

MONDAY 1 JULY 2013

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in Room12, Islesburgh, Lerwick, at 7.00pm

Members

Miss K Fraser	Mrs A Simpson
Mr D Ristori	Mr W Spence
Mr A Carter	Mr A Johnson
Mr A Henry	Mr J Anderson
Mr A Wenger	Mr M Peterson arrived 7.05pm
Mr L Angus	Mr E Knight
Ms A Westlake	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Bell **arrived 7.08pm** Cllr C Smith

In Attendance

Mr H Jamieson, Chairman, LivingLerwick
Ms C Irvine, BID Manager, LivingLerwick
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

07/13/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/13/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Hay, Ms E Williamson, Cllr P Campbell, Cllr M Stout, Cllr A Wishart and Cllr J Wills.

07/13/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June were approved on the motion Ms K Fraser of and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

07/13/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

06/13/10 – Item 10.5 Proposed Humps-North Road & Staney Hill Housing Scheme

Mr D Ristori advised that Mr T Nicolson, North Road resident, requested that a note be made in the minute to express his objection to the proposed plans; it was his preference that the status quo should remain.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

04/13/08 – Item 8.5 Review of Public Toilets

The Chairman displayed an email from Mr J Emptage, Team Leader, Cleansing, Grounds & Burial Services which arrived too late to be included in the agenda. The email provided maintenance and repair costs relating to the Knab toilets.

Mr E Knight thought that it might be worthwhile investigating the possibility of the setting up of a Charitable Trust to run public toilets throughout the whole of Shetland; the advantage being that the law favoured Charitable Trusts by according them certain privileges, such as an advantageous tax status.

The Chairman suggested that a letter could be written to the Association of Shetland Community Councils outlining the proposal and a copy of set to Mr Emptage; Mrs K Massie, Admin Assistant, ASCC could then forward a copy of the letter to other Community Councils.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman raised concern that the costs of running the Knab toilets could be considerably more than that identified in Mr Emptage's letter. He suggested that if the maintenance and repair costs were only £1,300 annually, SIC would not be so concerned about the outlay.

The Chairman mooted that the sensible approach may be to ask the Burial Grounds workers to open and close the toilets; it was a real workable option. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr J Emptage with the suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mrs A Simpson pointed out that the toilets still needed to be cleaned.

The Chairman replied that if, at least, someone was tasked with opening & closing the toilets, it was a step forward.

Cllr M Bell added that it was a reasonable proposal; he himself had made enquiries with regard to the opening & closing the Knab toilets for funerals and was told that the option would be investigated.

Mr E Knight stated that the Amenity Trust was set up to cater for Shetland's amenities, so why could a Trust not be set up to manage the public toilets in Shetland.

The Chairman thought that perhaps Shetland Amenity Trust may consider managing the public toilets themselves.

Mrs A Westlake stated that there was no reason not to charge for use of the toilets and agreed that we needed to be much clearer on the running costs.

06/13/04 Caravan and Campsite

The Chairman advised that he still had no new information.

He added that there was to be a pre application consultation, with respect to the proposed new Anderson High School, at the September meeting of Lerwick Community Council; he hoped information regarding the Caravan and Campsite may be available then.

06/13/09 Welfare Reform Act

The Chairman asked Cllr M Bell if he had any further information with regard to the Welfare Reform Act.

Cllr M Bell replied that his meeting with Mr A Carmichael, MSP was still due to take place.

07/13/05

Police report

No Police officer attended the meeting.

07/13/06

Update, Proposed Projects, LivingLerwick – Ms Christena Irvine, BID Manager & Mr H Jamieson, Chairman, LivingLerwick

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jamieson and Ms Irvine to the meeting.

Ms Irvine stated that the aim of LivingLerwick was to work together to make Lerwick Town Centre better and to create a more vibrant, viable and sustainable town centre.

The objectives were to make the town more vibrant, friendly and welcoming, improve and make safe the environment and make parking easier for customers. Businesses were being encouraged to act for the common good of all the businesses and safety issues were being identified and resolved.

Ms Irvine reminded members that LivingLerwick had only been running since 1st September 2012, but within these ten months their completed projects were, the start of the Winter Festival; Christmas lighting scheme; Christmas trees throughout the street; Red Herring & 24 Lemons competitions and summer flower scheme. She thanked Lerwick Community Council for providing funding for the Christmas trees and summer flower scheme.

Feedback had all been very positive.

Ms Irvine advised that forthcoming projects were; customer care courses for businesses; the Fair Isles Festival, which would be preceded by a big press release; bunting, where each flag had been designed by a school child; street market of ten stalls; improved parking scheme and collective discounts for businesses.

Plans for year two was to build on the Winter Festival; provide window display courses for businesses; make further improvement to the parking scheme; improve the quality of public spaces and create an interactive trail.

The Winter Festival had been a huge success and the plan was to progress the festival and build on key dates such as the Christmas lights switch on and Parade Day; January sales; Up Helly Aa; Burns night and Valentines Day.

Ms Irvine stated that it was their hope to apply for financial assistance from the Community Development Fund to create a bigger and better Winter Festival; she asked for Lerwick Community Council's support and opened the floor to questions.

Mr L Angus enquired if the market stall would be for local traders.

Ms Irvine replied that it was; LivingLerwick would be getting a Public Entertainment Licence for Harrison Square and anyone could apply for a stall; a scoring system would be put in place to maximise variety and to keep the market stalls innovative and different. They did not intend the stalls to become a copy of Shetland Craft's annual fair. She added that bands and choirs would be encouraged to come to the Market, at no charge.

Mr A Carter complimented LivingLerwick on their achievements and ideas. He asked if any thought had been given to having pop up shops in the streets empty premises.

Ms Irvine replied that they were currently in discussion with the owners of some of the empty properties to ascertain their thoughts on the proposal.

Cllr M Bell asked if any attempt had been made to work with the Continental Market.

Mr H Jamieson responded that he had had a meeting with the manager of the Continental Market. Mr Jamieson stated that he was pleased to see the quality of the stalls, he had no objection to them coming and businesses agreed that it brought additional footfall to the street.

He added that the only criticism was that the area around the stalls could be kept tidier.

Mr M Peterson stated that his only quibble was celebration of Robert Burns' birthday when it had nothing to do with Shetland.

Ms Irvine replied that it was more about the spoken word, which shapes a culture, rather than Robert Burns himself.

Ms A Westlake asked for more information regarding the Park and Bide scheme. She added that she had been bombarded with concerns from members of the public due to loss of parking and vehicular access to the street following the erection of the bollards at Clydesdale Bank, and the closure to traffic on Harrison Square.

She added that the situation was made all the worse when Lerwick Port Authority shrunk or closed parking provision on the pier when liners came in.

Mr A Carter suggested that it may be worth considering asking someone from Lerwick Port Authority to attend a future meeting of Lerwick Community Council to discuss the issue.

Mr H Jamieson stated that motorists could still drive through the street to 11.30am, and drivers with disabled badges could drive through anytime. In addition, motorists could drive through the street from the post office to the Market Cross at any time, and make use of the parking bays.

He added that it was necessary to install the bollards as the laws were being ignored. In one day, between 1pm-2pm and 4pm-5pm, 150-160 cars had been counted illegally driving on the street.

He stated that 98% of business had not complained about the installation of the bollards, and surveys had shown that the majority of the public wanted to see fewer cars on the street.

The Chairman reminded members that Lerwick Community Council had long been a supporter of the pedestrianisation of the street.

Mr L Angus congratulated the project. He shared Ms Westlake's concern reading the bollards but added that Lerwick Port Authority could not be expected to provide parking.

Ms C Irvine advised that she could not discuss the parking proposals, at the moment, but hoped that she could provide the information in a couple of week's time; the idea was quite different.

Mr D Ristori suggested that parking provision at the old fish market might be an option.

Mr H Jamieson thought the idea was a good one and said he would take it on board.

Ms Irvine informed members there were 730 available parking spaces available in Lerwick Town Centre; a breakdown of the spaces was on the LivingLerwick website.

The Chairman asked if any consideration had been given to providing bicycle racks.

Mr H Jamieson responded that it was Shetland Islands Council intention to install a cycle rack near the Thule bar at the same time as introducing the 20mph speed limit on the Esplanade.

Mr A Wenger commented that drivers did not show enough consideration for the safety of cyclists. He thought that the stretch of road between the Co-op and roundabout at Gremista was particularly bad and suggested that the stopping places outside Shetland Hotel could potentially be used to allow people to overtake safely.

The Chairman thanked Ms Irvine and Mr Jamieson for attending the meeting and providing the informative presentation.

Ms Irvine and Mr Jamieson left the meeting at 7.55pm

Members agreed that they were happy to endorse LivingLerwick's proposed application for funding from the Community Development Fund.

07/13/07

Community Development Fund

7.1 Community Development Fund-Report No DV024 (previously circulated)

The Chairman advised that Community Councils were eligible to apply for £3,000 funding for distribution and an additional £1,000 of funding for a specific project.

He advised that the closing date for the first round of applications was 31 July and requested that any member with a particular idea for a project that they wished to see funded, contact the Clerk of the Council directly.

He hoped that Lerwick Community Councils would receive a response to their application for funding in time for the September meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

He stated that should Lerwick Community Council's application for funds for distribution be accepted, an advertisement would be made so that groups and organisations were made aware of the funding opportunity.

7.2 Community Development Fund - Grant Application Guidelines

Noted

7.3 Community Development Fund – Grant Application Form

Noted

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

07/13/08

Future of OT Equipment Store – Site of Old Archives

8.1 Initial Response re Future of OT Equipment Store, Site of Old Archives – Mr R Sinclair, Capital Programme Service, SIC

Noted

8.2 Update re Future of OT Equipment Store, Site of Old Archives – Mr R Sinclair, Capital Programme Service, SIC

The Chairman asked if anyone had any proposals as to what could be done with the site.

Ms K Fraser suggested that it would make a good site for a new Library.

Mr L Angus agreed, noting that it was disappointing that there was only room to display 40% of stock in the current Library.

Ms A Westlake suggested that it would provide good parking facilities as parking in the area was extremely difficult when there was a function on at Islesburgh.

The Chairman asked the item to be put back on the agenda for discussion, later on in the year.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

07/13/09

Correspondence

9.1 Window Glazing – Conservation Areas – Mr R MacNeill, Planning Officer, Development Management, SIC

Ms A Westlake raised concern at the lack of grant assistance available for the improvement and upkeep of properties in conservation areas. She suggested that unless there was some form of assistance to help maintain the properties, there was a real danger of conservation areas becoming the worst places in Lerwick.

Mr E Knight informed members that Shetland Amenity Trust did receive applications for funding to assist in the maintenance of properties in conservation areas and they could be looked at favorably.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Mr MacNeill to enquire if the Planning had any concerns that lack of funding assistance would lead to the deterioration of properties in conservation areas and, if so, what plans were in place to address them.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.2 Condition of Site, Community Abattoir – Ms Hazel MacKenzie, Operations Coordinator, Shetland Livestock Marketing Group Ltd

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms MacKenzie and ask if she could provide a date, or dates, for when it would be most convenient for Lerwick Community Council members to visit.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.3 Resurfacing Concern, Road at Greenhead Base – Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write back and request that consideration is given to painting white corrugated lines on the edge of the road to deter vehicles from driving too close to the verge and further spreading the loose chips.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.4 North Road & Staney Hill Housing Scheme Traffic Calming – Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC

Noted

9.5 Sheep Roaming Free & Pegasus Place Sign – Concerned member of public

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the owners who have sheep in the area and request that steps are taken to ensure that their stock is satisfactorily enclosed, accounted for and on their own property.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the developer of the site, Garriock Brothers, and request when they expected the street sign 'Pegasus Place' to be put in place.

07/13/10 **To be approved - Unaudited Financial Accounts for Year End 31 March 2013**

Noted

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

07/13/11 **Financial Report as at 25 June 2013**

Noted

07/13/12 **Planning Applications**

12.1 2013/199/PPF- Erect 'dot.com' admin block, loading canopy and click & collect canopy – Tesco, Lerwick

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr M Peterson asked if Mr Paul Clelland, Manager, Tesco could be written to and a request made for the car park lights to be switched off during the day and staff instructed to remove plastic Tesco bags which had been blown onto neighbouring properties.

Ms A Westlake noted that an abandoned Tesco trolley had been seen on Staney Hill, and another near the Fishbox; she asked if arrangements could be made for them to be removed and returned to the store.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

07/13/13 **Lerwick Planning Applications – June 2013**

Noted

07/13/14 **Any Other Business**

Excessive Grass Cutting

Mr M Peterson expressed disappointment that a grassy area of Upper Sound, at the south access to Sandy Loch Drive, was mown when it was blooming with Northern Marsh Orchids. Dozens were seen growing on 20 June but five days later, only a few live Orchids were left.

The Chairman agreed that the Orchids should not have been mown down. He asked the Clerk to write to Mr J Emptage, Cleansing, Grounds & Burial Service, SIC to alert him of the issue, and to request that steps are taken to ensure that it does not happen again.

In addition, he asked the Clerk to enquire how many times the grass is cut each year, and when the grass cutting begins.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Public Toilets

Mr E Knight asked for a letter to be written to Mr J Riise, Executive Manager, Governance & Law, SIC to ask his thoughts on the proposal that a Charitable Trust is set up to manage public toilets throughout Shetland.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Accommodation Barge

Mr A Carter suggested that there was scope to develop dialogue with Lerwick Port Authority so that in future, Lerwick Community Council had advance warning of issues affecting the community, such as the accommodation barge, currently berthed across from the Esplanade, and the intermittent loss of parking on Victoria Pier.

The Chairman advised that he was aware of plans to provide deep water berthing, for Liners, near the fish market.

He asked the Clerk to write to Sandra Laurenson, Chief Executive, Lerwick Port Authority to request information on the plans that they had for Lerwick's harbours.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Ms A Westlake raised concern that the influx of men from the accommodation barge would increase congestion, loss of parking spaces, and possibly bring the risk of sexual diseases and encourage prostitution.

Ms K Fraser stated that she was not aware of there being any trouble.

Mr E Knight agreed that the majority of the men were good, honest, hard working men.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Chief Inspector Angus MacInnes to enquire what steps will be taken to ensure that the sudden influx of men does not have a detrimental effect on the local community.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Japanese Knotweed

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Maggie Dunne, Executive Manager, Environmental Health, SIC in to advise her that Japanese Knotweed was growing at the north end of Westerloch and to request that she arrange to have the plant destroyed and roots removed in order to prohibit regrowth.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mareel

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to advise that the wiring to the lighting on the sea walk outside Mareel was exposed and a potential risk to members of the public.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Sewage

The Chairman advised he had received a report that wastewater was contaminating the back drain to Sea Road below Westhall, Lerwick.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Scottish Water to alert them of the issue.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Lanes

The Chairman noted that without the regular treatment with Chloris, the Lanes had become very slippery. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr J Emptage, Team Leader, Cleansing, Grounds & Burial Service with regard to the issue.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

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

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....