

MONDAY 5 MAY 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 **left 8.15pm**
Mr R Leith

Mrs K Greaves
Mrs M Robertson
Mrs K Fraser
Mr A Johnson

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr A Cluness **left 8.35pm**
Cllr J Wills **left 8.30pm**

Cllr C Smith
Cllr A Wishart

In Attendance

PS G McCarthy & Chief Inspector M Bell, Northern Constabulary
Club XI Members – Mark Davis, Ian McAlister and Rorie Gibson, AHS
Mrs C Carter, Pupil Support Principal Teacher, AHS,
Mr A Carter, Careers Advisor, AHS
Mr M Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, Shetland Islands Council
Mr L Irvine & Mr I Cluness, The Lounge Bar
Ms, R Griffiths, Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

08/05/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

08/05/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Stove, Mr S Gordon and Cllr C Miller

08/05/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2008 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr L Angus.

08/05/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

08/04/05 Police Report (paragraph 16)

PS G McCarthy asked the Clerk of the Council to correct the description 'automatic speed camera' to 'speed counter'.

Proposed New AHS

Cllr A Cluness noted although anxious to commence the project, the design team and staff were asked for a revised plan to take on board the concerns and objections of the residents in the area.

He stated the very best would be done to deal with the difficulties.

08/05/05

Club XL – Presentation Following Voluntary Work Undertaken in Cape Town

Members of Club XL offered to give a presentation by way of thanks for the funding assistance granted to them by Lerwick Community Council.

Mr A Carter, Careers Adviser, provided some background on Club XL.

He stated Club XL was founded by the Prince's Trust and was a network of clubs running in schools all over the UK. It supports 14-16 year olds through their last two years of compulsory schooling and young people can choose to participate as an alternative to a Standard grade course.

Mr A Carter explained Club XL aimed to develop employability and the capacity to be employed, to nurture encourage and enable students to have the skills and attitude to make the best of their lives.

He stated 9% of school leavers had emotional and behavioral issues and had no positive destination on leaving school. Club XL worked on addressing this. He stressed XL focused on personal skills, citizenship and community awareness throughout the two year programme and the voluntary work in Cape Town was the culmination of that programme.

Mr M Davis, Student, Club XL fronted the presentation.

He stated following background work and research, the ten members of Club XL and their minders travelled to Cape Town to undertake voluntary work in an orphanage unit attached to the Eerste River Hospital.

He noted their remit was to create gardens, grow vegetables, erect a fence and work with the children of the orphanage.

Mr M Davis stated they dug up weeds, prepared the ground and sowed vegetables for the orphanage and community and planted a garden. They dug foundations mixed and laid concrete and built a fence using local trees.

He explained some of the older children from the orphanage helped with their work. Members of Club XL challenged them to a game of football and 'won on penalties'.

Time was also spent with the younger children from the orphanage, games were played and they were engaged with drawing and painting.

Mr M Davis stated they were the first group in eleven years to 'leave something behind'.

They had created a vegetable garden, built a fence left behind small play equipment for the children and painted and erected a sign for the orphanage.

Mr M Davis stated that while some of the male members of Club XL were hosted in quite luxurious surroundings the girls were not so lucky. Club members and locals alike worked together to make the girls' accommodation more clean and homely.

He stressed that they were made to feel very welcome by all the locals.

He explained Mr Price, a South African Muslim was their driver throughout their visit and he took them site seeing.

Their visits included a vineyard, Table Mountain and Robben Island where Nelson Mandela had been held prisoner for 22 years.

Mr M Davis explained it was a former prisoner who guided them round the now disused prison on Robben Island, he remarked on the dreadful conditions and tiny cells the prisoners were kept in.

The Chairman thanked Mr M Davis for 'one of the best power point presentations he had seen', and thanked Mr I McAlister, Mr R Gibson and Mr & Mrs Carter for attending the meeting.

The presentation concluded at 7.20pm.

08/05/06

Police Report

PS G McCarthy provided the following details of offences compared to those of the same time last year.

He noted the details were for **April only**.

Crimes against the person – none reported
Crimes involving indecency – none reported
Crimes of dishonesty – down from 34 to 19, of which 16 were detected
Crimes of vandalism – up from 17 to 25, of which 23 were detected
Miscellaneous crimes – up from 49 to 64, with 63 detections
Traffic Offences – down from 63 to 57, all detected

PS G McCarthy reported an overall detection rate of 91.4%, a 14.7% decrease in crimes compared to that of last year.

PS G McCarthy stated nine out of ten crimes had been detected and there were ten fewer victims of crimes compared to that of last year, a very positive result.

The Chairman asked what was the current position regarding CCTV.

Chief Inspector M Bell replied things were moving ahead with the project and it was hoped they would go into operation in early summer.

He stated it was another 'tool' in continuing to keep Lerwick safe.

Cllr J Wills reported he had received complaints from residents in Church Road and Chromate Lane regarding cars driving noisily up to the early hours of the morning.

He suggested the residents compile a log recording the problem and reminded them they could call the police at any hour.

PS G McCarthy noted he was aware of the situation and would be happy to receive the information.

He stated they hoped to purchase equipment which would record the noise levels coming from cars.

Mr L Angus thanked PS G McCarthy and Chief Inspector M Bell for the 'good news story' and all their hard work in reducing crime levels. He enquired how Shetland's crime levels compared to that of other areas.

Chief Inspector M Bell replied they compared favorably with an extremely low level of crime and high detection rate.

He stated the current detection rate was 91.4% and closest to this was 68%. He emphasised the figures were just for April, but that it was a good start to the year.

Chief Inspector M Bell reported he wanted to continue with 'bobbies' being more visible, noting it led to a downturn in crime.

He also stated the high level of detections could not be achieved without the valuable assistance of the public.

Ms K Fraser asked the Chief Inspector if the Police were catching the heroin dealers, were the Police getting on top of the problem and if any information came from the public.

Inspector M Bell replied 90% of the information received was intelligence based, coming from many sources. He stated £700,000 worth of heroin was removed from the street but Shetland was getting targeted from organisations from the North of England.

He stated the police force were being pro-active and were working on reducing demand. He explained the kids found drunk on the street today could be the heroin addicts of tomorrow.

The Chairman thanked PS G McCarthy and Chief Inspector M Bell for their report and all their hard work in reducing crime levels to such a degree.

PS G McCarthy and Chief Inspector M Bell left the meeting at 7.30pm.

08/05/07

Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, Shetland Islands Council – Update, Knab Dyke Reconstruction

The Chairman welcomed Mr M Malcolmson to the meeting and apologised for keeping him waiting.

Mr M Malcolmson explained the Knab Dyke had been constructed over a century ago and had undergone numerous repairs over the years. He stated it had not been well constructed, particularly given the exposed area it was in. Weathering had taken its toll and vandals had removed exposed stones.

He stated new Health and Safety legislation meant wall close to the cliff edge could not be repaired but had to be rebuilt further away from the edge.

In 2003 a Condition Survey had been undertaken for the entire wall and the results were 450m from the Breiwick Road end was in such poor condition it had to be replaced and moved further away from the cliff edge. The report suggested the existing path should be used as an alignment and a new footpath developed as part of a rolling programme.

£50,000 was initially put towards the cost and in April 2004 the construction of the new footpath began. In April 2005 the second section of footpath was constructed and work on the dyke was due to commence in the spring of 2006. However, in March of that year a section of dyke collapsed and things had to back to the drawing board.

Mr M Malcolmson explained a Geological Survey took place round the entire perimeter from Breiwick Road to Twageos and the results identified 'pinch points', areas which may possibly collapse.

Plans had to change and an extra 150m of path added.

The Capital Projects Review Team rejected the first bid, this slowed the project down as the Review Team do not have regular meetings and it was months before the project could go out to tender.

Mr M Malcolmson stated the second bid, of £291,000 to replace the 450m collapsed section of dyke, by Shetland Amenity Trust, was successful and the final section of footpath was completed 2007-2008.

Work on the dyke itself began in March 2008, they hope to complete by late summer 2009. Shetland Amenity Trust are currently replacing the wall at a rate of 5m per day.

The dyke is being constructed on 100mm foundations using the majority of the original stone and a small amount of additional stone from the Shetland Islands Council, Stoney Hill stock pile.

Mr M Malcolmson advised the lime mortar core and pointing gives the wall more strength and it looks good too.

Mr L Angus stated it was splendid to see things 'coming along at long last'. He pointed out the dyke below the cemetery at the south east corner needed tended to and asked what the plans were.

Mr M Malcolmson replied that would be part of another project and he would have to look into it.

Mr L Angus noted it was good to see such quality work being done.

The Chairman agreed it was all looking good. He asked Mr M Malcolmson if he had taken into account Lerwick Community Councils request for a viewpoint and seating area at the Knab.

Mr M Malcolmson stated that was also another project but agreed to discuss things once the Knab Dyke reconstruction was completed.

Mrs K Greaves enquired if the old footpath would be removed.

Mr M Malcolmson replied the footpath would be removed and landscaped.

The Chairman asked if things were any further forward in regarding the drainage problems on the footpath.

Mr M Malcolmson stated it would be incorporated in the rest of the works.

The Chairman thanked Mr M Malcolmson for his presentation.

The presentation concluded at 7.45pm.

08/05/08

Report on meeting – Mr D Wilson and Mr C Harrow, Tesco Corporate Affairs

Noted

08/05/09

Correspondence

9.1 Mr M Peterson – Comments relating to April agenda

Noted

9.2 Mr J Linklater, Northlink Ferries Ltd – Request for Photo ID

Noted

9.3 Mr C Nicolson, Capital Programme Service, SIC – Height of Proposed New AHS

Mr L Angus noted he was glad to see a reduction in height of 23ft compared to the first building plan.

The Chairman stated there was a big concern regarding the temporary works but the issue could not be looked at until the revised plans were submitted to Planning, Shetland Islands Council.

9.4 Mr G Douglas, Historic Scotland – Clickimin Broch

Noted

9.5 Cllr A Cluness, Convener, SIC – Gilbertson Park Up Helly Aa Hosts & Hostesses

Cllr A Cluness noted he hoped to assist the Hosts and Hostesses in some way before the end of the year.

Mr R Leith stated Lerwick Community Council should not be expected to fund the purchase of chairs used on Council premises. He noted the chairs used by Gilbertson Park Hosts and Hostesses were used all year round and he had last seen some of the chairs in use on polling day.

He noted that Cllr A Cluness seemed to have 'changed his mind' as Cllr Cluness indicated in his letter to Mrs L Simpson, Up Helly Aa Hostess/Treasurer, that the chairs should be funded.

Mr R Leith stated that Mrs L Simpson advised him that if the problem could not be rectified they may not be able to host the celebrations. Alternatively the price of the tickets to the Up Helly Aa night would have to be increased by £10 to fund purchase of new chairs.

Mr R Leith stressed it was the responsibility of Shetland Islands Council to supply the chairs.

Mr L Angus noted Sport & Leisures Services, Shetland Islands Council were looking into the issue.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr M Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, Shetland Islands Council and ask for an update on the situation.

9.6 Ms G Hughes, Planning Officer, SIC – Janet Courtney Hostel

Noted

9.7 Mr G Johnston, Head of Finance, SIC – Review of Peat Roads Grant Allocation

Cllr A Cluness noted the Peat Roads Allocation was one the Community Council's could afford to cut back on.

He pointed out the cut back was just for the 2007-2008 budget and the situation would again be reviewed the following budget year.

The Chairman noted the Community Councils were a 'soft target' and would like to see an increase rather than a decrease in funding.

He stated Shetland Islands Council should first look at the amount of overspending within its own departments rather than attempt to make a '£36,000 saving' from Shetland's Community Councils.

The Chairman stated he would respond to the report and raise his concerns.

9.8 Cllr J Wills – Copy of letter to Shetland News regarding Mareel

Cllr A Cluness noted Shetland Islands Council had received the motion to review the proposed SIC investment in Mareel and would either adhere to current policy or have it reviewed.

9.9 Mr R Beardsley, Infrastructure Services, SIC – Surfacing & Surface Dressing Programmes

Noted

9.10 Club XL – Grant Thanks

Noted

08/05/10

Financial Report

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council if the 'estimated free funds' included the £7,794 held back by Shetland Islands Council.

The Clerk replied that it did not.

08/05/11

Financial Assistance

11.1 Lerwick Town Centre Association – Floral Basket Scheme

Mrs K Greaves proposed funding of £1,000 should be granted as in previous years, Cllr J Wills seconded this proposal.

11.2 Cunningsburgh & District Agricultural Society – To surface car park & improve access to car park and show field

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr W Ross, Joint Honorary Secretary, Cunningsburgh & District Agricultural Society.

He asked her enquire how much funding they received last year from other Community Councils and how much they will receive this year.

11.3 Mr M Wylie, Shetland Gymnastics Assoc. – Shetland to Zambia Gym Project

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr M Wylie and advise him Lerwick Community Council were not in the position to fund individuals.

08/05/12

Application for Premises Licenses

12.1 Mr B Hill, Legal & Administration, SIC – Licensing (Scotland) Ltd Act 2005, Application for Premises Licenses

No objections

08/05/13

Planning Applications

13.1 2008/155/PCO – To erect dwellinghouse (in outline), Plot 2, Quoys, Sundhamar Road, Sound, Lerwick by Mr & Mrs P Malcolmson

No objections

13.2 2008/157/PCD – To create air drying facility and cutting room for sheep meat, Staney Hill Industrial Estate, Lerwick by Shetland Development Trust

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Richard MacNeill, Planning Officer, Shetland Islands Council and enquire what provision has been made for odor control.

It was agreed there would be 'no objections' if Lerwick Community Council received confirmation that adequate odor control measures were to be implemented.

08/05/14

Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL