

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

**Present**

Mr J Anderson	Ms K Fraser	Mr T Nicolson
Mr R Anderson	Cllr J Henry	Mr M Peterson
Cllr L Angus	Mr A Johnston	Mrs A Simpson
Cllr G Feather	Cllr E Knight	Mr W Spence

**Additional Co-Opted Members**

Mrs K Greaves`	Mr D Ristori	Ms M Robertson
----------------	--------------	----------------

**In Attendance**

PS G McCarthy, Lerwick Police Station  
Mr J Robertson, Shetland Times reporter  
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

06/11/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

06/11/02 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Goudie, Cllr J Irvine and Mr P Scarsbrook.

06/11/03 **Minutes**

**06/10/05 Police Report**

Mrs K Greaves noted the minute should read "no motorcycles".

**06/10/06 Anderson High School: Proposed New Build**

Mr M Peterson noted that a statement he had made had been omitted and asked that it be included, "Mr Peterson referred to Mr Finnie's presentation and specifically to his statement that learning and teaching would become more computer based. This being so, he pointed out that there was no reason why provision for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils had to be centralised in Lerwick. All junior highs could be developed into high schools, and this would obviate the need for hostel accommodation. He suggested that this would be a cheaper option than the present proposal".

Cllr L Angus noted that there had been a residents' meeting to further discuss the proposed new school and he had noted that there was no LCC representative on the forum. In all other areas community councils were very involved in school issues and he felt that, given the importance of

Lerwick's high school and the feasibility study for primary provision, LCC should be represented on as many forums as possible, even as observers. The Chairman agreed and noted that this was the last meeting of the current community council and so new members would be appointed at the next meeting to all relevant forums.

Mr R Anderson noted that they needed to start afresh with representatives on forums.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2006 were approved by Cllr L Angus and seconded by Mr J Anderson.

06/11/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There were no further items arising from the minutes.

06/11/05 **Police Report**

PS G McCarthy noted that the figures were good in comparison with last year, with a 18.2% decrease

Crimes against the person	10 last year, up to 25 this year
Indecency	28 last year, down to 10 this year
Dishonesty	262 last year, down to 203 this year
Miscellaneous	104 last year, up to 123 this year

He noted that miscellaneous crimes included drug offences, perjury and police assault.

He noted that they were still pro-active in detecting drugs offences. They had a detection rate of 87% of all crimes committed in Shetland. He noted that CCTV was in the early stages of tendering and he had no time scale for its completion. Also the alcohol bye-law was still with the Scottish Executive and he was unsure of its progress.

The Chairman felt the detection rates were heartening and encouraging. He felt the CCTV tendering process will probably go on for a year or two before the system arrives.

Mrs K Greaves noted that she had complained about the lack of policing in her area at an earlier meeting and would like to note that there had been very little disruption since then and a better police presence.

The Chairman noted that there had been an opportunist individual in the North Road area who had been finding cars unlocked and removing items of value.

PS McCarthy stated that vehicles should always be secured to stop giving thieves opportunities. He felt the crime prevention message was slowly getting across.

He also noted he was aware of problems at Seafield and they were following a positive line of enquiry into damage caused last weekend and to a number of recent incidents in that area.

The Chairman thanked PS McCarthy for attending and the co-operation in the past. He hoped this would continue as he felt it was a valuable service.

PS McCarthy left the meeting at 7.15pm.

06/11/06 **ASCC - Community Council Training**

The Chairman felt this would be of benefit to new members and asked any members interested in the training to contact the Clerk.

He noted that there were 13 members in the new Community Council and so there would be a by-election in January to appoint a further 3 members.

06/11/07 **Correspondence**

**7.1 Shetland Amenity Trust - Trees at Rear of Clickimin**

Ms M Robertson felt it was a positive move that voluntary sessions were to be arranged and said it was good they had responded so promptly. She was disappointed that maintenance of the area wasn't in place sooner.

Cllr J Henry stated that he would volunteer and would be willing to co-ordinate the scheme. He would like to see it back on the agenda in February/March so that volunteers could be found.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk to put it on a future agenda.

Cllr L Angus noted that they had been there before when volunteers undertook to look after the trees but nothing had really happened. He felt that volunteers shouldn't be taking over responsibility from an agency with full time staff and resources. He noted that they needed to watch that LCC didn't end up with the responsibility of looking after the trees.

Mr R Anderson agreed that Shetland Amenity Trust had received money from a national scheme to plant 6000 trees and he felt the maintenance of the trees was too big a job for volunteers to take on. He felt there was no point in planting trees if they did not have the resources to maintain them.

The Chairman agreed to bring the item back to a future meeting when volunteers would be sought to assist Shetland Amenity Trust in maintaining the trees with their supervision.

**7.2 Shetland Amenity Trust - Da Voar Redd Up 2007: 20 Years of Involvement**

Cllr L Angus noted that this had been a very successful initiative although he felt it was a sad reflection on the times that we needed it at all. He thought Shetland Amenity Trust did a fantastic job and should be congratulated.

The Chairman agreed that they should be congratulated, also the efforts of all the volunteers.

Cllr J Henry noted that many photos had been taken over the years and what was being sought was unusual ones or photos of strange items found. He stated that in the last year or so more rubbish had been found blown off the land than being washed ashore. There was probably more litter around now than ever before.

Cllr G Feather felt that Shetland Amenity Trust should ensure they provided volunteers with tongs and suitable protective clothing when picking up rubbish as there was a risk of being pricked by discarded needles.

Ms K Fraser noted that volunteers were instructed not to pick up any dangerous items, which was more sensible.

### **7.3 Shetland Islands Council - Disabled Parking Provision: Johnsmas Foy**

Mrs A Simpson noted that there did seem to be plenty of parking spaces available and proposed suggesting to the Johnsmas Foy committee that they notify the public of where these are in their advertising material.

### **7.4 Shetland Islands Council - Environmental Works**

Cllr J Henry noted the work had started.

### **7.5 Shetland Islands Council - Footpath To Shetland Hotel**

The Chairman noted that they needed to establish whether or not the path was a public right of way. He hoped that it would eventually be improved and made safe. He noted the owner, Mr R Smith, was on holiday and so the item can't be progressed at this time.

Mr M Peterson asked how long the foot path had been in existence, and the Chairman explained that it had been a foot path for 22 years. Before that had been part of a road connecting Old North Road to Holmsgarth Road, which was removed to form the access road to the hotel's reception. It had been a public right of way at that time. This was being discussed by SIC Legal & Administration and so they would have to await the outcome.

### **7.6 Shetland Islands Council - Housing and Colour Consultation**

The Chairman noted that everyone would have their own ideas so there could never be a complete agreement. He felt that the general trend in the past had been to use every shade of grey and so he welcomed the introduction of colour.

Cllr L Angus noted that there had been attempts by planning advisors for Lerwick to have colour and that most people agreed with this. He felt people should be able to paint their properties any colour they wanted within certain parameters. He felt that one person's good taste would not be shared by everyone.

Ms K Fraser agreed that there was no accounting for taste. She noted that conservation areas needed permission to be repainted.

Cllr G Feather pointed out that Scottish Natural Heritage also had a part to play as they could also dictate colour, which he felt was wrong.

Mr J Anderson felt that, in this age of housing shortages, people should be encouraged to build their own and that the SIC Planning Department should be there to advise.

Cllr L Angus noted that Shetland Islands Council had never asked for this study. He felt this approach was restrictive and a possible infringement of civil liberties, and so Planning Officials should take another approach to it.

### **7.7 Shetland Islands Council - Nomination of Planning Liaison Representative**

This item will be carried over to the next agenda so that a representative can be nominated from the new Community Council.

06/11/08

### **Financial Report**

The report was noted. Cllr L Angus asked how the figures compared with this period last year, and the Clerk agreed to find out for the next meeting.

06/11/09

### **Any Other Business**

#### **9.1 Quoyo Roundabout**

Cllr G Feather noted that work was now well underway on the mini roundabout at Quoyo and Oversund Road.

#### **9.2 Litter Bins at Bus Stops**

Cllr G Feather had spoken to a Shetland Islands Council officer who had advised him they were waiting for the bins to arrive from the supplier and they will be placed in every bus stop.

The Chairman noted that he would await this with interest and it should be followed up with a letter to encourage it along.

Mrs K Greaves felt that there were a lack of bins around Lerwick in general and there should be more situated at strategic points.

The Chairman agreed to ask for a review of bin provision in Lerwick and for any areas lacking to be provided with one.

Mrs A Simpson noted that you could have as many bins as you wanted but some people would still not use them.

Mr M Peterson said he would like to know from the Police how many litter offences there have been. He suggested putting offenders out in boiler suits to pick up litter as a punishment.

#### **9.3 Windows at Shetland Youth Information Service, Market Cross**

Mrs K Greaves passed round photographs she had taken of the display windows at SYIS, Market Cross. She felt they could easily be misunderstood and give out the wrong message. She felt it looked like graffiti and that they needed to be mindful of the area.

Ms M Robertson stated that she did not find it offensive and thought that if it attracted young people it was a good thing.

The Chairman felt members should look at the windows and bring back to a future meeting if they felt they were offensive.

#### **9.4 Hay's Pier/Garthspool**

Mr D Ristori had been approached by residents in the area who were concerned that pallets and other material had been blown around during the recent gales. He felt these items should be secured, and that this could tempt vandals. He also noted that the doors on a Streamline container had banged all night in the gales.

The Chairman agreed to write to ask them to ensure their property and premises were properly secured.

#### **9.5 Playing Park Maintenance**

Mrs A Simpson suggested asking SIC Community Services to erect a simple plaque stating who to contact if a member of the public discovers a piece of play equipment needed maintenance. This would make it obvious to the public and enable the fault to be repaired as soon as possible.

#### **9.6 Chairman's Last Meeting**

Cllr E Knight noted that this was the Chairman's last meeting as he was resigning from the Community Council. He would like to record his thanks to him, both for his time as Chairman and his time on the committee.

#### **9.7 Road Signage**

Mr R Anderson noted that a road sign at the corner of Breiwick Road indicating St Olaf Street had been removed at some point and asked that it be reinstated, along with any others removed.

#### **9.8 Community Council Elections**

The Chairman noted that Ms M Robertson, Mr D Ristori, Mrs K Greaves and Mr A Goudie had been co-opted during the time of this Community Council. Ms M Robertson had been appointed a community councillor for the next council, which now had 13 of its possible 16 members.

He noted that if any of the other co-opted members wished to be appointed as full members they should put their names forward at the next round of nominations in January.

He proposed to make the decision that the co-opted members attend the next Community Council meeting and allow them to decide.

#### **9.9 Chairman's Thanks**

The Chairman noted that he would like to record his thanks to everyone for their support over the years, especially the SIC Councillors who came regularly to meetings and were a beneficial link to Shetland Islands Council.

He wished everyone all the best for the future and noted that he had enjoyed his time on the Community Council. He felt it was now time for a break, having been involved for 12 years and 7½ of those as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

MR T R NICOLSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL