

MONDAY 9 MARCH 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 D Ristori
Mrs M Robertson

Mr W Spence
Mr R Leith
Mr A Johnson
Ms K Fraser

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr A Wishart
Cllr J Henry

Cllr J Wills

In Attendance

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

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/03/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/03/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K Greaves, Mr M Peterson, Cllr C Smith, Mr E Knight and Mrs A Simpson.

09/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2009 were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

09/03/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

09/02/06 At the request of Mrs K Greaves the Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to amend the minute to read '...what was to stop children throwing *each other* over the balconies?'

09/02/17 Cllr J Wills apologised for not passing on the comments he had collated to the Clerk of the Council for her to circulate to members.

However, he advised that having attended the public meeting held on 19 February 2009 regarding the proposed new AHS, it was clear most people felt they had been listened to, respected and their criticisms had been taken on board.

09/02/08 (8.12) Cllr J Wills advised we should know by summer if Shetland would get Geopark status.

09/03/05

Police Report

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

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 13 to 15, all detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 16 to 21, with 17 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 239 to 271, of which 190 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Up from 240 to 292, of which 184 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Up from 184 to 211, with 210 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 520 to 578, with 553 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 600 to 468, with 465 detections

PS B Gary reported that the Police Force in Shetland made more Class A drugs seizures in 2008 than Class B or C. The highest number of seizures in 2008 was heroin followed by cannabis resin and thirdly, diazepam.

He noted that Shetland was the only area command in Northern Constabulary to seize "crack" cocaine in 2008.

During 2008 the highest number of tablets seized in Northern Constabulary was in Shetland (1,752), followed by Caithness & Sutherland (982), both class C.

At 278875mg, Shetland saw the highest total weight seized of Class A drugs.

The Chairman asked what accounted for the high success rate in Shetland.

PS B Gray replied that it was down to good interaction with the community. He advised the public were encouraged to contact the police or crime stoppers with any information, no matter how trivial.

Mr R Leith enquired if the high detection rate indicated there was a high volume of drugs on the Island.

PS B Gray stressed it was down to good intelligence led detection.

Cllr J Henry enquired if much of the drugs came onto the Island in unusual ways.

The Sergeant replied that if a member of the community could think of 10 ways of getting drugs on the Island a dealer could think of 110 ways.

The Chairman asked if the Sergeant had a "general feeling" for what percentage of the drugs taken onto the Island was detected.

PS B Gray stated it was impossible to say but they had a "good sense" of the detections making an impact on users.

Cllr A Wishart asked if the drug seizures reflected in the price of drugs on the street, less drugs, higher price.

The Sergeant replied that that was almost certainly the case.

Mr W Spence asked if the higher price of drugs led to other crimes.

PS B Gray advised that in Shetland not a lot of crime went hand in hand with drug abuse.

He explained the high rate of employment meant users paid for their habit from their wages.

Mr W Spence asked how a member of the public should deal with a situation where they found a stranger roaming on their private grounds.

PS B Gray advised they should contact the police if they were concerned. He explained each situation would be taken on its own merit. It would be looked upon as a breach of the peace if a stranger was roaming around in the grounds of a walled garden but not if it was an open garden or land round a croft.

The Chairman asked if it was legal for a child to cycle on the pavement.

The Sergeant replied each case would be judged on its own merit. If an older youth or adult were cycling down a busy street it would be deemed careless but if a child were doing it, it would be looked upon as sensible.

Mr D Ristori noted there had been a report on the radio that people had been bothered with bogus phone calls.

PS B Gray stated the calls appeared to come from the one caller. He advised if any member of the public were repeatedly receiving bogus calls BT could put a trace on the line and this could be progressed through Interpol. He also advised BT could put a bar on certain numbers calling into a particular phone line.

He advised the main point of the radio report was to make members of the public aware what was taking place.

He advised the calls appeared to be random and anyone receiving a bogus call should just hang up.

Mr B Stove stated in the past he advised victims to blow a whistle down the phone then hang up.

Mr B Stove asked if the new legislation to discourage people from parking in disabled bays without a permit badge covered the public areas that the local authority was responsible for.

PS B Gray responded that it was illegal to park in a disabled bay without a permit if it was plated. He advised the force was proactive in issuing tickets to those parking illegally.

The Chairman asked the Sergeant if he felt it would be beneficial to pedestrianise Commercial Street.

The Sergeant thought that it would and stated it was terrible so many people ignored the current restriction and was aware the general public were of the same opinion.

He advised that it was his own opinion, not of Northern Constabulary, that automatic bollards should be installed. The bollards could then be programmed to go up after the time allotted for delivery vehicles to go through the town.

He advised the system was in place in Inverness where it worked very well. He explained members of the public who needed to drive through the street could be issued with a card which they would swipe to move the bollard long enough to allow them to pass.

The Chairman noted he had raised the possibility of automatic bollards during a meeting in June 2008 (**08/06/08**) and suggested the possibility of bollards plus the pedestrianisation of Commercial Street should once again be raised with Roads Department, SIC.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for attending the meeting and giving his report which concluded at 7.40pm

Correspondence

6.1 Drainage Problem on South Road – Neil Robertson, Network Engineer, Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Scottish Water with a copy of the letter and ask them to look favourably on the request.

6.2 Site of the Old Archives – Grant Gilfillan, Property Officer, Legal & Admin, SIC

The Chairman advised no one was looking for a "grandiose scheme", just a small area cleared for temporary parking.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write back to Mr G Gilfillan, Property Officer, SIC with the proposal.

6.3 Proposed Traffic Orders – Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

No concern was raised by members over the first Traffic Order which referred to the proposed part time 20mph speed limit signs which are to be placed on the South Road at Bell's Brae School.

The Chairman stated if the signs were to be erected, Roads Department must ensure they work and are kept in good working order.

He went on to express his concern that the part time 20mph speed limit sign at Sound School as you come into Lerwick from the South did not work and clarification should be sought over who was responsible for the sign.

Cllr A Wishart referred to the second part of the order which covered Lower Hillhead.

He advised he had spoken to Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC who advised him Coach operators could not drive on the Lower Hillhead road due to cars parking on either side of the road causing an obstruction.

Mr Hutcheson had advised he received the letter expressing concern from Lerwick Community Council but felt it would be wrong to stop the process.

No further objections were raised.

6.4 Parking Issues, Gilbert Bain Hospital – Mrs S Laurenson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to invite Miss S Laurenson to the April meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

6.5 Process of Review of the Local Plan – Hannah Nelson, Development Plans Manager, SIC

Cllr J Wills stated Planning needed to assess how much housing was required in Lerwick and where these houses should be built.

Cllr A Wishart explained there was no definitive plan except for roads. He advised Cllr L Angus could explain what is and what is not to happen but agreed there were some things that should be considered while waiting for the new regulations.

The Chairman voiced his concern that without early involvement there was a danger Lerwick Community Council would be met with a planning document that was "fait accompli".

Cllr A Wishart advised any plan would be dependent on consultation.

The Chairman noted the period of consultation tended to be quite short and often "railroaded" people into agreement.

Cllr A Wishart suggested Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC be written to and asked specifically about the issue.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to invite Mr G Greenhill to the April meeting of Lerwick Community Council and suggest he take someone from Roads Department with him.

He stated that several issues could be discussed with Mr G Greenhill including the Local Plan, pedestrianisation of Commercial Street, drivers ignoring the restrictions on Commercial Street, automatic bollards and the non functioning part time 20mph sign on the South Road at Sound School as you enter Lerwick.

6.6 Sludge Holding Facility & Lerwick Mains Renewal Project – Steve Scott, Regional Manager, Scottish Water.

The Chairman advised the pipes were being replaced using the open cut system and the pipes would be replaced all along the South Road from the Tesco roundabout to Mounthooly Street.

He advised the work should be completed April/May of this year and once finished there would be no more cast iron pipes left in Lerwick.

Cllr J Wills stated he was firmly opposed to Bressay being linked up to Lerwick's water.

The Chairman reported Waterwatch would be conducting a public meeting on Tuesday 24 March, 7.30pm at the Lerwick Hotel.

He advised he would be attending the meeting and if anyone would like him to ask a question on his or her behalf he would be happy to do so.

6.7 Sletts Pier Access Road – Ryan Leith

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Jonathan Duncan, Coastal and Flooding Engineer, Infrastructure Services, SIC with a copy of Mr Leith's letter and voice the support of Lerwick Community Council.

6.8 Recycling Banks Provision – Mary Lisk, Environment & Building Service, SIC

The Chairman noted, in her absence, Mrs K Greaves suggestions that the south end of Gilbertson Park or Clickimin may be suitable sites.

However members agreed the provision of Recycling Banks in Lerwick was sufficient and members of the public with no transport could make use of the recycling van that regularly collects from outside residences.

6.9 9th Holyrood Planning Conference-Planning a Route to National Success

Noted

6.10 Viewpoint at Knab – Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC

The Chairman asked what the general consensus was regarding the upgrade of the viewpoint.

Mrs M Robertson stated a lovely area could be created which would be a real asset to the community.

Mr W Spence advised plans would have to be drawn up and someone put in charge of the project.

The Chairman stated he would contact the Amenity Trust to see if they could provide a "guesstimate" to the costs of upgrading the area and incorporating interpretive plaques.

The Chairman noted there was still a drainage problem with standing water at the gate at the Knab.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC and ask that the problem be rectified.

6.11 Development Proposals, North Stoney Hill – Ken Alan, Land Surveyor, SIC

Cllr J Wills commented the site, although exposed, was ideal for housing.

Mrs M Robertson enquired if the housing would be a mix of private and social housing.

Cllr J Wills noted he had seen the sketch layout and it did show a mix of housing.

Cllr A Wishart stated even a rough outline plan for the area would offer some guidance.

The Chairman stated the issue could be raised with Mr G Greenhill during his presentation to Lerwick Community Council.

6.12 Pedestrianisation of Commercial Street – Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC

The Chairman stated that although the suggestion of automatic bollards would be discussed with Mr G Greenhill, the Clerk of the Council should still write to Mr I Halcrow with the proposal.

6.13 Draft Road Safety Plan – Elaine Skinley, Road Safety Officer, SIC

Noted

6.14 Shetland event, 30 March 2009; “Devolution-still at a Distance” – Kenneth Calman, Chairman, Commission on Scottish Devolution.

Noted

09/03/07

Draft Traffic Order

7.1 SIC (Various Roads, Lerwick) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) (Variation No 5) Order 2009

The Chairman asked Ms K Fraser if she knew how Ms S Crook, Library and Information Manager, felt about the Traffic Order.

Ms K Fraser advised that Mrs S Crook has requested ideas to be looked at for providing parking space for the Library Van.

09/03/08

Financial Report

Noted

09/03/09

Report & Quotation – Lighting, Clickimin Broch

Cllr A Wishart stated he understood Historic Scotland had not allowed concrete to be used to assist in protecting the lights in the past as it was thought too invasive.

However, he suggested the Amenity Trust should be approached and asked for their assistance and backing regarding the matter and Historic Scotland again be contacted.

Cllr J Wills suggested boulders could be hollowed out, brought in and the lights set inside.

The Chairman proposed that some form of non-invasive precast unit could be constructed and stated he would discuss the matter with Mr J Mackenzie, Shetland Amenity Trust.

He advised that the decision regarding the repair & renewal of the Broch lights should be deferred until a compromise could be reached with Historic Scotland.

09/03/10

Financial Assistance

10.1 Mr L Robertson – To produce and print Booklet on Lerwick Celtic Football Club

Ms K Fraser proposed £500 should be awarded for the project.

This was seconded by Mr B Stove.

- 09/03/11 **Planning Applications**
No applications received
- 09/03/12 **Plans – Cruden Housing**
The Chairman proposed the plans should be objected to on the grounds that no off street parking provision had been made for the two houses at Russell Crescent or 31 31 Cairnfield Road.
- Cllr A Wishart stated a balance had to be struck and advised off road parking took away street parking.
- necessarily He pointed out that a resident in a house with off street parking might not have a car but street parking would always be utilised.
- The Chairman asked if a member of public planning to build a house would be required to incorporate off street parking facilities into their plans.
- Cllr A Wishart stated that they would if the house was to be built on a brown field site but the Cruden houses were rebuilds.
- The Chairman furthered that the builders were not replacing like for like and pointed out that the roofline had changed with the addition of dormer windows that served no purpose.
- Cllr J Henry suggested that perhaps LCC should object as they may not be the only objectors.
- The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Planning, SIC and request that wherever possible off road parking is provided for each dwelling.
- 09/03/13 **Lerwick Applications February 2009**
Noted
- 09/03/14 **Any Other Business**
- Oversund Roundabout**
Ms K Farser noted members of the public had advised her that a woman with a push chair had been seen on the rumble strip of Oversund Roundabout. Children had also been seen walking and playing on the roundabout.
- She asked if it would be worthwhile writing to Roads department, SIC to ask if the rumble strip could be narrowed.
- Mr W Spence advised there were similar roundabouts in Stirling and their rumble strips were narrower.
- Cllr J Henry suggested the width of the rumble strip helped slow down traffic.
- Cllr A Wishart stated the problem was discussed in detail at the Infrastructure services meeting in October and again during the first Infrastructure meeting in January.
- At that meeting it was agreed an education programme would be put into force at schools. It was also suggested an area of tarmac could be coloured, in an attempt to steer people away from using the roundabout to walk on.
- Cllr A Wishart stated it was another item that could be discussed with Mr G Greenhill.

Proposed New AHS

Mrs M Robertson stated she and other residents in the area of the proposed new AHS had, that day, received a letter advising they had 21 days to make representation.

She was concerned that this would not allow enough time for members of the community to bring any concerns to the next LCC meeting for discussion.

Mr W Stove noted if people wanted to make representation they would do so. Time would be taken to collate and organise the concerns which would then be put to Lerwick Community Council.

He advised that not only Lerwick Community Council but all Community Councils should have the opportunity to comment on the plans.

The Chairman stated he was sure the plans would be submitted to Lerwick Community Council in time for the next meeting. However, he asked the Clerk of the Council to email planning the next day and request when LCC would receive a copy of the plans.

Cruden Housing Rebuilds

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Gordon Greenhill and ask why the application to rebuild the Cruden housing only came in after the superstructure was up.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL