

**MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2015**

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

**Members**

Mrs A Simpson	Mr D Ristori
Mr A Henry	Mr A Johnson
Mr W Spence	Mr A Wenger
Mr E Knight	Mr F Gibson

**Ex-Officio Councillors**

Cllr A Wishart	Cllr M Bell
Cllr P Campbell	Cllr M Stout
Cllr J Wills	

**In Attendance**

Mr Simon Boker-Ingram, Director Community Health & Social Care  
Dr Rodger Diggle, Medical Director  
Ms Lisa Watt, Service Manager, Primary Care  
Ms Joan Sandison, Advanced Nurse Practitioner  
Sergeant James McConnachie, Police Scotland  
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

02/15/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

02/15/02 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Carter, Ms K Fraser, Mr M Peterson, Ms G White, Mr J Fraser and Cllr C Smith.

02/15/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

02/15/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Amendment 01/15/9.2**

Cllr M Bell corrected comments on page 5.

**Amendment 01/15/11.1**

Cllr M Bell also mentioned that Cllr C Smith would not have 'declared an interest' as he was not a member of the planning committee.

**(Action: Clerk to the council)**

02/15/05

**Advanced Nurse Practitioner Model – Mr Simon Boker-Ingram, Director Community Health & Social Care, Dr Rodger Diggle, Medical Director, Ms Lisa Watt, Service Manager, and Ms Joan Sandison, Advanced Nurse Practitioner.**

Mr Jim Anderson welcomed Mr Boker-Ingram and colleagues to the meeting.

Mr Boker-Ingram thanked the community council and introduced Ms Lisa Watt, Dr Rodger Diggle and Ms Joan Sandison. He mentioned that the Lerwick Health Centre had accepted that there were appointment problems and issues. Recent publicity had focused on part of the solution with the increase in the use of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs). They hope to have four ANPs starting in March to increase capacity. It was an issue nationally recruiting GPs in general. There were a number of issues; it was difficult to attract them to the north of Scotland and Shetland in particular.

Advanced Nurse Practitioners were highly experienced in treating and referring any needs, if necessary. Most important was public acceptance. They've had them working in the practice and for many years in the islands and were well versed in using them to meet the need. He said they were open to any questions from the community council. He realised there had been a fair amount of publicity already.

Dr Diggle explained that the shortage of GPs was not just a Shetland problem, and said they were better placed than most of Scotland. The primary reason was that 50% were aged 50-65 and due to retire. Recruitment had nose dived. There were people on GP training schemes. Most were women who wanted to work part-time. Although 90% in real terms, it meant a 40% reduction, due to not working full-time. That problem was not going to go away for the next 10-15 years. If the government made it more attractive, it would come out at the other end. They were marginally better than other parts of Scotland.

He said that one solution would be to make better use of the GPs they had. Joan had spent 26 years working at the Lerwick Health Centre. Experience shows that probably 90% of patients' conditions can be managed and at exactly the same level as from the GP. Patients would see the GP now and again; it was the right course of action. The Saturday Gilbert Bain walk-in clinic results were identical to GPs. He had no worries about the Advanced Nurse Practitioner managing. The other ANPs may take time to get up to speed. ANPs would debrief after a clinic with supporting GPs. He said it was a huge step forward.

Mr Anderson thanked Simon and Rodger for informing them of the plans. He asked if it was new funding for the four new members of staff.

Ms Watt stated that they had a 1.7 GP vacancy, that they had tried to fill for 2 years, but it had been difficult to recruit. That vacancy had meant funding to pay ANPs was within the budget and it would mean more capacity and more appointments.

Cllr Stout welcomed the proposals. He enquired if folk would continue to be seen by the same person. He was not sure of the background, but thought it could be an area of concern.

Ms Watt said when looking at the ANP model, they didn't want to have locums as part of the day staff, with patients coming in with minor ailments such as cystitis. Part of the model was that ANPs see patients and would be shadowed by each of the GPs, who they could be seen by later, to check up on and bring back for reviews. At the moment they have to see them at the walk in clinic.

Cllr Stout said it was good to hear that. The focus was on appointments, which had been causing a lot of the concern over the years.

Cllr Wills said that he realised that the shortage of GPs was a national problem. He queried the situation arising when the patient needed drugs prescribing.

Ms Sandison stated that they were not seeing the nurse, but an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. All the people in these roles were not just a nurse, but were well educated with a degree or more and with the ability to prescribe. If there was an issue over complacency, then one of the GP's that shadow would direct them.

Cllr Wills apologised and had just wanted to check the prescription regime.

Mr Boker-Ingram mentioned that they were already using ANPs in the practice. He wanted the community council to know that it was the GPs and ANPs who had come together themselves and it not been management implemented.

Mr Hay asked if an ANP could do a review of medication.

Ms Sandison said it would depend on the circumstances. The plan was to free up GPs time for more complex issues. If it was an on-going problem it might be appropriate to see the GP. However, in straight forward cases it might be appropriate.

Mr Knight asked how many full-time doctors were included in the 5.5. He remarked it didn't seem many and asked if this was mainly due to funding.

Ms Watt said she would work out figures and come back to the clerk.

Cllr Bell commented that when looking at GPs across Shetland the issue may be one of surgery boundaries. He questioned whether possible problems lay in having only one GP surgery to cover Lerwick, when all the others covered smaller areas. He suggested there may be some way to make better use of GPs across Shetland.

Ms Watt informed them of an immediate change. The plan was to expand the Scalloway Practice boundary, to include an extra 600 patients. Over the next year they would have a joint boundary with Gulberwick. Anyone from Gulberwick who was a regular Lerwick patient could move to Scalloway. This would take Lerwick down to

8,000 and Scalloway up to capacity of 4,000. The GP practice boundary in Unst and Yell would be tricky. For other parts of the mainland, it would be practical to look at the boundary, but it would be necessary to look at transport links also or there would be no point.

Cllr Bell had a small point to make in enquiring about the changes since Joan's already providing support as an ANP.

Ms Sandison said that this was a new model. ANPs were provided in lots of places. This would be a front line service 4/5 days a week with ANPs able to see anybody on the day.

Mr Boker-Ingram said that this was an addition push to the boundaries. Minor injuries were dealt with and totally nurse led with no doctors. In this model they would be in the 1<sup>st</sup> line for appointments with GPs in background. There would be a good level of interplay and able to consult with GPs.

Cllr Bell wished them luck and said that the lack of appointments causes angst at the Lerwick Health Centre.

Cllr Stout asked if there were any issues with long term funding.

Ms Watt replied that it was all part of budget. They were in the process of sorting out room use with using them in a different way.

Mr Boker-Ingram said the changes were the general thinking nationally as part of primary care.

Cllr Campbell queried if by having the transfer of budget money to the four new employees, would there ever be 7.2 GPs in the Lerwick Health Centre.

Ms Watt responded that at the moment this was the planned model. It would be reviewed if people moved. As it was all part of the same budget it was flexible.

Cllr Wills enquired how many full-time GPs there was 10 and 20 years ago.

Ms Watt replied that she would have to find out. She suspected that there would have been less demand than now. In 2006 there were 2,500 appointments, but now it was 4,000 a month. Across Shetland had seen the demand increase.

Mr Boker-Ingram and Ms Sandison worked out there would have been 6 full-time GPs.

Cllr Wills asked with the demand up, how many more GPs than 7.2 would be needed to cope.

Dr Diggle agreed it was entirely right to ask. If government could then it would be 1 doctor to 1,500 population. He mentioned that when he started in general practice, it was 1 – 3,250 which was reasonable, then down to 3,000 also manageable. The work load was lower; generally people were on one medication. Now they were on up to 8-10 medications due to multiple problems. As the population become older, people consult Health Practitioners for reasons they didn't use to. Numbers had gone up

significantly. In Whalsay 1 – 1,080 was manageable, whereas in Yell 1 – 1,200 was not manageable, partly due to the geography/demography, demands. Health Care was not just simple numbers. It was more complex, 1 – 1-1.2K population would be desirable in an ideal world.

Cllr Wills said that he had come to the conclusion that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> or a ½ as many more GPs were needed.

Dr Diggle remarked that you do what they were doing with introducing the 4 ANP's; who will be able to see three times as many patients as GP's would have done.

Ms Sandison said that it was easy to miss point. They had in fact tried for years to recruit. Looking at the general trends, not that many people had chosen to come to Shetland.

Dr Diggle said that there was a number of Shetlander's, who wanted to be GP's and were going through the training. They had been trying to attract trainee GP's who would likely end up here. A new GP in Brae would be shared with Scalloway. He said that it was a difficult recruiting environment.

Cllr Bell remarked that it was the way things are going. He queried how the ANPs were going to fit in with out of hours work.

Ms Watt out of hours patients were generally seen at the walk in clinic. Although there would be GPs available out of hours.

Mr Boker-Ingram said it was not something they were looking to change at moment. At the moment on some of the islands it was the nurse who came along. He commented that they wouldn't be first place to look at this change. The ambulance service had a paramedic and a nurse in both London and Grampian. GP's were less willing to do out of hours. They currently had enough for cover for out of hours, but not in inundated.

Dr Diggle said that in Yell and Whalsay they have to commit to out of hours work. GP's share the rota for out of hours and people do fill in, although they were heavily reliant on one individual in particular.

Mr Anderson said that the planned changes should be welcomed and thanked them for coming along.

**Mr Boker-Ingram, Ms Watt, Dr Diggle and Ms Sandison left the meeting at 7.35pm.**

Mr Anderson suggested that the Police report came next as Sergeant James McConnachie was present.

02/15/15

**Police Scotland – Sergeant James McConnachie**

Sgt McConnachie informed members that in terms of performance they were one of the best in the area of the old northern constabulary. The detection rate was at 80% in real terms that was detecting four out of 5 crimes reported. Shop lifting remains an issue, with a number of detections concerning Tesco and the Co-op. Of these 13

different offences were committed by one person. So he said it was not an army of shoplifters, but down to certain individuals with a particular lifestyle.

Up-Helly-Aa had passed with no events. A number of new staff had settled in and were enjoying life in Shetland. In terms of resilience they were much better with no vacancies in staffing. A knock-on effect would be an increase in distribution which would be needs based. It was similar to the old Northern Constabulary in that they were required to do things, but could now target issues brought up at this meeting.

Mr Anderson thanked Srgt McConnachie and asked if anyone had any questions.

Cllr Stout wanted to applaud the active stance taken over parking issues that had been brought up at this meeting. He acknowledged that despite the national policy, at a local level they had been willing to respond to these problems.

Sgt McConnachie said he would pass that back to the Chief Inspector. He mentioned that they had a young team, with enthusiasm, who could turn their hand to anything including the parking issues.

Cllr Wills said he had a question for Police Scotland, now that they had raised the numbers for community resilience. He mentioned the public feeling from his constituents regarding the Police Station being open 24-hours. It was not a criticism of local police and he had mentioned this at the community safety board. They did value and appreciate the local service, but remarked that the ordinary citizen should have access at all times to the Police Station. It was a place of refuge. He pointed out that this was an on-going issue and they would see how they got on.

Mr Anderson thanked Srgt McConnachie for coming along and said he was happy to see the detection rate was up.

Srgt McConnachie said Shetland remained one of the best performing areas and safest places to live.

Mr Anderson suggested he may want to stay for the next agenda item on traffic management.

02/15/06

**Traffic Management Consultation Working Group – Feedback – Mr J Anderson**

Mr Anderson informed members that he had attended the meeting along with Cllr Stout, 2 representatives from the Police, Living Lerwick and the SIC Roads department. The agenda was displayed covering four items, Burns Walk, Harrison Square, Pedestrianisation of Commercial Street and Esplanade 20mph speed limit. Colin Gair had sent a report and traffic count numbers on the street. General consensus was that the much reduced traffic numbers greatly reduced pedestrian safety on the street. Therefore it was roads recommendation that the Bollards be kept at Burns Walk.

Cllr Stout stated that in reality there had been a degree of emotion about the bollards being put in, due to the safety concerns. The bollards had been relatively successful. He wanted to back that up by saying that unless there was a safety reason it would be unlikely they would be disappearing. The feeling of the meeting was that they had been a success. The consensus was it was a residual issue mostly, due to bad

behaviour. He suggested that it may take someone getting caught to change to culture.

Mr Anderson said that Colin Gair had spent time at the Police Station reviewing CCTV and he'd reported that on average one vehicle per week travelled the wrong direction along the street. Hopefully increased Police presents would have a positive impact on driver's behaviours'.

Srgt McConnachie said they had agreed about public safety. Harrison Square had a new sign to highlight off loading and loading only. Again he said it would hopefully go away to improving the area.

Cllr Stout reminded members that Living Lerwick had a part time stage built at Harrison Square used for events.

Mr Anderson said that the LCC had previously asked for pedestrianisation of street from Church Road to Market Cross. Roads were now looking again at various options from the south end of the street and would present these at a later date to LCC and also consult with Living Lerwick.

Cllrs Stout said it was important to get the message across. It was not the precept of the council to interfere. They were trying to get that across and were responding to demands and problems. There was a desire to encourage trading with the need for pedestrianisation. Roads had an option that was a possible solution. It was suggested to come here and seek a balance in feedback. They didn't want to create more problems. He said that they wouldn't be doing anything before reviewing reactions from here.

Mr J Anderson drew members' attention to the map from Roads showing a 'ribbon' of recorded accidents along the Esplanade. Albeit these minor incidents it was only a matter of time before someone was seriously hurt and the area would be both safer and friendlier with a 20mph limit.

Cllr Wills supported changing the speed limit and expressed concerns regarding the safety of passengers on cruise liners berthing and discharging at the pier. Some of the tourists were from countries that drive on the other side of the road, and were at risk of being knocked down. Local drivers were aware, but visitors were at risk being not familiar.

Cllr Stout said that was a good point. The council have a statutory responsibility, and a legal responsibility to acknowledge possible accident hot spots. Jim highlighted that recorded speeds during the daytime showed that the majority of traffic kept to a speed of 20 mph. However it makes a real difference at night time with cars speeding up. With regard to road crossing there was a degree of concern, with the issue of pelican lights not working. Roads are preparing a draft report which they will consult with LCC and Living Lerwick prior to going to Council and if approved entering their gateway process to secure funding for any identified improvements.

Srgt McConnachie spoke about the need for evidence led by intelligence. Speeding was an issue and they would target enforcement.

Discussion ensued about the use of flashing speed signs. It was suggested that fixed ones should be installed. Removable ones had been used and demonstrated to be ineffective.

**Sergeant McConnachie left the meeting at 8.05pm.**

02/15/07

**Grottie Buckie Stiles and Broadwalk – Signs/Press Release/Report**

Mr Anderson informed members that the stiles and boardwalk had been installed. He mentioned it had been part funded with a grant from 'Paths For All'. A photograph showing the completed project was required.

Arrangements were made with the press to attend on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Members were asked to come along if available, meeting at the Quoy's Baptist Street car parking at midday.

**(Action: Clerk to the council)**

02/15/08

**Wind Turbines – Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

Mr Anderson pointed out that a substantial wind turbine had been erected in Lerwick, but to date there had been no community benefit. Historically the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) had been set up, their main driver being - Viking Energy. LCC had previously written to the group to enquire about if they were going to approach the developers of the turbine at Gremista and also SSE who at the time had plans to erect 3 turbines at Dales Voe. As far as we are aware no approach has been made to either and as a result no community benefit was coming or would, from the wind turbine at Gremista and proposed turbine for Dales Voe.

Mr Knight stated that we did indeed write following discussions at the planning stage, but was not aware and there being any response.

Cllr Stout mentioned that this had been discussed at a recent development meeting. The findings were that they were not active. A letter had been written asking about their current status. The council were working on a scheme that could help inform. A new Chairman had been appointed since the group was set up on the departure of Bobby Hunter. Kate Massie may be able to help. He advised that we could chase up and write to them.

Cllr Wishart commented that it was interesting that Viking Energy had volunteered entry into this. He suggested it was somebody else's obligation to follow up.

Mr Knight stated that whilst on a community council fact find trip three or four years ago to the mainland to visit various wind farms they had meetings with community groups who were benefiting. Although perhaps not a legal requirement for the wind farm developers to enter into these community benefit agreements it was certainly seen as best practice at the time.

Cllr Wishart asked if we needed to know rules and who applied them.

Cllr Wills said there was a lot of research and suggested that it should be Charitable Trust Fund.

Mr Knight suggested it was worth persevering as president had been set and we should ensure that we gain as much benefit as possible for the community where possible.

**(Action: Clerk to the council)**

02/15/09

**9.1 Disabled Parking Space on Clickimin Road – Mr John Johnson**

Mr Anderson noted that Roads had confirmed the disabled resident was still there.

**9.2 Signage Request for Dog Owners – Mrs Maggie Sandison**

Mr Anderson reported that this had been passed to Mr Willum Spence who was to come back to us. He wanted to note thanks to Mr Andy Carter for the email of the sign he had seen in a park.

**9.3 Parking concerns – 1) Police Scotland 2) Mr Tavish Scott MSP**

Noted

**9.4 Lerwick Met Office Site Visit – Ms Jenny Challenger**

Mr Anderson said that due to the weather shed damage the visit was to be postponed until the weather was better. A visit was to be arranged in the spring.

**(Action: Clerk to the council)**

**9.5 CC Notice of Election**

Mr Anderson pointed out that the closing date for nominations was 17<sup>th</sup> February. The community council currently had two vacancies. He encouraged a possible candidate from the public who was in attendance.

Cllr Wills informed members that there were currently three vacancies on the Shetland Charitable Trust with a closing date of 27<sup>th</sup> February. Members did not need to be SIC councillors and anyone who felt they could make a contribution would be considered.

Cllr Bell commented that it was important to fill these vacancies it would be good to have an election. He hoped that all would help to point this out.

Mr Anderson hoped that the press would flag it up. He welcomed the news that the Scottish Parliament was to allow voting from the age of 16. He said they were lucky to have young adults from the school represented. Sticky point no electoral roll can't guarantee roll.

Cllr Bell advised that would take effect at the 2016 Holyrood elections.

Mr Anderson said he hoped that once the new electoral registers were in place all Community Councils would be able to recruit, down to age 16 level, even for by-elections should they arise.

Mr Gibson said he didn't know how much interest there would be. There had been four in 6<sup>th</sup> year who had originally been willing to attend, but in the end only 2. He said that their attendance was usually good. He doubted if there would be many reserves interested in attending.

Cllr Stout said it simply highlights the problem of democratic deficit with only a tiny proportion actively involved. The community council could be far better part of that process having responsibility and greater involvement.

Mr Anderson added that the broader the range of members the better engaged with community and hopefully would mean fuller agendas and most importantly best decisions for all the community made. If anyone knows anyone, then please encourage them to apply.

### **9.6 Funding Opportunity – Yorkshire & Clydesdale Bank Foundation**

Mr Anderson informed members that nothing had come back from Colin Smith yet, but he believed that this project might fit in with seeking to protect or improve the environment and referred to the road into the Sletts Pier.

Cllr Wills said that was a good suggestion. He commented that another idea was for better signage for visitors coming from the Northlink. He said it was a maze of industrial and commercial buildings and people would wonder where things were.

Mr Anderson asked who funds the brown signs.

Mrs Simpson commented that it would probably be the tourist board.

Cllr Stout mentioned that this had been discussed in relation to the North Ness for two signs and costs had been high.

Mr Anderson replied that if it was worthwhile it may be possible to get external funding.

Cllr Wills remarked that this had been discussed in relation to Lerwick coastal paths going back some 40 years now and there was still a need for signs.

Mrs Simpson had observed some flooding on the Sletts path and thought that it may require some form of drainage. She suggested that this may be something that we could look into.

Mr Anderson proposed that they put in a bid for funding the road into the Sletts Pier and look for opportunities for drainage to the path and tourist route funding in the future.

Cllr Wishart suggested that this could be combined with the need for sign posting.

Mr Anderson observed that the deadline for applications was 1<sup>st</sup> March. They currently had funding for signs at the Harrison Square. He hoped to get something together for this funding opportunity. He suggested getting something ready for a future funding opportunity for that.

**Cllr Campbell left the meeting at 8.30pm**

02/15/10

**Applications for Grant Funding**

**10.1 Injury Shetland – Mr Ross Smith – Director and Physiotherapist**

Mr Anderson noted that a grant for funding had been received to pay for the services of a professional sports injury consultant to run 2 days of courses at around half her normal fee. The council have indicated that they will help with travel costs.

Cllr Bell queried about the proposal been based in Lerwick. He presumed it would benefit the wider Shetland community. He guessed that possibly about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> – ½ maybe involved from Lerwick, and wondered if there was any further information or anyone had any feelings on that.

(The clerk displayed an email from Mr Smith regarding the courses in Lerwick, the approximate numbers participating and the take up by Lerwick people).

Mrs Simpson suggested that it was a good idea and may prevent people from having to visit the A&E. She thought it would be benefit as sports injury's needed to be dealt with quickly.

Mr Anderson proposed offering a grant of £500 unless anyone suggested otherwise.

Mrs Simpson proposed offering towards 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the costs with a grant of £800.

Mr Anderson was happy to second the proposal.

**10.2 Rent for Peerie Galley Shed**

Mr Anderson commented that the community council had paid the rent since it was built and asked if everyone was happy to continue.

Cllr Stout just wanted to make a comment by suggesting that the Lerwick Port Authority could perhaps waiver the rent.

Mr Johnson wanted to declare an interest a member of Junior Up-Helly-Aa Committee. He stated that the group currently gets a lot of support from the LPA for the Lerwick Junior UHA and they wouldn't manage to function without such. Historically the community council have contributed since it was built.

Mr Knight proposed that the grant be awarded and Mr Hay seconded.

02/15/11

**Financial Report**

Noted.

02/15/12

**Planning Applications**

**12.1 2015/012/PPF – Change use of Class 1 retail shop to Class 2 Veterinary Clinic, to alter commercial frontage – 55 Commercial Street, Lerwick – J&J Nicolson**

Mrs Simpson just wanted to point out about the possibility of parking problems. She suggested that they may be able to park somewhere else.

No concerns were raised.

02/15/13 **Lerwick Town Hall Guide Sales**

Mr Anderson informed members that it had been a plan to shift copies during the week of Up-Helly-Aa.

The clerk informed members that total sales had not been confirmed, but to-date 60 copies had been sold.

02/15/14 **Any Other Business**

None.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

***Minute ends.***

MR J ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....