

**MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

**Members**

Mr J Anderson	Mr W Spence
Ms K Fraser	Mr D Ristori
Mr A Johnson	Mr A Henry
Mr J Stewart	Mrs A Simpson
Mr M Peterson <b>left 8.30pm</b>	

**Ex-Officio Councilors**

Cllr J Henry <b>left 8.30pm</b>	Cllr A Wishart
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**In Attendance**

Chief Inspector D Bushell, Northern Constabulary  
Shetland Times Reporter  
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

11/03/01

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/03/02

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Wills, Mr L Angus and PS B Gray.

11/03/03

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mr J Stewart.

11/03/04

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**11/01/08 8.5 Concern, Impending Parking Restrictions in Knab Road – Carol Gray, Resident, Knab Road**

Mrs A Simpson enquired if there had been any reply from Mr I Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC with regard to the concern.

The Clerk advised Mr I Halcrow was compiling a report which he promised would be ready for inclusion in the agenda for the March meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

11/03/05

**Area Commanders Monthly Report**

The report was unavailable at time of printing the agenda. However, copies of the report were emailed to members prior to the meeting and Mr M Peterson was provided with a paper copy at the meeting.

A copy of the report follows;

**AREA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY 2011**

Having looked at the amount of information I often report on I have decided to change my reports to bi-monthly. This will help me to concentrate on the broader issues of policing that effect Shetland.

Northern Constabulary needs to make savings in its budget as do many other public bodies in these difficult financial times. The force is committed to retaining front line police officers in all of the communities of the Highlands and Islands and in Shetland that means we will not be reducing police officer numbers at present but making savings in other areas.

As previously reported these include the closing of Scalloway and Dunrossness Police Stations and the reorganising of support staff at Lerwick Police Station. The force has looked at the potential of closing the front office of Lerwick Police Station during the night but this is currently under review with strong local opinion to keep the station open. Work is underway with Shetland Isles Council to look at some joint working and shared services which will allow us to keep the police station open 24 hours a day. I will be able to report further on this in the future.

The police office to be located at Sumburgh Airport which will replace Dunrossness Police Station will allow us to be accessible and visible at this busy port. This should be ready in the spring time.

Our performance remains strong with the latest detection figures for the month of January being 68.9%. Reports of crime are also less than this time last year. As I have said in the past this is excellent for the Shetland Isles and shows the commitment officers and staff have to be effective and make Shetland as safe as possible. It also shows that we have communities that help us achieve this.

In the past two months the weather has been a major effect on road safety and we have had an increase in road collisions especially in the icy weather. We always advise motorists to make sure their vehicles are in good condition for travelling in such weather and when it is very bad to consider if they indeed need to make the journey. Motorists should drive to the conditions at the time and take special care when breaking.

Our operational priorities recently have been to tackle illegal drugs, anti social behaviour especially when it is linked to alcohol, domestic abuse and reducing accidents. We have been successful with this over the festive period and seen a reduction in reported crime. When police patrols have been made these are the things we have been concentrating on.

I was very pleased to see the Lerwick Up Helly Aa event pass with no crime or disorder. It is with credit to the public and organisers that this was the case. Other such events throughout Shetland are likewise run very well.

Our Chief Constable Iain Latimer retires from the force in April and his successor will be George Graham who is currently the Deputy Chief Constable in Dumfries and Galloway. I hope to be able to welcome Mr Graham on a visit to Shetland shortly after his appointment and I am sure he will be impressed with the area.

**David Bushell**  
**Chief Inspector**  
**Shetland Area Commander**

11/03/06      **Police Report**

Chief Inspector D Bushell stated that like most public services, the Police force were facing financial cutbacks; Northern Constabulary were taking the positive approach and were keen to maintain officer numbers but could not guarantee that this would remain the case in one, two or three years time.

He stated that the decision was taken to close Scalloway and Dunrossness Police Stations from 1 April 2011; from spring time, a Police Office would be located at Sumburgh airport where a fair amount of Police work took place.

He advised that as part of the review empty Police houses may be sold and the money from the sale utilised.

Chief Inspector D Bushell advised that although he could not go into detail, positive steps were underway with Shetland Islands Council to look at joint working and shared services which would allow the Lerwick Police Station open 24 hours a day.

He advised there was to be a review of policing in Scotland and the current working situation where there were eight forces would change, potentially having more of an effect in Shetland in three years time and could change the whole make up of policing in Scotland.

He stated that a consultation process was currently being worked through and highlighted three areas he thought were important. One, leadership; the 'set up' being the same for most forces, Officers, Sergeant, Inspector, Chief Inspector, Area Command. Two, Accountability; to the community, local Council and local Headquarters. Three, resources; Shetland had 40 Police officers supported by HQ in Inverness and extra resources and specialist officers could be brought up fairly quickly when needed.

Chief Inspector D Bushell stated the most notable change would be seen when Northern Constabulary went from the current eight forces to one, three or four forces.

He stated that at usually around the high sixties, Shetland 'pretty much' had the highest detection rate in Scotland and colleagues on the mainland would 'cut off their right arm' to attain even 50%.

He noted it highlighted how well the Police and the community worked together and how the processes used to investigate crime were working. Performance was high and morale also good.

Of the crime statistics Chief Inspector D Bushell stated that vandalism continued to be very difficult to detect but a high detection rate was gained with crimes against the person as often there was a witness.

He stated there was a scattering of crime in Shetland but no serious crimes, allowing officers to concentrate 80% of their time on priorities such as drugs abuse, anti-social behavior, underage drinking and road safety.

He noted that due to poor road conditions this winter, there had been many road accidents but fortunately they tended not to be serious; he was pleased drivers appeared drivers were taking more care.

Cllr A Wishart stated he found the report very useful and informative and welcomed the solution to keeping Lerwick Police Station open 24 hours per day. He voiced his concern with regard to policing in the future and noted that it was his hope that Shetland Community Council's would be involved in the consultation process.

Mr J Stewart enquired if Shetland would suffer because of the forces high detection rate, would they receive higher cut backs?

Chief Inspector D Bushell responded that the detection rate by other forces was substantially lower and he did not feel they would come up to Shetland's high standards. He advised that policing issues were different in different areas but as a whole Northern Constabulary had a good quality performance.

He stated that because it was a political decision it was very important for Northern Constabulary to be represented by the community to the government.

He stated it must be noted that Shetlands 40 officers were all highly trained, some in particular areas and they seldom had to call on other resources. His hope was that it would be possible to maintain this resource and high level of training.

Cllr J Henry asked if the reasons for the future proposed changes to the force were all financial.

Chief Inspector D Bushell responded that the thrust behind it was financial and if the force did not have to look at cutbacks, Scotland reducing its 8 forces would be further into the future.

Ms A Simpson enquired as to the situation regarding a new Traffic Warden.

Chief Inspector D Bushell replied that the dual role of Traffic Warden and Caretaker had been very beneficial, actually saving money. He stated the position was still available but he would first have to advertise internally; however, his main focus at the moment was with the support staff.

He reiterated that having the post filled saved the force money and allowed officers to concentrate on more serious crime.

Thanking Chief Inspector D Bushell for his report the Chairman stated Northern Constabulary should be proud of their detection rate and hoped Lerwick Community Council would resist any possible staff cutbacks.

Chief Inspector D Bushell advised that he did not get to meet with all Community Councils and asked that it be noted that should anyone wish to contact him 'his door was always open'.

Chief Inspector D Bushell Left the meeting at 7.35pm.

PS B Gray emailed the following crime analysis January 2010/11 compared with that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 15 to 24, all detected  
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Down from 31 to 14, with 8 detections  
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Down from 312 to 301, of which 199 were detected  
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 242 to 146, of which 64 were detected  
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 145 to 126, all detected  
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Down from 401 to 306, with 293 detected  
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Up from 422 to 515, with 505 detections

11/03/07

**To Make a Decision on Meeting date – Proposed Sub-Group to Discuss Local Protection Areas**

A meeting date was agreed for 7pm, Monday 21 February 2011, in the Lerwick Community Council Office.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to email Mr L Angus with the details.  
**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

11/03/08

**Correspondence**

**8.1 Potential Reduction to Police Station Opening Hours – Chief Inspector D Bushell, Shetland Area Command**

Noted

**8.2 Gremista Biomass Fuel Production Project – Angus Grains, Director, North Fish (Shetland) Ltd**

Mr W Spence stated his only concern was that the facility was going to burn wood; shipping wood from the mainland would only increase the carbon footprint.

Mr J Stewart noted that at the January meeting of Lerwick Community Council, Cllr J Wills raised concern that the turbine appeared to be very close to residences.

The Chairman stated that the inference was that the distance of ten times the proposed rotor diameter of 33 meters was the minimum distance the turbine could be from any occupied or domestic property.

He noted North Fish (Shetland) Ltd, at this stage, was just looking for comment on the proposal.

Mr W Spence stated Biomass was a good idea and the proposal seemed a good one.

The Chairman noted he was surprised to read that the turbine would be 100% efficient.

Cllr A Wishart replied efficiency was how quick wood could be converted into electricity, but the point being the capacity of it.

The Chairman stated that if they were willing to spend money and make an investment, good luck to them.

Mr W Spence noted many environmental tests would have to be undertaken before any planning application could be made and that would be a long way off.

Cllr A Wishart stated he had no concerns with the proposal and suggested it just be noted. As a matter of course, Lerwick Community Council would be consulted by Planning, SIC if and when a planning application was lodged.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Angus Grains, Director, and invite him to make a presentation at a meeting of Lerwick Community Council when they are in a position to make a formal planning application.  
**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

### **8.3 Signage Request, Staney Hill Road – Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, SIC**

Ms K Fraser stated that the problem was the barrier itself, even if the padlock was removed. Road users would have to be warned using signs; otherwise there could be legal repercussions. She suggested LCC could fund the purchase and installation of two, five bar gates, one for each end of the road.

Mrs A Simpson stated she supported the proposal and asked that costs be looked in to.

The Chairman agreed to the proposal and advised he would request quotes for the installation and purchase of gates and signs for inclusion in the next agenda.  
**(Action: Chairman)**

Mr A Johnson noted that in order to comply with regulations, the gates would have to be erected a certain distance away from the cattle grids.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to gather the information she had to date regarding the Staney Hill barrier and include it in the agenda for discussion at the March meeting of Lerwick Community Council.  
**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

### **8.4 Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use of Class 1 Store Opening Hours to between 0700hrs and 2300hrs daily, Tesco Stores, Lerwick – John Holden, Planning Officer, SIC**

Noted

**8.5 Proposal of street name-‘Wista’ – Bryan Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association**

There was no objection to the proposed street name ‘Wista’.

Mr D Ristori asked if Hjaltland could be written to with the suggestion that place names be used which reflect what can be seen in and from the area.

The Chairman stated that in the past Ms K Fraser was keen to see places names after notable Shetlanders.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to include the suggestions in her letter to Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

Ms K Fraser raised some concern that the concentrated development took away any possibility of the public enjoying the views and stated she would like to see Hjaltland building a view point which could be reached by a path.

The Chairman suggested that Ms Fraser’s concerns could be discussed during item 8.7.

**8.6 Shetland Wise Litter Review: Issues and Solutions – Stephen Cooper, Head of Environment & Building Services, SIC**

Mr J Stewart stated that he worked for Environmental & Building Services and declared an interest.

Mr D Ristori raised concern that the bins in the street were often filled to capacity and overflowing, particularly after the weekend. He also noted pallets could be found abandoned in lanes, particularly Irvine Closs.

The Chairman stated that if Mr D Ristori thought the bins were either not large enough or there were too few of them, the comments should be noted and included in the response.

Mr A Henry noted that chewing gum on the pavements was still an issue.

Ms K Fraser stated dog fouling was one of the things most complained about and it again appeared to be on the increase.

Mr J Stewart advised that the problem would not be made any easier now that Shetland Island Council would no longer issue free bags for dog waste.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to include in her response, the suggestion that Environment & Building Services advertise that dog waste bags are still available from them, but at a charge.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

Mr D Ristori suggested there was a need for additional dog waste bins.

Mr J Stewart advised that bagged dog waste could be put into any bin.

With regard to Da Voar Redd Up, in order for it to be more co-ordinated, Ms K Fraser suggested that a list be drawn up detailing places to clean and a copy of the list kept and updated, according to who was doing what, at Shetland Amenity Trust.

She stated that Lerwick Community Council should make more of an effort to sponsor participating groups.

The Clerk stated that any participating group wishing to apply for funding would have to complete a Lerwick Community Council Grant Application and Child Protection Requirement Form.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write and request that Shetland Amenity Trust inform groups that grant funding is available from Lerwick Community Council should they wish to apply.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

#### **8.7 Viewpoints – Kathy Greaves, Lerwick**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Hjalmland, SLAP and Planning, SIC and ask if, in the development of North Staney Hill, a viewpoint could be incorporated within the plans.

Ms K Fraser stated it was important to preserve areas as viewpoints, make sure the public is aware of them and feels welcome to enjoy them.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

#### **8.8 2011 Bunting & Banners Scheme – Mr L Smith, Secretary, Lerwick Town Centre Association**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr L Smith and ask him to submit a completed grant application form when he was ready to do so.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

#### **8.9 Annual Report Now Online – NHS Shetland**

The Chairman advised that the Clerk of the Council could print off a report for anyone who would like one.

Ms K Fraser added that a copy was available to view at the Library.

**Mr M Peterson & Cllr J Henry left the meeting, 8.30pm**

11/03/09

#### **Financial Report**

Noted

11/03/10

#### **Application for Financial Assistance**

**10.1 To Assist in Funding 38 Young People from Shetland to Join Participating Ships and Yachts, 2011 Sail Training Scheme – Victor Sandison, Treasurer, Sail Training Shetland**

Ms K Fraser proposed a funding offer of £1,000.

Mrs A Simpson seconded the proposal.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**10.2 To Bring Professor Gordon Milne O.B.E. to Shetland to Discuss the Sacrifices made by the Men of the Merchant Navy – James Ratter, Hon. Secretary, The Nautical Institute Shetland Islands Branch**

Mr A Henry proposed a funding offer of £200.00

This was seconded by Ms K Fraser.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

11/03/11

#### **Planning Applications**

**11.1 2011/5/PCD – Loft conversion and balcony comprising new velux, window and balcony with door access, 7 Fjalberg, Quoys – Kenny & Norma Johnson**

No Objections

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

11/03/12

#### **Lerwick Applications January 2011**

Noted

11/03/13

#### **Any Other Business**

##### **Community Work Newsletter - 2011**

Mrs K Fraser arranged for a photograph to be taken of the Lerwick Community Council members and Clerk for inclusion in the Lerwick, Bressay and Gulberwick section of the Community Work Newsletter 2011.

She advised she would email the Clerk a copy of the photograph to send on to Ms J Porter, Community Work Officer, SIC along with the name and contact details of the members.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**By-Election**

The Chairman noted he was happy to advise that they could soon welcome Mr E Knight and Mrs K Greaves, former members of Lerwick Community Council back as members of the council and Mr Alexander MacMillan as a new member.

They will sit on Lerwick Community Council, with full voting rights, at the April meeting of Lerwick Community Council following being declared elected on 17 March 2011.

**Additional Co-opted Members**

Mr J Stewart suggested to the Clerk that Ms Emily Shaw, Chairman, Youth Voice be contacted through Mr Martin Summers, Youth Services, SIC and asked if she could assist in recruiting two fifth or sixth year pupils to become additional co-opted members to Lerwick Community Council.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

MR J ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL