

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

**Present**

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr J Anderson  | Cllr J Henry (left at 8.15pm) |
| Cllr L Angus   | Mr A Johnston                 |
| Cllr G Feather | Mr T Nicolson                 |
| Ms K Fraser    | Mr P Scarsbrook               |

**Additional Co-opted Members**

Mr J Ogg  
Mrs A Simpson  
Ms B Wishart

**In Attendance**

Mr M Craigie, SIC Infrastructure  
Ms M Lisk, SIC Infrastructure  
Mr J Grant, SIC Infrastructure  
PS G McCarthy  
Mr J Robertson, Shetland Times Reporter  
Miss C Duncan, Clerk

**Chairman**

Mr T Nicolson

04/10/1

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

04/10/2

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Anderson, Mr L Bissett, Cllr A Cluness, Cllr J Irvine, Mr J McLeod and Mr M Peterson.

04/10/3

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2004 were approved on the motion of Mr P Scarsbrook, seconded by Ms K Fraser.

04/10/4

**Matters Arising**

**4.1 War Memorial, Lerwick**

Cllr L Angus stated that as an SIC Councillor he had reminded the Chief Executive that the War Memorial needed some restoration work done to it, preferably before Armistice Day. The bronze panels were weathered with the lettering fading, and there was an algae growth on the marble. He felt it was important to maintain the memorial on behalf of the community. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive asking for repairs to be done.

**4.2 Fire Service Control Rooms**

Cllr J Henry stated he had attended a COSLA conference recently, where they were taking the same line as here with regards to the consultation, i.e. two control rooms for the whole of Scotland were not adequate.

#### **4.3 Financial Assistance - Shetland Anglers' Association - 04/9/14.5**

The Chairman pointed out that the minute read "...the opportunity to purchase a number of surplus smolts from a local salmon producer..."; this should have read "...from a local sea trout hatchery..."

#### **4.4 Shetland Community Safety Partnership - 04/9/10**

Mr J Anderson noted that the Chairman was going to check back on previous minutes regarding the decision taken over the proposed alcohol by-law for Lerwick. The Chairman agreed that the decision of Lerwick Community Council was to support the by-law if it covered the whole of the Lerwick area.

04/10/5

#### **Police Report**

PS McCarthy responded to the point raised at the last meeting regarding speeding motorists at Sands of Sound road. He said that over the summer they had received a number of calls from residents in the area, mostly regarding thefts from the house under construction in the area. A number of patrols had been carried out but there were no complaints of speeding.

He advised members that if anyone complained to them about speeding motorists, they should instruct them to take as many details as possible, e.g. date, time of day, area, registration of car, and pass this information on to the Lerwick Police Station or the confidential phone number, and they would act on the information.

He stated that ten police officers would be undergoing training in November in identifying drivers under the influence of drugs. This would bring the number of officers trained in this to twenty, which is half of all the officers in Shetland. Driving under the influence of drugs is a problem which is on the increase and up until now they haven't had enough specially trained officers to deal with it.

An officer had been at the Police College undertaking a driving course, which he had passed and now held the highest driving qualification. He would be bringing these skills back to Shetland, and another officer is due to attend the same course in the near future.

Two new officers have been transferred to Shetland, and this now brings the number in the Shetland force up to the correct level. This would be reflected in high visibility patrols of all officers.

Special constables will commence their training at the end of October. Six people have passed the medical, and once they are trained they will be issued with the necessary equipment and will be seen on the streets as soon as possible.

The Safer Scotland Campaign is currently underway, and will run until December. It targets vandalism, juveniles and alcohol in public places and knife offences. Since the campaign began in Shetland, there had been 7 incidents of vandalism - one had been detected and 3 juveniles were reported to the Children's' Panel last week.

The figures since July (the last meeting PS McCarthy attended) were as follows:

|                                |                               |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1361 incidents                 | , 340 in the Town Centre area |                                   |
| 136 hours foot patrol          |                               | 34 vandalisms, 3 detected         |
| 21 thefts, 7 detected          |                               | 16 assaults, 10 detected          |
| 44 drugs searches, 31 positive |                               | 7 drink drivers caught in Lerwick |

He noted that in Shetland for the calendar year to October there had been 56 drink drivers.

Mr P Scarsbrook asked if the thefts mentioned were from clubs, i.e. handbags, or were they housebreakings. PS McCarthy confirmed that they were thefts of people's property, usually handbags unattended in public places. There was a very low incidence of housebreaking in Shetland.

The Chairman asked if there was an increase in drug related driving offences. PS McCarthy confirmed that there was an increase, however it was difficult to detect due to the lack of officers trained in this field. Last year a total of 2 were reported, this year there have been 2 to date. With the additional officers trained in detection he expected the numbers to increase.

Ms K Fraser asked if they used equipment to detect the drugs or was it by the "walk in a straight line" method? PS McCarthy said that it was through this method, which had been introduced in America and proved very accurate. It involved a series of tests including walking in a straight line and touching their nose, etc. Highly trained officers can tell to an accurate degree the type of drugs taken due to the response of the person.

Ms Fraser asked if a blood test was taken. PS McCarthy said that if an officer believes a person to be under the influence of drugs they would call a GP to attend. If the GP also agreed drugs had been used they would obtain a blood sample, which would be sent away for analysis. If a person refused the blood test, a report would be sent straight to the procurator fiscal.

Mr J Ogg asked how an officer decided who to test. PS McCarthy replied that there were different things to look for, such as their standard of driving. If there was no indication of alcohol present then they would look for signs of drug use. It was down to observation and training.

The Chairman asked if the two new officers were increasing the strength of the force or replacing officers. PS McCarthy confirmed that they were now back at full strength, with another officer currently at training college identified for taking up a post in Shetland.

The Chairman said he hoped that, with the employment of the new special constables, they would see an increase in foot patrols. He felt there was concern among the public of unprovoked attacks, especially by youths.

Ms K Fraser said there had been an increase of nuisance cars in the Hoofields area, including abandoned vehicles, one set on fire and another crashed. Residents were expressing concern as they felt it was getting very dangerous. PS McCarthy confirmed that they are aware of people using the tracks, and with reference to the crashed car, the driver had gone to ground but enquiries were ongoing.

The Chairman thanked PS McCarthy, and he left the meeting at 7.20pm.

04/10/5

### **Proposed Bressay Bridge**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Michael Craigie of the Shetland Islands Council Infrastructure Services Department, Capital Projects Unit, to give an update on the proposed Bressay Bridge.

Mr Craigie stated that it was a fairly complex issue with different views expressed across the board.

- NIB Main Scheme - This was sent to the Scottish Executive on 17 May and approved on 22 June. The Lerwick Port Authority had appealed the decision to grant planning permission. The Shetland Islands Council had been notified of

this as an interested party, and they will let it run its course until a review is held in January 2005. It is an LPA/Scottish Executive issue.

- NIB Road Improvement Scheme - Lerwick side. They had made progress in alleviating the concerns of the Road Improvement Development Scheme earlier this year. They felt the scheme was beneficial to objectors but still 6 people had objected. The Scottish Executive has decided to defer their decision for another month.
- Main Scheme - Tests will be done on water quality and air quality in the area during the construction programme. Work had already been done to assess the effects of causeways on currents, tides, vessel maneuverability, etc. They meet every month for an update.
- SIC/LPA - Economic Impact Project. This was a study done to look at the impact on port related business. LPA had also carried out an independent study on the effect of a bridge on navigation. The SIC has received the results for consultation. Captain George Sutherland has been instated to oversee both reviews, which are subject to proper measures. The bridge will prove to be no barrier to shipping in the port, except possibly with regard to height of vessels due to the height of the bridge.

The committee are to collate all the information received so far into a summary for Shetland as a whole, and they hope to conclude this within the next week or so. The situation shouldn't change for the Shetland Islands Council, who believe the bridge to be of economic benefit across the board.,

They hope to alleviate concerns and create an environment with decent dialogue between both parties, as this is not the case at present. Mr Craigie felt they were too far apart at the moment to bring people together without prejudice, and hoped to bring forward a new quality of dialogue which would allow everyone to see the bigger picture.

Mr P Scarsbrook asked if it was possible for the two parties to use a mediator to try to resolve the differences. Mr Craigie replied they were not yet at a stage to broker a deal, and that a letter had gone today to LPA which urged them in the strongest terms to explore all the avenues possible in order to begin straight talking.

The Chairman stated that there was a large gap between Lerwick and Bressay, and an enormous gap between the two authorities involved, the SIC and LPA. He was concerned that if differences weren't resolved, they would run out of time with regard to the timescale for the funding.

Mr Craigie replied it was possible if it drags on. They won't be starting work next April as planned unless all objections are removed, which is not likely at present. There was a threat to the European Funding, but was confident they would address the issues before the threat becomes larger. He felt the Chairman's concerns were justified but was confident things would be resolved by the end of next summer.

Cllr L Angus stated he had received a copy of the letter Mr Craigie referred to, as had all councillors, and he felt it contained a catalogue of accusations by the Chief Executive of LPA. He said it was difficult to see where differences would be agreed. He felt shocked it had come to this and said it was a big issue for all of Shetland, as there were issues of how communities on both sides would deal with it. He suggested the Chairman would be suitable as a mediator.

Mr P Scarsbrook asked if the objections were on financial or environmental issues, or just awkward. Mr Craigie replied it was the impact on the opportunities for the port and for businesses in the area, now and in the long term. He thought LPA don't corroborate their views, as there is a lack of evidence to say there will be a negative effect. To build something different at this stage would cost more, and

there was no basis for that recommendation. A key issue was that all objectors support the principal of a bridge and they must all work around that.

Mr J Anderson asked if it was too late in the day to look at a tunnel, as this would help LPA with height restrictions. Mr Craigie explained that the feasibility study had written off the option of a tunnel due to the large substantial structures of portals required. The tunnel would have to be extremely long to avoid steep gradients when entering and exiting it, due to the hills at either side.

The Chairman thanked Mr Craigie for attending. He recognised it would take some time to bridge the gap between the two authorities and felt this would be no easy task, but he wished him well and hoped they wouldn't run out of time with regard to funding. Mr Craigie replied he would look into the suggestion of a mediator. He left the meeting at 7.50pm.

04/10/6

### **Kerbside Recycling Scheme**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jim Grant and Ms Mary Lisk of SIC Infrastructure Services to the meeting.

Mr Grant said they had received money from the Scottish Executive Strategic Waste Fund to assist in recycling. With this money they were expanding existing bottle banks, creating a new landfill site and launching a new kerbside recycling scheme in Lerwick and Scalloway.

In the next few weeks, boxes of blue sacks and green sacks will be issued to every house in Lerwick and Scalloway. The blue sacks are for all types of cans with the green ones used for unbroken glass. These sacks are to be left out fortnightly with the normal refuse and will be collected by a new vehicle which will follow the "essy kert" and uplift the goods for recycling.

They are hoping to get good participation from Lerwick and Scalloway residents and are aiming for around 60% of all householders to use the service.

The Chairman asked how a recycling scheme could be cost justified in a small community like Shetland. He felt it was justified in large cities but wondered about the financial benefits in smaller areas.

Mr Grant replied that all glass recycled locally went to Enviroglass, Shetland Amenity Trust to produce shot glass for local businesses and garden slab, etc. This was done locally and produced a valuable product. Both steel and aluminium cans were collected locally with aluminium cans being sold at around £1000 per ton and steel cans at £75 per ton. These were sent south through 60 Recycling, and the income generated went back into the scheme.

They hoped to commence paper recycling soon. This could be shredded for use a bedding by local farmers.

Cllr G Feather asked if they planned to extend the scheme into the rest of Shetland, but Mr Grant replied that the costs were high and would not be viable in rural Shetland; however, they did plan to extend the amount of glass collected from hotels and pubs and expand the use of bottle banks.

Mr J Anderson asked how sensible it was to collect glass in plastic bags. Would this create a Health & Safety issue? Mr Grant replied that there were instructions on the bags not to place broken glass in them, and that the thickened plastic bags had proven to work in trials. There would be a trial period of a year and they did have the option of using boxes at the kerbside, which were not a good idea in Shetland due to the wind.

He explained that the new depot would have better facilities for people delivering their own goods to be recycled. The containers would all be housed within the building and drivers would drive their cars up ramps into the building and deposit the glass or cans into skips from above. All the skips were labelled to maximise recycling opportunities.

The Chairman asked if he was satisfied with the town's cleanliness in general. Cllr L Angus replied he wasn't, that dog fouling especially in the Knab footpath area, was as bad as ever despite the bins provided. He asked if this would be part of the role of the new Community Wardens.

Ms Lisk replied that 4 people have been appointed and are undergoing extensive training in areas such as Health and Safety, Environmental Studies and Social Work at the moment. They would work in pairs, up until 10.30pm each day, with one pair covering the area from Sandveien to the Anderson High and the other from the North Road to the Anderson High. They would be equipped with walkie talkies and digital cameras and would have the capacity to take information which would result in action being taken against offenders. They would not have the authority to hand out fixed penalties, instead they would ask a person for their details and the local authority would trace them and issue the fixed penalty notice, similar to the way speeding fines are handed out a present. Their main role would be to speak to the community regarding their worries and would concentrate their time in areas where there had been complaints made.

The Chairman felt it should be the responsibility of the community to keep it clean, not employing staff to do so, and that parents should be learning their children from a young age about litter. Ms Lisk added that all three Lerwick schools were participating in the Ecco School scheme which encouraged pupils to look at the effects of litter and to compete to win Ecco flags.

The Chairman wished Mr Grant and Ms Lisk well with the new collection project and hoped to see it expand in the future. They left the meeting at 8.15pm.

04/10/7

**Appointment of Additional Co-opted Member**

This was noted. The Chairman added that SIC Legal Services had been notified of the vacancy for one full member and this would be advertised in due course. He hoped co-opted members would like to apply. The co-opted member vacancy would wait until local elections had been, and there may be individuals who applied for the full member vacancy who would be suitable as a co-opted member.

04/10/8

**Lerwick Town Hall/Lystina House Consultative Committee**

Ms K Fraser and Mrs A Simpson agreed to join the committee.

04/10/9

**Islesburgh Management Committee**

Mr J Anderson agreed to join the committee.

04/10/10

**Bell's Road: Proposed Traffic Calming**

Cllr L Angus said he would have hoped for more ambitious measures but was pleased to see some action being taken. Mr J Anderson confirmed it would be at the top of the road outside "Inches". There were no objections to the proposal.

04/10/11

**Shetland Islands Council - Unspent Balances**

The Chairman stated that there seemed to be a shortage of a budget within the Shetland Islands Council for maintaining benches and the upkeep of playing areas. Unfortunately the Lerwick Community Council had made the decision to award money for this in the April meeting instead of the March meeting which appeared to have caused problems for auditors. There would be a report to the Shetland Islands Council and he hoped Lerwick Community Councillors would support this so that the money would eventually end up in the correct department to carry out the LCC's

wishes. He confirmed the LCC can only carry forward £1000 to the next financial year, and that this applied to all Community Councils. The Chairman felt that this was unfair as it was disproportionate to the number of constituents.

04/10/12

### **Correspondence**

#### **12.1 Lerwick & Bressay Parish Church**

Noted

#### **12.2 Shetland Anglers' Association**

Noted. The Chairman added the young trout have been released into the loch.

#### **12.3 Shetland Folkdance**

Noted

#### **12.4 SOUL Report**

It was agreed to invite them to a future meeting to present their findings.

#### **12.5 Footpath - Knab Golf Course**

Mr J Anderson stated the embankment was exceptionally steep and felt it may prove hazardous for disabled users. The new path was very steep and may cause difficulties for anyone unsteady on their feet or on a dark night. The Chairman agreed that the Community Council would write querying the levels of the embankment and the gradient, and also to note that no work has been carried out here for some time.

#### **12.6 Roads Maintenance - Lerwick**

Noted

#### **12.7 Highlands & Islands Fire Brigade**

Noted

#### **12.8 Westerloch Footpath**

The Chairman noted that the costings appeared to be quite astronomical but the path would have to be improved. Mr P Scarsbrook felt it could become a Health and Safety issue and would have to close if no improvements carried out. The Chairman said it was a very popular path and was well used. He said the Community Council would write to the Shetland Recreational Trust and ask for an indication of the level of funding required to complete the project.

#### **12.9 Old Staney Hill Road**

Noted

#### **12.10 Sands of Sound Road**

Noted

#### **12.11 LCC Office - Window/Door Replacement**

This work is to be carried out in the near future.

04/10/13

### **Financial Report**

The Chairman noted there was still a significant amount left in the balance and it must be used for community benefit before the end of the financial year.

04/10/14

### **Financial Assistance - The Swan Trust**

The Chairman stated that Lerwick Community Council had provided most of the funding in the first place for the masts. It had been in existence for 10 years now

and had proved in that time to be something well worth doing. It had flown the Shetland flag in a number of ports around Europe, created lots of interest and had benefited a large amount of people old and young. He felt this was a venture which required community support. Mr P Scarsbrook moved to award £2000 and this was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

04/10/15

### **Planning Applications**

#### **15.1 32 King Harald Street, Lerwick**

No objections

#### **15.2 Brentham House, Harbour Street, Lerwick**

No objections

#### **15.3 West Hall, Lower Sound, Lerwick**

No objections

04/10/16

### **Any Other Business**

#### **16.1 Play Area at Stouts Court**

Ms B Wishart stated that this play area was looking neglected and would benefit from upgrading and the addition of a park bench. The Chairman stated that this was a good example of what LCC wanted the SIC and suggested that the SIC use the money provided by the LCC for this purpose. He proposed to write to them to ask for repairs to be done.

#### **16.2 Play Areas in Lerwick**

Cllr L Angus noted that Mr R Anderson had raised the issue of the Ronald Street swings at a previous meeting. He felt that Lerwick Community Council should consider taking on the maintenance and upkeep of all the play areas in Lerwick. There were a lot of them around the town and some items of play equipment were in need of repair or replacement. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Lerwick Community Council.

#### **16.3 Disruptive Neighbours**

The Chairman had been made aware of the serious problem of disruptive neighbours in Lerwick and suggested asking Mr C Medley, Director of Housing with the Shetland Islands Council, to come along to the next meeting and update members on new legislation and processes regarding nuisance neighbours. He hoped this would raise the profile through the media as well as informing members.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

MR T R NICOLSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL