

MONDAY 3 JUNE 2019

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson
Ms K Fraser
Mr E Knight
Mr A Irvine

Mr D Ristori
Mrs J Williamson
Mr A Wenger
Mr M Hall

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell
Cllr M Bell
Cllr S Leask
Cllr B Wishart
Cllr C Smith

Additional Co-opted Members

In Attendance

Mrs C Carroll, Living Lerwick
Ms E Miller, Living Lerwick
Mr M Duncan, SIC
Mr C Bunyan, SCBF
PC B Mulholland, Police Scotland
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

06/19/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guest attendees.

06/19/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hawick, Mr Johnston, Mr Robinson, Mr Hay, Mr Carter and Mrs Scott.

06/19/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bell and Cllr Smith declared an interest in the planning application. The Chairman declared an interest in the grant application for Shetland Amateur Athletics Club.

06/19/04

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Mr Ristori and seconded by Mr Hall.

06/19/05

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

06/19/06

Police Scotland Monthly Report

PC Bryan Mulholland gave a brief report on police activity in Lerwick over the last month. It included a small number of thefts, assaults, vandalism, drugs searches, driving and parking offences. He said that they had recently dealt with two cases under the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act which is aimed at tackling coercive controlling behaviour and mental abuse, and uses evidence recorded over time and not just single incidents. Cllr Wishart said that there would be a domestic abuse seminar at the museum where Dr Marsha Scott would be talking about this issue.

Mr Hall asked about the vandalism, which had been reported in the media, and whether it was thought that it was being done by a particular person or group. PC Mulholland replied that it was thought that it was being done by people on their way home from licenced premises and therefore the Police were making their presence visible when possible around the pubs and clubs. In response to a question about the CCTV cameras in the town he said he would report back to the Chief Inspector to say that this had been discussed.

06/19/07

Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Chris Bunyan, the Chair of the Shetland Community Benefit Fund referred to the documents that had been distributed prior to the meeting regarding the fund and asked if the Community Council had any questions. He explained that the group used to have annual meetings but in view of the lack of activity in the development of the wind farms the group had been dormant for a while. The recent news about the approval of the planning application meant that the SCBF committee now had a role to play and quick action was required over the negotiation with Viking Energy regarding the contract for community benefits.

The Chairman asked Mr Bunyan where he was sure the committee was properly mandated and pointed out the number of vacancies from six community councils. He asked what was being done to seek representatives to fill the vacancies, and pointed out that there had since been an election for community councillors and therefore there would be new councillors who probably knew nothing about the SCBF.

Mr Bunyan replied that he was aware of the situation and referred back to what he had said earlier about the group having been dormant, without a role to play until now. Mr Anderson said that this was a lot of money for the community and the organisational structure had to be resolved quickly.

Mr Bunyan explained that Viking Energy wanted to get the agreement settled in July and that this was a priority at the moment. He said that once the contract was signed Viking Energy would be committed to paying £5000 for each installed MW capacity (index linked) each year for 25 years from the moment construction commences. This would amount to nearly £2.3 million per year, of which 10% would be distributed directly to Community Councils. It was anticipated that the benefit fund would be distributed via participatory budgeting.

The Chairman said that Mr Wenger had been Lerwick Community Council's representative on the SCBF committee and he asked whether there were any objections to him continuing in this role, or whether anyone else wanted to get involved. There were no objections. Mr Wenger queried the wording over the contract as it appeared to be a voluntary contribution. Mr Bunyan said there was no legal obligation for Viking Energy to make the contribution however, there was a precedent for this type of contract and that it would be legally binding.

Ms Fraser suggested the SCBF committee should liaise with the Shetland Partnership project to work in harmony of Shetland wide projects. Mr Bunyan said that wasn't the role of the fund to step in and fix gaps in funding from local and national government.

Mr Bunyan said he was disappointed at the lack of questions regarding what to do with the money. The Chairman said that this was a lot of new information for community councillors to take in and that the conversations about what to do with the money would come later once the structure of the funding mechanism had been resolved.

06/19/08

Town Centre Development Fund

Michael Duncan reported that the Scottish Government had created a £50 million town centre fund, of which £205,000 had been targeted at Scalloway and Lerwick. Living Lerwick had been asked to develop a bid for a share of this money which had to be spent before the end of March 2020 on capital projects. The fund was aimed at generating footfall and increasing economic activities in town centres across Scotland. A report of the funding bids would be delivered to Council for its meeting in early July. Nothing had been decided on the split between Scalloway and Lerwick.

Emma Miller explained that with such a short time to develop ideas for the money and with its limitation on capital spending and the lack of budget for ongoing revenue or maintenance to prolong a project after the grant had been spent there was a limit to what proposals could be developed in time. She explained that Living Lerwick had been working on an App that would be launched this summer which would provide access to a variety of interesting historic information about Lerwick. It was anticipated that this would be of interest to both locals and tourists. She said that Living Lerwick proposed to develop the App further with the aid of the additional money from the development fund to expand the information and functionality. It could include information about parking, shop sales and special offers, and appointment booking options for hairdressers and cafes, for example. It could include user-specific functions so that children could use the App for treasure hunts. It would also provide useful information to Living Lerwick regarding the footfall in the town centre. The estimated capital cost of this proposal was £96,000 which was roughly half of the total set aside for Shetland. Ms Miller said that Living Lerwick hoped to secure the backing of the Community Council for the proposal. It was generally considered to be an exciting development.

Mr Duncan said the next steps would be for Economic Development to evaluate the proposals from Scalloway and Lerwick and a decision would be taken in early July by the Council as to what proposals it would submit to the Scottish Government.

06/19/09

Financial report for May 2019

There were no comments on the financial report.

06/19/10

Town Hall Chambers

The Chief Executive had replied to an enquiry about the use of the Town Hall for large council meetings and the fact that it was not large enough to facilitate attendance by many members of the public and press. Mrs Sandison had replied that this issue would be dealt with in June and it was likely that the Chamber would be moved to a more suitable venue.

06/19/11

Loot for Lerwick 2019

There was a short discussion about the proposed Loot for Lerwick event. It was decided that it would follow the same successful format as the previous year and would take place at the end of October 2019 (Saturday 26th) at Islesburgh and there would be £5000 available for distribution to successful bidders. Action: Clerk to arrange dates and venue.

06/19/12 **Planning Application – 2019/132/PPF - Change of Use**

There were no comments.

06/19/13 **Grant Application – Shetland Amateur Athletics Club**

Mrs Simpson chaired this item. The club had received £2,000 last year and had requested a further £3,600 to pay for essential equipment. As it was a large proportion of the available funds at the start of the financial year Ms Fraser proposed to award £1800 which was seconded by Mr Ristori. There were no objections. Action: Clerk to pay grant.

06/19/14 **75th Anniversary of VE Day - 2020**

There was a short discussion about next year's events in May commemorating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, and whether anything should be done in the town centre to mark the occasion. Cllr Wishart pointed out that it would also be the 75th anniversary of VJ day which should also be observed. The clerk was asked to write to John Sandison to ask if there would be any events going on to mark these occasions. Mrs Carrol said that Living Lerwick might also organise an event. Action: Clerk to contact Mr Sandison.

06/19/15 **Short Term Lets**

A consultation on Short Term Lets had been circulated for comment however, the committee did not have any comments to make on this issue.

05/19/16 **A.O.B.**

The Chairman asked for a volunteer to attend the ASCC meeting on 25th June as he and the Vice Chair were not able to attend. Mrs Simpson volunteered.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....