

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2017

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Mr E Knight
Mrs M Hall	Mr A Carter
Mrs A Simpson	Mr S Hay
Mr A Wenger	Mr A Johnston

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell
Cllr S Leask

Additional Co-opted Members

Miss L Cluness, AHS Pupil Representative
Mr P Jones, AHS Pupil Representative

In Attendance

Dr D Murphy, GP, Lerwick Health Centre
Mr A Czarnobay, Practice Manager, Lerwick Health Centre
Mrs P Christie, SIC, Community Development
Ms F Valente, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chair, presided.

12/17/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read. Mr Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

12/17/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Bell, Cllr C Smith, Cllr B Wishart, Mr M Duncan, Mr M Peterson, Ms K Fraser, Mr A Wishart, Mr W Spence, Mr D Ristori.

12/17/03

Minutes of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting on 6 November 2017 was approved by Mrs M Hall and seconded by Mr A Carter.

12/17/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

In response to the offer of a free copy of the Town Hall Guide for every pupil, Anderson High School asked for 50 copies to be placed in the school library for pupils to take as required.

12/17/05

Police Scotland Monthly Report

Representatives from Police Scotland were not in attendance.

12/17/06

Lerwick Health Centre – Appointments & Waiting Times

Mr Adam Czarnobay and Dr Dylan Murphy had been invited to the meeting to talk about Lerwick Health Centre and the progress on appointments and waiting times. Mr Czarnobay outlined how the Health Centre is managing its patient appointments and the pressures being felt by difficulties in recruiting GPs to Shetland. The practice currently has two GP vacancies. The Health Centre has tried to overcome the problems of recruitment by becoming a Training Practice, which means there is also a small number of trainee GPs supplementing the service. It is hoped that trainee GPs might decide to stay on in Shetland after their training is completed.

Currently the Practice employs one full-time GP, five part-time GPs and one Fellow GP. The current levels of GPs would not be enough to cover all of the appointments required for the level of patient numbers; however, for the last couple of years the Practice has taken on Advanced Nurse Practitioners to see patients who need an immediate appointment. Dr Murphy stressed that the ANPs are highly trained and highly skilled practitioners who are aware of the limits of their knowledge and will call for GP assistance as necessary. Dr Murphy said that this system is working very well and the GPs are called in to help with diagnosis and treatment plans for around 25% of cases.

There is currently one full-time fully trained ANP and five ANPs in training with one more arriving next year. The ANP service has alleviated the strain on the Practice and the average wait for a GP appointment has dropped to around 4 days. If the two GP vacancies were filled the Practice would be able to meet patient demand further still.

Dr Murphy said that although the Scottish Government had promised more money for Primary Care in Shetland, it would not be for GPs. The Government's aim to recruit 800 more GPs in Scotland might be ambitious as it would require around 50% of final year medical students to opt for GP trainee whereas the current trend is for around 11% of students wanting to become a GP. It takes around nine years to study to become a GP and it is hard to push people towards this role, so the role of ANPs would continue to be important. However, Dr Murphy said that the future was fairly bright for Shetland as there were a few trainee GPs who originated from Shetland who might be persuaded to stay.

Mrs Hall asked why it was not possible for patients to demand to see a GP instead of an ANP for an emergency. She said that some people were concerned that an ANP might miss something important. Dr Murphy said that he understood people's concerns and stressed again that the ANPs were highly qualified and experienced nurses who would not hesitate to call for support.

Mr Fraser asked whether there might be a return to the telephone triage system. He commented that whilst it had not been popular with patients it had been very effective in prioritising appointments and making sure urgent cases were dealt with. Dr Murphy said that this was something that might be looked at; it was a case of trial and error to find the perfect fit. He was aware that there were still a lot of

inappropriate appointments and there were still many people failing to turn up for their appointments.

Mr Fraser said that more public awareness was needed about the service, in particular an education programme on how competent and experienced the ANPs were. Mr Czarnobay said that a new telephone system was about to be implemented which would facilitate a recorded message to patients about the ANP service. Promotional material about the service would also be available in the waiting room.

Mr Carter said he had recently seen an advertisement in a local magazine for a private medical practice in Aberdeen. He wondered whether private practices were trying to capitalise on the demand in Shetland and wondered whether this was a deliberate ploy by the government to weaken the NHS and make private practice more attractive. Dr Murphy was emphatic that he hoped this was not the case and stated that there wasn't a great desire for most GPs to go into private practice.

Mr Hay asked about the role of new technology in the health service. Dr Murphy replied that new IT services were being implemented by the Scottish Government which would augment access to care, which could be useful in remote areas, or reaching patients that were on a boat, for example, but that it was no more efficient than face to face appointments.

Mr Fraser asked how the Health Centre was placed to deal with the increase in population that was forecast following the construction of 400 new homes in Lerwick. Dr Murphy said that this would probably increase the workload by another 0.5 of a GP and that funding for the Health Centre would increase pro-rata to the population.

Dr Murphy commented there were a couple of things that might help improve things. An unintended consequence from a cost savings exercise by SIC had meant that the pressure on GPs had increased following the movement of elderly people to Montfield. This increased demand on the service meant that there was less time for seeing patients in the Health Centre. He said that he hoped organisations could work together in order to minimise these unintended consequences. He added that the increased competition for social housing meant that people were encouraged to come to the health centre to obtain letters from GPs for health complaints in order to maximise their housing points. This was both time consuming for GPs and not particularly helping in prioritising housing need either.

Mr Czarnobay concluded by saying that he would rather hear from people directly if they had any comments on the service rather than via social media. His email address is adam.czarnobay@nhs.net

12/17/07

Correspondence – reply from Roads Dept

Mr Coupe, Executive Manager, SIC Roads had responded to requests for information about the railings at Hillhead and repairs to the charging station at Gilbertson Park. The Roads Department had been very busy with the Esplanade 20 mph scheme and with the new high school. The charging station would be repaired in mid-December but the railings at Hillhead would be replaced during the 2021/22 financial year, although essential repairs would be undertaken as required.

12/17/08 **Tree Planting, Clickimin**

The area for tree planting had been identified at the Clickimin loch. The Community Council would explore funding options for this and make applications where possible. Mr Arwed asked what had happened to the trees that had been removed from the campsite as there had been talking of repositioning them. The clerk was asked to find out. **Action: Clerk**

12/17/09 **Community Payback**

There was a discussion about what projects could be nominated as suitable for community payback, unpaid work placements. Ideally the service was looking for indoor work during the winter. Members were unable to suggest indoor projects but did suggest that there was a need for increased litter picking around the new high school and in the neighbouring roads. There were also some community-funded park benches that were in need of painting or repairing. The clerk was asked to reply to SIC with these ideas. **Action: Clerk**

12/17/10 **Finance – Core Funding Report dated 27 November 2017**

Members had no comments to make on the current financial report.

12/17/11 **Letter from Planning regarding demolition of wall near the Fort**

The letters regarding a planning appeal for the request of the demolition of a wall near the Fort were circulated to members. There were no comments at this time and there had not been any objections to this planning application.

12/17/12 **Planning Application – 2017/363/PPF – South Gremista Industrial Est**

There were no objections to this application.

12/17/13 **Licence Application, Saffron Restaurant**

There were no objections to the licence application for the new restaurant.

12/17/14 **A.O.B**

Rotary Club Donation

A cheque for £100 had been received from the Rotary Club for the Christmas lunches for senior citizens. Members agreed to match fund this and make a donation. The clerk was asked to contact Neil Watt to find out when the lunch was being held and to make the donation. **Action: Clerk**

Staney Hill Masterplan

Cllr Leask commented that the consultation on the Staney Hill Masterplan was going well. He outlined some of the stages of development and how the plan to integrate the new housing developments with existing sites.

Community Council Training

Mrs Christie said there would be more training for Community Council members and clerks in the New Year. Mrs Hall said she had attended the last training session and had found it interesting and useful. Mrs Christie said that SIC had set up a Community Council portal on the website where it was hoped that all Community Councils would publish minutes of meetings for the public to see. Lerwick Community Council would endeavour to submit the last three years minutes in as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**

Repairs to wall at the Knab

Mr Knight asked whether there was any news about the repairs to the broken wall at the Knab below the cemetery. The clerk was asked to find out. **Action: Clerk**

Masterplan at the Knab Site

Mr Wenger said he was disappointed to hear so many of the old school buildings would be demolished as some of them were in good repair and could easily be repurposed. He asked whether there was any intention, following the public consultation exercise, to reconsider whether every building needed to be demolished. Cllr Campbell said that there had been discussions about which buildings would be retained, and it was highly likely that the old Science Block and the ASN building would be reused for another purpose. Cllr Leask added that the conversations about the masterplan were ongoing, and included discussing the future of the buildings. In particular there had a good discussion about how the old school building could be used as an entrepreneurial hub; making use of digital technology to support learning and business needs of the community. Mr Wenger replied that he was happy that some of the buildings would be retained.

There was a discussion about when the older and unusable buildings would be demolished as they were likely to fall into a bad state of disrepair if they were not be used or heated. They would quickly become an urgent matter of health and safety. Cllr Leask replied that there was a budget for the demolition of the buildings and that the Council was aware of the need to move quickly on this issue.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....