

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Cllr L Angus
Cllr G Feather
Ms K Fraser

Mr A Johnston
Mr J MacLeod
Mr T Nicolson
Mr P Scarsbrook

In Attendance

Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service - Roads, Shetland Islands Council
Shetland Times reporter
Miss C Duncan, Clerk

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided.

04/12/1

Circular

The Circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Anderson, Mr J Irvine, Cllr E Knight, Mr J Ogg, Mr M Peterson, Mrs A Simpson, Cllr W Stove and Ms B Wishart.

04/12/2

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2004 were approved on the motion of Mr J Anderson and seconded by Mr P Scarsbrook.

04/12/4

Business Arising

4.1 Shetland Taxi Owners' Association

The Chairman stated that he understood the Shetland Taxi Owner's Association, Lerwick Port Authority and Shetland Islands Council had reached an agreement on the provision of the taxi rank. It will continue in its present position on Victoria Pier.

4.2 Clickimin Lights

The Chairman confirmed that the Lerwick Community Council had agreed at the last meeting to fund repairs and purchase replacement lights as required at the Clickimin Broch and asked that the minute be amended to include this.

4.3 Financial Statement

The Chairman asked if Liaison Group had been contacted with regard to the amount of money that could be carried over by each Community Council at

the end of a financial year. Miss C Duncan confirmed she had written to them but had not yet received a response.

04/11/5

Police Report

No representative from the Police Station was present therefore no report was available.

04/11/6

Quoys Development - Proposed Traffic Measures

Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service - Roads, Shetland Islands Council, had been invited to update members on the proposed traffic measures with regard to the new housing development at Quoys, Sound, Lerwick. He distributed plans of the area.

He explained that the Quoys development is one of a number of phases in development. Phase One will involve the building of 37 new houses, and this work has already started. It is hoped to have 7 houses completed by next summer and all 37 completed by October 2006. There are 15 private sites, with 10 of these being sold already. They may be occupied by next summer. There are also plans for a church in the area with 50-100 spaces but the timescale for this is not yet confirmed. It is hoped to be completed by Summer 2007. Phase Two has 34 houses planned, with a completion date of October 2008, and phase Three is for another 34 houses to be completed 2 years later.

It is proposed to commence traffic calming measures on Oversund Road to reduce speed in the area. This will involve the introduction of a 20mph speed limit and pedestrian islands on the road. The narrow impression should reduce speed. A road hump will be in place opposite the school as this is the main area in which to reduce speed.

The maps were indicative only as there are other aspects to be aware of. As more houses become occupied there will be more traffic to the main road. Therefore it is planned to introduce a roundabout opposite the Murrayston junction by summer 2007. The bottom of Oversund Road will be realigned to be in line with the Murrayston junction, thus creating a four-arm roundabout. The first phase of houses will be occupied by then, with the 2nd and 3rd phases in operation. The details have yet to be worked up and could be changed. These plans should help traffic exiting onto the main road at busy times, and also slow down traffic entering Lerwick.

Mr P Scarsbrook asked if it would not be better to site the roundabout at the Ackrigarth junction, as this was the route most people would use to exit the Quoys development to the main road.

Mr I Halcrow replied that it has been considered but the main concern was the lack of room in the area. There is more council owned land at the bottom of Oversund Road which can be used to create the roundabout. The hill above the Ackrigarth junction was steep and downhill and he was concerned about getting traffic to slow down in time.

The Chairman noted that other roundabouts in the town work well and help to solve problems with speeding. A roundabout on the Sound Brae would have to affect traffic entering the town so he felt the bottom of Oversund Road was a better area. He also noted that members of the public had complained to him in the past about the lack of a pedestrian crossing in the area.

Mr I Halcrow confirmed that work will begin shortly on a pedestrian crossing just beyond the Sound Service Station and it is hoped to be in place by February 2005.

He also stated that the Scottish Executive had introduced proposals for greater use of 20mph speed limits in school zones. A permanent limit is proposed for Oversund Road, but at the moment they are looking at a part time 20mph limit during school hours. This would be at 9am, lunchtimes and when school finished at around 3.30pm, and would be operational only for short periods, probably in line with the School Crossing Patrol Officers' hours. There is still some investigation to be done into the best practice and they are currently looking into it.

Cllr L Angus noted that he had experienced problems with the speed of traffic entering Lerwick and felt traffic exiting left from Oversund Road onto the main road were taking chances at times. There were a large number of children and other pedestrians in this area at peak times and the situation would need to be pedestrian friendly. He felt there was nothing wrong with extending the 30mph zone to where the 40mph currently begins.

Mr I Halcrow stated that entering Lerwick needs transition between a 60mph limit for out of town and the 30mph limit of the town. This should be emphasised near the school. Keeping to 40mph coming down the hill and decreasing to 30mph when nearing the school was adequate. He reiterated that none of these proposals are fixed in place and they are working one step at a time to introduce them. He acknowledged there would be problems for traffic joining the main road from Oversund Road until the roundabout is in place, but that should solve the problem. The general feeling was that more needs to be done and they are looking into it.

The Chairman asked for confirmation of the area for the 20mph zone, and Mr I Halcrow confirmed that it would be restricted to Oversund Road at first, with a part-time 20mph system in place on the main road.

Cllr G Feather said he had concerns regarding the amount of parking at Sound Primary School, following discussion with the school board.

Mr I Halcrow said he was aware that this is a concern for the school and they need to discuss this with them. They were looking to see what they could do to help the school increase their parking areas. The alignment of the bottom of Oversund Road would move the road slightly away from the school which may give extra parking space. These were all proposals at the moment and they were required to undergo a consultation process which will take place at some point in the future. Lerwick Community Council will have input into this and the Sound Primary School will be a major part of the discussions. They

needed to identify the school's requirements and a meeting will be arranged as soon as possible to do this.

Cllr G Feather suggested that markers be used to indicate the reduction in speed on the Sound Brae, as it was often difficult to reduce speed from 60mph to 40mph.

Mr I Halcrow said they would discuss this further with the Police, and if they find problems with speed reduction they may need to do more. He felt that the "Welcome to Lerwick" sign, street lighting and entering a built-up area were all indicative that drivers needed to reduce their speed.

Mr J MacLeod asked if a one way system had been considered for Oversund Road, or a left turn only, as there would be a large amount of traffic in the area on completion of the housing developments. He also noted that if drivers were unable to obey the speed limit they shouldn't be driving and should read the Highway Code.

Mr I Halcrow confirmed that they had considered a one way system below Ackrigarth and it is still an option if they find problems arising. He felt that at quiet times drivers may well chose to exit Quoys by the Ackrigarth junction onto the main road, but they may find it difficult to find a break in the traffic at peak times. He envisaged the roundabout being used more at peak times to ease exit from the area. He stated again that all the proposals can be looked at again if problems arise.

Cllr L Angus stated he felt they were losing a huge opportunity to develop a 20mph limit for the whole area and it would be very difficult to reduce speed limits once the houses are occupied. He felt it was critical to reduce speed into the new scheme.

The Chairman urged Mr Halcrow's department to meet with the School Board to discuss the parking issue. While he had no problem with the proposed speed limit and pedestrian islands, he wondered how residents in the area would feel, and if they were familiar with the proposals.

Mr I Halcrow confirmed that the formal consultation process had not yet started so most residents would be unaware of the plans. He planned to speak first to the school board then to open the process with the public.

Cllr G Feather said Baila residents had approached him regarding the speed limit for the area as there were no markings. He understood from contacting the Shetland Islands Council that if a main road was 40mph then any side road leading from it was also 40mph.

Mr I Halcrow replied that there should be a sign at every junction indicating the speed limit and he believed that all Baila, etc, would automatically be a 30mph zone as it was a minor unclassified road. He agreed that more signage was required.

The Chairman thanked Mr Halcrow for attending and looked forward to having him attend another meeting sometime in the future to update members

again. It would take a long period of time to get all the proposals in place and it was important the public were kept informed.

Mr I Halcrow left the meeting at 7.45pm.

04/12/7 **Shetland Amenity Trust - Shetland Public Open Spaces Strategy**

The Shetland Amenity Trust were looking at ways to reduce expenditure but maintain service of public spaces and a project officer had been appointed. He would like to come along to discuss the strategy with the Lerwick Community Council and it was agreed to invite him to a future meeting.

04/12/8 **Community Council Elections - Co-option Process**

The Chairman said he was a little confused as to what stage this process was at as he had not been informed. No one had applied during the recent Bye-election process. It was agreed to write to SIC Legal & Administrative Services Department for clarification.

04/12/9 **St Olaf Street, Lerwick - Parking Space for Disabled Person's Vehicle**

The SIC Infrastructure Department had supplied further information regarding the above following a concern raised at the last meeting. There were no further objections to the parking space.

04/12/10 **Highlands & Islands Fire Board - Integrated Risk Management Plan**

Members are to read the information and complete the attached questionnaire in their own time.

04/12/11 **Correspondence**

11.1 Shetland Badminton Association - Thanks

Noted.

11.2 Junior Up-Helly-Aa Committee - Thanks

Noted.

11.3 SIC - Roads Maintenance, Lerwick

The Chairman said he was dismayed to see no mention of the flagging of Commercial Street which requires attention.

Cllr L Angus replied the SIC were awaiting results of tests on various types of flags. He felt the test conditions were inadequate as they didn't mirror the conditions of use of the street appropriately. The SIC Roads Engineers were looking into this but there was no information at the moment.

The Chairman replied that the Market Cross was reflagged last year and was standing up well to the use.

Mr J Anderson suggested the whole of Commercial Street be pedestrianised. He noted that there were a reported 1000+ car movements per day on the street and felt this was disgraceful and unnecessary. He asked that the issue be put forward as an agenda item at a future meeting.

The Chairman agreed and said this was an ongoing issue but that perhaps further discussion was now required. He agreed to put it on the next agenda.

Ms K Fraser said that she felt the pavement in Union Street next to the old Library building was in poor condition. Two other areas of Union Street were mentioned in the Roads Maintenance schedule but not this part which needed attention.

Cllr L Angus agreed, stating that this was part of his ward, and suggested writing to the Shetland Islands Council to ask what was planned for the area.

The Chairman noted that, as work was ongoing in the Library building, repairs may be planned for the pavement when the work is completed, but agreed to write to the Shetland Islands Council. He also asked if the dipped pavements for ease of use by disabled users needed to be sloped for the whole length of the pavement, or could the kerb side only be sloped.

Mr J MacLeod replied that it needed a 12 degree ramp and it had to go wherever it could fit in.

Mr J Anderson disagreed with this and said the level of the kerb line could be carried across. He thought it was so that kerbs did not need to be split.

The Chairman agreed to write to the Shetland Islands Council voicing concerns.

Cllr G Feather asked why the crossing patrol at the Esplanade had been out of action for so long recently.

The Chairman agreed that it was not satisfactory. The lights required technicians from the mainland to come and repair them whenever a fault developed, and he hoped the Shetland Islands Council were concerned at the manufacturers' failure to supply the equipment properly.

Mr R Anderson asked what the legislation was when the lights were out of action? Would zebra crossing rules apply at the pelican crossing?

The Chairman replied that he was not sure, it would probably be found in the Highway Code but he believed a driver should treat it as a zebra crossing whenever the lights are not in operation.

Ms K Fraser suggested the Shetland Islands Council put up signs warning drivers when they are out of order.

The Chairman agreed that this would be the best course of action.

11.4 War Memorial, Hillhead, Lerwick

Noted. The copper stains are to be removed in the near future.

Cllr L Angus felt strongly that the memorial should be maintained with due dignity throughout the year and not just cleaned up once a year in time for Armistice Day, although he did welcome that they were going to treat the panels for copper stains.

The Chairman agreed to write to the Shetland Islands Council suggesting the memorial be cleaned 2 or 3 times a year.

11.5 Right to Buy and Cost Floor Rules

Noted for information

11.6 Drainage at the rear of the Lerwick Hotel

The Chairman said there appeared to be uncertainty regarding the ownership of the sewers.

Mr J MacLeod said this had been discussed before. A sump in the area breaks and pollutes the area, and he understood SEPA had issued an enforcement notice in the past. He believed it was the responsibility of the Lerwick Hotel owners.

The Chairman agreed to write to Scottish Water asking to establish ownership and confirm that suitable action be taken, with a copy sent to SEPA.

11.7 Scalloway Health Centre

The Chairman said he was surprised to be consulted on this matter but recognised that some Lerwick residents would use the surgery. It was agreed to leave up to the Scalloway Community Council to discuss.

04/12/12 Financial Report

Noted. Cllr L Angus confirmed that work had now started on the Islesburgh Trust Lift, and the Chairman stated that the grant would be transferred shortly to them.

04/12/13 Financial Assistance

13.1 Bells Brae Primary School and 13.2 Sound Primary School

It was decided to look at the applications from Bells Brae Primary School and Sound Primary school together, as both were similar projects. The Chairman noted that Bells Brae School had been successful in obtaining funding from the New Opportunities Fund, but that Sound School had been unable to obtain like.

Cllr L Angus proposed a grant of £1000 to each school, seconded by Mr J MacLeod.

13.2 Hjaltland Housing Association

Mr J MacLeod moved not to approve a grant as they were a business and the works should have been costed at the time of purchase, seconded by Cllr L Angus.

04/12/14

Planning Applications

14.1 Storage and Parking Area - Rova Head

It was noted that this was a retrospective and zoned application. There were no objections.

14.2 Bunded Open Storage Area - Gremista Farm

This too was retrospective. There were no objections.

04/12/15

Any Other Business

15.1 Bus Shelter opposite Bolts, North Road, Lerwick

Ms K Fraser noted that a rubbish bin was sited inside the bus shelter opposite Bolts on North Road, Lerwick. As this was a busy bus shelter used by large numbers of people on occasions, it seemed odd that space was being taken up by a rubbish bin. It was agreed to write to the Shetland Island Council to ask for its removal.

15.2 Town Hall Guide

Cllr L Angus noted that at a recent meeting of the Town Hall Refurbishment Group, the subject of updating the Town Hall Guide had arisen. As this was originally a Lerwick Community Council project, it was agreed to write to the Shetland Islands Council and opening discussion as to assisting with the new publication.

15.3 Play Areas

Cllr L Angus noted that there was now a maintenance budget for play areas in Lerwick but it appeared to be quite inadequate. It appeared that most of it would be used to replace items rather than maintain existing ones. He suggested writing to the Community Development department expressing disappointment with the amount of budget allocated to this and that the Lerwick Community Council should be consulted in future years.

The Chairman noted that surplus funding from the Lerwick Community Council had gone to the Shetland Islands Council for the repair and maintenance of benches in Lerwick with the remainder to be used for play areas. He agreed to write as he also felt the budget was totally inadequate.

15.4 Parking on Commercial Street

Mr J Anderson expressed concern at the amount of vehicles which park on the pavement outside Thulecraft on Commercial Street. They blocked access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There were other areas in the town where this happened but this was a persistent problem.

The Chairman replied that they had complained in the past with police involvement, and agreed it was a nuisance.

Mr J MacLeod stated that the pavement was owned by Thulecraft. He asked what the law was when parking on the pavement as there are no yellow lines there. If it is illegal, why don't the police take action?

The Chairman agreed to write to the police asking what the legislation is, and if they can provide signage which would deter people from parking on the pavement.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL