

**MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2013**

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

**Members**

Mr E Knight	Mr S Hay
Mr D Ristori	Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Johnston	Mr A Wenger
Mr J Anderson	Mr W Spence
Ms A Westlake	

**Ex-Officio Councillors**

Cllr P Campbell	Cllr C Smith
Cllr M Bell	Cllr M Stout

**Additional Co-opted Member**

Ms M Nicolson

**In Attendance**

Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

12/13/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

12/13/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Carter, Miss K Fraser, Mr A Henry, Mr M Peterson and Mrs E Williamson

12/13/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November were approved on the motion of Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

12/13/04

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**10/13/04 Public Toilets – Charitable Trust Proposal** Mr E Knight again enquired if there had been any correspondence from Mr J Riise with regard to the Charitable Trust Proposal for Shetland's Public Toilets.

The Chairman replied that he would contact Mr Riise and request the information.  
**(Action: Chairman)**

**09/13/13 Vehicles on Commercial Street** The Chairman informed members that the Police had written to advise that, as requested, they were endeavouring to patrol the area in order to deter, educate and prosecute offenders.

12/13/05

**Proposal to Acquire Land and Develop a Lerwick Campsite – Shetland Caravan and Camping Development group – Mr Finlay MacBeath, Group Member & Mr Garry Leask, Chairman**

Mr F MacBeath thanked the Chairman, and members for the opportunity to make their presentation.

He stated that after becoming aware that the Clickimin Caravan Site was to be lost to accommodate the proposed new Anderson High School, and, as their views differed on the way forward, he and Mr G Leask stood down as members of Shetland Caravan Club. They formed a new group, Shetland Caravan and Camping Development Group (SCCDG) and began to look at various parcels of land in which to establish a new site.

Consideration was given to Ness of Sound, Gilbertson Park and Knab but each had to be discounted due to issues including, access problems, lack of shelter and issues relating to drivers negotiating caravans through busy areas of the town. An area near Tarland, beyond Sound Gospel Hall, was also considered, but again there were access issues; the area was very exposed and there were also problems relating to drainage and sewerage from the housing at Sound.

It was agreed that the former Hockey Pitch was the most suitable site; it effectively kept Caravan traffic out of the town and provided good shelter and plenty of scope for development and expansion.

Mr MacBeath advised that the current site at Clickimin was making a profit, without being 'pushed'. He proposed that the new site would be developed to accommodate 27-30 stances, more than the 20 currently offered at Clickimin, five of which would be developed to assist the disabled and sited close to the amenity block.

It was proposed that the site would have hard standing bays for caravans and campervans, a grassed area for tents, wash bay for the motor homes and, at the entrance, a reception block which would include a meeting room and small snug. Disabled toilets and showers would be constructed and use would be made of the current toilet block.

Mr MacBeath explained that as caravan owners tended to move from site to site, caravan sites throughout Shetland would benefit from a Lerwick campsite.

He added that it was their hope to extend the season through to October, possibly closing only half the site in winter, in order to cater for locals travelling from outlying areas who wanted to attend events in town.

Mr G Leask added that by advertising and making the site more user friendly, it was their hope to attract up to 2,400 each year as opposed to the current 1,950; the close proximity to the town, Tesco, Chinese Takeaway and proposed new Café Bar would all be promoted.

Once up and running, it was their aspiration to be affiliated with National Clubs and have the site promoted in their guide books.

Mr MacBeath advised that they had received support from Visit Shetland and the Caravan Club; they were also in talks with Serco NorthLink to encourage more 'caravaners' to come to Shetland out with the peak season.

He thought that the site could be developed in around 12 months from having finances in place and receiving planning permission.

Concern was raised with regard to plans for the new Eric Gray Centre as the proposal was to build the new centre on the same site.

Cllr M Stout stated that the plans for the proposed new Eric Gray centre had reached an advanced stage, with outline planning permission granted; however, due to lack of finances, a line had been drawn under it, along with all the other projects in Capital Programmes with the exception of the proposed new Anderson High School. He was sorry for the way the news had come out in the media; he recognised that it had caused a fair amount of distress and acknowledged that the Council was, at times, not good at communicating.

He added that from the work already done, there was a clear and urgent need for a new Eric Gray Centre. There were clear indicators that Seafield was the preferred site and recognition that of all the projects in Capital Programmes, this was the one that was most needed; there was a level of expectation that the option would remain for it to be built on the Seafield site.

Cllr M Bell clarified that no decision had been made either way; he enquired if there was scope to accommodate both projects on the site.

Mr G Leask replied that there would not be; he had seen the plans for the proposed new Eric Gray Centre and it would only leave them with half the space of the Clickimin Campsite.

Mr F MacBeath agreed that the site did not lend itself to being shared; he added that the area of land under the dockings was rock and would require extensive rock breaking and excavating.

The Chairman stated that a hard site was ideal for building on and suggested that it may not be as difficult to excavate the rock as assumed.

Ms A Westlake thought that it was unfortunate that no plans of the proposed new Eric Gray Centre were available to be viewed at the meeting; it would have given members a clearer indication of the size of the build compared to the land available.

She expressed concern that it appeared tourism had been forgotten about, despite being essential to the economy, and stated that there were not enough tourism initiatives. She congratulated Mr MacBeath and Mr Leask for their hard work in trying to find a location for a new caravan site.

Ms A Westlake added that she was acutely aware of the argument for both sides and recognised the need for each to be weighed equally.

Mr D Ristori enquired why the Eric Gray Centre could not be refurbished or the new one built on the current site.

Cllr C Smith replied that there would be problems decanting the current users and that the current building was 'long past its sell by date'. The Seafield site also opened up the opportunity for shared services.

He added that there was still some work to do with regard to the type of building required but they hoped to get a report in March 2014.

The Chairman noted that there were many things to consider, including if there was really a need for the access road. He thought that there may well be room to accommodate both projects, opening up a good opportunity for each group to work together, possibly sharing materials and costs when developing both sites.

Cllr M Stout agreed with Cllr C Smith's comment that there was still a lot to take into consideration with regard to the type of building needed. They had to get up to date with current requirements; perhaps a 2 storey building may be an option, halving the footprint or perhaps it could be built on the rocky area.

He agreed that it would be ideal to be able to accommodate the needs of both projects, but that level of discussion was yet to take place.

Cllr M Bell concurred that it would be good to see both projects happening; it was his hope that, on the run up to March, dialogue between all parties would be kept open in order to reach a solution to accommodate everyone.

The Chairman noted that the presentation had raised more questions than answers and noted that from previous meetings it was clear that members were vexed at the prospect of the loss of the caravan site; he wished the Shetland Caravan and Camping Development Group the best of luck in securing an appropriate site.

Mr F MacBeath stated that he looked forward to future discussions.

The presentation concluded at 7.45pm; Mr MacBeath and Mr Leask left the meeting directly after.

12/13/06 **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of proposed Anderson High School – Dr Annie Say, Director, Natural Capital**

Noted

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

12/13/07 **Lerwick Information Boards**

The Chairman explained that, along with the original information boards, a planning application would be made for the two additional boards that Lerwick Community Council had received CDF project funding for.

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

12/13/08 **Correspondence**

**8.1 Grant Thanks, Shetland Skatepark – Mrs Kaye Williamson, Treasurer, Shetland Skatepark**

Noted

**8.2 Rats, Old Judane Factory – Record of verbal information, Mr Neil Fraser, Lerwick Port Authority**

Noted

**8.3 GBH Offices, Foot of Gilbertson Road – Mr Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland**

Noted

**8.4 Surface Water, Sletts & Knab Footpath – Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Team Leader, Leisure Facilities**

Noted

The following letter arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion:-

**Zebra Crossings – Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads**

A review will take place of Lerwick's Pelican Crossings, which will then be assessed using the latest guidance for the provision of controlled crossings. In the meantime a new Pelican controller and lights have been ordered for installation in February 2014. Its location will be dependent on the outcome of the review which is to be reported to

the Environment & Transport Committee in January 2014. The intention is to present a report on a possible 20mph for the Esplanade at the same time.

Noted

12/13/09 **Financial Report as at 26 November 2013**

Noted

**9.1 Main Annual Running Costs 2013-14 & 2012-13 Comparison**

Noted

**9.2 Annual Grants & Projects 2013-14 & 2012-13 Comparison**

Noted

**9.3 Grants & Projects 2013-14 & 2012-13 Comparison**

Noted

12/13/10 **Application for Grant Funding**

**10.1 Winter Festival Public Fireworks Display**

Mrs A Simpson moved to award the full £1,000 requested.

Mrs A Westlake seconded the motion.

There being no counter proposal, the motion was carried.

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

12/13/11 **Funding Opportunities**

**11.1 Scotland Paths for All - To Improve and Develop Local Paths – before end of March 2014**

The Sea Path, Sands of Sound path and path at the far end of Cunningham way were all put forward as paths for possible improvement and development.

The Chairman asked members to forward any other suggestion to the Clerk for compilation and discussion at the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

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

**11.2 Historic Scotland – Ancient Monument Grants – before 31 July 2013**

The Chairman asked members to forward any other suggestion to the Clerk for compilation and discussion at the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

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

12/13/12 **Parking Orders**

**12.1 Proposed Parking Place for Disabled Persons Vehicle – Norstane, Lerwick**

No objections

12/13/13

**Planning Applications**

**13.1 2013/389/PPF Change of use from store to dance and music area adjoining existing first floor area – Mr S Leask, Da Wheel Bar**

Members discussed letters of concern regarding potential noise and disturbance from Hjalmland Housing Association and Environmental Health.

Ms A Westlake noted that, over the last decade, several premises had closed and thought that the venture should be welcomed. She advised that members had to be mindful that no matter what, there would be objections from somewhere and there would be requirements within the plans to ensure that steps were taken to reduce noise disturbance.

The Chairman agreed and added that presumably noise and disturbance could be controlled within the applicants licence.

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

**The following Applications for Premises Licences arrived too late to be included in the agenda but were brought to the meeting for discussion:-**

**Application for Provisional premises Licence – Fjara Café Bar**

No objections

**Application for Variation of Premises Licence – Grand Hotel**

No objections

**Application for Variation of Premises Licence – Da Wheel Bar**

No objections

12/13/14

**Lerwick Planning Applications – November 2013**

Noted

12/13/15

**Any Other Business**

**Community Development Fund**

The Chairman advised members that following bidding round 2 of the Community Development Fund grant aid scheme, the grant budget had been fully committed; therefore there would be no bidding round 3.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to circulate the details to all members.

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

**Pavement outside The Red Dragon Takeaway, Commercial Road**

Mr D Ristori expressed concern that cars could often be seen driving on the pavement outside The Red Dragon Takeaway; he related a near incident involving a family.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr D Coupe, Executive Manger, Roads to request clarification as to whether cars could legally drive on the area of pavement or not.

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

**The Great Wall - Viking Bus Station**

Mr D Ristori noted that the area behind The Great Wall had becoming quite messy due to grease emanating from their drains. He enquired if anything could be done to discourage the disposal of fat down drains.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Environmental Health with regard to the issue and enquire if any previous representation had been made; if so, what action was taken.

He asked for a copy of the letter to be sent to The Great Wall's licence provider.

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

**Church Road Car Park**

Referencing the Church Road car park, Mrs A Simpson advised that cars were often blocked in at the lower corner, between Queens Lane and the Masonic Hall. She suggested that it may be beneficial if consideration could be given to marking off the corner with hatched road markings, to prohibit parking.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads with the request.

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

**Silted Gulley**

Mr E Knight expressed praise for the speed in which Shetland Islands Council cleared the silted gulley at the top of Mounthooly Street following his complaint.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write a letter of thanks to Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads.

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

**LCC Marshals – Living Lerwick's Winter Festival Parade**

The Chairman passed his thanks on to Mr A Carter and Mr A Johnston for giving up their time to be Marshals at the Winter Festival Parade.

He thanked members for attending the meeting and wished them all the best for the season.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

***Minute ends.***

MR J ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Chairman.....**

**Date.....**