

**MONDAY 26 MAY 2003**

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

**Present**

Mr J MacLeod	Mr I Bruce
Cllr L Angus	Cllr W Stove
Mr P Scarsbrook	Mr M Peterson
Ms K Fraser	Mr A Johnston
Mr T Nicolson	

**Additional Co-opted Members**

Mr J Anderson	Ms A Nicolson
Ms S Stevenson	

**Ex-Officio Members**

Cllr J Henry	Cllr G Feather
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**In Attendance**

PS E Graham (left 7.20pm)  
Mr A Jamieson, SIC Education Service (left 8.05)  
Mr G Dunlop, Bressay Bridge Project (left 8.40)  
Mr I Salisbury, Bressay Bridge Project (left 8.40)  
Mr M Craigie, Bressay Bridge Project (left 8.40)  
Ms G Hession, Shetland Community Drugs Team (left 9.05)  
Mr J Robertson, Shetland Times  
Mrs M MacLeod, Clerk

**Chairman**

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council presided.

03/05/1

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

03/05/2

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Cluness, Cllr E Knight, Mr K Watt, Mr W Henderson, Cllr J Irvine and Mr R Anderson.

03/05/3

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April were approved on the motion of Mr J MacLeod, seconded by Mr P Scarsbrook.

The Chairman welcomed the new SIC members, Cllr G Feather and Cllr J Henry and the two school representatives to their first meeting.

03/05/4

**Business Arising**

**Gilbertson Park Gates**

The gates were now in place but it was noted that the stonework was still patchy and that the railings needed to be painted. It was agreed to write to ask that the job be made complete.

**Cemetery Gates**

Mr J Emptage from SIC Infrastructure Services would attend a future meeting to discuss the problems with shutting the gates.

**Shetland Times Report**

It was agreed that a short report would be prepared for the Shetland Times if there was no reporter present at a meeting. Ms K Fraser felt it was very important that grant awards were reported.

03/05/5

**Police Report**

PS Graham explained that the priority over the past 5 weeks had been the spate of town centre assaults with charges being brought for the last 8 incidents.

Six drink drivers had been caught during Operation Limit, a number of speeders and seatbelt offenders had also been caught. The unit would be coming up again shortly.

The Chairman was delighted that the perpetrators of the town centre assaults had been detected. He also felt that there was community concern about speeding and was pleased that the police were being active on these issues.

Cllr W Stove drew attention to the number of cars being displayed for sale at the parking area at Lochside. As this was not illegal it was decided that LCC should place an advert in the Shetland Times discouraging this practice. Cllr Stove also brought attention to problems being caused by dogs fighting at the back of the

Clickimin Loch and wondered if some of these dogs should be muzzled under the Dangerous Dogs Act. The Chairman felt that owners should be more responsible.

Cllr L Angus informed of malicious damage repeatedly occurring at Hayfield Play Park. He had heard that witnesses were too intimidated to report the incidents.

Cllr E Knight had asked the Chairman to bring attention to inconsiderate parking in the area between Highland Fuels and Thulecraft. PS Graham reported that there was an officer tasked to look at this issue but there was some difficulty as part of the area concerned was owned by Thulecraft. The Chairman thanked PS Graham for his attendance.

03/05/6

### **SIC Education Best Value Service Review**

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Jamieson of SIC Education Services to the meeting. Mr Jamieson explained that the review was being carried out as part of a national initiative. Problems were being experienced in Shetland with management functions having to be carried out in single teacher schools so there was an initiative to devolve management using a hub model. As a result of the MacCroan report a new management structure was required as some current posts were being deleted. School inspections would now be followed up by the Education Service rather than by the inspectors. Provision of additional support needs for older pupils was to be provided as a priority as this was a statutory obligation. The review so far had concentrated on educational aspects, financial aspects still required to be investigated. A seminar was due to take place shortly between SIC elected members and the Education Service.

Cllr L Angus expressed his concern at the lack of any meaningful plans to address the shortage of primary school provision in Lerwick, especially with 100 extra houses planned for Sound. Mr A Jamieson said that there had previously been no ranking system for capital education projects. This was now in place but increased primary school provision in Lerwick was not presently included. Mr T Nicolson had heard that the Sound school was becoming overcrowded and he worried that the new houses at Sound would exacerbate the situation. He had been made aware of an increased level of bullying at Bells Brae and wondered if improved play facilities might alleviate the problem. Mr Jamieson had not received any reports of increased bullying at the school.

Mr T Nicolson worried that the Anderson High School issue might have got lost in the review. It had been some 15 years since initial discussions had taken place and there had perhaps been a lack of maintenance in the meantime so it was important that a decision be made. The previous preference of LCC had been for a new build, however time had passed and he felt that the issue needed to be re-examined as views might have changed over time.

Mr Jamieson responded that an inspection of Sound School would be commencing shortly which would tackle the provision of facilities. He advised that there was money in the capital programme for a new Anderson High School and that a meeting of the Anderson High School Task Force was to be arranged. Feasibility studies were to be carried out on the Gressy Loan and Clickimin sites but the Task Force had first to set the brief.

Cllr W Stove warned that it was possible that Shetland might lose some funding from the Scottish Executive. Cuts had been looked at for a number of years and he felt that this now needed to be looked at hard. He felt that more and more centralisation in Shetland was causing problems. Mr T Nicolson agreed and said that he felt that a third of the population residing in Lerwick was a good balance for Shetland.

Cllr G Feather asked what measures were being taken to tackle the litter problem in schools. Mr Jamieson replied that education was taking place under a national initiative. Appropriate facilities were provided in the schools and staff were being vigilant.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jamieson for his attendance. Mr Jamieson intimated his willingness to be contacted and to attend future meetings if required.

03/05/7

### **Bressay Bridge Project**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Dunlop, Mr Salisbury and Mr Craigie to the meeting. An overview of the project was given by a powerpoint presentation. A decision had been made to have early contractor involvement. A shortlist had been drawn up of 5 contractors as a result of an advert placed in February. The contractor would start to become involved in August and it was hoped to have a scheme ready for the planning process by the end of the year. Construction was scheduled to commence in 2005 with a completion target of 2007. The bridge would have an air draught of 40m and the current budget was £15-17m including land acquisition.

Mr M Peterson asked why it was necessary for the bridge to have two footpaths. Mr I Salisbury replied that this was being looked at but it was necessary to have a side area in any case.

Mr J MacLeod wondered if a causeway had been considered as an alternative and if this would be a cheaper option. Mr Salisbury responded that this would have been considerably cheaper but that the Lerwick Port Authority had been keen to keep the North mouth of the harbour open.

Mr M Peterson asked if estimates for a trench tunnel had been done. Mr Salisbury responded that this had been included in the feasibility study but had been more expensive due to the required length of the tunnel. The Lerwick Port Authority were considering further dredging of the channel which would result in a tunnel having to be very deep.

Mr M Craigie explained that the bridge was the cheapest option that met all criteria. He added that there were cheaper cost options but the operations of Lerwick Port Authority had to be considered. Due to the timescale for funding it was not possible to pursue options that were not acceptable to Lerwick Port Authority.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance and invited them return in the future to provide an update on progress.

03/05/8

### **Shetland Community Drugs Team**

The Chairman welcomed team manager Ms Gill Hession to the meeting. She explained that the Community Drugs Team was an amalgamation of two previous drugs services and was a voluntary charitable organisation. Funding of £76,000 per annum was received from the SIC Charitable Trust and this was matched by funding from the Health Board. There was presently herself and two drugs workers employed. An outreach worker was also to be recruited. The majority of cases in Shetland concerned heroin, illegally obtained methadone and valium. A prescribing clinic was operated in partnership with two Lerwick GPs, the emphasis being on harm reduction, both to the client and the community as a whole. Counselling was provided for relatives and partners as well as for the client. Drop-in facilities were provided and drugs training was available to anyone who requested it.

Mr J MacLeod asked how many cases the team were working with. Ms Hession replied that they were presently working with 40 clients but had dealt with around 120. Most of the clients were in full time

employment and had stable accommodation. She felt that this was the tip of the iceberg however. Cllr L Angus asked if she thought any drugs were more harmful than others. She responded that heroin and methadone were. Ms K Fraser felt it was important to differentiate between hard and soft drugs.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hession for her attendance.

03/05/9

**LCC Additional Co-opted Members, Applications**

Mr M MacDonald, Ms Beatrice Nisbet and Mr J Ogg were co-opted by vote. Ms A Nicolson and Ms S Stevenson were co-opted as the school representative members.

03/05/10

**LCC Members, Publication of Contact Details**

It was agreed to place an advert in the Shetland Times providing contact details for members. It was suggested that people contact a member resident in the area concerned.

03/05/11

**Correspondence**

**11.1 Copy Letter from SIC, Flagstones at Market Cross**

Noted. The Chairman commented that the works were on schedule and progressing well.

**11.2 Notes of Emergency Landing Site Meeting, 7 May 2003**

Noted.

**11.3 Shetland & Orkney Udal Law Group**

It was agreed to support the group in their research activities. It was unlikely that any request for financial support would be considered however.

**11.4 SIC, Care Services Delivered at Home**

Noted.

**11.5 Shetland Skatepark Association, Thanks**

Noted.

**11.6 SIC, Freedom of Access to the Countryside**

Noted.

**11.7 Lerwick Marina Users Association, Thanks**

Noted.

### **11.8 Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland's Wartime Remains**

Noted. Members were requested to forward information on an individual basis.

### **11.9 SIC, Provision of Roads Maintenance Service in Shetland**

Noted.

### **11.10 SIC, The Shetland House**

Mr T Nicolson felt that a more imaginative use of colour should be encouraged. Cllr L Angus noted that there was very little reference to the use of indigenous materials in the report and that use of such materials should also be encouraged. It was agreed to forward these comments.

03/05/12 **Financial Report**

Noted.

03/05/13 **Financial Assistance**

### **13.1 Dogs Against Drugs**

Ms K Fraser felt that this project just targeted petty users and had no impact on dealers. She was interested to have more details of what drugs education was planned as this was a service that was already being provided in Shetland. Mr J MacLeod had heard that it was rumoured amongst school children that heroin was harder for the dogs to detect than cannabis. Mr T Nicolson felt, if not the solution, the dogs were still a tool in the toolbox however. He moved an award of £2000 and was seconded by Cllr L Angus. Mr M Peterson moved a counter-motion of £1000, representing the population percentage of Lerwick compared with awards from other community councils. He was seconded by Ms K Fraser. Mr T Nicolson's motion was carried by 5 votes to 4.

### **13.2 Shetland Badminton Squad Island Games 2003**

There was difficulty in supporting this application as it was a Shetland wide organisation. As there were 14 other teams also taking part in the games it was felt that it would be difficult to support everything and it would be unfair to support one team and not another. It was decided that it was not possible to support any team taking part in the games.

### **13.3 Lerwick Town Centre Association, Floral Baskets and Christmas Lights**

It was agreed to award £1000 on the motion of Mr T Nicolson seconded by Mr J MacLeod.

#### 03/05/14 **Planning Applications**

##### **Develop a new Shetland Museum and Archive, Hays Dock**

No objections. Mr J MacLeod had received representations from residents who were concerned that the height of the building would restrict their views. Declaring a non-pecuniary interest, Mr L Bisset responded that it was a requirement for the building to be high so that it could fit on the site. It was decided to request that the construction process should be mindful of residents in the area.

#### 03/05/15 **Any Other Business**

Mr A Johnston noted that the grass running alongside the path at Longland was not included in the grass cutting programme. It was decided to request that it be included.

Ms S Stevenson thanked members for providing the opportunity to attend LCC meetings.

Mr T Nicolson noted that there was a drain in the Norderdale area running into the Clickimin Loch causing an oily sheen to appear. It was agreed to report this to SEPA. He requested permission to order works to the value of £100 to be carried out to the road to the Sands of Sound. Mr M Peterson drew attention to plans for the house at the end of the road to be demolished and rebuilt. He felt that resultant heavy traffic on the road might ruin the work done. It was agreed to repair the road but to get agreement from the house owner that the road would be restored to its condition following LCC's repairs.

Mrs S Newcombe had asked the Chairman to bring up complaints she'd received from residents regarding noise nuisance caused by Somewhar Else. It was agreed to SIC Environmental Services to investigate.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

T R NICOLSON  
CHAIRMAN, LCC