

MONDAY 7 JULY 2014

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

Members

Ms K Fraser	Mrs A Westlake
Mr D Ristori	Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Henry	Mr A Wenger
Mr M Peterson	Mr A Johnston
Mr S Hay	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Bell

In Attendance

Chief Inspector Eddie Graham, Shetland Area Commander
Mr Martin Platt, Shetland Credit Union
Ms Sue Smith, Shetland Credit Union
Mr Dave Coupe, Executive Manager Roads, SIC
Ms Pat Christie, Community Involvement & Development Officer, SIC
Mrs Kate Massie, Association of Shetland Community Councils
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mrs A Simpson, Vice Chairman to the Council presided.

07/14/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/14/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Anderson, Mr A Carter, Cllr C Smith, Cllr A Wishart and Cllr J Wills.

The new Clerk, Mrs M Sandison was welcomed to the job and introduced to everyone present. Also Ms Pat Christie was welcomed to the meeting in her new role as Community Involvement & Development Officer.

07/14/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June were approved on the motion of Mr D Ristori and seconded by Mr S Hay.

07/14/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Sheep Roaming Free and Silted Up Cattle Grid - Ms K Fraser informed the council that these had been sorted.

Mr M Peterson wanted it recording that Mr A Carter's remarks about the Scottish Police Force having some 200 armed police was omitted from the minutes of the meeting on 5th May 2014.

The Vice Chairman offered the Police Inspector the opportunity to present his report first so he could leave afterwards to see to other matters.

07/14/12

Shetland Policing Report – Chief Inspector Eddie Graham

Chief Inspector E Graham gave a run through the monthly report for June. The year end figures have been published for each and every council area across Scotland. Detection rate for crimes and offences committed in Shetland remains one of the highest in the country. In effect for the financial year 2013/14 three out of four crimes perpetrated in Shetland were detected with a final figure of 74.1%.

An area of concern was assaults in Shetland 2012/13 which stood at 201 for the year. A lot of energy and pro-active enquiries are driving this figure down. This has seen the number of assaults down to 111 for the year 2013/14. Overall crime is down by 17% on the previous year.

There has been a lot of discussion in relation to Police Resilience and the number of vacancies due to retirement and the transfer of officers. However, two officers are arriving from Aviemore and Dornoch. In addition two probationary officers have arrived and there are three probationary officers at the Scottish Police College who have been appointed to Shetland. Interest in vacancies is high, but the strong housing market in Shetland makes it difficult to find affordable accommodation.

On 1st July Queen's Baton Relay we were supported by the Security Escort Team running with the baton, 4 police motorcyclists and an additional 7 uniform officers. The Local Authority did a power of planning and the day was highly successful.

Road safety remains a priority and there will be continued focus on what the public are concerned about in this area. Thirty individuals were reported for drink or drug driving and 92 were reported for speeding offences.

Alcohol is still a concern and drugs issues in Shetland. Stop and search after acting on intelligence has a success rate of 26-27%. One individual during the month of June was reported for being in possession with intent to supply a significant amount of heroin and is awaiting the judicial process.

The Community Safety and Resilience Board are due to sit on the 14th of August and he was sure the Command Area performance will be the subject of much discussion. There are areas that they will be concentrating efforts on, in particular housebreaking, which has seen an increase in the last year. A number of individuals are serving sentences in respect of some of these offences.

Mrs A Simpson thanked Chief Inspector E Graham for his report and asked if anyone had any questions.

Ms K Fraser mentioned the danger of legal highs and what can be done about them.

E Graham responded by saying, we stop, seize, send and test. They have been linked to 2 deaths, a combination of drugs and alcohol. The use of classified substances by individuals is being reported.

Ms A Westlake said it was great news to hear that statistics had reduced in certain areas. She wondered if the normal population of approx 24,000 increased by an additional 5,000 workers had any additional consequence to the figures.

E Graham said that indeed there was a slight increase which would fit in with the rise in population. He mentioned Operation Notebook set up to target a reduction in noise related to anti-social behaviour across the Highlands and Islands.

Mr M Peterson asked how many officers were on duty on the 26th June during the disorder in the town.

E Graham responded by saying they had received a call from Petrofac to say there would be a laying down of tools and it was expected that they would go out. During the course of that evening 9 calls were received due to workers acting disorderly, drunk and in need of assistance and a breach of the peace. Activity that mirrors what we receive on a mad Friday night.

Mr M Peterson asked if any additional officers were called out on that Friday.

E Graham declined to comment.

Mrs A Simpson asked if there were any other questions and thanked the Chief Inspector for his time.

Mr M Peterson raised concerns about the firearm deployments as mentioned by Mr A Carter at the meeting in May.

E Graham responded by saying that any officers carrying firearms are trained to a high standard and has to have the capacity to respond to certain incidents. Three officers are trained for this purpose.

Mr M Peterson expressed concern about the recent article in the Inverness P&J regarding the Highland Police and the use of firearms and armed response vehicle.

E. Graham said a response was not necessary to that.

Mr M Peterson said perhaps this was something that the council could take up in the not too distant future.

07/14/05

Presentation by the Shetland Credit Union – Mr Martin Platt & Ms Sue Smith

Mrs A Simpson welcomed Mr Platt and Ms Smith to the meeting.

Mr Platt thanked the council for inviting them to the meeting. To start he asked for a brief show of hands if those present had heard of the SICU. All raised their hands. Then he asked if any were members. This resulted in Mr A Wenger declaring an association through his work. Mr Platt said this show of hands reflected the fact that there were not many members and fewer volunteers. He hoped that this presentation would explain what the Shetland Credit Union is about and how the Community Council can assist them by championing their cause.

Ms Smith told members that the SICU were situated in the Toll Clock Centre.

Mr Platt went on to say that SICU was operated by members along with a Board of Directors in accordance to the Financial Services Authority regulations. All were volunteers and took on roles such as working as cashiers. He said this was positive banking, benefiting the local community, no fat cats and an annual dividend to the members at the end of the year when the membership was large enough.

Membership was open to anyone, adults and children over 16 years who live/work in Shetland, this was the common bond. Application forms needed to be completed with a £2 membership fee and a minimum deposit of £5. How it works is that all members save together, some borrow paying a rate of interest, this covers the running costs and any extra is profit paying out dividend to the members.

Ms Smith mentioned a recent partnership with CAB due to a lottery bid which had enabled employment of Mr Geoff Goddard who was available to give money advice. Advice can now be provided on mortgages, switching utility providers, retirement and pensions. Borrowing rates were far cheaper than most banks at 12.68% APR. A bank loan of £1,000 would result in £1130 paid back with the interest.

Mr Platt said that some people just need small loans for items such as washing machines, clothes and shoes, amounts of £50 or £100. Small loans such as these are not given out by banks. As long as members are savers loans are available.

A bright future could be seen with the increase in loan income used to pilot other schemes such as cash cards, banking by email and telephone and providing sustainable income.

Ms Smith mentioned the three ways money was available currently by cheque, cash or a mix of both. Leaflets were to be left for the members and membership application forms.

Mr Platt asked if there were any questions they would be happy to answer them.

Mrs A Simpson asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr M Peterson asked if there were any payday lenders in Shetland.

Mr Platt stated that most operated via the internet and he wasn't aware of any in Shetland, although there maybe illegal ones.

Mr M Peterson just wanted to make a comment about a sign in the window of the SICU encouraging loans and this not being too good.

Mr Platt said we need to look at what other lenders are saying and if people can do better borrowing from us we can encourage them and offer responsible banking. So yes we do advise on loans.

Ms A Westlake thanked them for the informative presentation and said she had been surprised by certain figures regarding lending rates from other companies. She wondered why there was not a bigger uptake here with the loans that were offered.

Mr Platt mentioned there had been adverts in the paper and radio, but different techniques such as word of mouth and community champions might work better.

Ms A Westlake responded that she will be doing so and asked what the cap on loans was.

Mr Platt replied it was £15,000.

Ms Smith said that they attended Agricultural Shows last year and intended to do so again. Also the office was staffed 4 days a week from 12-2pm and more volunteers would help expand the opening times.

Ms A Westlake asked if somebody has a loan could they switch from the current lender.

Mr Platt said that couldn't be done in the same way as switching utility providers, but they could offer a lower rate on a loan which would help to pay off the existing loan.

Ms Smith mentioned that it would be good to have satellites at maybe Bressay, Bigton, colleges and schools. It's about teaching the young to save regularly. They have visited the college a number of times and community councils.

Ms K Fraser asked what skills do they look for or do they take anybody.

Mr Platt said that skills are not necessarily required as training can be given, but basic adding/subtracting would be desirable. At least 2 people need to be on duty and a mentor is available all the time.

Ms Smith said they were not only looking for cashiers but various roles, champions to raise awareness, maybe those with skills for the website/IT, marketing leaflets, posters.

Mrs A Simpson thanked them both for a very interesting presentation.

Mr Platt and Ms Smith left at 7.50pm.

07/14/06

Prioritisation of Future Rd Improvement Schemes (7.7) and Traffic Speeds Gilbertson & South Road and Crossing Point South Road – Mr Dave Coupe, Executive Manager Roads Services, SIC

Mrs A Simpson was pleased to welcome Mr Dave Coupe to help us through these issues.

Mr Dave Coupe offered to give a brief overview and stated that these were a collection of schemes which had been highlighted in the past and the underlying thing was that the council didn't have the funding as yet. The aim was to try to prioritise so that in the future when the money was available they could be up and running. Any work would still be up for technical appraisal. The LCC were invited to score on the scale of 1-5 and remove/add as required.

Mrs A Simpson asked if anyone had any views and hoped that all had worked out their priorities.

Mr M Peterson asked with regard to Westerloch Brae Traffic Calming if there had been any demand from residents.

Mr Coupe said that originally there was. He mentioned that street lighting in that area had been dealt with.

Mr M Peterson viewed it as a low priority.

Ms A Westlake mentioned the South Lochside proposed Helipad and the resident's probable concern about this.

Mr Coupe said that the Helipad was not a road issue.

Discussion ensued regarding Commercial Road, Church Road, The Esplanade, Hillhead Area, Lerwick Kerbing and Charlotte Street.

Ms K Fraser scored the Lower Hillhead a 3 and Kerbing a 4. She asked about the Junction at King Harold Street.

Mr Coupe explained that the plan was to change the island to a T-junction to allow parking for the shop and residents.

Ms K Fraser agreed it was a busy area for vehicles and pedestrians and it might be better to formalise it.

Ms A Westlake left at 8.05pm.

Traffic Speeds Gilbertson Road & Crossing Point South Rd

Mrs A Simpson informed Mr Coupe that concern had been expressed at the speed of vehicles on the north side of Gilbertson Rd. Drivers would appear to be using the build-out on the pavement at the top of Anderson Rd as a chicane. Could a traffic counter be installed to monitor this?

Mr Coupe said absolutely, only to happy for this to go ahead.

Mr D Ristori raised as a concern the speed limit on the South Road up to the Sandy Loch Drive junction and a request for the 30 mph speed limit to extend right up where it is currently a 40 mph limit. He also mentioned the pick-up point for Anderson High School bus users.

Discussion ensued regarding the speed, the dark areas up to the Observatory, pedestrians and traffic in that area.

Mr Coupe asked the LCC to please formally write and request the authority to look at these concerns from the roundabout near the school up to Shurton Brae. It was hoped that putting forward proposals now would allow for action in the future.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Mrs A Simpson mentioned a safe crossing point to be looked at as well in that area to allow children to cross safely and access the park.

Mr Coupe said this had been asked before. The assessment for Pelican Crossings involves many factors. The current position from the local authority is they are not looking to increase this provision. The engineering in implementing schemes involves visibility requirements. Removal of barriers in this instance could present a road safety hazard.

M Peterson raised a concern that the Royal Mail box was too near the junction and could cause a danger for cars stopping to use it.

Mr Coupe suggested making contact with the Royal Mail regarding this.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mrs A Simpson thanked Mr Coupe for his attendance at the meeting.

Mr Coupe left at 825pm.

07/14/07

Correspondence

7.1 Dyke at Knab Road – Unsafe Area – Jonathan Duncan, Coastal & Flooding Engineer, SIC

Awaiting a formal response.

7.2 Silted Up Cattle Grid – Steve Scott, Regional Comm. Manager, Scottish Water

Problem solved.

7.3 Bare Ground – Shetland Skatepark – Kaye Williamson, Treasurer, Shetland Skatepark

In hand.

7.4 Hire of portaloos – Sylvia Halcrow, Joint Secretary, C'burgh & District Ag, Society

Noted

7.5 2014/065/PPF – Extend Opening Boundary Wall, 12 Bank Lane – John Holden, SIC

Noted

7.6 School Transport – Shona Thompson, Executive Manager, Schools

For members information, unless any issues.

7.7 Prioritisation of Future Road Improvement Schemes – Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

(Dealt with along with item 6.)

7.8 Participatory Budgeting – Community Councils – James Gray, Executive Manager, Finance, SIC

All welcome to meeting on 5th August 7-9pm in Town Hall to help reduce budgets.

7.9 Lerwick Campsite – Brevik – Ralph Roberts, Chief Exec, NHS Shetland

The site is now for sale so no possibility for caravans.

07/14/08

Financial Reports

8.1 Core Funding Financial Report as at 30 June 2014

Noted

8.2 2013-14 CDF Financial Report as at 30 June 2014

Mrs A Simpson highlighted unspent funding of £956 from the Distribution Fund and asked if members could agree in principle to this amount being awarded to Mind Your Head who have expressed an interest in grant funding. If we don't spend this money before the end of August it has to be returned.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

8.3 2014-15 CDF Financial Report as at 30 June 2014

Noted

07/14/09

Clerk Hours and Remuneration

Held until later on the Agenda.

07/14/10

Planning Applications for Approval

Cllr M Bell declared an interest being a member of the planning board.

10.1 2014/207/PPF – Upgrade Property – 69a Commercial St, LK, Mr Leslie Irvine

No objections.

10.2 2014/190/PPF – Construct Helipad & Access Road - South Lochside, Mr Trevor Smith

Discussion ensued about the sighting of the helipad in the playing fields to the south of the Clickimin Leisure Centre. The old site at Breiwick Road and Sea Road were mentioned as brilliant sites by Mr M Peterson. Cllr M Bell knew that the Lochside site was going to cause problems as it had in the past. Reasons such as Pilot concerns regarding the approach to the emergency landing site were issues looked at several years ago. Ms K Fraser suggested that sites next to the sea could be problematic due to high winds.

Mr M Peterson proposed that an objection be made to the sighting at South Lochside.

Mrs A Simpson asked if anyone wanted to second the proposal. No members seconded the proposal so the motion was not passed.

Mr M Peterson asked for his objection to the planned site to be noted due to his concern for the residents at South Lochside.

07/14/11

Any Other Business

Lane Lights – Mr D Ristori highlighted the lane lights at Irvine Closs have been out for a few years and the danger at night with steps at both ends. Also Pilot Lane has had a light out for over a year and Nicolson's Closs would welcome a light.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Lerwick Health Centre – Mr M Peterson raised the concern regarding the poor figures recently published. He suggested asking for a representative to attend a LCC meeting. Also the waiting times at the A&E and an alleged staff absence due to fine weather were of concern.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Northlink/Petrofac – Mr M Peterson mentioned the recent incidents and the desire to find out what is being done about them. Mrs K Massie advised that this was being dealt with as both were in talks. Ms K Fraser suggested the LCC write and asks what is being done before our September meeting.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Minority Status – Mr M Peterson asked if any progress had been made with regard to contacting the UK Government and finding out about claiming minority status.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Synthetic Pitch – Mr A Wenger requested that we find out more information about these plans, understand the need and enquire about the money required.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

The clerk Mrs M Sandison left the room at 9:00pm before the following agenda item was discussed.

Cllr M Bell, Mr M Peterson and Ms Pat Christie left at 9:00pm.

07/14/09

Clerk Hours and Remuneration-(Minute taken by Mrs K Massie, ASCC)

The Vice Chairman circulated the proposed changes to Lerwick Community Council's Clerk's hours of work and remuneration. The document outlines the changes that have been made i.e. dispatching meeting papers electronically; reduction in grant application forms and electronic correspondence. Taking this into consideration it is proposed to reduce the number of hours on which the Clerk is remunerated from 60 hours to 50 hours per month. In addition, to ensure that the Clerk is compensated for any additional hours worked it is proposed that any ad hoc meeting etc. is paid extra over on a pro rata basis.

It is also proposed that the hourly rate be increased from £12.67 to £12.93 per hour. The Clerk will keep and submit a monthly time/work sheet to ensure that hours being worked are broadly in line with remuneration received.

The Clerk's hours will be reviewed in September 2015.

The Vice Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had accepted the post on the basis of the proposed hours.

Mrs Massie pointed out that the standard of service provided by Community Council Clerks is good value for money and the increase in hourly rate is justified. The Clerk should always be made to feel they can approach the Chair and Members regarding any problems they may be experiencing.

Following a short discussion it was agreed to adopt the changes to the Clerk's hours and remuneration. Proposed by Ms K Fraser; seconded by Mr A Wenger. There being no other proposals or objections the motion was carried.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 9.05pm.

Minute ends.

MRS A SIMPSON
VICE CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....