

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

**Present**

Mr R Anderson  
Cllr L Angus  
Cllr G Feather  
Cllr J Henry  
Mr A Johnston

Cllr E Knight  
Mr T Nicolson  
Mrs A Simpson  
Cllr W Stove

**Additional Co-opted Member**

Mr D Ristori

Mr W Spence

**In Attendance**

Chief Inspector A Cowie, Northern Constabulary  
Reporter, Shetland Times  
Miss C Duncan, Clerk

**Chairman**

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

05/05/01

**Circular**

The Circular calling the meeting was held as read. The Chairman welcomed Mr D Ristori and Mr W Spence on their appointment as additional co-opted members. He noted they were both Sound residents, an area that had been short of members in recent times, and stated it was very pleasing to see people who took an interest in their community.

05/05/02

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Anderson, Cllr J Irvine, Mr J MacLeod, Mr M Peterson, Mr P Scarsbrook, Mr M Shearer and Ms B Wishart.

05/05/03

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were approved on the motion of Mr R Anderson and seconded by Mr A Johnston.

05/05/04

**Business Arising**

**14.6 Sands of Sound Road**

The Chairman noted that he and Mr P Scarsbrook were still to meet with Shetland Islands Roads Department to discuss the long-term future of the road. The Chairman had spoken to the householder building a new property at the end of the road and he appeared willing to reinstate the road to a standard that the Shetland Islands Council will adopt. This would not happen until the house was completed but in the meantime he would make it reasonably accessible to all.

Cllr J Henry noted that the whole road, including Nedersund Road, needed to be looked at, as the recent heavy traffic during the building works had caused a lot of damage. He was not sure if Shetland Islands Council would agree to adopt an access road for one house, however.

The Chairman stated that there were a number of houses in that area using the road so Shetland Islands Council would agree. He was interested in the long-term solution to the access road problem and would like to see negotiations being opened with all concerned. He would like the improvements to include tarmac, ditching and parking provision, but was aware it would take some time.

05/05/05

### **Police Report**

Chief Inspector A Cowie stated he appreciated the opportunity to come along and give a summary of recent developments and receive feedback from Lerwick Community Council.

He said it had been a very positive year with crime down by 1% and the detection rate increasing. This was down to a lot of hard work by his officers and from information from the public.

On the subject of drugs, he felt it was key to disrupt the dealers. They had arrested 4 people this weekend and seized class A drugs to the value of £2000 and they will continue to target them. Dogs Against Drugs had been heavily involved in the operation and he thanked Lerwick Community Council for their support of the scheme.

There had been a growth in child protection issues, which usually involved a lengthy process with social workers. This was their biggest growth area in the past year, although they had also seen an increase in Internet crime. Assaults and breaches of the peace continued to be a big issue.

The number of officers in the Shetland force had increased since he took over, from 32 when he arrived to 38½ now (38 full time and one part time). Special constables had increased from 4 to 13 with 2 more undergoing training.

He had seen an increase in reportable incidents from 6,000 to 10,000. There had been a huge increase in activity. They had detained more people in the cells as a result of investigations.

A worrying new trend was the increase of female on female violence. Almost half of all assaults reported were of this nature, and he was keeping a close eye on it.

Vandalisms were down 17% on last year. People had been charged in connection with last months' spate of vandalisms and were being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a total of between 50-70 offences. He felt this was a very successful detection.

He noted that they couldn't stop all crime but they could maybe deter some people from offending. He continued to receive good intelligence from the public and they would be unveiling a new scheme, which allowed people to text messages by mobile phone to the station, so that they wouldn't bring attention to themselves by phoning.

Chief Inspector Cowie noted that roads would have to be closed if there is a serious or fatal road accident. Investigations had to be done by specially trained

officers to ensure that nothing was overlooked. These officers, usually working in a team of 3, need to deal with between 5 and 10 serious accidents per year to keep their skills current. They are unable to do so in Shetland so they have to be based on the mainland. If they were based in Shetland, they would have to travel away to deal with the 5-10 accidents per year, and so would leave the local force short staffed.

The officers had to do a huge amount of training to specialise in the field and so had to be totally committed to it. He noted that local officers carry out all other aspects of policing and all types of crime investigation.

They are about to start using a new piece of equipment which will cut down investigation time from 3 hours to one hour, however, they will still have to wait for officers to arrive from the mainland. He noted that there had never been a delay or disruption due to weather in recent years.

He was currently in discussion with Shetland Islands Council's Head of Roads Service and the Emergency Planning Officer on a system of transferring people from one side of an accident to another if a road had to be closed. This was yet to be tried and tested but he was confident it would reduce waiting time and disruption for road users.

Cllr W Stove noted that the report included a lot of good news, and he was aware of the increase in manpower on the street, along with the neighbourhood support workers. He had had reports from people in his area about drivers speeding along Lochside and he had told them to pass on the registration numbers of the cars involved to the police.

Chief Inspector Cowie agreed that this was the correct procedure as he would then be able to place officers in the areas concerned, which usually acted as a deterrent to other drivers.

The Chairman noted that there had been a substantial increase in activity but also an increase in detection, which was good news. He too noted that there was now a visible police presence on the streets due to the increased officer levels.

He stressed that the people who really had been inconvenienced by the recent fatal road accidents were those who lost loved ones in the accidents and it was important not to lose sight of that fact. He hoped all drivers would be more aware in future so that there would be fewer accidents.

Cllr J Henry noted that there had been a decrease of 1% in crime but an increase in those detained and asked for an explanation.

Chief Inspector Cowie stated that there were a combination of factors but that they were committed to investigate all reported crime, which led to more people being detained under suspicion of committing an offence. He felt it was a combination of being pro-active and not giving in on detecting crime.

He was encouraging his staff to get out more, and they were now logging pro-active patrol, e.g. time spent on active investigations, not just re-active patrols. Better logging systems meant that they were now able to give proof of all activities.

He noted that reporting someone speeding, for example, was not recorded as a crime but as an incident, but catching someone speeding was recorded as a crime. There was a distinction between crimes and incidents.

The issue of CCTV was moving slowly forwards. They had approached a number of companies for quotes but as yet had only received one back. Until the end of this process he was unwilling to go public on the amounts being discussed.

He noted that they were working closely with the community wardens and had regular meetings to discuss matters. They were dealing with a lot of the lower level incidents which was freeing up police officers to deal with other incidents.

During the Island Games in July there would be an additional 20 officers coming up from the mainland to enforce the local constabulary. He hoped to create a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the event and didn't expect there to be an increase in crime – indeed, Guernsey had only one reportable crime when they hosted the games a few years ago.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Cowie for attending and noted that their efforts were very much appreciated by Lerwick Community Council. Chief Inspector Cowie left the meeting at 7.35pm.

05/05/06

### **Applications for Funding – Guidelines**

The Chairman referred to a letter he had received from Community Councillor Mr Michael Peterson on the guidelines used when considering applications for funding. He felt the tone of the letter was accusatory and would like Mr Peterson to defend the letter in person. Mr Peterson had sent his apologies to the meeting as he was off the island, so the Chairman proposed to defer it to a later meeting when Mr Peterson would be in attendance and Cllr L Angus seconded this.

05/05/07

### **Parking Orders**

**7.1 Draft Proposal – Gilbertson Road, Lerwick** No objections

**7.2 Final Version – Burgh Road, Lerwick** No objections

05/05/08

### **Planning Liaison Representative**

The Chairman stated that he had never been officially nominated as a planning representative but has tried to the best of his abilities to fulfil this role.

Mr R Anderson proposed that he is nominated for further training and Cllr L Angus seconded this.

05/05/09

### **Multi-Agency Task Group – Bell's Brae and Sound Primary Schools**

Mrs Avril Simpson had previously been nominated to attend, so she agreed to report back at the next meeting.

05/05/10

### **Correspondence**

**10.1 Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre – Thanks** Noted

**10.2 Naming of Thoroughfares – Quoys, Lerwick** Noted

**10.3 Neighbourhood Support Workers – Statistics** Noted

#### **10.4 Pensioners' Waiting Room**

The Chairman noted that the pensioners required a waiting room in a central location where they could have tea/coffee making facilities and somewhere to rest in comfort while they waited for their transport to arrive. He felt it was a great shame that this had not been incorporated into the plans for the new public toilet and bus waiting area proposed by Shetland Island Council and Lerwick Port Authority.

Cllr E Knight expressed his surprise that a project officer had been appointed to this development and stated that the plans had changed hugely from the originals he had seen. He thought they were still at consultation stage and it may be possible to change them.

The Chairman agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council to ask them to modify the plans to accommodate the waiting area. He noted that Age Concern were willing to continue providing refreshments in the rest room and the Rotary Club would continue to supply it with daily newspapers. He said it would be a great shame to lose the facility.

#### **10.5 Lerwick Old Town and Waterfront – Report of Meeting**

The Chairman stated that this was a report of very worthwhile meeting he and other members of Lerwick Community Council had attended recently. It had been very well attended and many ideas had been forwarded for ways to improve the area.

He felt it would be difficult for any individual to carry on the initiative as a volunteer and that it would need to be a full time occupation to source funding and steer forward.

Cllr L Angus agreed and compared it to the recent successful initiative in Scalloway. He noted that people didn't want the developments restricted to just the old town but to extend it right from Sands of Sound to the North Ness.

05/05/11

#### **Financial Report**

Noted. The Chairman stated that he had agreed to look at the previous year's financial accounts to confirm that the amount carried over at the end of the year was correct, but due to the office's recent refurbishment works it had not been possible to get them.

He noted that the office would require extensive cleaning following the replacement of doors and windows and that this was outwith the Clerk's normal duties. It was agreed she should keep a note of all time spent deep cleaning if this went over the normal 15 hours per week and be paid accordingly.

05/05/12

#### **Financial Assistance**

##### **12.1 Girl Guiding Shetland**

The Chairman noted that this had traditionally been supported in the past and hoped they would continue to do so.

Mr R Anderson proposed to grant £1000 and this was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

### **12.2 Shetland Mid-Summer 7s**

The Chairman noted that this was a relatively new organisation who were bringing benefits to Lerwick and to Shetland by attracting visitors to compete in an up and coming sport.

Cllr L Angus proposed to grant £500 and Cllr E Knight seconded it.

### **12.3 Skeklers Theatre Company**

Cllr E Knight reported a non-pecuniary interest as a director of the company.

The Chairman felt this was a very worthwhile project and one they should try to support. He noted that the balance to be funded was quite a significant sum.

Cllr L Angus noted that they had been given £1000 from Shetland Islands Council Community Development and this would seem to be, given the nature of the project, a rather miserly contribution.

Mr R Anderson stated that he did not understand the figures quoted. They had received a grant of £65,000 from the Scottish Arts Council yet the balance was only £27,000.

It was agreed to write to them for clarification on their current financial situation and to carry the application over to the next meeting.

### **12.4 Shetland Skatepark Association**

Cllr L Angus stated that progress was slow on this project as they had yet to obtain an appropriate site. Two earlier proposed sites had been rejected due to complaints by residents in the areas, and it had been necessary to drill boreholes at a third proposed site to establish the suitability of the site. At this present time, due to the extra drilling work which had had to be carried out, he felt it was not possible to make a decision on awarding assistance as they had no current estimated costs for the project.

It was agreed to write to them to obtain up to date estimated costs.

### **12.5 Shetland Islands Cruisers**

The Chairman noted that this event had just been, and had attracted a large number of motorbike drivers from around the country and Scandinavia.

Mr R Anderson noted their current shortfall was £600 and proposed to grant this amount. Cllr E Knight seconded this.

### **12.6 Clickimin Open Riding Club**

The Chairman noted that the group was trying to reform a club that had existed in the past and he felt it was worthy of support. He noted that they were applying to other community councils for assistance and moved to grant £1000, seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

### **12.7 Lerwick Pre-School Parents' Group**

Cllr L Angus felt this project was a long time coming and the nursery, which was attended by local and rural children alike, had done a large amount of fundraising themselves so far. He moved to grant £1000, seconded by Cllr J Henry.

05/05/13

## **Planning Applications**

### **13.1 Change of use – Former Schlumberger Building**

No objections

**13.2 Replace 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows, 32 King Harald Street** No objections

**13.3 Change of use – Breiwick House, South Road** No objections

05/05/14

**Any Other Business**

**14.1 Left Luggage Facility – Aberdeen Northlink Terminal**

Cllr G Feather noted that the current lack of left luggage facilities at Aberdeen's Northlink terminal was absolute rubbish. Travellers were expected to use the facility at the bus station, which was not acceptable.

Cllr L Angus stated that Tavish Scott MP had been contacted and was taking it up with the company.

The Chairman agreed he would find out what the current situation was with Mr Scott.

**14.2 Bus Parking Spaces**

Mr D Ristori noted that there were currently no parking spaces for tourist buses that wanted to park in the town centre. They were using the lay by on the Esplanade at present but were constantly getting moved on from there as it was needed by the local bus service. He asked if it was possible to get a designated parking space for visiting coaches on Victoria Pier.

The Chairman agreed to write to Lerwick Port Authority to find out if this was a possibility, as it was important to encourage tourists to Shetland and assist them in any way possible.

**14.3 G8 Demonstration**

Cllr W Stove had been asked to find out if Lerwick Community Council supported the planned G8 demonstration against poverty and global warming to be held in Lerwick in July, which already had the support of the MP and local churches.

The Chairman agreed that the more people who turned out, the better.

Mrs A Simpson proposed that Lerwick Community Council formally supports the demonstration and Cllr J Henry seconded this.

**14.4 Clickimin Broch Lights**

The Chairman noted that he had been having discussions with Shetland Electrical Services regarding having a time switch installed at Clickimin Broch to ensure that the lights were not left on during daylight hours. He hoped to be able to report back at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

MR T R NICOLSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL