

MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

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

Members

Ms K Fraser	Mr A Wenger
Mr D Ristori	Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Johnston	Mr S Hay
Mrs E Williamson	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Bell, Cllr A Wishart, Cllr C Smith, Cllr J Wills

In Attendance

Mr Jon Sandison, WW1 Historian
Mr Finn Gibson, AHS 6th yr to be co-opted
Miss Stephaine Sinclair, AHS 6th yr to be co-opted
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

09/14/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/14/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Willum Spence, Mr Eddie Knight and Mr M Peterson.

Mr J Anderson welcomed the student representatives from 6th year at Anderson High School, Mr Finn Gibson and Miss Stephanie Sinclair. Introductions followed from those present.

09/14/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were approved on the motion of Mr D Ristori and seconded by Ms K Fraser. The minutes of the meeting held on 11 August were approved on the motion of Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr A Johnston.

09/14/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr D Ristori wanted it noted that in the July Minute 07/14/06, the request was not for a 30mph limit but for the 40mph to start from the Trebister Loch junction and not the Sandy Loch Drive junction.

There were no matters arising from the planning meeting in August Minute.

Cllr J Wills mentioned that the timetable with the contractor for the new High School and Halls of Residence had slipped already.

09/14/05 **Resignation of Mr Leslie Angus**

Mr J Anderson said that Mr Leslie Angus had formally handed in his resignation. The valuable contribution he had made to the LCC was acknowledged by all present. Due to the up-coming Elections there would be no by-election held. A letter of thanks for his years of service was to be written.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

09/14/06 **WW1 - Laying of VC Commemorative paving slab – Captain William Arthur Murison McCrae Bruce – In attendance Mr Jon Sandison, WW1 Historian**

Mr J Anderson welcomed Mr Jon Sandison to the meeting.

Mr J Sandison thanked the Community Council for inviting him. He wanted to start by saying that war should never be glorified and highlighted the sacrifice of war. That WW1 was meant to be the war to end all wars, but sadly was not.

He explained the definition of courage can take various forms. A measurement of courage was the awarding of the Victoria Cross. Throughout the country, over the next four years communities will be provided with paving slabs that will be laid to honour the recipients. There are 3 objectives to this: Firstly, to honour the bravery of the recipient, secondly, for a lasting memorial and thirdly, for a better understanding. A total of 628 Victoria Crosses were awarded, 454 to UK- born recipients and a further 173 awarded to foreign born servicemen who fought for Britain.

One local story is that of Captain William Bruce having family from Dunrossness and being the only V.C. listed in the Shetland Roll of Honour. Having been born in Edinburgh 1890, Edinburgh City Council will be laying a slab. Peter Peterson and officials from the council have ordered a stone direct from the suppliers after looking into his Shetland connections.

It was 19 December 1914, that William was killed, age 24, at the Battle of Givenchy. He was in command of an assault on two German trenches. Success was short lived in capturing of the enemy's trenches, but during that time even when severely wounded in the neck, he encouraged his men until killed. It was due to him that they were able to hold their position against on-going attack, until finally captured by the enemy.

Mr J Sandison stated that it was clear that Captain Bruce was thought very highly of and this is significant. He passed around copies of a booklet he had researched and written about the officer. He had been a soldier before World War One as part of the

Indian Rifles. It was noted in The Shetland Times 1919, that he deserved his place in the Roll of Honour of Shetlanders, who had given their lives for their King and Country.

Plans were in progress for the laying of the paving slab at the War Memorial, Hillhead, Lerwick, as part of the Remembrance Day Commemoration.

Mr A Carter asked if Captain Bruce's name was on the war memorial.

Mr J Sandison said it should be, due his Dunrossness connections, but he would need to check.

Cllr M Bell wanted to back everything that Mr J Sandison had said and congratulate Jon on the work he'd done, which had been the reason for going ahead. A planning group had been meeting for sometime. A stone is to be laid in Edinburgh, but Edinburgh Council was happy for us to share in the commemoration of their recipient.

Mr J Sandison quoted from The Shetland Times 1919, that William Bruce... frequently spent holidays in Shetland and was well known... long association of his paternal and maternal families with these islands.....his bravery was a source of pride to all Shetlanders.

Mr J Anderson thanked Mr J Sandison for his interesting presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Ms K Fraser asked Mr J Sandison if he had put the history on Captain Bruce together.

Mr J Sandison stated that he had done some research and made a few enquiries.

Ms K Fraser asked if anything was published on-line.

Mr J Sandison mentioned that there is currently an Edinburgh University led project titled 'Scotland's War' to be published on the internet.

Mr K Fraser said that it was Jon's name that always comes up and was pleased with all the work he does.

Mr J Anderson thanked Mr J Sandison again before he left the meeting at 7.25pm.

09/14/07

WW1 – Commemoration Coins for Primary Schools

Mr J Anderson had samples from a company, Insignia, in particular coins which he wondered if members thought appropriate to present to all Lerwick primary school children.

Mrs E Williamson said it would be ideal for children in primary school and act as another platform for learning and discussing. It could be a good start to them asking questions.

Mr A Carter stated that it would be better if this tied into a project or some formal work by the school.

Mr J Anderson wasn't sure what, if any projects would be going on and added that if there was no support for the suggestion then there was no commitment to progress it.

Ms K Fraser was sure that something would be going on and that it would be best to write to the two schools involved.

Mr J Anderson mentioned that he had sent emails to both the schools asking if they thought it was appropriate and both were happy with no objections to the idea.

Cllr M Bell pointed out that we have just started four years of commemorations and we should pace ourselves. He felt fairly neutral on the idea, although it was quite an inexpensive thing to do.

Cllr J Wills said that the poppy mug was attractive and that children would like it. It would be best having material to accompany it. Mention of the pointless slaughter and the fact that all fighting today can be traced from the world war. An anti-war and peace message should be added. It would be good to encourage talk at home. If affordable the Community Council should go ahead.

Ms K Fraser disliked disagreeing, but the coins would perhaps be more interesting to children.

Cllr A Wishart welcomed the good comments and suggested that if it was linked into a project with the schools bairns it would be worthwhile.

Mr J Anderson stated he would write and ask the schools about the idea and see if they come forward with something.

Cllr A Wishart asked if it was worth having a meeting with them.

Mr J Anderson responded that he would make contact.

09/14/08

Harrison Square Information Panels

a) Big Lottery Awards for All Conditional Funding b) Draft Info Panel

Mr J Anderson was pleased to announce that a conditional offer of £5930 for the Information Panels had been received. Planning permission was granted. He had met with Eileen Brooke-Freeman from Shetland Amenity Trust and had hoped to have a draft available to view at the meeting. Work is well advanced on the 1st panel and progress is being made on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. It is hoped that work will be finalised by Easter next year and the panels up by the summer.

Cllr J Wills mentioned that back in 1976 as a young reporter; a certain planning officer had plans for a Lerwick Waterfront Walk which would be signposted. Unfortunately, he is now retired and we still don't have it. Progress on a Lerwick Waterfront Walk would be good while you can still walk all the way to Holmsgarth. It has been noticed that folk can be found wandering round Hays Dock area. Mr J Wills wondered if there was any information of the planned Lerwick Waterfront Walk.

Mr J Anderson had no memory of that, but mentioned the LOTDA had commissioned four information boards plus 12-14 numbered plaques. Unfortunately, they were rushed through production resulting in a fatal flaw, there were mistakes on two of them. The information might be still there, but perhaps needs some life breathing back into it.

Cllr J Wills stated that it was a long-time ago and wondered if it may help for the LCC to have a meeting with the Harbour Trust.

Mr J Anderson mentioned Kevin Serginson, Outdoor Access Officer, as being someone we could write to.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Cllr A Wishart agreed with Cllr J Wills and pointed out that local people know the shortcuts. Visitors coming off the cruise ships have only the road signs to guide them.

Mr A Carter hoped that it wouldn't become too formalised and make the back roads too accessible.

Mr D Ristori informed the council that it was unusual to find visiting folk going up the lanes.

09/14/09

Correspondence

9.1 Shetland External Transport Forum views on 2018 Northern Isles Ferry Contract

Cllr A Wishart wanted to see the ferry service just operating between Aberdeen and Shetland.

Cllr J Wills suggested a weekly trip to Orkney. It was not a life line service, as it is for Shetland. He added that new vessels were required, designed as proper passenger ferries, with new engines that met with Euro regulations. In 2018 new boats operating in the North Sea would have to comply. The current situation of having the four vessels was ill thought out and provided an inefficient level of service.

He stressed the importance of having a direct link to the mainland which would be maintained in bad weather as being vital. Also vessels that were user-friendly providing back-packers with suitable accommodation that would hopefully encourage their return to Shetland in the future.

Mr D Ristori suggested that if bigger boats were implemented then Nigg Bay would be a better port, as it was being re-developed to allow for larger traffic. It was just round the corner from Aberdeen and possibly a better option than Aberdeen harbour.

Cllr J Wills mentioned that Aberdeen Harbour had been a problem for sometime and the harbour entrance was to be dredged and widened.

Cllr A Wishart proposed that discussion would need to concentrate on vessels and the efficiency of the service. This would allow extra time for processing the information and getting it right.

Cllr C Smith agreed that new and better ships were needed. It was urgent that the Council put forward any comments, as 2016 was fast approaching and any ship building would be starting.

Mr J Anderson was concerned about the lack of capacity on the car decks and the terrible waste of space being unnecessary. He also thought it was surprising that a four-berth cabin could be cheaper than a 2-berth, this resulting in 2 people travelling in a four-berth cabin.

Mrs A Simpson mentioned the need for single berth capacity.

Cllr J Wills suggested that future vessels could revert back to the name St Clair or perhaps St Ninian.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

9.2 Petrofac/Northlink Incidents – Mr George Maconnachie, Senior Construction Manager, Petrofac, Sullom Voe

Mr J Anderson informed the council that Mr George Maconnachie had offered to attend a meeting of the LCC. The members were happy to note it.

9.3 Petrofac/Northlink Incidents – Mr Stuart Garrett, Managing Director, Serco Northlink Ferries

Cllr J Wills stated that Mr Maconnachie couldn't be held responsible. Northlink have the power to lock up and he wanted to know why Northlink haven't been doing more. They would need to be backing their Captains to cope with this type of behaviour. A young German friend had been in a situation with thugs, (employed by a local contractor) and staff had been unwilling to intervene. They can restrain and retain.

Cllr A Wishart had met with Mr S Garrett and been told that one of the people involved didn't complain at the time of the incident.

Mrs A Simpson had actually been on the boat when an altercation took place and it had been dealt with quickly by the crew.

Mr S Hay commented that when there were no flights, and people who have been working here are in need of transport and there's no ferry accommodation available it wasn't going to be easy. Conflicting needs of all the passengers were not going to be met. Ships have to cater for a diverse range of people and it is inevitable that they will come into contact. The design of the ships was making that difficult.

We are in a position now with the choice of travelling by ferry or expensive airline with occasional offers. No ferry promotions are offered such as in the days of P&O Ferries when Shetlanders were able to take the car or people for free. It's maximum revenue at all costs. So it comes down to the diverse needs of people and the ferry prices that are to blame and not with issues of security. The problems are much deeper than that.

Mr J Anderson stated that we can't wait until 2018 for these problems to be addressed. If it's a question of more staff, it's not rocket science. There has always been a mixed bag on the north boat, that's no different today.

Cllr A Wishart considered the diversity situation, ferry promotions and the increase in numbers to be indirectly related to the problems. He suggested that the capacity and types of accommodation available could be included as possible ways of helping the situation.

Ms K Fraser felt that the situation wasn't helped by the attitude of Flybe which resulted in transferring their passengers to the boat, often with no cabin available. In some cases this involved elderly people with no cabin, not even a blanket. Flybe can't offer a proper alternative and we should be writing to them to complain about this.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Cllr A Wishart suggested that we invite Mr Stuart Garret to a meeting to discuss the concerns raised.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

9.4 Funding Opportunities – Climate Challenge Fund

Mr J Anderson commented that unfortunately there was nothing in the wings ready to go for this climate fund application, but to keep it in their minds. He asked if anyone did have any ideas.

Mr A Wenger suggested that cycle lanes might be funded.

Mr J Anderson agreed that maybe if we forwarded the funding opportunity to the roads department if might be able to provide a cycle lane somewhere.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Mr D Ristori mentioned the allotments.

Cllr J Wills stated that Maggie Sandison had this plan on the back burner. It had gone quiet since the group disbanded.

9.5 Safe Bus Stops – Annsbrae, Tesco & Jim Taylors – Mr Damien Ristori

Michael Craigie to liaise with Roads Service and will deal with this.

Mr D Ristori mentioned that certain bus stops meant that the bus was stopping on double yellow lines. As we can't have that, the locations needed to be looked at. Passenger safety was also an issue with some of the bus stops.

Discussion ensued about the new bus timetables. Complaints had arisen due to the change in the times. One bus user in the Sound area had been unable to get into work for 9.00am. The new timetable was seen as difficult for older people to understand. It was mentioned that just as many buses were available, but the changes were not been understood. It was meant to provide a better service, but some people thought it was worse. It was suggested that comments be referred to the Chair of transport.

Mr J Anderson hoped that Mr Michael Craigie would be speaking to roads to resolve the issues with the bus stops. He suggested that we could write to Zettrans about the concerns regarding the new bus timetables. It might be possible to place an advert in The Shetland Times, making it more user-friendly.

9.6 Northmaven Community Council – Objection to 2014/197/PPP Proposed Housing (Planning Permission in Principle) North Staney Hill, Lerwick

Cllr M Bell declared an interest as member of the planning committee.
Cllr C Smith stated that the Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh Community Council had not supported the objection. Aith Community Council had also decided not to pass comment.

Mr A Simpson remarked that houses needed to be built where the demand is and there was demand for houses in Lerwick.

9.7 New Cycle Safety Leaflet

Mr J Anderson handed out copies of the new cycle safety leaflet to members and asked for any comments.

Mr A Wenger noted that he still had some ideas.

Mrs A Simpson said it was an improvement of the first one they had seen.

Mr J Anderson thanked Ms K Fraser and Mr A Wenger for their work on the leaflet.

9.8 Access Road to Sletts Pier – Mr Ryan Leith

Mr J Anderson said he had received the email regarding the access road to Sletts Pier which had taken a hammering after the New Year gales. He commented that it was amazing what the sea could move.

Mr A Carter responded that he endorsed Mr Leith's concerns and noted that calling it an access road had been generous. Due to contractors dumping concrete and tarmac in the area it was being prevented from becoming a nice part of the town. It could be a nice part of the coastal walk. Rock had fallen off the cliff face; he didn't know who would be responsible for sorting this.

Cllr J Wills suggested contacting roads. It had been sorted a couple of years ago. There had been a lot of damage by the sea. It usually involves quite a bit of money and unfortunately it can't be done if the sea destroys it every year. Hopefully it would be possible to remove the stones from the road.

Cllr J Wills left the meeting at 8.10pm

Cllr A Wishart commented that long term the armour would need to be replaced. It wasn't good enough that it be replaced for it to then disappear again in the winter. He suggested it may be an idea to ask the roads department for prices for the erecting of a boundary around. Writing to Mr Jonathan Duncan was advised.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

9.9 Minority Status in the UK – Department for Communities and Local Government

Mr J Anderson said that the reply from Mr Ian Naysmith stated that minority status applied to people and not to places and that the Cornish language had been recognised under the status.

Mrs K Fraser wasn't sure what the benefits were to being considered a minority group. This was not entirely clear to the members. The letter was noted.

9.10 Traffic Concerns from SIC Roads – David Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads

Mr J Anderson said that an acknowledgement of our letter regarding traffic concerns had been noted and would be responded to.

The reply regarding Pelican crossings mentioned that new pelican crossing had now been installed and many throughout the town were now working.

Mrs E Williamson commented that the pelican crossing outside the hospital had not been working that day and she had witnessed a lass waiting some time to cross.

Mr J Anderson suggested that we could write to roads informing them about the hospital crossing.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

09/14/10 ASCC – October 2014 Meeting – Agenda Items

Mr J Anderson commented that a draft agenda was in place for Saturday 4 October and asked if anybody had anything they would like to add to the agenda.

No suggestions were offered.

09/14/11 Financial Reports

Mr J Anderson informed the members that the Community Distribution Fund (CDF) – Project, had been allotted to the panel which were currently been prepared. Future funds for the coming year were going towards further panel. There were currently no applications in for the next round of funding for the (CDF) Distribution Fund, it was up to us to distribute as we see fit.

09/14/12 Planning Applications

12.1 2014/256/PPF – Erect Industrial Building for use as a builders premises, Port Business Park, Gremista, Lerwick – C&M Building Contractors

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

12.2 2014/268/PPF – To extend existing workshop, Lerwick Fish Traders, Gremista Industrial Estate, Lerwick – Lerwick Fish Traders Ltd.

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Additional Agenda Item – 2014/272/PPF – Install 14 air source heat pumps to housing units, Pegasus Place, Lerwick – Hjatland Housing Association

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

09/14/13

Lerwick Community Council Elections 2014

Mr J Anderson noted the timetable for elections. A sheet was circulated for members who would like to receive nomination forms when they became available.

Ms K Fraser suggested putting an advert on the LCC Facebook page.

Cllr A Wishart asked how many vacancies there were.

The Clerk thought that it was 2 or 3. (Confirmed as 2)

Mr J Anderson commented that it could be included in the ASCC agenda and an advertising campaign discussed, it was a struggle for some CC's to be quorate.

Cllr M Bell suggested that the council or the ASCC should take this in hand. A campaign may be necessary to make it relevant and ensure CC's were able to be quorate. CC's themselves could promote it in the run up to nominations.

Mr A Simpson asked if we could do anything in the press.

Mr D Ristori asked if you were able to nominate someone yourself.

Mr J Anderson stated you can't nominate someone without their acceptance.

09/14/14

Any Other Business

Mr Damien Ristori pointed out that now that the Hillhead railings were pencilled in for a major refurbishment, the walls around the flower park alongside Union St and St Olaf Street could be looked into as another project.

Mr J Anderson replied that we could approach Mr Magnus Malcolmson to see if there was a planned program for refurbishment.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Mr D Ristori mentioned that Mr Alan Ho had passed on the information about underage drinking taking place at the bus station. It had been happening within the building, and that he had had to close the gates earlier.

Discussion took place on ideas of who to contact and it was decided that the Environmental Health and Community Wardens might be the best to approach.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Ms K Fraser wanted to inform the members that two new benches were in place at Cunningham Way and she had taken some pictures. One has a viewpoint facing towards the Sandyloch and the other over the North Mouth. A good job had been done with solid concrete bases and they looked fine.

Mrs E Williamson was concerned about the parking in the cul-de-sac at Knab Road. It was difficult for residents to gain access. If in need of an emergency it would be not be possible to gain entry. She had spoken to roads and a 'yellow line' was in the pipeline, but wondered if this could be hurried along.

Mr J Anderson suggested that we could certainly write and mention our concern.

Mrs E Williamson had spoken to Mr John Johnson about the access to garages. Some people owned garages, but didn't live in the area and their parking was making it difficult to pass by.

Cllr M Bell responded that if inconsiderate parking was happening then it was a police matter. It would be right to write to the roads department certainly, but also send a copy to the police.

Mr E Williamson mentioned that the parking on the main road was a problem as well. It was causing nightmare traffic for the school, as cars couldn't gain access.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

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

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....