

MONDAY 4 JULY 2016

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

Members

Mr E Knight	Ms K Fraser
Mr P Coleman	Mr J Fraser
Mr A Wenger	Mr D Ristori
Mr Ian Russell	Mr J Anderson

Ex-Officio Councillors

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

In Attendance

Mr Jim Leask, Bridges Project, Support Worker, SIC
Ms Karen Eunson, Bureau Manager, Citizens Advice Bureau
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

07/16/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/16/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Johnson, Mr A Carter, Mr A Henry, Mrs A Simpson, Mr S Hay, Cllr C Smith, Cllr M Bell and Cllr Allan Wishart.

07/16/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Mr J Fraser and seconded by Mr P Coleman.

07/16/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

07/16/05

Police Scotland Monthly Report

No report was available.

07/16/06

Bridges Project – Jim Leask – Bridges Support Worker

Mr Leask introduced himself as the Team Leader for Youth Services and Bridges, a service providing for and meeting the needs of young people between fifteen and

twenty four. Mostly assisting young people aged between sixteen and seventeen with educational opportunities, skills building, and team building, to help them into a job. They also provided a full range of support services for young folk.

He said he was coming along to see if they could work together. He mentioned young people spent time volunteering, making wooden items, disposing of old council computers by selling on bits for metal value. Last month had included painting picnic tables. Mr Leask asked if any town picnic benches were in need of painting. He said that the young folk worked towards Saltire Awards, youth achievement, and gained employability skills with the practical jobs. He said they hoped to impart some wisdom to them and wondered about the scope for an on-going partnership with the community council.

Mr Anderson thanked Mr Leask and said that it sounded like a very worthwhile project. He asked if anyone had any questions for Mr Leask.

Mr Wenger mentioned the hand rail at Bank Lane and asked about the possibility of painting it. He said that the upper part was very rusty. He also said that in Hangcliff Lane some of the paving stones were in need of attention.

Mr Leask replied that the painting would be possible.

Mr Anderson thought that the paving stones were technically a Roads issue. He mentioned two benches that the community council gifted in the new Lerwick cemetery. The wooden benches were looking tired. The question of materials and paints was raised.

Mr Leask said yes to the idea, but requested that painted be supplied. He said that they didn't have much of a budget and quality paint was expensive.

Discussion ensued about the way to proceed. It was decided that a grant application be forwarded by the clerk.

Mr Fraser mentioned the benches along the Sletts.

Mr Coleman suggested the seating bench in the Peerie Oversund Park.

Mr Anderson recommended replacing the bench. He suggested drawing up a list and for Mr Leask to come back with figure.

Mr Leask said that he was happy to do that.

Mr Ristori pointed out that the Peerie Oversund Park perhaps needed some general maintenance, as no-one was looking after it. He suggested that cutting the grass would help to make it look better.

Mr Leask replied that grass cutting was not suitable for the students.

Cllr Stout enquired if there was an existing list of community council assets.

Mr Anderson replied that historically the community council had gifted benches and the council had installed them. He suggested enquiring with the relevant department, who would probably be quite supportive.

Mr Leask proposed that the students identify assets and perhaps do a survey around the town.

Mr Anderson agreed that it would be a good starting point and they could decide what was in need of painting.

Mr Leask said that the only slight problem was with the holiday period starting soon. He remarked that it would be something positive for the young folk to do.

Mr Anderson thanked Mr Leask for his time.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mr Leask left the meeting at 7.20pm.

07/16/07

Citizens Advice Bureau – Karen Eunson, Bureau Manager

Ms Eunson thanked the community council for the invitation to come along. She started by showing the timeline of the organisation. The organisation started in 1939 with an attempt for a local branch in 1963. The eventual formation was in 1991 operating from the Town Hall. Since 2005 the branch had operated from Market House.

The Citizens Advice Bureau was a national service and had two aims. Firstly, helping to look after a person's rights and secondly to exercise social policies. She said that they provided help with a vast range of topics and displayed a pie chart of the main areas. Debt and benefits being the largest, but they covered a wide range of topics. People could come and see them about anything.

Ms Eunson explained the process of volunteering, with a one year training programme, leading to becoming a bureau advisor. CAB Scotland had a national database for providing the right advice. Additional training and special training were provided and they had a number of paid staff who had expertise in particular areas. They could challenge decisions at tribunal level and offered debt and money advice such as in the case of bankruptcy. Advice was given on NHS concerns and Pensionwise, which had government funding available. Also immigration, they had been busy this last week in light of the vote.

CAB's service was all very principled, of a high standard and entirely free. They received donations although they didn't seek them. The advice was all confidential, impartial and independent. The client had the right to decide. It was about empowerment and encouraging folk to take action for themselves.

Clients included those recent employed. They were open to all, but particularly targeted the most vulnerable, encouraging young folk. Working with the community mental health team, housing support, dementia and illness coping and any change of circumstances, help being available. Also not just operating from the office, but at the health centre and rural and island areas.

Ms Eunson explained the local social policy work, providing evidence to local policy makers such as the inequality commission and raising awareness of local issues with local politicians. Work involved focussing on the impact of debt changes, producing reports such as the 2013 fuel bills survey. Recent EU funding had allowed for provision of an energy advice service. Also, national social policy work including evidence on any trends, which could then be acted on by Citizens Advice Scotland.

Explaining how the service was paid for, Ms Eunson said that 2016/17 income was £277K. With 69% from Shetland Islands Council in partnership with Shetland Charitable Trust, 16% came from national funding, and 15% from EU Social Fund. Looking at the volunteer contribution of 9048 hours and going by the national living wage this was 65K cheaper. They were keen to raise awareness and interested to feed in suggestions and learn of any unmet needs. They were also keen to promote volunteering, it was hard work and a big time commitment, but you would be part of a strong team.

Mr Anderson thanked Ms Eunson and for the excellent work of the service.

Cllr Stout offered thanks and hoped everyone would agree that the council and charitable trust contributed to a very worthwhile service. It was an example of a good working partnership. He wanted to endorse the work done locally and believed that not enough people were aware of the service.

Mr Fraser agreed that they offered unbelievably professional and knowledgeable services.

Mr Anderson asked if most queries were financial.

Ms Eunson replied that mostly it was about debt benefits and the future universal credits.

Mr Anderson enquired if this was leading to problems.

Ms Eunson explained that universal credits had been coming forever and was a very slow process she mentioned that one group would be negatively impacted; people on disability allowance, in particular mental health.

Cllr Stout mentioned fuel poverty and the useful document that had informed the work with the government. There were pockets of real poverty in Shetland, and it had strengthened the case, having had inside experience and made the council job easier.

Mr Fraser asked how Ms Eunson would describe the relationship with other organisations.

Ms Eunson replied about an external survey that had taken place. They had been delighted with the feedback reporting the value of CAB expertise and use of the service. They had increased links with other organisations, especially regarding vulnerable folk. Training with groups had taken place. She was keen to keep reminding people about the help CAB could offer.

Mr Anderson thanked Ms Eunson and said it was humbling to learn about the good team and support provided. He agreed that the finance was a good investment by both the council and the charitable trust.

Ms Eunson commented about the constant search for further funding and remarked it was good to have the core funding in place. She thanked members for inviting her to attend and offered leaflets to pass on.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Ms Eunson left at 745pm.

07/16/08

Information Boards Harrison Square

Mr Anderson said he was pleased to inform members that the panels were now here. Due to events in Harrison Square and use of the stage there had been a delay in erecting them, but hopefully this would be done this week.

He hoped that they would receive some positive PR and make people aware that they were there.

(Action: Chairman/Clerk to the council)

07/16/09

Correspondence

9.1 Park Lane Gardens – Andy Sandison, Park Lane Community Gardens Group

The Chairman reported that the planning application was in and they were seeking permission for the garden, as in the past it had been temporary.

He explained the letter from Mr Sandison was asking the community council for continued support for the project. They had secured eight thousand pounds from the Tesco Bag Scheme. Voluntary work was carried out by COPE and Bridges. He mentioned that it was a lovely oasis and a sheltered sun trap.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.2 Scottish Heritage Angel Awards – Scottish Civic Trust

Discussion took place regarding nominations for the Heritage Awards. Names mentioned were Jon Sandison for his work on investing and recording the World War One Shetlanders. Douglas Sinclair was mentioned due to his work around the town and lanes in Lerwick, his leaflets for cruise ships, old stories and his contribution to the panels. Mary Blance was mentioned for her work on the Shetland Dialect and Jill Blackadder for guided walks and work for the Shetland Field Studies Group.

It was suggested that the categories be looked at and two nomination forms completed.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.3 Community Choices Fund – June Porter, Team Leader, Community Development, SIC

Mr Anderson asked members if they were keen to apply for this. Community Councils could apply from a seven hundred and fifty thousand pound fund with a bid of at least twenty thousand pounds.

Cllr Stout expressed the view that it would be good to keep the process rolling.

Ms Fraser queried about the timescale for the funding to be spent, which was the end of March 2017. She thought that it would be good whilst the previous event was still fresh in their minds.

Mr Anderson suggested putting in bid of at least twenty thousand pounds, he was conscious of the deadline of 29 July.

Cllr Stout pointed out the category of funding work in deprived areas and mentioned that there were areas in Lerwick that could be highlighted as part of the preparation.

Discussion took place and Mr Coleman proposed applying for thirty thousand pounds and Mr Wenger seconded the proposal. It was agreed to put in a bid for thirty thousand pounds.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.4 Funding Opportunity – Ancient Monument Fund

Brief discussion took place, no decision was taken. The closing date of 31 July was mentioned with the view to thinking of something prior to that.

9.5 Funding Opportunity – Coastal Communities Fund

Mr Anderson noted that some sizeable six figure projects had been undertaken with this funding.

Mr Knight mentioned the coastal walk around Lerwick.

Mr Anderson suggested that they sit down and prepare a list of small and medium projects that could be picked off the shelf when it came to funding applications.

Mr Coleman agreed setting a date for perhaps two months time and asking the community for suggestions in the Lerwick area.

Cllr Stout highlighted the coastal pathway in East Lothian and cycle paths. He said with the increase in cruise ships and tourists walking around the town it would be beneficial to put something together.

(Action: Chairman/Clerk)

9.6 Funding Opportunity – The Gordon & Edna Baxter Foundation

Mr Anderson suggested that they forward this to Mr Leask for the work of the Bridges Project. It may fund improvements to park benches.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.7 Shetland Festival of Remembrance – Letter of thanks – Major John Taylor

Noted.

07/16/10

Financial Reports

Mr Anderson asked if anyone had any questions.

Cllr Stout enquired about the Town Hall Guides sales.

Mr Anderson suggested that they ask if suppliers had enough copies.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

07/16/11

Planning Applications

11.1 2016/225/PPP – Change of use from store to staff accommodation on the first floor in association with business on ground floor; paint exterior of premises (retrospective application) – 11 Harbour Street, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LR – Monjur Iqbal

No objections.

Additional Agenda Items

Campsite/Caravan Site

The chairman noted that in an email from Mr Carter a member of the public was asking the community council to consider endorsing one or both sites suggested for a Camp/Caravan site and forward to planning.

The sites (1) the area north of the Clickimin (formally the site of the 'north loch') currently occupied by portacabins and (2) area at the Knab occupied by AHS buildings and Bellevue.

Cllr Stouts remarked that it had been agreed last week at a council meeting to proceed with the draft masterplan at the High School. He said that this was an opportunity to put forward the Anderson High School site and suggest access to this.

Mr Anderson agreed. He suggested that they think about the campsite and make a suggestion on the back of that to the council.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Bench near Matchbox Cottage

The clerk had received a phone call about a bench which was vandalised. It had been reported to the Police, but the community council were informed by the person reporting it as they believed the bench may have been gifted by the community council.

Smashed Light at the Clickimin Broch

Mr Anderson reported that a light had been smashed at the Broch and Police Scotland had been informed.

Bench near War Memorial

The bench near to the War Memorial was reported in need of attention.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

07/16/13

A.O.B.

Railings Hillhead

Mr Ristori asked if there were any updates concerning the railings along the Hillhead.

Mr Anderson asked the clerk if this could be looked into by contacting the Roads department.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Tesco Car Park Flooding

Mr Russell asked if anything could be done to improve the drainage in the Tesco Car Park. He said that water pooled in the area near Fjara where the lorry's entered.

Mr Anderson said that we could write to Tesco and draw attention to it.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Cycle Safety Leaflet

Mr Wenger asked when more leaflets would be available from the tourist office and ferry terminal.

The clerk informed him that Elaine Skinley had replied recently saying that reprinted leaflets were to be distributed.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....