

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick at 7pm

Present

Mr J Anderson	Mr M Peterson
Mr R Anderson	Mr P Scarsbrook
Ms K Fraser	Mrs A Simpson
Cllr G Feather	Mr W Spence
Mr A Johnston	Cllr W Stove
Cllr E Knight	

Additional Co-Opted Members

Mr A Goudie	Mr D Ristori
-------------	--------------

In Attendance

Chief Inspector M Bell, Northern Constabulary
Sergeant G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary
Ms M Clark, Shetland Times Reporter
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr P Scarsbrook, Vice Chairman of the Council, presided

06/05/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

06/05/02 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Henry, Cllr J Irvine and Mr T Nicolson.

06/05/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th April 2006 were approved by Mr J Anderson and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

06/05/04 **Business Arising**

06/04/11 Traffic - Oversund Road

Mr M Peterson asked if any response had been received from SIC Roads Department regarding the road markings at the Quoys/Oversund junction.

The Chairman confirmed there had been none to date. He read out a letter received from Mr A Massie, Sound, who expressed the same concerns at the dangerous junction.

PS G McCarthy stated that he had not yet been to look at the junction but would do so as soon as possible. He agreed with the points raised from the description he had received and would speak to the Head of Roads Service after he had visited the junction himself.

The Chairman noted that they would ask SIC Roads for an on-site meeting.

06/04/08 Town Hall Guide

Mr R Anderson noted that, when the subject of the Town Hall guide had been raised at an earlier meeting, he had stated that Lerwick Community Council should be willing to foot the cost of reprinting the guide *if* they received their normal funding.

He stated that he has now learnt that this year may be different and cuts are to be made. He noted that the proposed £7-8000 it would cost to reprint the booklet was a substantial amount out of LCC's grant.

He also made the point the LCC more than just paid for the last booklet - they updated it and incorporated the information into the new booklet, based on the original by Dr T M Y Manson.

Chief Inspector M Bell

Mr R Anderson offered his congratulations to CI Bell on his promotion and noted that he was the first Shetlander to achieve that position in Shetland.

CI M Bell thanked him and noted that he had been overwhelmed by the number of good wishes he had received so far.

Community Council Funding

Mr R Anderson noted that once again there was to be reductions made to the amount of funding available to each community council. He said that this aggravated him, as money was taken from Lerwick Community Council to help fund the smaller community councils.

He noted that Ms W Fraser and Mrs K Hughson of ASCC were to have discussions with SIC Finance and this made him nervous, as he felt the community councils were not getting a fair bite of the cherry.

Headstones - Lerwick Cemetery

Cllr G Feather noted that there appeared to be work ongoing to reinstate the fallen headstones at the cemetery.

The Chairman noted that SIC Infrastructure had been awaiting lifting gear and were now planning to implement new standards in erecting stones.

13.6 Road Surfaces

Mr M Peterson asked if any response had arrived from SIC Roads yet, but the Clerk confirmed there had been none to date.

13.5 Guidelines and Best Practice

Mr M Peterson asked if there had been any update regarding grants for Shetland-wide organisations.

Mr R Anderson stated that he knew nothing more at the moment. It had been through the liaison group and was to be heard at a Shetland Islands Council meeting. He noted they would not reply to him directly but would go through ASCC and he suggested writing again to Mr J Riise for clarification.

06/04/09 Additional Co-opted Member

Ms K Fraser noted that Mr A Goudie was attending his first LCC meeting, and the Chairman formally welcomed him.

06/05/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy apologised for his absence at recent meetings due to illness. He noted he had been unable to attend last month when he was supposed to show the road safety DVD and proposed to do this at the next meeting.

He stated that from 20 February 06 there had been 1600 incidents in Lerwick

26 assaults	12 detected
39 thefts	7 detected
49 vandalisms	4 detected
18 positive drug seizures	
6 drink drivers	
19 incidences of alcohol being confiscated from under-agers	

He noted that there was a lot of possible work going on to detect these crimes. He explained that 1600 incidents in Lerwick were not all crimes, but included a large number of admin type, but this figure indicated the work load of the officers. He noted that, of the 6 drink drivers, 4 had been reported by members of the public and he welcomed this.

Mr M Peterson asked if the police were taking any action towards cyclists who used the pavement instead of the road.

PS G McCarthy noted that one of their aims was to reduce the numbers injured on roads and thankfully there were not a high incidence of cyclists being injured. He had not received many reports of cyclists using pavements so this was not of high importance. He noted that a few cyclists had been spoken to and told not to pedal on pavements.

Mr J Anderson noted that a few weeks ago an e-mail had been posted on the SIC intranet regarding potential violence between various groups of young people on Commercial Street. He asked if this had come from the police and if there was a degree of scare-mongering.

CI M Bell stated that this situation was nothing new. There had been gangs of youths encouraging fights for years. This flared up again a few weeks

ago and had been dealt with. He would not tolerate "no-go" areas. They were currently taking a high profile approach especially on Saturdays and he will continue to provide the resources to encourage that. He stated he would never advise anyone to stay away from the area.

PS McCarthy noted that although there was an increase in the use of weapons on mainland Scotland, this was not such a problem here. The majority of assaults did not involve weapons but were fuelled by alcohol and included domestic assault.

CI Bell said, following analysis of crime figures for April, that they have seen a 33% decrease in crime in Shetland from this time last year and this was across all the headings. 93.4% of reported crime in April has been detected. He noted this puts Shetland far and away the most successful command area in the force. There were a number of areas where they were bucking the trend and they will concentrate on increasing the detection rate further still. They were off to a good start for this year.

He added it was not all doom and gloom, with Shetland still a safe place to live. It was a very positive picture and he wanted to keep it that way.

Mr R Anderson noted that the 1600 incidents in Lerwick included admin duties and asked if these type were omitted from national scales.

CI Bell stated that he had been concerned for years about how these figures are reported, for example, processing a shotgun certificate which takes up an officer's time but is an important part of their job. The figures give an indication of their workload and noted that not all of it is crime-related and they have a large amount of admin to deal with.

The Chairman thanked both officers for their time and wished CI Bell well with his new post.

06/05/06

ASCC: Briefing Paper on Reductions in Community Council's Budgets 06/07

Mr R Anderson stated that they should write to Ms W Fraser of ASCC to seek an urgent meeting of the association. It was important that they get the views of each community council in Shetland. The only way to fight the proposed reductions in funding is from across the board. He was not happy that Ms Fraser and Mrs K Hughson had been asked to consider when cuts should happen.

He noted that they did not have a lot of time as a meeting would have to be held in advance of 28th June in order to report their findings to Shetland Islands Council before they meet on that date. He felt ASCC should meet no later than 14th June and that Saturday 10th June would probably be the most appropriate date. The letter to Ms Fraser should be copied to the Chairman of ASCC, Mr J Gear.

He felt they seemed to be getting ASCC's secretary and treasurer to discuss where reductions will fall and that all the community councils needed to be involved so that they could find out what everyone felt about it. He thought

that speaking to individual community councils was not satisfactory, and they needed a group response.

He stressed that he was very anxious that all community councils get together to fight the threat of reductions in budget.

Mrs A Simpson noted that the letter stated each community councillor should make representations to their elected councillors.

Mr R Anderson agreed that it was the elected councillors who made the decisions and each Lerwick councillor should be written to immediately.

Mr J Anderson asked how much had been saved in moving ASCC's office to Market House.

The Chairman noted that each community council had been paid 50% of their grant to enable them to carry out their business and that any cut would be made on the remaining 50% to be paid.

06/05/07

Parking Order: Tarland, Upper Sound

Cllr G Feather noted that he had spoken to the applicant on several occasions. He believed the plans had been shelved at the moment to allow time for planners to look at doctor's reports. There had been a number of objections and there seemed to be differences of opinion in the area. He advised waiting until all the details were available before discussing it further.

He confirmed that the applicant currently had an off-road parking bay next to his house but it was often blocked by other car drivers. He was applying for a disabled bay which partially blocked his own off-road parking bay.

The Chairman noted that anyone with a disabled parking sticker can park in any disabled parking bay, and it would not ensure that he was able to have a bay exclusively for his own use.

Mrs A Simpson noted that it appeared he was trying to reserve two parking spaces for his own use.

The Chairman agreed to wait for further information.

06/05/08

Correspondence

8.1 Keith Gray - Lerwick Transport Dash

The Chairman felt it was ridiculous to have a bus service from the airport that did not wait for air passengers.

Ms K Fraser pointed out that the bus was a service bus and on a schedule so therefore could not wait for late passengers as it would affect passengers waiting on the rest of its route. She felt instead there should be some kind of back-up plan in place for passengers who miss the bus when the plane is

delayed. She thought it was unfair that passengers are being stranded at the airport with no other means of transport to the town.

Mrs A Simpson felt that reducing the cost of long-stay parking at the airport would allow more people to use that facility.

Mr M Peterson noted that there were more spaces currently being built. He stated that this issue had been discussed at the Transport Strategy meeting. He suggested writing to SIC Roads & Transport to express concern at the timetable of the scheduled bus, as well as suggesting they provide an additional bus at times when flights are delayed, which he thought British Airways used to do this but Loganair don't. He suggested that service providers could be a bit more flexible by waiting to collect passengers from delayed flights and making up the time on the rest of the route.

The Chairman noted that the first bus in the morning was used by people who needed to be at work by 9am, and waiting at the airport for late-comers would have a knock-on effect and make the other passengers late.

Mr R Anderson suggested writing to SIC Roads & Transport to ask if they were aware of the problem and if they had any solutions.

8.2 Lerwick Port Authority - Alcohol Policy

Mr M Peterson asked if anything had been received from Shetland Islands Council as they had also been asked for their policy. The Clerk confirmed that they had sent their alcohol policy that is issued to all their staff.

Mr M Peterson noted that the coastguard had not been utilising their policies when the Anglian Monarch incident took place and asked how many tests are taken each year from staff.

Mr R Anderson noted that they had been asked for their policies and had provided them to answer Mr Peterson's question.

8.3 Scottish Executive - Standing Up To Antisocial Behaviour Awards Scheme

Mr R Anderson suggested that Shetland Amenity Trust be informed of the scheme as the Redd-Up may qualify.

Mr M Peterson noted that it would have been useful for Scottish Executive to have listed what types of project had won.

8.4 SEPA - Discharge at Rear of Lerwick Hotel

Mr R Anderson felt there was more information in this letter than had been received in recent years. He wondered who's connection needed correcting to stop the problem occurring.

Mr J Anderson noted that it was actually untreated raw sewage that was being found, not effluent waste.

Mr R Anderson felt they should keep an eye on the situation. He suggested writing back to thank them for the information and ask if they can give some indication as to when the problem will be resolved.

8.5 Shetland Recreational Trust/Shetland Amenity Trust - Trees at Clickimin

Mrs A Simpson noted that they had requested volunteers to help and felt that it would have to be structured so that everyone knew what to do.

Ms K Fraser suggested that, if Shetland Amenity Trust set a time when weeding and clearing up would be done, LCC could pay for an advert in the Shetland Times to notify the public.

Cllr E Knight noted that youths doing community service had been working in area recently and he felt this was a good idea.

Mr R Anderson thought that if money was required for advertising then LCC could provide this to assist the Amenity Trust to organise volunteers.

Mr J Anderson asked that the reporter highlight the issue in the Shetland Times.

8.6 SIC - Hand Rail at Clydesdale Bank

Mr J Anderson asked if Shetland Islands Council were aware of the extent of the new disabled ramp outside the bank. It forced pedestrians to go onto the road or to go up and over the ramp if they needed to go past the bank. He asked if LCC should be encouraging people to cross the road and then cross back again.

Mr R Anderson felt they had gone too far down the road to change their minds. He pointed out that the matter arose because a member of the public fell when going around the steep corner and he noted that a previous report had said the area would be too "cluttered" if hand rails were put in place.

He noted that the letter was a copy of one sent to the Clydesdale Bank and so suggested LCC waited to see if they agreed to it, although he believed they were not averse to the idea.

8.7 SIC - Lerwick Cemeteries Noted

8.8 SIC - Sletts Pier Access Road Noted

8.9 SIC - Surfacing Works Proposed 2005/06 - Lerwick Area

Mr R Anderson asked what work was being carried out in the Ackrigarth area and Cllr W Stove confirmed it had been resurfacing work carried out following the installation of District Heating.

8.10 Shetland Angers' Association Noted

8.11 Sound Nursery Noted

06/05/09 **Financial Report** Noted

06/05/10 **Financial Assistance**

10.1 Shetland Baton Twirlers

Ms K Fraser moved to grant £500 and was seconded by Mr R Anderson.

10.2 Serpentine Drama

Mr R Anderson moved to grant £500 and was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

06/05/11

Planning Applications

11.1 Town & Country Planning (Appeals) - 12 dwellinghouses, land to south of Nederdale

Mr R Anderson noted that Lerwick Community Council had previously approved this application with no objections. He moved to write in support of the proposed scheme. He noted that housing was urgently needed in Lerwick.

Ms K Fraser stated that she had not been aware of anyone using the area for recreational purposes and noted that there were other green spaces in the area, such as Seafield.

11.2 Demolish Stores and Erect Dwellinghouse with car parking & 2 single storey bedroomed residential units - 38 Market Street

No objections

06/05/12

Any Other Business

12.1 Name Plaques - Lerwick Lanes

Mr D Ristori noted that a lot of the original name plaques in the Lerwick lanes area were in a poor state and in need of refurbishment. He felt they were an important part of Lerwick's history and should be restored. He noted that a brief history of the area could also be displayed with the name plaque.

Cllr E Knight agreed that the lanes all had their histories and that this was a good idea.

12.2 Planning Applications

Mr W Spence suggested contacting SIC Planning Department to get the planning applications sent in CD format, which could then be projected onto the screen and allow everyone to look at the application at one time.

12.3 Parking Spaces

Mr A Goudie asked if there were any limit to the amount of vehicles which could park per household.

The Chairman confirmed that, as long as a vehicle was licensed and taxed, it can legally park anywhere and there are no limits per household.

12.4 Advertising of Planning Applications

Ms K Fraser stated that she had been informed by a member of the public that SIC Planning Department would no longer be advertising the planning applications in the Shetland Times each week in an effort to reduce costs. Although they could still be viewed on their website, Ms Fraser felt this was not good enough, as not everyone had internet access. She felt it was a

backward step and not for the public good. She also felt it had been an executive decision carried out without public consultation.

Mr M Peterson agreed and thought it was anti-democratic.

12.5 Longland Play Area

Mr M Peterson noted that the play area at Longland had not be reinstated following works to drain the area and that grass seed would need to be planted now. It was agreed to write to SIC Community Development.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

MR P SCARBROOK
VICE CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL