

MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2012

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

Members

Mr W Spence	Mr L Angus
Mr A Johnson	Mr M Peterson
Mr E Knight	Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Carter	Mr D Ristori
Mr J Stewart	Mr S Hay Co-opted Member

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Bell	Cllr A Wishart
Cllr J Wills Left 8.20pm	

In Attendance

Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mrs A Simpson, Vice Chairman to the Council presided.

12/11/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

12/11/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Anderson, Miss K Fraser, Mr S MacMillan, Mrs E Williamson, Ms A Westlake, Cllr P Campbell, Cllr C Smith and Cllr M Stout.

12/11/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October were approved by Mr J Stewart and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

12/11/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no further business arising from the minute.

12/11/05

Clickimin Broch Draft Floodlight Agreement

Concern was raised with regard to the requirement for one year's written notice, from either party, to terminate the agreement. Members agreed that a three or four month's term of notice should be requested in its place.

Members voiced their frustration that whilst Historic Scotland, as noted in clause eight, expected the Grantee to 'maintain the equipment at all times in good working order and in a neat and tidy condition, all to the reasonable satisfaction of the Scottish Ministers', very little

had been done to protect the Broch from repeated and determined vandalism, not only to the lighting, but to the Broch itself.

Mr D Ristori reminded members that lockable gates, sited at the end of the path to the Broch in the 80's, were a good deterrent to would be vandals and may warrant consideration again.

Members approved that, firstly, it would be prudent to have the Floodlighting Agreement perused by someone with legal training, and their advice taken on board; Historic Scotland should then be approached with regard to the security of the Broch before Lerwick Community Council agrees to sign the document.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Concern was raised that, in these times of austerity, the lighting of the Broch may be viewed as an indulgence.

It was decided that the floodlighting should be switched off at midnight, in line with Shetland Islands Council's policy to switch off the street lighting.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/11/06

Lerwick Community Council Wards

After discussion as to the benefits, or otherwise, of members being responsible for specific areas, it was suggested that even two wards, North and South, could be considered.

Mr M Peterson proposed that in the first instance Lerwick Community Council should seek advice to determine if it was permissible.

Mr E Knight seconded the proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/11/07

Correspondence

7.1 Urinating Footballers – Mr J Johnson, General Manager, Shetland Recreational Trust

Noted

7.2 Quoys Road Safety Issue, Traffic Counter Request – Mr B Halcrow, Roads, SIC

As Ms A Westlake, who was absent from the meeting, had raised the safety concern, the Clerk agreed to contact her directly to mark on the map the area to be surveyed.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr M Peterson suggested that, for safety reasons, consideration should be given to repositioning the letterbox at Ackrigarth so that it was further in the road.

The Clerk agreed to write to Mr D Reynolds, Manager, Royal Mail Lerwick with the request.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.3 Service at Freefield Centre – Cllr C Smith, Town Hall, SIC

Cllr A Wishart confirmed that Social Work, SIC was in talks with the Voluntary Service who were interested in providing, and enhancing, the service at Freefield. Talks were ongoing and it was hoped that plans would be drawn up by the end of this year, and in place by the spring of next year.

Cllr J Wills voiced discontent with the lack of progress.

He added that officials had accepted the arguments put forward in the petition, and agreed that no assessment was necessary as any elderly person would benefit from the service.

Cllr J Wills noted that although the service was designed for the Lerwick area, at a time when other areas offered a similar service, groups from the country also made use of the facility.

Cllr J Wills informed members that he was advised a business plan would be ready in five weeks time.

7.4 Harrison Square-Irvine Place Public Space – Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC

Concern was raised with regard to the loss of parking and possible detrimental consequences to business in the area.

Cllr A Wishart reassured members that effected businesses had been approached with regard to the plans but there had been no adverse comments.

Members were advised that the plans were particularly supported by Karibunui and Ian's Fish and Chips.

There had been initial concern from the Cancer Research Shop, but their issues had been addressed.

7.5 Statutory Consultation on Proposed Lerwick Traffic Orders - Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC

Cllr J Wills stated that he had received representations from businesses voicing concern that the proposals to pedestrianise the area from Church Road to Market Cross would have a seriously detrimental effect on their businesses.

The Vice-Chairman pointed out that the area was open to traffic until 11.30am and then after 5pm; she added that Living Lerwick was happy with the proposals.

Cllr M Bell agreed with Cllr J Wills that some businesses were quite concerned.

Mr E Knight noted that no businesses had passed their concerns on to Lerwick Community Council, only to Councillors.

He went on to state that there had been no accidents, and the current set up seemed to be working well. He proposed that the area should not be pedestrianised but should be left 'as is'.

Mr A Carter seconded the motion.

There being no counter proposal, the motion was carried.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/11/08

Financial Report as at 30 October 2012

Mr L Angus moved to accept the report.

The Vice-Chairman advised members that Sail Training Shetland had now received their grant funding of £1,000. Mr V Sandison, Treasurer, asked for his thanks to be passed on.

12/11/09

Applications for Grant Funding

9.1 Living Lerwick – Lerwick Town Centre Winter Festival

Mr A Wishart declared an interest as a non-voting member.

The Vice Chairman noted that it was an 'excellent and innovative' proposal for the trees to be looked after by Cope, after the festive season, and used again the following year.

Mr L Angus proposed an offer of £1,150 the full grant requested.

Mr J Stewart seconded the proposal.

The Vice-Chairman stated that Living Lerwick should be congratulated on their efforts, not just for the proposed Winter Festival but for all their other proactive ideas.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/11/10

Planning Applications

10.1 2012/331/PPF - erect dwellinghouse with garage and access, Plot 2, Sands of Sound, Lerwick

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The following application arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion.

2012/352/PPF – erect new single storey observatory and demolish existing observatory post development

The application was objected to on the grounds that the exterior design was not environmentally sensitive and that it should be more in line with the vernacular.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/11/11

Lerwick Planning Applications – October 2012

Noted

12/11/12

Any Other Business

Concern - Lack of Consultation

Mr W Spence voiced concern that it appeared Lerwick Community Council was 'the last to know' and asked what could be done to raise the profile of the Council.

Cllr A Wishart responded that as Lerwick Community Council was being consulted in the correct way and that it had a lot to do with timing.

Cllr J Wills added that, under the current legislation, Community Councils could be as active as they wished; they ought to be listened to, were a sounding board, and their role was very clear. If they wished to 'raise hell', then they should do so.

The Vice-Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Mark Boden, Chief Executive, SIC to voice Lerwick Community Council's concern at the lack of consultation.

Cllr A Wishart reassured members that Councillors, took seriously, concerns and issues raised, during their attendance at Community Council meetings; they tried to 'steer things round' and would report back in an informed way.

Cllr M Bell confirmed that if Community Councils made their voice heard, they would be listened to.

Proposed Shetland Local Development Plan

Cllr J Wills reminded members that if they wished to make representations, with regard to the proposed Shetland Local Development Plan, they must do so before 5pm on Friday 30th November 2012.

He raised concern at the inadequate plans for housing in Lerwick and noted that it appeared that only Staney Hill and Lower Sound were considered in the 1-5 year plan and only Staney Hill in the 5-10 year plan.

He suggested that Lerwick Community Council should consider a special meeting to discuss the Plan.

The Vice-Chairman advised that the document had been emailed to all members and enquired if members would prefer to respond as individuals.

Mr L Angus stated that it appeared we were getting led to where it was known that land and services were readily available. He thought that it was short sighted not to reorganise Gulberwick as a substantial part of Lerwick housing provision.

Mr M Peterson noted that he was sure that Lerwick Community Council had already input its views which formed part of the plan.

Mr E Knight agreed that a special meeting should be arranged.

The Vice-Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to arrange a Special Meeting of Lerwick Community Council and to invite the Chair of the Planning Committee and a Planning Officer to attend.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Town Hall Windows

Cllr A Wishart noted that it would be beneficial for Lerwick Community Council to request the same presentation, recently given to the Town Hall & Lystina Consultative Committee, regarding the condition of the Town Hall windows.

Mr L Angus explained that inadequate restoration work, done in the 1980's, on the stone work had affected the integrity of the windows because of the resulting movement.

He added that the latest presentation to the Town Hall & Lystina Consultative Committee had, by far, been the best; a lot of work would need to be done, and external funding sought, but the necessary work would still be very expensive.

Cllr J Wills stated that he could see how it could be a political problem, with country halls being refused funding; however, the Town Hall was a listed building and Shetland Islands Council had a legal obligation to maintain it. The Town Hall was also a facility for the whole of the Shetland Community, not just Lerwick.

Cllr J Wills Left – 8.20pm

Cllr A Wishart advised that he would contact Mr J McCormak, Acting Technical Support Manager, Building Services, SIC to make the necessary arrangements for him to attend the December meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Cllr A Wishart)

Blueprint for Education

Mr L Angus raised concern at the lack of visible progress with regard to the proposed new Anderson High School. Although the funding was time limited, there appeared to be no move to acquire land and no technical work underway.

He moved to request that Mr J Anderson, Chairman, Lerwick Community Council sits as an observer on the local project team so that members can be kept well informed.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

He informed members that Lerwick's School's housed 42% of the Shetland School population and stated that it was important to speak up for Lerwick's Children.

Referencing the hoped for additional housing in Lerwick, Mr L Angus drew attention to the fact that both Lerwick Primary Schools were at, or nearing full capacity. He stated that it was not physically possible for Bell's Brae to extend and enquired pondered if it was possible for Sound Primary School to extend.

Mr S Hay supported Mr L Angus's concerns regarding the pressure of capacity in both Lerwick's Primary Schools.

He stressed that the principal of equity was central to the Blueprint for Education and the proposal to have the Chairman as an observer on the local project team could help ensure this.

Mr S Hay went on to suggest that one way of applying equity across Shetland would be to apply the 'hub and spoke' model. One school each, for south, west, north, Whalsay and north isles with three similar schools in central Shetland serving students up to the senior stage of Curriculum for Excellence; with the new build, a Senior Learning Centre offering in conjunction with College, Nautical & Fisheries College, University of Highlands and Islands and other universities, as full and comprehensive range of academic practical and vocational courses as possible.

Regarding the proposed new Anderson High School, Cllr M Bell advised that the project team was pulling together under the new Chief Executive; a lot of work and negotiation was taking place in the background to advance the proposed new school and the project was progressing as expected.

Mr D Ristori enquired if any thought had been given to amalgamation Bells Brae and Sound Schools.

Mr L Angus replied that it had been discussed but it was nothing more than 'blue sky thinking'.

There being no other competent business the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Minute ends.

MRS A SIMPSON
VICE CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Vice Chairman..... Date.....