reasons for the demand for housing in Lerwick. The vast majority, 30%, were living with family or friends followed by those who were overcrowded or looking to move from the country to Lerwick. 16% were looking to move from private rented accommodation 9% owner/occupiers and 9% in temporary housing or homeless.

Ms V Simpson advised 54 people were on the homeless list and new legislation meant that Shetland Islands Council had a statutory obligation to see all genuinely homeless people were housed by 2012.

Mr B Stove asked if ex-servicemen and prisoners were regarded as a priority.

Ms V Simpson replied that they were regarded as vulnerable as a result of discharge and therefore regarded as a priority.

Ms M Robertson asked how many single people were sitting in a larger house than they needed.

Ms V Simpson stated she did not have the figures to hand but would be able to find out. She went on to explain an incentive scheme was in place where residents in homes larger than they needed would be given £700 to move to a smaller home.

She went on to advise a draft document produced by the Scottish Government stated the need for housing was four times more than available. To balance out by 2015, based on the draft figures a total of 1,000 units would have to be built this year.

Cllr J Wills left 7.45pm

Ms V Simpson noted that people were seeing mutual exchange as a solution and incentive schemes were being looked at to encourage people to build or buy their own homes and release their council house.

Mr B Stove stated that the situation where youngsters of different genders were sharing rooms should never happen and their cases should be a priority.

He asked if those seeking to exchange avoided the Sandvieien and Nederdale areas.

Ms V Simpson replied that half the mutual exchanges involved Sandieien.

The Chairman asked if there were any development proposals for Hoofields.

Ms V Simpson replied that the area was to be developed the current 33 chalets were to be demolished and the whole area further developed. She explained much of the infrastructure required to develop the area was already in place. Finances received from housing currently being rented would assist in the costs of the development.

She went on to explain the right for people to buy their council house was to be stopped but that only referred to new tenants, including those taking advantage of mutual exchange.

The Chairman noted two thirds of the housing need was for the Lerwick area.

Ms V Simpson agreed, stating there was a huge demand for housing both in Lerwick and within 20mins of the area.

Mr W Spence asked if many people wanted to move from the town to the country.

Ms V Simpson advised there were some but this could be encouraged if transport links were improved.

The Chairman thanked Ms V Simpson for attending the meeting and giving her presentation.

Mrs V Simpson left at 7.50pm.

09/06/08

Correspondence

8.1 Copy letter from Mr L Smith, Chairman, LTCA, to Mr D MacNae, Network & Design Manager, Roads, SIC – Roads/Environmental Quality, Lerwick Town Centre
Noted

8.2 Copy response from Mr D MacNae, Network & Design Manager, Roads, SIC to Mr L Smith, Chairman, LTCA – Lerwick Town Centre, Condition of Streets
Noted

Cllr A Wishart stated many concerns could be allayed by the sharing of information.

He advised he would put forward the suggestion that a regular forum is set up between Lerwick Town Centre Association and Shetland Islands Council.

(Action: Cllr A Wishart)

8.3 Mrs P Hendry, Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals, The Scottish Government – Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Planning Appeal: St Olaf’s Hall Church, Hillhead, Lerwick

Cllr C Miller declared an interest as a member of the Planning Board.

Noted

09/06/09

Applications for Premises Licenses

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.1 Email to confirm extension to objection deadline

Noted

09/06/10

Financial Report

Funding reserved for Knab Viewpoint

The Chairman stated Furors & Heritors owned the land at Knab viewpoint and they would have to be contacted prior to applying for planning permission.

He hoped the situation would not obstruct Lerwick Community Council from receiving any possible financial assistance from ‘New awards for All’ for the project.

Mrs A Simpson asked if there would be any improvements to the path to the gate.

The Chairman stated it was hoped that Shetland Islands Council would take on the improvements to the 20 meters of path to the gate.

Shetland Anglers Association

The Chairman advised that Shetland Anglers Association would have to submit a new application if the association intended to deviate from the original plan which had originally secured their funding.

Mr B Stove declared a non-pecuniary interest.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Cllr C Miller left: 8.15pm

09/06/11

Financial Assistance

11.1 Sgt T Burns, G Troop, 212 Bty, Fort Charlotte TAC – To Furnish Mess Recreation Area

The Chairman proposed Lerwick Community Council should award a grant of £1,218.00; the cost, excluding VAT of the 28 traditional dining chairs.

Ms K Fraser seconded the proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/06/12

Planning Applications

The following application arrived too late to be included in the agenda.

2009/163/PCD – Erect new dwellinghouse with integral garage, Site 20, Ladies Drive, Lerwick by Ms M Irvine

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/04/13 Lerwick Planning Applications – May 2009

Noted

09/03/14 Any Other Business

Mr D Ristori stated he had taken a long walk round the Ness of Sound and was saddened to see that the remnants of an old Salmon farm detracted from the area.

He noted it would be fine if the area could be cleared and developed.

Cllr A Wishart advised the area was privately owned and that there may be an issue of ownership as the Salmon farm had gone bust.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Hannah Nelson, Development Plans, SIC and ask if there were any plans for the area.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN

LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL