

MONDAY 4 MAY 2015

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson	Ms K Fraser
Mr A Wenger	Mr A Johnson
Mr A Carter	Mr P Coleman
Mr D Ristori	Mr J Fraser
Mr E Knight	Mrs A Garrick-Wright

Ex-Officio Councillors

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

In Attendance

Mrs Pat Christie, Community Planning and Development
Sergeant Bruce Peebles, Police Scotland
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Vice Chairman

Mrs A Simpson, Vice Chairman to the Council presided.

05/15/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

05/15/02 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Hay, Ms G White and Cllr C Smith.

05/15/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

05/15/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr Knight noted that in regard to the Staney Hill Road, he had said that it was the council who should bite the bullet and bring the road over the hill up to standard.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mrs Simpson said that due to illness, Mr Anderson would not be present. She welcomed Sgt Bruce Peebles to the meeting.

05/15/05 **Police Scotland – Monthly Report – Sergeant Bruce Peebles**

Sgt Peebles apologised that no further report was available since the last one. He informed members that crime detection rates remained high. Regarding resilience, one new probationer was due to start in two to three weeks. Interviews had taken place for support staff and two local people had been successful.

Road safety issues such as speed, mobile phone and seat belt use, were continuing to be targeted with the use of an unmarked car, when time allowed. Drugs dogs were active on a regular basis, at the ferry every morning and targeting license premises at the weekend. They were a handy tool, as significant amounts of drugs were on the island.

Sgt Peebles said they had noticed a spike in shoplifting offences across town. An arrest had been made and this was to go to court. The programme over the next few weeks was to give advice regarding suspected shoplifters. This may be to fund drug use or it was sometimes young folk at the weekends.

Motorists were being issued with fixed penalties, mostly charged at the weekends. Minor street disorder had been reported and seventy checks on license premises had taken place at various times of the day. There had been a positive response to this and seen to help prevent further disorder from occurring. Sgt Peebles said he was happy to take any questions.

Mrs Simpson thanked him and said she was pleased to hear that nothing too serious was happening.

Mr Ristori said that a few years ago police checks were done on service runs. He said that illegal highs were found in the back of buses. He asked for support from the police for drivers. He said that they were aware that things were going on and wondered if it could be policed again.

Sgt Peebles said that if there was a problem and a chance someone was under the influence and a cause for concern, then it was necessary to call. Telling them where the person had disembarked from the bus and searching the bus could take place. Dogs were not able to pick-up on illegal highs.

Mr Ristori stated that it was not easy knowing how to deal with people who were 'high'. He mentioned the town service and south mainland being most affected.

Sgt Peebles said that if a driver was faced with someone, then to call. In order to prevent further crimes from taking place and also keep the driver and public safe. They would come along and deal with it. They could use a number of powers if necessary.

Mr Fraser mentioned that he had attended the Lerwick Town Centre meeting and it had been relayed that Police Scotland was to pass on parking offences to local authorities. As it was too expensive for small local authorities to take on, he wondered if Sergeant Peebles could confirm if this was accurate.

Sgt Peebles said that it was obvious there was no traffic warden. He said it had been said that this was going away from the Police, but the Police have powers and do issue tickets. Police had been on the street and personally his presence one day on the

street had caused chaos. They were still empowered to act and did respond to calls regarding parking especially on double yellow lines.

Mrs Simpson pointed out that at a previous meeting the issue of parking tickets had been discussed.

Cllr Stout said that this had been discussed before. At national level police were doing away with traffic policing, but locally police were showing a strong commitment. The rule for community councils would be to lift the phone and any issues would be followed up.

Mr Knight said that he had noticed many yellow lines and disabled parking spaces had been worn away. He asked what the situation would be if inadvertently parking took place.

Sgt Peebles said how would they know and that this was an issue for the council.

Mrs Simpson said that they could raise with the roads department the issue of faded yellow lines.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mrs Simpson thanked Sergeant Peebles for attending.

Sgt Peebles said he was happy to take onboard any issues and would encourage them to come forward.

05/15/06

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Project

Mrs Simpson commented that she had attended the evening presentation. She asked if anyone else who had attended would like to make comment.

Cllr Stout reported that the idea had started in Brazil, with small amounts of money going towards local projects. Votes for the project decide the outcome at the end of the day. It gives a sense of the community owning them. He thought it was interesting that the community development fund given to community councils was a close parallel to those pots of money. As explored here, it could take that further.

Mrs Christie agreed and said that there were two sides to participatory budgeting. She said that which Cllr Stout had spoken about and how good it was to get folk involved. The other thing was that it will take the onus off community councils, as groups will decide as they bid for it. The money is main stream public money and could be actively distributed.

Ms Fraser agreed it was a good idea, not for essentials, and would enable folk to decide on the projects to fund.

Cllr Stout commented that it would help give the public an understanding of been involved in the process of budgets. People could see the responsibility and often not easy choices. He commented that it would be good, to try to go more in that direction.

Cllr Wills said he supported PB and thought it might help if, not only meetings, but use of social media was used. Nobody had time for meetings. He agreed that having people involved would be good and allow the public to understand any spending decisions.

Mrs Simpson commented on hearing the benefits with groups able to distribute money, sometimes allowing money to be returned for others to benefit and sharing where needs are. Participant's confidence grew. There was a drive to get it going.

Cllr Stout it would be useful to have feedback, having discussed it with the community council.

Mrs Simpson asked if the members were keen to carry on with the pilot project and made the suggestion that Lerwick Community Council become involved.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

05/15/07

ASCC Meeting

Mrs Simpson informed members that Mr Jim Gear had been re-elected as chairman and Mr Jim Anderson as vice chairman.

Regarding delegates for the Joint Liaison Group, no nomination has been received for North East Mainland. Our community council nominated Mr Arwed Wenger and Mr A C Henry was nominated from Bressay.

Mrs Simpson said regarding the community benefit fund, Mr Chris Bunyan spoke about what has already been achieved with Viking Wind Farms and commented that people in the most affected areas will receive the most money. Further contracts with other wind farms may result in some remuneration.

Cllr Stout commented on the last paragraph of the report from Chris Bunyan, although he was neutral on the issue, he questioned the exclusion of further consultations before going ahead.

Mrs Simpson mentioned that the Shetland Local Development Plan was discussed. Austin Taylor had said that he was keen that in future, the Community Councils should have a greater input to what goes into the SLDP.

Cllr Wills had heard it proposed that Lerwick South should no longer include Gulberwick and meant that Lerwick South would have fewer constituents.

Cllr Stout said he found it bizarre, that instead of using the opportunity to respond to Mr Riise's presentation on proposed ward boundary changes, the ASCC meeting had instead focused on complaints regarding the introduction of multi-member wards, which was of no relevance to the boundary changes. Whilst they would be included in later statutory consultations, this was an early opportunity for Community Councils to feedback their views to the Council, and that the proposed changes to the Central Ward in particular could affect a number of Community Councils

Mrs Simpson suggested contracting Gulberwick to find out their views.

Mrs Simpson mentioned the amount of work in the North.

Mr Fraser said that Gulberwick was part of the Lerwick belt. The residents generally work, use the facilities and amenities, and also their children attend school there, so it was appropriate to be in the Lerwick ward.

Cllr Wills said that that was his feeling also. It was up to the community council to put forward these concerns. It was a retrograde step for the reasons Mr Fraser had given.

Mrs Simpson suggested including it on the agenda at the next meeting. The draft changes could be circulated.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mrs Simpson mentioned that Community Resilience had been discussed. Following past storms the SSE have a fund which can be applied for. One suggestion had been a generator for a public hall, in case of power cuts. Lerwick had not yet thought of anything. Money would be available later on through the year.

Mrs Simpson mentioned that burial ground up-keep had been discussed.

Mr Spence reported on the plans for community grass cutting and said that Bressay were to be involved in a pilot scheme. There had also been interest from northern isles.

Cllr Stout said that this was partly in response from the ASCC three years ago, as ways to devolve decision making. He mentioned Council support for local jobs, and the work been completed better than the council could.

05/15/08

Correspondence

8.1 Prioritised Future Road Improvement Schemes – Mr Dave Coupe, Manager Roads, SIC

Mrs Simpson noted the list of prioritised road improvements with the agenda. She said that no funding was currently available, so nothing was going to happen soon. She shared her concerns that by the time the money was available, there would be other priorities.

Cllr Stout outlined the process leading up to lists and scoring system. He said no money was available, but now the Council had priorities on essential work.

Mr Wenger raised concern regarding work on the pavement close to Tesco and asked if it was necessary. He mentioned Dales Voe and the need for replacing the whole barrier. He also questioned the post replacements on the Blackgate Road.

Cllr Stout replied that barrier strength may have required more than repairing a section. He couldn't comment on the post replacements, but suggested forwarding the query to roads. He was certain that no money was spent unnecessarily.

Cllr Wills mentioned that there was an on-going repair and maintenance budget.

8.2 Living Lerwick CDF Application looking for support – Mrs Christina Irvine

Mrs Simpson said that Living Lerwick needed support from the community council as part of their application to the Community Development Fund. The project was a deterrent to parking issues. She asked if all were happy with giving support.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Cllr Stout said he was very supportive, as it was a practical solution to the parking issues, which didn't involve the police or the Council and would help sort out the problems.

The clerk informed the chair that the funding had been granted to Living Lerwick.

8.3 CDF Project & Distribution Grants Awarded – Mr Michael Duncan, Director Development Services

Noted.

8.4 Dog Watch Feedback – Billy Mycock, ASB Co-ordinator, Environmental Health & Trading Standards, SIC

Mrs Simpson noted that they were encouraged to fill out a form. The area from Hillhead to Braewick Road still has a problem with dog fouling.

Cllr Campbell said that he thought the posters did have an impact. He had noticed when out walking that it seemed better.

Mr Spence informed members that Environmental Health was to carry out a dog drive this month.

8.5 Signage for Museum

Reply so far noted.

8.6 Stonewall – Ladies Drive

Reply so far noted.

8.7 Concerns at Ackrigarth – Mr Kevin Serginson, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC

Mrs Simpson said there was nothing from Police Scotland yet regarding the cars going to the garages. A replied had been received from Kevin Serginson and our letter had been passed on.

Cllr Wills said that the pressure should be kept on. Children used the road in that area.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

8.8 Staney Hill Road – Mr Kevin Serginson, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC

The response was noted. Ms Fraser said that they had probably gone as far as they could. It would just be a case of waiting to see when the sheep would escape.

Cllr Wills left the meeting at 8.00pm.

8.9 Paths for All – Project Feedback – Ruth Kelloe

Noted.

8.10 Scottish and Southern Energy A new energy solution for Shetland – Pre-Qualification Stage.

Noted.

05/15/09

Applications for Grant Funding

9.1 Living Lerwick – Town Centre Floral Scheme

Mrs Simpson informed members that Living Lerwick was asking for £1,000 towards their flower scheme project. She asked if anyone had any views or would like to propose a figure.

Discussion took place about the core budget and members heard that this had been agreed in principle. The Community Development Fund was mentioned and the clerk confirmed that £3,000 had been granted and would be available for distribution.

Ms Fraser proposed to offer the grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Mr Carter.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

05/15/10

Financial Report

Noted.

05/15/11

Planning Applications

11.1 2015/110/PPF – To construct site workers accommodation, canteen, laundry, vehicle parking area and holding tank – Dales Voe, Lerwick – Joe Lee and Bam Nuttall

Cllr Campbell declared an interest as member of the Lerwick Port Authority Board.

Mrs Simpson remarked that around forty people would be accommodated in the portcabins.

Cllr Wishart informed members that it was a new berth extension to the quay.

Mr Ristori said that he had nothing against the plan, but wondered if there weren't already places that could be used instead of providing the canteen in the area.

Cllr Wishart stated that planning consent had already been approved to develop the harbour works. He thought that providing this planning application was merely a courtesy detail.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.2 2015/122/PPF – Change use from shop to ground floor flat – 12 North Road, Lerwick – Mr David Henry

Mrs Simpson commented on a change to a two-bedroom flat and everything looked fine. She suggested that Roads would have no concerns, as it would demand less parking than a shop. No concerns were noted.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.3 2015/131/PPF – Change of use from shop to take-away and accommodation – 35-37 North Road, Lerwick – Mr Xiu Qin Weng

Discussion ensued about the internal accommodation provided. Traffic concerns were mentioned, but members agreed that the planning department would take this into consideration. Members agreed that they had no concerns.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

05/15/12

Any Other Business

Mitchells Road Street Sign

Mr Ristori requested a street sign for Mitchells Road.

Mr Stout reported from memory that at two thousand pounds, the cost was not considered a good use of public money.

Sign for Sinclair Thomson House – Former Baptist Church

Mr Ristori related an incident that had taken place last week, with people entering the residential building thinking it was still a Baptist Church. He recommended that we informed Hjalmland Housing Association about the mix up.

Mrs Simpson agreed that we should write to Hjalmland and inform them.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mr Ristori asked Cllr Stout about the Shetland Transport Strategy and if there was any feedback on the North Boats contract.

Cllr Stout confirmed the situation was on-going and constructive work was going on behind the scenes.

Collapsed wall below graveyard

Mr Knight highlighted the danger due to the collapsed wall at the Knab near the former torpedo tube platform.

Mrs Simpson agreed and proposed we write to the council.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

Minute ends.

MRS A SIMPSON
VICE CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....