

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2014

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson left 8.15pm
Ms K Fraser
Mr A Johnston
Mr W Spence
Mr E Knight arrived 7.30pm

Mr A Henry
Mr A Carter
Miss S Sinclair arrived 7.15pm
Mr F Gibson

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Stout
Cllr J Wills left 8pm

Cllr M Bell
Cllr A Wishart

In Attendance

Captain Stuart McCallum, Marine Manager, Northlink
Mr Gavin Steel, Liaison Manager, SHEPD
Mr Darren Hitchin, Operations Manager, Lerwick Power Station
Mr Paul Riddle, Platform Shetland
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

11/14/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/14/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Peterson, Mr S Hay, Mr D Ristori, Mr A Wenger, Cllr C Smith and Cllr P Campbell.

11/14/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October were approved on the motion of Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

11/14/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

Amendment

10/14/07 Cllr M Stout wanted it noted that his comment on the Schools consultation was wrong. He had stated the opposite view, saying the council would listen to the views of the community council.

11/14/05

Northlink Incidents – Captain Stuart McCallum, Marine Manager

Capt. McCallum introduced himself and said that he had been asked to attend and was happy to take any questions.

Cllr J Wills responded that it was very good of Captain McCallum to come along. There had been some concern locally following the incidents that took place. Some friends had been inconvenienced by the loutish behaviour of a few passengers. Not being sufficiently well staffed and the continued serving of drink to those passengers had resulted in some appalling incidents. Some of which were not reported. Racial abuse had occurred. Passengers having difficulty sleeping in the pods due to party's after 11pm. He was seeking reassurance that the Captain could cope with these problems.

Capt. McCallum replied he could offer that assurance and added that they carry enough security on-board. The incidents had all been related to workers from the gas plant. Since July extra security staff had been put in place. If need be, and if large numbers of workers were travelling more security would be available.

The Master had since 1995 been empowered by the shipping act to have passengers detained. This has the full backing of the company. Robust procedures were in place. If anything comes through his desk in the morning it is reported to the authorities. It's taken very seriously.

Bar Staff had attended alcohol awareness courses and were prepared for any trouble. Part of the problem was that you could stop serving alcohol, but this meant taking it away from the general responsible public as well.

Cllr J Wills thanked Captain McCallum for his assurances.

Capt. McCallum added that without going into the operational side of it, it's taken very seriously.

Cllr J Wills said that it had been extremely bad publicity for Shetland. Letters had appeared in the paper after holidays spent here.

Capt. McCallum stated that after the publicity everyone in the company had the backing to ensure that it stops. If he felt the police should be called then that action was taken.

Mr J Anderson asked if there were any further questions for Captain McCallum.

Mr A Henry asked if there had been any incidents lately.

Capt. McCallum replied that there was one recent incident. It had been a worker from the gas plant who had been up for a court appearance. He had been fine in the

terminal, but had to be dealt with on-board. There was a marked reduction since procedures were in place.

Mr J Anderson asked about future plans for the service and mentioned one of the problems being a lack of available berths.

Capt. McCallum couldn't comment on that, but remarked that we would need to look at the next generation of vessels to add to the service.

Mr J Anderson commented that if or when retendered current vessels were too small.

Capt. McCallum responded that it would be dependent on using Nigg Bay. That would allow for the increased size of the vessel. There was a maximum length to fit on the berth and fit the key. Also, the swinging area in the harbour was an issue. Then you could look at longer, higher vessels with more accommodation.

Ms K Fraser asked if he could give an estimate on how many Shetlanders were involved in the incidents.

Capt. McCallum couldn't really say, but guessed that only a small number were local.

Ms K Fraser observed it was good that the culture had now changed and that folk had been outraged. Whereas in the past it use to be normal, it was not really acceptable anymore. You were not allowed on if drunk now.

Capt. McCallum replied that there was zero tolerance of that behaviour now.

Mr J Anderson thanked Captain McCallum for coming along and hoped that he may do so in the future. He suggested that it would be good to keep in touch.

11/14/06

SSE Consultations – Mr Gavin Steel, Liaison Manager, SHEPD

Mr Gavin Steel passed around consultation leaflets and hoped to summarise the consultation process. He mentioned that only a few copies of the longer consultation document were available but were at the library or on-line if interested in further more detailed questions.

He introduced himself as Liaison Manager and Mr Darren Hitchin, Operations Manager in Shetland at the Lerwick Power Station and also Mr Paul Riddle from Platform Shetland who was working with them. He represented the Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) which is part of SSE that owns and operates the local electricity network across the island groups. Shetland was unique in not being connected to the mainland. So they also monitor supply and demand, although this is an extension of the role as a Distribution Network Operator.

He went on to say that SHEPD was regulated by Ofgem who had quite a particular role due to the nature of the monopoly. Ofgem had a remit to protect the interests of SSE customers, in order to meet Shetland's needs and identify the right option. A slide showing an overview of the systems in place was displayed. He highlighted the Lerwick Power Station as the primary source, Sullom Voe Terminal Power Station and Burradale Wind Farm, the largest renewable generator. He mentioned the work that

was being done on new energy solutions such as the 1MW lead acid battery, a thermal store and a domestic demand management system. As well as an Active Network Management system able to react and maintain supply and demand.

Cllr M Stout asked if the battery was up and running.

Mr G Steel said that it was.

Raising the question of why this was needed, he stated that the key driver was because Shetland was an island and not connected to the network it needed to be able to meet customer supply and demand at all times.

Lerwick Power Station was coming to an end of its operational life. Half of the turbines were over 35 years old. It had done a good job for the community in Shetland. Sullom Voe Power Station had an agreement in place, but operators needed to take a decision and it was doubtful if it was able to go beyond 2017.

A proposal made by SHEPD in the summer 2013 included a 90MW dual-fuel power station to work alongside the NINES project. Unfortunately, in April Ofgem said they weren't able to accept due to concerns around cost and stated they had not sufficiently tested the market. Ofgem have asked for a public consultation through an open tendering process.

Ofgem are seeking SHEPD to come forward with solutions to manage the network in the future. A competitive process of tendering will get underway by March next year with conclusion in early 2016. Ofgem need to accept that outcome in 2016, for a solution to be in place by 2019.

Mr D Hitchin said that SHEPD had assessed where we are at with demand and a slide showing the power curve 2013/14 with the min/max levels dictating the energy solutions they were going to have to have. Another slide showed a typical day curve with peaks and troughs, particular peaks being observed at lunch/dinner time with heating coming on.

The slide showed an observed peak in January 2014. The future demands need to be observed for Ofgem. Shetland Catch is largest commercial demand for Shetland. Evidence was building together. University of Strathclyde had done a case study looking at growth scenarios. Peak demand forecast in 2019 of 57MW and 68MW by 2033. Observing the peaks and troughs, a rule of thumb would be two generators were needed to be on in Shetland to maintain the current supply.

Four key elements – reliable provision of capacity and energy, reduction in capacity and energy, intermittent provision of energy and additional ancillary services, formed part of the integrated plan presented to Ofgem last July. On a project this size they need to look at all the elements to find the correct solution for Ofgem.

Mr G Steel said he would be happy to answer any questions. He mentioned the events coming up. There was plenty of opportunity up until the 19th December to respond. He would be pleased with a response from the community council and customers in Shetland. Part of the consultation and mentioned in the large document is the commercial opportunities to supply and these are to be reflected on by customers.

Responses can be made on the website, by email or post.

Mr J Anderson thanked Gavin for his informative presentation and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr A Carter asked why there was no mention of the capacity of the Sullom Voe Gas Plant.

Mr G Steel stated that it was developed solely to meet the needs of the oil terminal and had helped to extend the life span of the Lerwick Power Station. TOTAL had approached things differently to plan to meet their own needs.

Mr D Hitchin commented that a connection between the power station and the grid exists, but the future plan was just to meet their demand and not for export.

Cllr J Wills declared that you could see why private industry had never developed. He was very displeased with Ofgem. There was a large amount of research completed by SSE. It was an extraordinary outcome and had resulted in delayed progress by at least a year. They would probably realise next year their nonsense. SSE were been mucked about. He hoped reality would enter the minds of Ofgem and allow SSE to get on with the job.

Mr G Steel thought that Darren and his team would be pleased to hear that. They were working with Ofgem to come up with a solution. They had come up with the consultation with Ofgem. He mentioned that some questions might seem straight forward, but he encouraged people to engage with the consultation process.

Cllr J Wills said he would be sending in some comments.

Cllr M Stout said he perhaps had the same question as last time. He wondered if LNG had been looked at again after it was dropped the first time, and if they were any further ahead. There were a number of benefits with LNG and it was produced and usable. He asked if this was an option to look at again.

Mr G Steel said that it was part of the proposed potential development at Rova Head. As part of the competitive process it had looked at natural gas from Sullom Voe. An environmental assessment had been undertaken. These plans were never dropped. The dual fuel power station was economic. It was all dependent on how long it would take to operate on a full time basis, operating 365 days a year. Also on the timing of a transmission cable, if installed, if it was to be the primary source and meet the need. There was the potential for a commercial gas supply in Shetland. It might not be ruled out and we would know by the end of the process.

Cllr A Wishart asked how closely they were monitoring the process.

Mr Gavin Steel said that Ofgem were actively involved in order for them to meet the requirements. An independent auditor had been appointed to ensure a fair process and update Ofgem monthly on progress. Ofgem were to be up next week attending at least one event. The auditor was to keep Ofgem updated, as there was no point in spending a year on the consultation and not being able to move forward at the end.

Cllr A Wishart asked about the NINES project and where that was.

Mr D Hitchin responded that there had been a battery problem. The battery was taken out and a 1MW lead acid battery was connected. A windmill was going up as part of the Gremista Wind Farm. Connecting Hjaltland houses was progressing. Connection to the control system at the power station was taking longer than thought.

Mr J Anderson asked about the situation with Viking Energy and if there was any impact from that.

Mr G Steel replied that Viking is a joint venture between SSE Renewables, the Shetland community and Shetland Aerogenerators. The part of SSE involved is a separate business and operates in the competitive electricity generation market. No information is available on the proposed distribution cable to the mainland, which is the key element and relevant to the current consultation. This will enable export of renewables when generating and also allow power to be imported from the grid when necessary. The cable would then provide reliable capacity for the Shetland network most of the time. There would still need to be a back-up in place to supply consumers during maintenance work or in-case of a fault.

The Chairman thanked them for attending and said he had found the presentation very interesting.

Mr Gavin Steel, Mr D Hitchin, Mr P Riddle and Captain S McCallum left at 7.50pm.

11/14/07

Car parking to replace spaces lost by formation of roundabout

Mr J Anderson said that the issue of the roundabout had been raised at the last meeting with a petition from the residents of Lochside. The council had now lodged a new application for a new parking area. He asked if there were any comments or questions.

Cllr M Stout commented that there had been an update to the new application put in.

Cllr J Wills had thought that parking spaces would be better positioned on the south side of the access road, rather than up against resident's houses.

Cllr M Stout stated that an additional separation strip might have sufficed. The roads department were being reasonable and happy for a reduction in the number that was what was hoped for. It was better to put through an application with an amended car parking area. He hadn't heard back on any further developments.

Mr J Anderson mentioned that the original plan for 17 spaces had now been reduced to 14 spaces. This was to replace the 11 spaces lost on Lochside.

Ms Elspeth Manson, member of the public, commented that the proposed area identified by roads had 17 spaces factored in.

Cllr M Stout pointed out that it had been a planning decision to have the car park taken out and it was now being done as a separate application. It was down to the

good work of the residents that the council and roads had responded and amended the plan. He hoped that this would now go through.

Cllr A Wishart just wanted to comment that when it first came through, they had taken away all parking spaces. As far as he was aware the residents were happy with this now. There had been some technical issues and some roads issues. The idea of it being set back from the residents properties would have been a good solution.

Cllr M Bell declared an interest as a member of the planning board. He commented that the last planning application had received an objection to the original car parking and the recommendation from the planning service was to remove the car park. As a member of the planning committee, he knew of no-one who was arguing otherwise. It was difficult for the committee to come to a conclusion. It was only recently that the situation came to light. He said that they looked forward to the new application coming to planning. He was pleased to be back at this stage. It was down to Michael and Alan and the work that they had done.

Cllr J Wills left the meeting at 8.00pm.

Mr J Anderson proposed that we support this application only on the basis that there are at least 11 spaces provided, to off-set the lost parking. If the access to the new Anderson High School needed to progress then at least 11 spaces should be maintained.

Cllr M Stout added that we should simply support the current application. He questioned whether the community council could object to the roundabout if the same car parking was provided.

Ms Elspeth Manson said that Mr Napier had objected again to this proposal. She was concerned because it had happened again it would be thrown out. There had been a compromise by roads and planning. She wondered why he was objecting now and didn't understand. All problems were resolved for him.

Mr J Anderson suggested we write a letter of support for the application and for the car parking spaces they have promised to provide.

Ms E Manson said that they had managed to have a petition signed by 84 people. Most had no idea of the objection as it had been on-line. She asked about letting them know now that they were accepting the proposal. She did not want to mislead them.

Cllr M Stout said that planning had been supportive; it was an issue they had wanted to resolve. He advised Ms Manson for a reply from all who were accepting because they organised the petition and would need to let folk know.

Cllr A Wishart stated that they had organised petition and there was one objection. The only way round this now was with letters of support for the new planning application. The petition with 84 signatures had already happened. This was a new proposal. People had to realise that if they wanted to support it they had to do it individually.

Mr J Anderson noted that he had found only 1 letter of objection, in the report it mentioned 2. The planning report perhaps sets a precedent.

Cllr M Bell stated that knowledge of the situation was now greater and planning would be able to process this and come to decision having been better informed.

Mr J Anderson proposed supporting the new planning application and this was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Mrs A Simpson left at 8.15pm.

11/14/08

Informal Consultation - North Lochside Path Diversion – Kevin Serginson

Mr J Anderson informed members of a letter from Kevin Serginson advising of the change to the path and existing Public Right of Way. The path was to be an improved width of 3m and allow for cycling around the loch. He asked if there were any comments or concerns.

Cllr A Wishart commented that presuming the diversion was because it was safer to have it there and it tied in with an island crossing, he had no concerns.

Miss S Sinclair agreed that if the path diversion was safe, then there was no reason why not.

Mr W Spence stated that it was nice 'countryside walk' part of the town.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

11/14/09

Correspondence

9.1 Access to the Sletts Pier – Replacement of rock armouring – Colin Smith

Mr J Anderson informed members that the reply didn't appear to offer a solution. He recommended writing to roads and requesting that the structure of rock armouring be maintained. If the sea wall goes then the path goes. Work now might stave off further damage. He suggested finding some funding and getting some costs before the winter gales.

Mr A Carter wanted to second that. It was a simple matter to sort out. He had raised this issue on behalf of a neighbour. Contractors were dumping tarmac and concrete. He didn't think dis-owning it was going to create the right impression. It was a part of Lerwick that was well used and work should take place to keep it right.

Miss S Sinclair asked how long the armouring had lasted after it was last replaced.

Mr J Anderson replied that at the end of the 70's there was a road in. It was reinforced on one occasion from memory.

Mr A Carter stated that the community council were behind it originally with access in to the Sletts Pier. He thought it needless to neglect it and mentioned that people made good use of it.

Cllr M Stout wanted to draw attention to the 2nd last paragraph of the letter, advising that unless a council decision was made to maintain it and funds available, it wasn't going to happen.

Cllr A Wishart suggested it might be helpful to know the costs involved and the community council could find out a price for that.

Mr J Anderson responded that he would be happy for the LCC to write and ask for an estimate.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.2 Grottie Buckie Stiles – Grant Funding Confirmation – Paths for All

The Chairman mentioned that the community council had been awarded a grant of £755 for 4 stiles and walkway at Grottie Buckie. Kevin Serginson has supported the project and landowners have been approached and were happy. 2 quotes were received earlier in the year and these would be chased up and the project completed.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.3 Grant thanks – Islesburgh Pyrotechnic Display Club

Noted.

9.4 Tavish Scott MSP – Successful Big Lottery Funding

Noted.

9.5 Traffic Management of Commercial Street – Dave Coupe, Exec Manager, Roads

Mr J Anderson stated that nothing further had been received.

9.6 Rotary Older Citizens Lunches – Robin Sandison – Rotary Club Shetland

Mr J Anderson proposed approaching the Islesburgh and also asking the Rotary for the full grant to lay on Christmas dinner.

Cllr M Stout enquired that if it was more than £100, then maybe the community council could contribute to the funds.

Ms K Fraser mentioned presents and the idea of making a contribution. She suggested possibly matching the funds with £100 from the community council.

Cllr A Wishart proposed approaching the Islesburgh to find out about the situation.

Mr J Anderson agreed about finding out and coming back for the December meeting.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.7 Invitation: Update Presentation on Anderson High School Wed 12th November

Mr J Anderson asked if anyone would like to go along next week for the update.

Cllr M Stout commented that there would be presentations on the external cladding and landscaping along with a talk from the Chief Executive of Hubco.

9.8 Scottish Ambulance Service Public Access Defibrillator Application

Mr J Anderson mentioned that they were aimed at remote areas where distance to the hospital was an issue.

Cllr M Stout informed members that Bressay Community Council had been looking at the application process. He mentioned that a defibrillator had definitely been used in the Clickimin Centre on more than one occasion. It was ideal for areas where the response time would be longer. The use of the equipment didn't preclude anyone.

Mr J Anderson asked for suggestion for site which would benefit.

Ms K Fraser asked if only trained people could use them.

Cllr M Stout replied that the unit speaks you through it and could be used by anyone.

Mr A Carter suggested sites such the public toilets, the library or some place on Commercial Street.

Cllr M Stout pointed out that if there was a danger of vandalism it might be better at a location that was publicly manned.

Mr J Anderson welcomed any suggestions and to forward them to the clerk who could look into the application.

Mr A Carter remarked it would best to locate it where there may be a need.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11/14/10

Financial Report

Mr J Anderson said that this would be provided for next month.

11/14/11

Planning Applications

11.1 Local Review –2014/278/PPF– Erect extension 8 Thorfinn St – Mr & Mrs Johnston

Cllr M Stout – Stated that it was a form of appeal, an appeal to the planning committee. He suggested that any original comments from the LCC should still stand.

Mr J Anderson asked if anyone had any comments and agreed that we would be best to stand by comments already made. The community council had made comment about the concerns from neighbours at No 6 due to the loss of light and some other comments along those lines.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.2 2014/326/PPF – To install active laser remote sensing equipment & enclosure for the purpose of detecting Volcanic Ash – Met Office Observatory

Mr J Anderson drew attention to the photograph of the unit with the fence surround.

Mr F Gibson pointed out that if ash was present following a volcanic eruption then there would be places already able to detect this.

Cllr M Stout said that the background to this was due to the disruption of flights in the past and the need to provide a local reading giving the ash levels.

Members were inclined to agree and Mr J Anderson suggested that it might be worth a site visit.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.3 2014/304/PPF Change use of land to hard standing lay down area – Streamline

Mr J Anderson asked for any comments. No comments were noted.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11/14/12

Any Other Business

None.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....