

MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2002

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

Present

Cllr R Anderson	Mr A Johnson
Cllr L Angus	Mr I Bruce
Mr B Manson	Mr G Burgess
Mr T Nicolson	Dr J Goddard
Mr P Scarsbrook	Mr W Henderson
Mr D Sinclair	Cllr W Stove

Cllr A Cluness

In Attendance:

PS A MacLeod, Northern Constabulary (left 7.25pm)
Tavish Scott MSP (left 8pm)
Ms C Ferguson, SIC Social Services (left 8.20pm)
Mrs M MacLeod, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the council presided.

02/02/1

Circular

The Circular calling the meeting was held as read.

02/02/2

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Newcombe, Mr K Watt, Cllr J Irvine and Cllr R Black.

02/02/3

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2002 were approved on the motion of Mr D Sinclair, seconded by Mr G Burgess.

The Chairman informed the meeting that former member, Mr John Robertson, had passed away. He asked the previous Chairman, Cllr R Anderson to say a few words. Cllr Anderson took the floor and made the following tribute:

“John Robertson was born in Leith in June 1919 of Shetland Extraction.

In 1934 he began work as an engineer and design draftsman in a shipbuilding yard in Leith. He followed his father's footsteps in 1939 and joined the merchant navy, where he served until just before the end of the war, when he returned to Leith to work at the Henry Robb Shipyard as a draughtsman. However, his travels were not over, as in 1946 he found employment with the Scottish Assam Tea Company in India as an agricultural foreman and engineer. He prospered in his job to the extent that by the time he left India in 1964 he was manager of the company.

Even then, John's commitment to the community was evidenced by the fact that in order to better communicate with the 4000 employees, he learned to speak Hindi and Assami. It was after India that he first returned to Shetland and attempted to start an agricultural engineering business. Unfortunately there was not enough work to make the business viable, and he moved to Oban to work for the English Electric Power Station at Cruachan.

In 1979 he retired at 60 years of age and returned finally to Shetland, joining Lerwick Community Council soon after. He retired from LCC (for the first time) in 1994 and went to live in Walls where he had many relations. When he returned to Lerwick in 1996, he was co-opted back on to LCC and this time served until October 1998 when he finally retired from public life - when I say that I realise it is not strictly true, because John was also secretary/treasurer to the Hunter and Morrison Memorial Trust from 1986 to March 2001. In fact John was not a man to ever retire. He himself said, "I am a person with a very strong community spirit. It's something I believe in". Only his ill health and subsequent death removed him from that commitment. I personally will miss greatly his experience, knowledge, tenacity and humour. He will also be sadly missed both by the Lerwick community and throughout Shetland."

It was agreed to send a copy of the tribute to his daughter, Gayle.

02/02/4

Business Arising

Town Hall Windows

The Chairman and Vice Chairman were to have a meeting with Mr H Tait who would then produce design work and details for the proposed windows to be presented to the Town Hall Sub-Committee.

02/02/5

Northern Constabulary

PS MacLeod presented the figures from 14 January to 18 February as follows:

Shetland Incidents	585	Lerwick Incidents	386
Alarm activations	38	Alcohol - underage	3
Animals	2	Assault	4
Abandoned Vehicles	2	Breach of Peace	32
Civic Gov (Scot) Act	8	Young Persons	6
Court Procedures	63	Child Protection	1
Urinator	2	Drink Driving	3
Destruction Firearms	1	Domestic Incident	1
Dogs	1	Drunk Person	5
Drugs	12	Firearms Enquiries	9
Fire Calls	8	Fraud/Forgery	7
Housebreaking	2	Immigration	2
Mental Health	1	Missing Person	1
Medical Services	4	Break In	1
Road Accidents	12	Traffic Matters	28
Shipping/Maritime	1	Sexual Offence	1
Suspicious Person	1	Stolen Vehicle	1
Telephone Calls	27	Theft	5
Vandalism	17	Vehicle Excise	1
Seatbelts	19	Speeders	8
Arrests	29	Detainees	7

PS MacLeod informed of a drugs operation that had been carried out in conjunction with Grampian police. The operation had been successful in seizing cannabis valued at £50,000 and substantial quantities of ecstasy and amphetamines which had been bound for Shetland. He advised members of a public meeting to be held with regard to passive drugs dogs. The Chairman congratulated the police on the joint operation with Grampian police and reiterated his support for the passive drugs dogs project.

Mr G Burgess brought attention to repeated problems with vandalism in Burgh Road and at Leog. Mr T Nicolson commented that there was also a problem at the North Road. Some discussion regarding CCTV followed and it was agreed to investigate CCTV provision in more detail.

Mr P Scarsbrook asked PS MacLeod if local authorities retained monies collected from speeding offences. PS MacLeod had not seen anything official on this. Cllr R Anderson felt that if the

local authority provided speed detection equipment then they should keep the resultant revenue.

PS MacLeod confirmed to the Chairman that there had been regular foot patrols taking place on Saturday afternoons. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and invited him to stay for the remainder of the meeting if he so wished.

02/02/6

Visit from Tavish Scott MSP

The Chairman welcomed Tavish Scott MSP to the meeting. Mr Scott added to Cllr R Anderson's earlier comments regarding Mr John Robertson, saying that as a young community councillor he had found John to be very helpful to the "new boy" and a useful ally. He felt he would be sorely missed.

Commenting on the new parliament, he felt that there was much more transparency and accountability, the biggest hurdle being the interaction of the parliament with the civil service. Cllr W Stove asked if he thought there would be proportional representation in local politics, what the time frame would be and whether the single transferable vote would be appropriate for Shetland where there was a large proportion of independent candidates. Mr Scott thought that proportional representation may take place around 2007 and saw no reason why independent candidates could not be elected under STV. He saw logic in simplifying the system as there currently existed two layers of MSPs; list and constituency.

Mr G Burgess commented on the domination of the parliament by the central belt. Mr Scott explained that this was inevitable as there was more representation from populous areas. He felt that MSPs such as himself had to fight harder as a result.

Cllr A Cluness asked whether Mr Scott thought there would be devolvement of powers to local authorities. Mr Scott was sure that this would develop in time as the parliament became more established. In response to a question from Cllr L Angus, Mr Scott said that the death of Donald Dewar had had a devastating affect on the parliament as he had given it confidence.

Dr J Goddard asked how free healthcare for the elderly and payment of student fees could be financed without tax increases. Mr Scott replied that cuts in other areas would have to be made. The Chairman thanked Mr Scott for his attendance.

02/02/7

Consultation Draft: Services for Children and Young People in Shetland 2002-2004

The Chairman welcomed Ms Christine Ferguson of SIC Social Services to the meeting. Ms Ferguson explained that Ms Michelle Miller would have liked to attend but had been unable to as she was away.

Mr P Scarsbrook highlighted the lack of special needs education places for children older than twelve years. He had heard that the old FE college was being looked at for this provision. Ms Ferguson agreed that there were problems and that these were being looked at. Respite care for older children was also being considered. Plans to redesign the Eric Gray Centre to function as a host for services were being investigated.

Cllr L Angus was glad to hear of plans for improvement and was eager to see some "flesh on the bones" as he had felt there had been a lack of urgency. He also questioned whether special needs provision should be allocated to existing SIC properties. It was agreed to put forward comments to SIC forums.

02/02/8

Partnership in Practice Agreement for People with Learning Disabilities

Ms Ferguson explained that estimates on child numbers for funding projections were based on detailed information acquired recently for Shetland. Population projections were used for the longer term. There was expected to be an increase in the number of young adults with profound difficulties. The Scottish Executive had provided a change fund but that was part of the expenditure budget and had already been absorbed as Shetland spends significantly more than average on vulnerable people. Ms Ferguson informed that the Health Board provided funding for patients returning to Shetland but there was a shortfall as this was based on national rates and the cost in Shetland was higher. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

02/02/9

Gilbertson Park Gates

Mr G Burgess complained that the railing at the parking area impaired the view for disabled spectators, also the area was rounded so cars could not be parked square to the football pitch. Mr T Nicolson added that there would be a tendency for people to lean on the railings and obscure the view. Cllr L Angus informed that work on the gates was being started in the current week after a delay with Historic Scotland. It was decided to write to Historic Scotland asking why they had specified interlocking sandstone blocks when they were not there at the time of listing.

02/02/10

Condition of LCC Office

A meeting was to be arranged between Mr A Drummond-Hunt from SIC and LCC members, Cllr A Cluness, Cllr R Anderson and Mr T Nicolson.

02/02/11

Correspondence

11.1 NHS Shetland, Paths to Health

It was agreed to forward a map on which paths had previously been identified. Dr J Goddard asked that mention also be made of toilet provision for walkers at the Sands of Sound.

11.2 Junior Up Helly Aa, Thanks

Noted.

11.3 SIC, Environmental Health Service Licensing Review

It was agreed that the Chairman should complete the questionnaire as it had not been included with the papers.

11.4 SIC, Pedestrian Crossings

Members had a preference for a pedestrian crossing at both sites. It was felt that arrangements at the Holmsgarth roundabout were not relevant to the provision of a crossing at the Shetland Hotel.

11.5 SIC, Traffic (Pedestrianisation) Regulation Order 2001

The Chairman informed that a leaflet and notices had been prepared to inform the public of the change. Members were still concerned over two way traffic below the fort.

11.6 SIC, Best Value Service Review, Update to Schools and School Boards

Noted.

11.7 A Shetland Centre for Folklore?

There was some feeling that Brough Lodge was not suitable. It was left for members to comment individually.

02/02/12

Financial Report

Noted.

02/02/13

Planning Applications

13.1 2001/413/PCD Change of Use to Islesburgh Community Centre, Old Montfield

No objections. It was agreed to comment that there may be parking problems.

13.2 2002/15/PCD Change Use from Music Club to Public House, Country Club

Mr W Henderson, seconded by Mr P Scarsbrook, moved that there be no objections. Cllr R Anderson proposed an amendment to object to the application on the grounds of inadequate parking and noise and disturbance to tenants. Cllr W Stove seconded the amendment. A vote was taken resulting in 5 votes each. The Chairman cast his deciding vote in favour of Cllr Anderson's amendment.

13.3 2002/51/PCD Construct Skate Park, King Harald Street

Members had no objections provided there was adequate supervision and the project was limited to a couple of years to allow evaluation.

02/02/14

Any Other Business

14.1 Disabled Space, Cheyne Crescent

No objections.

14.2 Builders Yard, Lochside

The builders were seeking an extension of their permission to July. A petition had been received from residents asking that the extension be opposed. It was agreed to oppose the extension and to suggest that turf be used in the reinstatement of the area.

14.3 Hayfield Play Park

Cllr A Cluness informed that the park was to be officially opened on 5th June. Cllr L Angus pointed out that there had been agreement at a public meeting to erect an 8ft perimeter fence but this had not happened.

14.4 Knab/Twageos

Mr I Bruce noted that the path at the bottom gate of the old cemetery, and also the dyke at the Knab, were in need of attention. Mr W Henderson commented that the path at Midgarth House was being repaired with tarmac. He felt that the path at the cemetery needed resurfacing from the gate of the old cemetery to the gate of the extension.

14.5 Lower Gremista Road

Cllr R Anderson noted

L.C.C.