

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
Mr L Bisset
Cllr G Feather
Cllr J Henry

Cllr J Irvine
Mr A Johnston
Cllr E Knight
Mr T Nicolson
Cllr W Stove

Additional Co-opted Member

Ms B Wishart

In Attendance

Miss J Jamieson, Radio Shetland
Mr J Tait, Shetland Times
Miss C Duncan, Clerk

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

05/03/01

Circular

The Circular calling the meeting was held as read.

05/03/02

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ms K Fraser, Mr J MacLeod, Mr M Peterson, Mr P Scarsbrook and Mrs A Simpson.

05/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2005 were approved on the motion of Cllr L Angus and seconded by Mr R Anderson.

12.1 Lerwick Marina Users Association

Cllr L Angus noted that there was not an annual cost of £4000 as stated in the minute, instead this was a one-off fee.

10.4 Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningsburgh Community Council

Mr R Anderson noted it should state the flagstones were to be re-laid, not replaced.

January Meeting – Quorate

Cllr W Stove stated that the January meeting had been inquorate so any decision taken at that meeting would have to be adopted.

The Chairman noted that the meeting had been quorate to start, and only ended up inquorate following the departure of two members towards the end of the meeting.

Mr R Anderson read the following statement: "Regarding the lack of a quorum for part of the meeting of Lerwick Community Council held on 17th January 2005, and for the avoidance of doubt, I move that minute references 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 05/01/09, 05/01/10, 10.2 and 10.3 of that meeting be now given retrospective approval."

As none of the decisions made had any financial implications, he moved that the minute of the meeting stand. This was seconded by Mr A Johnston.

The Chairman noted that any meeting needed 6 members in attendance so this would be noted in the future. It was very seldom that a meeting had less than this in attendance.

12 Financial Statement

Cllr W Stove stated that it was the Community Council elections that were due to be held in November 2006 and not the Shetland Islands Council.

05/03/04

Business Arising

10.6 Sewer – Sletts Footpath

Mr R Anderson had agreed to contact the Shetland Islands Council and confirmed that he had made some enquiries. There seems to be some uncertainty between the Shetland Islands Council and SEPA, and Mr Anderson hoped to have further information for the next meeting.

14.1 Mill Lane

The Chairman noted that Shetland Islands Council had agreed to erect more signage in the area to direct traffic away from pedestrian areas.

14.2 Pensioners' Waiting Room

The Chairman noted that previous negotiation between the RNLI and Shetland Islands Council had resulted in the RNLI being willing to give the old lifeboat station for a rest room. This has now been sold and the situation is unclear but it looks unlikely to go ahead. He had spoken to Lerwick Port Authority with a view to having a waiting area in the refurbished Harbour House, but according to the plans it appears there are no intentions to incorporate a rest room.

Cllr J Irvine suggested that, with the new voluntary services centre soon to open in Harbour Street, other premises around the town would become vacant. He suggested contacting the Shetland Islands Council to see if any of these would be available to rent. He specified the premises currently occupied by SCSS in Mounthooly Street and acknowledged that, while they were not ideal, they could be a short-term solution. There was a lot of public interest in a waiting area.

The Chairman agreed to write to the Shetland Islands Council to see if they had any vacant premises. He was also hoping to discuss the lifeboat station further this week.

14.4 Elections

The Chairman suggested that it may be a good time to review the current system and to glean more information regarding the new ward structure.

Cllr W Stove confirmed that Shetland Islands Council had seen the first draft of proposals from the Boundaries Commission. It suggested 7 wards for the whole of Shetland with 2 in Lerwick, one having 4 members and the other 3.

Cllr J Irvine felt they should seriously consider leaving things as they are at present.

The Chairman agreed to look at it again in November, and Mr R Anderson confirmed that it is to be debated at the Association of Shetland Community Councils.

14.6 Sands of Sound Road

The Chairman stated that the road was in a sad state. There was a new house under construction at the moment so the road was being used by heavy plant, but it was in desperate need of some repair. He had discussed the situation with the SIC Roads Department and hoped to have further information to report back at the next meeting.

05/03/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy was unable to attend so there was no police report.

05/03/06

Community Wardens

Mr Bob Skinley and Mr Eric Uren attended the meeting. They are two of the four Community Wardens currently employed by Shetland Islands Council with Scottish Executive funding.

They have been in post since November 2004, when they undertook a month of full training with visits to all SIC Departments and other outside agencies they would be working closely with. Foot patrols began in December 2004 and they covered the whole of the Lerwick area from the Observatory to Hoofields.

At present they operate a shift system, usually working between 1pm and 11pm but are flexible. They can do morning shifts if required, or visit problem areas during peak trouble times. The number of hours they work per week is restricted to 21 each.

Their duties are varied. They are a highly visible deterrent to those causing anti-social behaviour such as graffiti or vandalism. They can enforce fixed penalty notices to anyone littering or allowing dog fouling to occur. They can take details of offenders and these get passed onto Shetland Islands Council to issue the penalty.

They are active in community groups and can liaise between the community and agencies, or the community and Shetland Islands Council. They have had very positive reactions from all the groups they have been in touch with, and they are quick to respond to any information passed onto them.

At the moment there is an average of 200 incidents per month. This is to be expected at the start of the initiative and will level off. Most of the complaints are with regard to lighting or litter.

They usually ask anyone they find dropping litter to pick it up first. Most people do so when asked, but if they refuse they can take their details and pass them on for a fixed penalty to be issued. They have no special powers, but can conduct a citizen's arrest if required to. The police react very quickly to any calls from them.

The reaction from the community had been very positive on the whole and all the wardens were enjoying it so far.

Mr R Anderson said that people had the impression that most anti social behaviour took place in the area around the Market Cross and the lanes and asked if this was a correct impression.

Mr Skinley replied that in fact the "hot spots" were Sound and Sandveien, but since their patrols had started in those areas youngsters were behaving better. There are pockets of anti social behaviour in every area of Lerwick, not just the town centre. They had a list of addresses from around the town that they monitored for neighbour nuisance.

They had a duty to report any tenants who had unkempt gardens or abandoned vehicles. Also if they spotted seagulls nesting they could report this to Shetland Islands Council to be removed.

Mr Skinley was unsure as to the exact number of fixed penalties that had been issued since they started their patrols but thought it was probably in single figures.

Cllr J Irvine asked if they would be enforcing the alcohol by-law when it came into effect. He also noted he personally thought it was a load of rubbish.

Mr Skinley said they would be observers, reporting any offences they witnessed.

The Chairman thanked the wardens for attending and noted that the initiative appeared to be proving successful. He invited them to return and update the Community Council after summer.

05/03/07

Election of Member

The Chairman stated that there had been no new nominations for a full member at the elections in November 2004, therefore it was time to elect a co-opted member. As Mr J Ogg had resigned due to study commitments, and Ms B Wishart had decided not to stand, Mrs A Simpson was the only member up for election. Cllr J Irvine moved to elect Mrs Simpson as a full member and Cllr E Knight seconded this.

The Chairman distributed copies of a letter from Mr Martin Shearer who was interested in becoming a co-opted member.

Cllr J Irvine stated that anyone who expressed interest in becoming a member of the Community Council should be seized and planted in a seat. He moved to co-opt Mr Shearer. Mr L Bisset seconded this.

05/03/08

CCTV

Mr R Anderson stated that he had asked for this item to be discussed at this meeting as Ms K Fraser had expressed that she was not keen on the idea. Mr L Bisset moved to defer the item until the next meeting. The Chairman seconded this.

05/03/09

Naming Thoroughfares - Quoys Development

The Chairman noted that there had been a number of letters to the Community Council on this subject following the decision of the members at the last meeting appearing in the Shetland Times.

He noted that the issue had been debated without full background and information being received from Shetland Islands Council. Hjaltland Housing Association had since forwarded a letter detailing the origins of the two names, "Sundhamar" and "Fjallberg". Mr Paul Moar had written in with the meanings of both names and Mr Neil Anderson had also given some background.

Mr Damien Ristori of Lerwick had sent in a list of names, which were all to be found on old maps of the Quoys area. The Chairman suggested sending this list to Hjaltland as a point of reference when naming roads in the future.

Cllr L Angus proposed to use two names from this list, "Tansie Knowes" and "Oxlee", as they were names known to him, and both were easy to pronounce. Cllr J Irvine seconded this.

Cllr E Knight proposed to overturn the Community Council's previous decision and agree to the names of "Sundhamar" and "Fjallberg" – this was seconded by Mr R Anderson.

Following a vote, Cllr Angus's proposal received 3 votes and Cllr E Knight's amendment 5, so the amendment was carried.

The Chairman noted his thanks to all that wrote on the matter.

05/03/10

Traffic Orders

10.1 Oversound Road, Sound, etc – 20mph Speed Limit

The Chairman stated this was very sensible areas for a speed limit to be in force.

Cllr J Henry noted that the speed limit would be extended to all sides of Sound Primary School, including the main A970 road.

The Chairman had discussed with matter with Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council, and they hoped to have a plan ready very soon indicating all the proposed traffic calming measures including the roundabout. He suggested asking the Head of Roads Service to arrange a public meeting with the residents in the area to discuss the proposed measures as soon possible and this was agreed to.

10.2 Cheyne Crescent – Disabled Parking Space No objections

10.3 Burgh Road – Disabled Parking Space No objections

05/03/11

Correspondence

11.1 Islesburgh Trust Lift Appeal - Thanks Noted

11.2 Lerwick Marina Users Association – Thanks Noted

11.3 Lerwick Town Centre Association – Thanks Noted

11.4 Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre – Thanks Noted

11.5 Association of Shetland Community Councils

The Chairman stated he was available to attend, and asked Mr R Anderson if he could also attend as the matter of amount of budget to be carried over each financial year would be discussed. Mr Anderson said he would like to attend.

11.6 War Memorial

A letter had been received from Mr Stanley Manson suggesting a way to attach wreaths to the war memorial. The Chairman proposed making this a project for the Community Council to take on and this was agreed to.

11.7 Community Planning Board

Noted

05/03/12

Financial Report

It had been agreed at the last meeting to give the balance of the Community Council at the end of the financial year to the Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre play area project. It was confirmed that the amount available was £1300.

The Financial Report was noted.

05/03/13

Financial Assistance

13.1 Shetland Islands Cruisers

Mr A Anderson proposed writing to the group informing them that there was no money available at this time for grant assistance. We hadn't yet been informed how much the new allocation would be but were aware that there would be a reduction this year. They were welcome to resubmit their application at a future meeting. This was agreed to.

05/03/14

Planning Applications

14.1 Extend District Heating Scheme, Mounthooly Street

No objections

14.2 Replace windows/create access, 114 Commercial Street

No objections

14.3 Change office to dwellinghouse, 11 Market Street

No objections

14.4 Erect new dwellinghouse, Li Hus, Upper Sound

No objections

14.5 Erect new dwellinghouse, 3b West Sletts Park

No objections

05/03/15

Any Other Business

15.1 Headstones, Lerwick Cemeteries

Cllr L Angus passed around a photograph of a new headstone at the Lerwick Cemetery, which had fallen over during recent bad weather and destroyed an older headstone.

He noted that a lot of these stones were vulnerable and had great historic reference. He suggested asking Shetland Islands Council to find a way to secure them better.

The Chairman agreed, noting that the Knab Cemetery was one of the most exposed cemeteries in Scotland and that these headstones needed to be protected, as they were irreplaceable.

15.2 Knab Footpath

Mr J Anderson noted that there had been no further work carried out on the new Knab footpath and he understood it would not begin again until the new financial year. He felt they had missed a valuable weather window when a lot of work could have been done.

The Chairman agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council and find out when the work would recommence.

15.3 Quorum and Minute Taking

Mr R Anderson confirmed that there had to be a minimum of 6 members present at a meeting to ensure it was quorate. He also asked that the Clerk note in the minutes if anyone arrives or leaves during a meeting. The Chairman agreed to see this was done.

15.4 Anderson High School Wall

The Chairman noted that the wall at the Hostel at the Anderson High School had been demolished recently for other work to be undertaken. He asked if there were any plans to rebuild in the future.

Cllr L Angus confirmed that work was still underway and it would be rebuilt when this was completed.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL