

MONDAY 28 JUNE 2004

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
Mr P Scarsbrook	Mr L Bisset
Mr A Johnston	Cllr L Angus
Cllr W Stove	Ms K Fraser
Mr M Peterson	Mr T Nicolson
Mr R Anderson	

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr M McDonald	Mrs A Simpson
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Ex Officio Members

Cllr J Henry

In Attendance

Mrs M MacLeod, Clerk
PS G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary (left 7.10pm)

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council presided.

04/6/1

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

04/6/2

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Irvine, Mr J Anderson, Ms B Wishart and Mrs S Newcombe.

04/6/3

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2004 were approved on the motion of Mr R Anderson, seconded by Mr L Bisset.

The Chairman welcomed new co-opted member, Mrs Averil Simpson, to the meeting.

04/6/4 **Business Arising**
None.

04/6/5 **Police Report**
PS G McCarthy reported the figures since the last meeting as follows:

Lerwick incidents 643, town centre 195
12 vandalism, 2 detected
13 thefts, 3 detected
10 assaults, 2 detected
30 drugs searches, 11 positive
9 medical assistance
3 drunk drivers
99 hours foot patrol

In response to a request at the last meeting he reported that figures had not yet been collated on the operation of passive drugs dogs at the airport and ferry terminal. The Chairman had been impressed by the recent demonstration of the dogs in action at the ferry terminal. He felt that the initiative was a good tool and hoped it would continue to be supported.

The airgun incidents reported at previous meetings had been detected.

The recently recruited special constables were not yet operational as there had been a hitch in the administration process but this had now been overcome.

PS McCarthy had no further information on the report on CCTV.

04/6/6 **Proposed Bressay Bridge**
Mr R Anderson had attended the Project Liaison Group meeting. The membership consisted mainly of the project team and stakeholders such as the community councils, Lerwick Fish Traders and Lerwick Port Authority. He felt that there had been a lack of attention by the project team in resolving the concerns of the businesses and therefore the planning condition imposed by LCC had not been satisfied. He agreed that it was not possible for the project team to satisfy all the objections but thought that more could have been done. He felt that there had been a lack of consultation with the businesses and wondered how it was possible to assess what the impacts would be when proper consultation had not been carried out. He reported that everyone at the meeting had been in favour of the bridge but

LFT's point was that they could not operate their business effectively during the construction period and their compensation claim could amount to as much as £2.5m per annum. The Chairman concluded that the matter was now between SIC and LFT. It was agreed to write to SIC asking what had been done to date to alleviate concerns and to say that it was appreciated that some of the concerns were being addressed, however there was more to do in addressing issues during construction. Mr R Anderson added that it had been confirmed at the meeting that the old road would remain in place until construction of the new road had been completed. A plan of the new road was studied and approved.

04/6/7

Appointment of Clerk/Treasurer (Maternity Cover)

Ms Carol Duncan had been appointed to the post and would attend the next meeting along with the present clerk.

04/6/8

Correspondence

8.1 Smoking in Public Places: A Consultation

The general feeling of the meeting was in favour of a ban on smoking in public places. The response form was to be downloaded and circulated for the next meeting..

8.2 Junior Intercounty Sports Association

Noted.

8.3 Historic Scotland, Gilbertson Park Railings

It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to SIC and ask for an explanation and also to express dissatisfaction with the finished job and the responses received from SIC to date.

8.4 SIC, "Village" Gateway Signs

It was agreed by 6 votes to 5 that the sign should include a representation of the north gable of the Town Hall rather than the Lerwick Community Council crest.

8.5 SIC, School Representatives

Noted.

8.6 Home Office

The Chairman informed members that the Tanya Koolmatrie's case had been settled in her favour. A decision was expected very shortly on Hazel Minn's case. Attention was drawn to the wording at the bottom of the Home Offices letterhead saying "Building a safe, just and tolerant society". It was agreed to use this wording in an urgent reply commenting that Shetland

already had a “safe, just and tolerant society” which wished to welcome Ms Minn and stating that they would be returning her to one of the most “unsafe, unjust and intolerant” societies in the world.

8.7 SIC, Pegasus Place

The letter from Mr A Hamilton of SIC Infrastructure Services was welcomed by members. Ms K Fraser felt that LCC should perhaps be more aggressive in handling similar matters in future. The Chairman reminded members that there were difficulties for SIC in dealing with the matter as the contractor had gone out of business.

8.8 SIC, Charging for Permanent Residential Care

Noted.

8.9 SIC, Financial Assessment for Residential Care

Noted.

8.10 AB Associates, Camping and Caravanning Facilities

Members agreed that caravanning facilities should further developed throughout Shetland.

8.11 Lerwick Spurs Football Club

Noted.

8.12 Islesburgh Trust

Noted.

04/6/9

Financial Report

9.1 Financial Report as at 23 June 2004

Noted.

9.2 Review of Annual Budget Level

The Chairman had contacted SIC Legal Services who had agreed that the matter was of such importance it should have been an agenda item, therefore the previous decision was null and void. On the Chairman’s invitation Mr J MacLeod again put forward his motion to reduce the budget by 10%. Ms K Fraser seconded the motion.

The Chairman stated that LCC had a responsibility to distribute funding for the good of the community and he would be disappointed if funds were returned to SIC without going through a consultation process with ASCC. Funding was given

to community councils pro rata per head of population in the area.

Cllr L Angus had heard of many organisations who had been deterred from applying for funding after being misled by SIC officials. He thought that the budget could have been distributed more fairly if this had not been the case. Mr R Anderson provided members with information on the background of the funding of LCC and explained the basis of the annual grant. Cllr J Henry felt that perhaps it was a bad reflection on LCC that it had to look for areas of spending each year and suggested that LCC should be more pro-active in allocating funds.

Mr R Anderson, seconded by Cllr L Angus, proposed a counter-motion that the current budget should be retained. Mr Anderson's counter-motion was carried by 7 votes to 3. It was agreed that members should return to the next meeting with suggestions for projects.

04/6/10

Financial Assistance

10.1 Islesburgh Lift Appeal

It was agreed to award £5,000 being 10% of the project cost conditional on confirmation that the project was to go ahead. Mr R Anderson suggested that £5,000 also be granted from LCCCT. It was agreed to put this on the agenda of the July meeting of LCCCT.

10.2 Lerwick Thistle Football Club

It was agreed to award funding of £250 on the motion of Mr T Nicolson, seconded by Cllr L Angus.

10.3 Mrs & Mrs D Simpson, Road Grant Application

It was decided to write asking for more information on costs and confirmation that the house was to be used for residential use.

10.4 LTCA, Applications for Floral Baskets and Christmas Lights

Mr T Nicolson proposed awarding funding of £1,000 for the baskets and £500 for the lights. Mr P Scarsbrook seconded his motion. Cllr L Angus proposed a counter-motion that the baskets should be funded by the businesses. Mr T Nicolson's motion was carried by 6 votes to 4.

04/6/11

Planning Applications

11.1 Safeways

No objections.

11.2 Disabled Space, Norgaet

No objections.

04/6/12

Any Other Business

12.1 Litter on Commercial Street

Mr J MacLeod noted that Commercial Street had been filthy with litter on the Sunday of the Shetland Race weekend. It was agreed to write to SIC to complain and ask that special attention be given to the cleanliness of the street at times of peak tourism use.

12.2 Pavements at Twageos

Mr I Bruce felt that the pavements were in an unsafe condition and noted that there were many elderly people in the area. It was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of SIC.

12.3 Shetland Rock Festival

Ms K Fraser noted that after last years event there had been a littering problem in adjacent parks and on the road leading from the venue. It was agreed to ask the organiser to allocate staff to cleaning the area the following morning and also to convey LCC's support for the event. Mr S Cooper of SIC was to be asked to the next meeting to explain SIC's role in dealing with litter and to provide an update.

12.4 Left Luggage Facilities, Esplanade

Ms K Fraser noted that the left luggage facilities had been taken away. Cllr J Henry informed members that facilities would be provided in a new building by Lerwick Port Authority.

12.5 Lerwick Marina

Cllr L Angus had heard that the Lerwick Marina Users Association had been deterred from applying for assistance as they believed they would not be eligible for assistance. The Chairman was surprised that they had this impression as they had received assistance in the past and were welcome to put in an application.

12.6 SIC Education Best Value Review

Cllr L Angus was concerned about the future provision of primary education in Lerwick and felt that a long term strategy needed to be addressed now. There was general concern about provision at Bells Brae being extended on the present

site. It was agreed to invite an SIC Education representative to attend a future meeting to discuss the issue.

12.7 Approaches to Lerwick

It was agreed to write to SIC Infrastructure Services to ask that the growth of wild flowers be encouraged on the approaches to Lerwick, with verges being widened if necessary.

12.8 Landscaping of New Developments

It was agreed to write to Hjaltland to ask what their intentions were for landscaping the area from their Nordavatn development to the main road. Scottish Water were to be asked the same question with regard to their new building.

12.9 Ronald Street Swings

The swings at Ronald Street had been removed during the construction of the Glenfarquhar development. It was agreed to write to SIC asking why they had not been replaced.

12.10 Knab Golf Course

It was agreed to ask that a plan of the course be erected.

12.11 St Clements Hall

It had been suggested to the Chairman that the hall should be used for dances for under 16s. It was felt however that the venue was unsuitable as there was residential buildings and sheltered housing nearby.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL