

MONDAY 4 MARCH 2013

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

Members

Mr W Spence	Mr J Anderson
Mr A Johnson	Mr E Knight
Mr D Ristori	Mrs A Simpson
Mr M Peterson	Ms K Fraser
Mr A Henry	Mr S Hay Co-opted Member
Mr L Angus	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Bell	Cllr J Wills
Cllr P Campbell left 8.25pm	Cllr A Wishart
Cllr C Smith	Cllr M Stout

In Attendance

Chief Inspector Angus MacInnes
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

03/13/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

03/13/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Carter, Ms A Westlake and Mrs E Williamson.

03/13/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February were approved on the motion of Mr D Ristori and seconded by Mr A Henry.

03/13/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

02/13/09 Item 9.1 Application for Funding - Lerwick Marina Users Association

Mr E Knight requested the minute be corrected to state that Mr E Knight declared an interest as *Vice Commodore*.

03/13/05 **Community Council By-election**

The Chairman advised that the candidate who returned unopposed was Mr Arwed Wenger. He added that Mr Wenger's term of office will commence on 28 March 2013.

Mr Wenger was present at the meeting to observe proceedings; the Chairman congratulated Mr Wenger and, with members' agreement, invited him to sit with Lerwick Community Council for the duration of the meeting.

03/13/06

Upcoming Merger of Current Forces into Police Scotland – Chief Inspector Angus MacInnes

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector A MacInnes to the meeting.

Chief Inspector A MacInnes advised that as of 1 April, this year, Scotland's eight existing forces will merge to become Police Scotland. There would be no changes to the number of officers in Shetland, but changes would be made as to what the officers would be doing with their time.

By the end of March all telephone calls within Northern Constabulary would be answered by a bank of fifteen operators, depending on the time of day, in Inverness. The calls will be dealt with by the operator, routed to a particular Police Station or, where appropriate, directly to a Police officers radio.

He stated that the system would not be without its problems but they would be working hard to ensure that the process was as smooth as possible.

Chief Inspector A MacInnes informed members that by dialling 101 for non emergencies, callers would be put through to their nearest call handling centre. The benefits were that no matter where in the country they were, callers would not have to know the number of the local Police Station, calls would be dealt with within forty seconds and would cost 15p. 999 would remain the number to call for emergencies and the calls would be dealt with within ten seconds.

He confirmed that the Lerwick Police Station would no longer be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as this was not the best use of staffing. As from 1 April, the Police Station's opening hours would be from 8am-8pm, all year round. The move would assist in allowing Police officers, who would still be working 24/7 to spend more time out on duty. He added that there would be two buttons at the Police Station door, one for emergencies and one for non emergencies; if pressed by someone the Police would be alerted and the nearest officer would attend.

An additional benefit of Police Scotland would mean that instead of having to wait for back up from Wick, if necessary, from 1 April assistance would come from the nearest available and most appropriate resource.

Chief Inspector A MacInnes informed members that they were awaiting the arrival of their Community Contact Vehicle, a 4 x 4 mobile office which would be used predominantly in rural areas. It would also be a useful tool to promote Police presence and for visiting schools and clubs.

As part of the change they would be doing away with Police Boards and instead there would be a local engagement framework of seven publicly elected members and partner agencies such as SIC, Coastguard, NHS, Community Safety Board, Risk Management, Voluntary Sector, Ambulance Service and Community Safety Board.

He stated that the Policing Plan priority was to tackle substance abuse and all that went with it, road safety and also communication; he noted that it was vital that a Police presence was noticeable.

Chief A MacInnes informed members that 67% of serious crime had alcohol in the equation and 60% of officers time was spent dealing with drink related crime.

Referring to performance he advised that crime was down by 16% from last year. The figures for February showed a detection rate of 75% for the whole of Shetland, 76% for Lerwick. Vandalism and theft was down by 50% compared to last year.

Ten times as many visits to pubs and clubs in December drove violence down but sadly violence in January increased considerably compared to that of the same time last year.

The Chairman enquired when the local Police Station phone number would no longer be in use and if there would be 'back up' if the Inverness call centre was overloaded.

Chief Inspector A MacInnes replied that the local phone number would be switched off in around 6-9 months time and that calls would be handled by Dingwall if necessary.

Mr L Angus stated that he felt very reassured by the presentation but hoped that the matter of the Traffic Warden had not been forgotten. He added that he could not say he was reassured by the ill considered comments made by Stephen House, the Chief Constable of the new force.

The Inspector replied that there was a Traffic Warden in place but because of internal staffing reasons the Warden was not on the street.

He added that Shetland was the only Police Force in Scotland who employed a Traffic Warden, in other areas it was the local Council.

Cllr A Wishart agreed with the remark that Mr L Angus made regarding Chief Constable House and thought that the Chief Constable came over as very operationally minded.

Chief Inspector A MacInnes responded that Shetland had a more important part to play than size would dictate.

The Chairman enquired what impact the 'Flotels' would have on policing levels.

The Chief Inspector replied that it was about prevention; it was clear that employers were willing to work with the Police to ensure that any issues were dealt with. Employers had a reputation to consider and troublemakers would be sent off the island.

He added that any issues to date could be counted in single figures.

Referring to illegal drugs being brought to the island, Mr D Ristori enquired if spot checks were made on fishing boats in small harbours such as Scalloway, Symbister, Baltasound and Cullivoe.

Chief Inspector A MacInnes stated that he was aware of the concern but there were issues regarding boarding a private vessel without a search warrant.

There being no further questions the Chairman wished a smooth transition for Police Scotland and thanked the Chief Inspector for his time.

The presentation concluded at 7.45pm and Chief Inspector A MacInnes remained for the rest of the meeting.

03/13/07

Viking Bus Station

7.1 CC Letter to Mr M Craigie, Transport Planning, SIC – Mr B Baker, Cunningsburgh
Noted

**7.2 Taxi Association Running Viking Bus Station – Mr C Symons, Acting Chief Executive
Manager, Building & Transport Operations**
Noted

Mr D Ristori advised that a SIC led survey regarding the use of the bus station had commenced that day and would last for one week.

03/13/08

Winter Road Treatment – Letter for Comment

Members offered no additional information for inclusion in the leaflet or commented on the format.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

03/13/09

Heritage Place Names Map

Mr E Knight noted an interest as a Shetland Amenity Trust Trustee.

Members were pleased with the revised estimate of £1,600 and were happy for the project to proceed.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

03/13/10

Correspondence

10.1 Clickimin Campsite – Mr R Anderson, Caravan Owner
Noted

10.2 Caravan and Campsite – Ms A Black, Chief Executive, Shetland Charitable Trust
The Chairman informed members that the Clerk of the Council had obtained a copy of SRT's Annual Report for 1985/1985 during which time SRT received a grant for £74,150 from Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust. However, there was no reference to the grant within the document.

He stated that investigations would continue.

The Chairman thought it fair to request that any monies from the sale of the campsite is ringfenced for future campsite provision.

As at Lerwick Community Council's February meeting (02/13/07 Item 7.5) Mr E Knight again raised concern that SRT had no right to sell the land unless it was for a charitable purpose.

Cllr J Wills suspected that Mr Knight was correct. He was not convinced that the proposed new Anderson High School needed to be built on the campsite and thought that there was adequate land to the north. He added that Seafield was an obvious choice for an alternative campsite.

Cllr A Wishart suggested that legal advice should be sought with regard to SRT's right to sell the campsite land.

Mr L Angus suggested that Lerwick Community Council could assist in the running and management of a campsite along with SIC, SRT and SCT.

The Chairman suggested that it was reasonable to expect that if the size of SRT's estate was reduced, their grant of 2.5 million should be reduced accordingly. He thought that SCT should do the right thing and offset monies from the sale of the site against the following years grant.

10.3 Campsite Area within Shetland Local Development Plan – Mr A Taylor, Team Leader, Development Plans & Heritage

Cllr J Wills thought that the letter was deplorable and insolent.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to question the response as Lerwick Community Council had been led to believe that the Plan was organic and that there would be a call for sites on an annual basis; likewise, land previously put forward for inclusion could be removed.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.4 Variable Muster Modes– Mr J Fergusson, Operations Director, Serco/NorthLink Ferries

Mr L Angus stated that it was only fair to allow Serco/NorthLink the opportunity to see how the new crewing arrangement worked out. He suggested that the concern be reviewed at the September meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Clerk of the Council)

10.5 Lighting Issue, AHS Mulit-court – Ms V Nicolson, Head Teacher, AHS

Noted

Work Request Docket – Mr A Leong, Building Services, SIC

Noted

10.6 Name Suggestions, Hoofields Development – Ms A Jamieson, Executive Manager, Housing SIC

Noted

Name Suggestions, Hoofields Development – Ms H Moncrieff, Team Leader, Community Work & Planning, SIC

Noted

10.7 Retaining Wall, Twageos Road – Mr N Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to email Mr N Hutcheson and request a date for when the repair work would commence.

He also asked the Clerk to notify Mr N Hutcheson that part of the sea wall near the Tesco roundabout was also showing signs of deterioration.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.8 Royal Mail Road Transport Workshop – Mr B Crossan, Island Manager, Royal Mail, Lerwick

Noted

10.9 Festivity Proposal, New Year 2014 – Ms C Irvine, BID Manager, Living Lerwick

Mrs A Simpson asked for the letter to be included for discussion at the October meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.10 Dog Watch Campaign – Mrs M Sandison, Executive Manager, Environmental Services, SIC

Members raised no objection to Lerwick Community Council being referred to in the body of the Dogwatch letter.

It was suggested that Dogwatch posters could be laminated and attached to lampposts as an additional deterrent.

The Chairman made a plea to the press to highlight the dog fouling issue.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.11 Footballers Urinating Outdoors – Mr A Doull, Secretary, SWLFA

Noted

10.12 Gutter's Gaet and Mitchells Road Signs – Mr C Gair, Engineer, Roads, SIC

It was agreed that it was important for the roads to retain their official names.

The Chairman appealed to the Lerwick South Councillors to find a resolution to the issue; he asked the Clerk of the Council to email a separate copy of Mr C Gair's letter to each of the four Lerwick south Councillors.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

03/13/11

Financial Report as at 28 February 2013

11.1 Approval to cease funding & organising Lerwick Garden Competition – Average annual cost for reference

Members agreed that due to continuous lack of interest, the Lerwick Garden Competition could cease.

Cllr P Campbell left 8.25pm

11.2 Approval to purchase office equipment – Quote for reference

Members agreed that the required equipment could be purchased

11.3 Approval to renew office carpet tiles – Quote for reference

Members agreed to the renewal of the carpet tiles.

03/13/12

Applications for Financial Assistance

12.1 Shetland Skatepark Association

Mrs A Simpson moved that the full £3,000 should be awarded.

She added that despite setbacks over the years the group had 'Stuck with it' and deserved support.

The motion was seconded by Mrs K Fraser

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

03/13/13

Planning Applications

13.1 2013/035/PPF Convert existing retail and storage, first and second floors to residential, 99 Commercial Street

No objection

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.2 2013/036/PPF Construct a concrete skatepark - The Knab, Knab Road, Lerwick

No objection

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.3 2013/022/PPF Change of use, residential institution to four flats and one maisonette; outhouse to one bedroom house; Planning permission in principle to erect single dwellinghouse – Craigielea, St Olaf Street, Lerwick

No objection

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The following applications arrived too late for inclusion in the agenda but were taken to the meeting for discussion.

13.4 2013/061/PPF - Erect dwellinghouse with integral garage and separate chalet, West Hillcrest

No objection

13.5 2013/018/PPF - Import material to reinstate, grade and reseed former peat extraction area, Gremista

No objection

03/13/14

Lerwick Planning Applications – February 2013

Noted

03/13/15

Any Other Business

LOTDA – Information Boards

Mr D Ristori expressed an interest in the information boards being progressed and suggested that Lerwick Community Council could consider providing funding assistance, if need be.

Mr E Knight advised that he would be attending a meeting of Shetland Amenity Trust the following day and would discuss the issue.

Campsite Land

Mr E Knight reaffirmed his concern that SRT had no right to sell the land unless it was for charitable purposes. He stated that the discussion to sell the land was recorded in their minutes and that the sale had been agreed by the Board.

The Chairman responded that he had recently attended an AHS Stakeholders Group meeting and, at this moment in time, the land still belonged to SRT and had not been sold.

Town Hall Window Restoration Project

Mr L Angus expressed his disappointment that he had missed the February meeting which provided an update regarding to the restoration of the Town Hall Windows.

Cllr M Stout advised that there was not much in terms of an update but figures regarding the cost of the restoration were starting to come in. If the Town Hall's status as a listed building could be upgraded, more grant funding could be accessed.

Proposed New AHS

The Chairman advised that he recently attended a stakeholders meeting regarding the proposed new Anderson High School and that it was hoped that an announcement would be made, this month, as to the winning contractor from the seven who are bidding.

The box style building would have classes on each side leaving central atrium 3-4 storeys high, offering the only bit of flexibility in the plan; suggestions were being sought for how best the space could be used.

Mr L Angus stated that he understood Sport Scotland were happy to finance an extension to the proposed new AHS.

The Chairman advised that it was his understanding that the school would make do with the Clickimin Centre for its sports needs. All that would be required was funding for an artificial pitch; however, a decision was required to be made as to the use of the pitch, football or hockey, it could not be both.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman..... Date.....