

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 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 7.35pm**
Mr W Spence

Mr A Johnston
Mrs M Robertson
Ms K Fraser
Mr W Stove
Mr E Knight

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Henry

Cllr J Wills **left 8.20pm**

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr L Henry

Miss C Holmes

In Attendance

PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary
Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC
Robert Sinclair, AHS Project Manager, SIC
John Johnson, Radio Shetland
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

08/09/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

08/09/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K Greaves, Mr S Gordon, Cllr C Miller, Cllr A Wishart and Mr R Leith

08/09/03

Minutes

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

08/09/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

08/07/07 – 7.2 Comments and questions on the report ‘New Anderson High School Project; Way Forward’

Page 5, paragraph 4 - Mr L Angus asked that the minute ‘lower Stoney Hill site’ be corrected to ‘Knab site’.

08/09/05

Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC – Update, Anderson High School Project

Ms H Sutherland thanked the Chairman for inviting her to the meeting and began her presentation.

She stated that during March/April of this year it was agreed the 'horse shoe' shape design for the proposed new Anderson High School displayed at the Museum was not feasible.

Issues needed to be addressed including cost, timescale, planning issues and the condition of the current school. She pointed out that at one point the school had to be closed for an afternoon during the previous winter.

Ms H Sutherland noted that at the Council meeting in June 2008 a target budget of £49m was set for the whole cost of the project. The Knab was still the favoured site but a smaller scale of 15,000 m² was agreed. The process of procurement was to be reviewed and the traffic impact assessment redone.

She stated any new design should minimise the dominance and visual impact on the Knab site.

She also emphasised the importance of minimising the disruption to pupils and teachers during the construction of the new school but noted pupils may have to be decanted.

Ms H Sutherland noted that there had to be a degree of compromise however, or wherever, the school was to be built.

She stated an advert had been placed for a dedicated Project Manager with a proven record for successfully managing this type of project. They hoped to appoint someone in December of this year.

Ms H Sutherland advised that consultation with residents in the area was important and a newsletter was currently being worked on.

Mr L Angus also emphasised that the consultation process was key to the project and the newsletter would be very informative.

Mr W Stove asked if the school was still being built to house 1,100 pupils.

Ms H Sutherland replied that the school would now be built to accommodate the reduced figure of 1,000 pupils.

Mrs A Simpson stated that many issues still remained unresolved and enquired what would happen if they remained so.

Ms H Sutherland replied the project was dependant on being educationally and technically "do-able". It had to be affordable, possibly the Council would have to think of other ways to fund the project. Consideration would also be given as to how the school would sit within the environment.

She noted that she hoped each of these issues would be resolved one or two at a time and stated they would have a better 'picture' in December.

Mr W Stove asked what help the Council hoped to receive from the Scottish Government.

Ms H Sutherland replied they hoped to receive assistance and advice that any design for the school is modern and suitable enough to take forward.

Cllr J Wills enquired where the £49m figure came from.

Ms H Sutherland stated that she did not have the exact details with her but £40m was the build cost for the school and the rest accounted for fees (already spent and likely to be spent) and £1m set aside for the possible decanting of pupils.

Cllr J Wills enquired if the £2.85m spent to date would be lost if the school was not built on the Knab site.

Ms H Sutherland replied that as only individual elements, eg. classroom size and layout were being used from the original design they would be applicable on any site. Therefore, if another site was chosen not all the money would not be lost.

Cllr J Wills advised that a new brief was being drawn and there would be no final design until 9 March 2009. He noted it would only be known at that stage if the choices made were suitable.

He pointed out the Government had an expert school building adviser who had never been approached for assistance.

He advised that 49m was not affordable and would cut the Capital Spending Programme by a third. He stated the proposed new AHS was twice the price it should be.

Cllr J Wills noted the site selection process was not comprehensive and did not fairly take into account all the sites. He advised he did not care where the school was built so long as it was affordable and built as soon as possible.

Mr L Angus stated that in her defense Ms H Sutherland had done well with the project she had been tasked with.

He pointed out that there had been serious design issues with the horse shoe design. He advised that change to the design would alter the footprint and it could be moved further down the hill.

Mr L Angus stated that 'A Block' which housed the Art and Technical departments would be prohibitively difficult and expensive to decant. He noted the projected 1m decant costs was a 'guesstimate' and they did not know yet how the pupils would be decanted. He advised work on the problem was going on a daily basis and until things were clearer they were not in a position to inform the public.

The Chairman asked what the construction programme was.

Mr R Sinclair, AHS Project Manager, SIC replied this was still under discussion but the programme would consist of approximately 2-3 year building work with a further additional year for landscaping.

The Chairman asked when the building work was likely to commence.

Mr R Sinclair replied that hopefully it would be during 2009 but it was still too early to say.

The Chairman stated he did not understand why the site selection table of estimated costs attributed £15m for a new hostel for all the sites except the Knab. The environmental impact assessment report clearly states that a new hostel is not required. The inclusion of this figure is misleading in that it shows the Knab site as the cheapest option while it is not.

Ms H Sutherland replied that this was an oversight which would require to be corrected. Shetland Islands Council had not asked them to look at the Hostel.

The Chairman pointed out if a new Hostel was required it would be disruptive, costly and could add another 24 months on to the building schedule. Therefore anybody starting 1st year at the start of the construction programme may well have to endure

6 years of decant and construction works throughout their entire time at High School.

Ms H Sutherland replied there were no immediate plans for a new Halls of Residence as the current one was functioning well.

She noted that regarding site selection, there was no perfect site and each would have its own set of problems.

Cllr J Wills advised that the Council decided the Hostel was a completely separate issue.

He stated the Council should be looking at exemplar schools on the mainland. He noted they were perfectly good schools which would just require a little 'tweaking' to be more compatible with Shetland's weather.

Cllr J Wills noted that building the school in a restricted area meant it would need to have more levels which would therefore work out as a more expensive option.

He reiterated that other sites should be looked at with the hope of bringing building costs down.

Ms K Fraser enquired if the project would go as far as the planning application before further consultation.

Ms H Sutherland replied they would be reporting back to each Services Committee up to December.

Mr L Henry asked if the design had changed from the original.

Ms H Sutherland advised changes would be considerable.

Mr L Angus stated that the current position was that there was no design for the school and what is being considered now is a design brief.

He stated there were grave concerns over the state of the current school and a schedule of works was being prepared to assess what needs to be done and the costs involved.

He noted it would not be fair on the pupils to have to put up with the challenges of the previous winter.

Mr L Angus remarked on the issue of asbestos which would have to be dealt with. He stated a survey was being taken and it was all in hand.

He stated parents would have to be reassured the current school was 'fit for purpose' and would not impair the education of the pupils.

The Chairman asked if there were any plans for the original Institute building.

Mr R Sinclair stated he would like to see it incorporated in the new school and this would be discussed with the architect.

Mr W Stove noted it would be interesting to be advised of the maintenance costs of the school since 1991.

Ms H Sutherland noted it would be a challenge for Graeme Johnston, Finance, SIC to work out but she would ask him.

Mrs M Robertson noted that meetings with residents in the Knab area had all been positive and she enquired if there were plans to have another.

Ms H Sutherland advised another meeting would be arranged in mid November.

Mr E Knight enquired when the newsletter would be completed.

Ms H Sutherland replied she was unsure. She noted the newsletter was lengthy but supposed people would just read and digest the parts which were of most interest to them.

The Chairman enquired if the school hall could be used by the community outside of school hours.

Mr R Sinclair stated the Chairman's enquiry was something he could feed back to the Council.

Ms H Sutherland noted that there were plans to allow community access to the games hall out with school hours.

There being no other questions the Chairman thanked Ms H Sutherland and Mr R Sinclair for their presentation.

He advised they would be welcome back to discuss any further progress with the project.

The presentation concluded at 7.35pm and Ms H Sutherland and Mr R Sinclair left the meeting.

Cllr L Angus left at 7.35pm to attend another meeting.

08/09/06

Police Report

PS B Gray provided the following details of offences compared to those of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – remained the same, 6, all detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – up from 9 to 11, of which 9 were detected
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – up from 124 to 129, of which 87 were detected
Class 4 - Crimes of vandalism – up from 115 to 149, of which 105 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – up from 73 to 90, with 86 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – up from 249 to 257, with 249 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – down from 276 to 234, 233 detected

Cllr J Wills asked if there were any trends which were causing particular concern.

The Sergeant stated that the high increase in vandalism compared to that of the same time last year was mainly attributed to one person who was sent a strong message and was now no longer on the Island.

He noted that following his departure the vandalism continued for a spell then tailed away.

The Sergeant also advised each single act of vandalism was noted separately and this also appeared to make the acts of vandalism seem high.

Ms K Fraser enquired how the campaign to clamp down on drivers using mobile phones had gone.

PS B Gray noted there had been a decrease in this particular crime as it was becoming very much frowned upon. He stated that although the force had been actively looking for offenders much of their detection rate was due to reports from the general public.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for the report concluded at 7.40pm.

08/09/07

Correspondence

7.1 Sandy McConnachie, Scottish Water – Sewerage Smells, Lerwick

The Chairman stated that as the letter from Mr McConnachie states complainants must contact Scottish Water if they have any issues as their calls will be logged and they will receive a visit from a local member of staff.

7.2 I Halcrow, SIC – Street Lighting, Clickimin Loch, Lerwick

Mr W Spence stated two lamp posts had been cut three foot from the ground and removed.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Cooper, Maintenance Manager, Shetland Recreational Trust and ask for their long term plans.

7.3 I Halcrow, SIC – Oversund Roundabout

The Chairman stated that the road markings had been changed and seemed to be working well.

He noted that there still did not seem to be any signs to indicate the 20mph zone.

Cllr J Henry replied part time 20mph signs were shortly to be installed by the contractor.

7.4 Emma Perring, ZetTrans – Time Tables, Town Service Bus

Noted

7.5 Bryan Leask, Hjaltland Housing Association – Street naming

Mr D Ristori noted the name 'Diggery' had not been used for 200 years and had never been on a map, he proposed 'Diggery Place/Court'.

This was seconded by Ms K Fraser.

Ms A Simpson stated her preference was 'Da Vadil'.

Ms M Robertson proposed a few names could be suggested.

Mrs A Simpson agreed to this proposal and suggested the names 'Diggery Court', 'Da Vadil' and 'Kiln Court' be put forward.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association with the suggestions.

7.6 Alexis Tulloch – Grant Thanks

Noted

7.7 Emma Perring, ZetTrans – Study into Transport Link between Bressay and the Shetland Mainland

Cllr J Wills stated it was ridiculous to spend £250,000 on a study into the possibility of a tunnel link to Bressay when it could not possibly be afforded.

Taking into consideration the tunnel openings would be at Point of Scotland and Heogan he thought the proposal to incorporate cycling and walking lanes ludicrous.

7.8 Cllr J Wills – Emails and replies, Clickimin Loch – Algae

Cllr J Wills stated that although unsightly the algae was not poisonous and would provide food for the Ducks and Swans during winter.

7.9 Evelyn Leask – ‘Peerie Willie’ Johnson Memorial

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mrs Leask and request that she again contact Lerwick Community Council once a plan for a memorial has been developed.

7.10 Hannah Nelson, SIC – Reassessment and Status of the Housing Zone Review

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to contact Hannah Nelson, development Plans Manager, SIC or Kathy Greaves and request copies of the plans set within the town boundaries.

7.11 Vincent Waters, Association of |Scottish Community Councils – ASCC National Ballot 2008

Noted

7.12 ASCC Constitution Consultation – National Ballot

Noted

7.13 Letter of Apology – Damage to Lighting, Clickimin Broch

The Chairman advised the young boy who caused the damaged owned up to what he did and seemed very contrite.

The damaged caused to the lighting cost a total of £138.47 to repair.

7.14 Gavin Douglas, Historic Scotland – Clickimin Broch, Lerwick

Mr E Knight advised it would only be necessary to erect security fencing across the neck of the land and down into the water. He felt Historic Scotland had a very light hearted attitude to the Broch, particularly apparent in the last paragraph of their letter.

Cllr J Wills stated the webcam seemed a simple solution to the problem. He suggested Historic Scotland be written to and asked to finance it as the monument was their responsibility.

The Chairman questioned how much could actually be seen with a webcam.

Mr A Johnston advised the webcam at Market Cross broadcast live film which was fairly clear. He felt a webcam at the Broch may be a deterrent.

Ms K Fraser stated security fencing and CCTV would take away the charm of the Broch. She also felt a webcam was the best option as it gave people the impression they may be seen.

Ms A Simpson advised Maggie Dunne, Environmental Services, SIC had a mobile webcam which was used in areas where anti social behavior was likely to occur.

She suggested Maggie be contacted and asked if the equipment could be borrowed and the webcam idea trialed.

Ms K Fraser advised Lerwick Community Council should take up Historic Scotland's offer to provide an education officer to visit schools and raise awareness of the importance of the Broch. She felt it could be helpful and noted that if nothing else it would raise the profile of the Broch.

The Chairman stated that in order 'to move things on' the offer from Historic Scotland to provide an education officer should be accepted. He agreed Maggie Dunne should be approached with regard to Lerwick Community Council 'trialing' the webcam at the Broch.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to both parties regarding Lerwick Community Council's requests.

Cllr J Wills left the meeting. 8.20pm.

- 08/09/08 **Approve Financial Statement for Year End 31 March 2007 – LCC**
Noted
- 08/09/09 **Approve Financial Statement for Year End 31 March 2007 - LCCCT**
Noted
- 08/09/10 **Financial Report**
The Clerk advised that a further £5,600, revenue from outstanding invoices from sales of the Town Hall Guide, could be added to the estimated free funds figure.
Noted
- 08/09/11 **Financial Assistance**
11.1 Shetland Blues Festival – 5th Annual Blues Festival
Ms M Robertson declared an interest as a member of the committee. However she stated she would be disappointed if they did not receive any assistance.

Ms K Fraser proposed an offer of £500 should be made.

This proposal was seconded by Mr D Ristori.

11.2 Back to Bouster – Commemorative Cairn
Ms K Fraser proposed their request for a grant should be rejected.

The Chairman seconded the proposal.

He stated Mrs Scollay should be written to and advised Lerwick Community Council would hope to support a Lerwick based plan to commemorate 'Peerie Willie'

11.3 Westerloch Residents Association – Safety Matting for Play Park
The Chairman noted it was commendable that the Westerloch Residents Association provided and maintained the play park for the children.

Ms K Fraser proposed a grant offer of £500 be awarded.

This was seconded by Mr E Knight.
- 08/09/12 **Planning Applications**
12.1 2008/246/PCD – Extend retail store, form car park, covered trolley bays, recycling area and realign footpath, Tesco Stores, Lerwick by Tesco Ltd

Ms K Fraser questioned the need to extend the store but suggested a small extension to house a café would be suitable.

Mr W Stove noted that there had always been plans to extend the store, going back to when it was owned by Presto and first opened in 1995. He stated Tesco offered more choices and good competition.

He moved to support Tesco's plans to extend the building.

Ms K Fraser moved to turn down Tesco's planning application.

Mrs M Robertson seconded Mr W Stove's proposal stating Tesco offered a good variety of groceries for those on a low budget.

Mr E Knight noted recent statistics published showed a retail turnover of 49m for the year, two thirds of which were divided among the two large stores with the remainder split between the small family run businesses.

Mr W Stove sympathised with local businesses but reminded members of the jobs which had so far been created by the Tesco store.

Mrs A Simpson commented on the larger stores encouragement to consumers to purchase larger quantities of food than intended in order 'to save' and questioned how much was eventually dumped by the consumer.

Mr L Henry stated a friend of his who worked at the Tesco store was appalled by the volume of food dumped by the store itself.

Mr W Stove advised the disposal of food by stores could mostly be attributed to legislation.

He pointed out that the overbuying of consumers was their own fault and we were all guilty of waste.

He noted schools and other institution were also at fault and supermarkets should not be solely blamed.

There being no seconder to Ms K Fraser's proposal to turn down the application the Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to advise Planning, SIC that there was no objection.

12.2 2008/281/PCD – Application not to comply with condition no's. 1,3,4,5,6,7 and 12 of planning permission ref; 2007/174/PCD (Change of use of factory to provide 10 residential units, Old Judane Knitwear Factory, North Road, Lerwick) which relate to visibility splay provision, access into site, car parking spaces to be provided and pedestrian access, Old Judane Knitwear Factory, North Road, Lerwick by Judith Miller.

The Chairman proposed the applicant should have to comply with condition no's. 1,3,4,5,6,7 and 12 of planning permission ref; 2007/174/PCD

This was seconded by Mr W Stove.

08/09/13

Any Other Business

Lane's - Mr D Ristori noted that there were still three Lane signs, Trance Closs, Muirs Steps and Crooked Lane which needed to be cleaned and replaced.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Neil Hutchinson, Infrastructure Services, Shetland Islands Council and enquire when they will be attended to.

Mrs A Simpson enquired if there was still a programme of cleaning the lanes. She noted that in particular the lane next to the Golden Coach could become quite untidy.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr J Emptage, Environmental Services, SIC and ask for a copy of their Programme of Works.

Knab Wall and Footpath - Mrs M Robertson commented on how well the rebuilding of the Knab Dyke was coming along.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr S Cooper, Infrastructure Services, SIC with the compliment.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr M Malcolmson, Sport and Leisure, SIC and ask that the issues of poor drainage along areas of the Knab footpath be addressed before winter.

Chromate Lane, Damaged Wall – The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to advise Mr S Cooper, Infrastructure Services, SIC that the wall at Chromate Lane between the car park and grass strip was in a poor state of repair and possibly dangerous.

He asked that Lerwick Community Council be advised as to Infrastructure Services plans to deal with the problem.

Allotments - Mr E Knight stated the Shetland Island Council's plans to promote allotments should be supported. He asked if the Clerk of the Council could request some more information on the subject.

Planning Application – 2008/302/PCD To change use of residential garden area to commercial flower and plant centre, 2 Hillcrest, Upper Sound, Lerwick by Mrs Ingrid Moar.

This application arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought along to the meeting to avoid an unnecessary delay.

No objections.

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