

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Mr R Anderson
Cllr G Feather
Ms K Fraser
Cllr J Henry
Mr A Johnston

Cllr E Knight
Mr T Nicolson
Mr M Peterson
Mr P Scarsbrook
Cllr W Stove

Additional Co-opted Members

Mrs A Simpson

In Attendance

Shetland Times Reporter
Miss C Duncan, Clerk

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson

04/9/1

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

04/9/2

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr L Bissett, Mr I Bruce, Cllr A Cluness, Cllr J Irvine, Mr J McLeod, Mr J Ogg and Ms B Wishart.

04/9/3

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2004 were approved on the motion of Cllr W Stove, seconded by Mr R Anderson.

04/7/8 Cllr E Knight stated that he did not say the staff had "the least to worry about" but instead that they had cast iron guarantees and he was in fact surprised at the terms being offered by the Shetland Islands Council to staff.

04/7/8 Cllr W Stove said that he is a Trustee of all the Trusts involved except the Amenity Trust, not the Welfare Trust as stated in the minute.

04/9/4

Matters Arising

4.1 Landscaping at Duncan House and Nordavatn

Cllr G Feather asked if any of these works had been completed yet. Mr J Anderson said he believed the works at Duncan House had been, but Mr M Peterson stated that they were not. There were still reseeding works to be done. The Chairman replied that it was not the time of year for reseeding works to be done but they would

check the situation early next year and contact Scottish Water if no new grass appeared.

4.2 Boundaries

Cllr G Feather asked if the Lerwick/Gulberwick boundary had been defined. The Chairman replied that a letter had been written to the Shetland Islands Council Planning Department but there had been no reply to date. However, he had checked the Electoral Register for the area and houses at the Observatory are within the Lerwick Community Council ward.

4.3 Association of Community Councils

The Chairman agreed that a policy on awarding grants to groups based outwith Lerwick should be an agenda item at the next Association meeting.

4.4 Resignation of Members

The Chairman said he had spoken to Mrs S Newcombe following the previous meeting but she was not reconsidering her resignation. He had been unable to contact Mr M MacDonald before the press had released the information. He had written to Mrs Newcombe and Mr MacDonald expressing his gratitude to both for their contribution to Lerwick Community Council.

4.5 Pegasus Place

The Chairman has spoken to the Planning Department regarding this area. They confirmed that the Bank of Scotland are the current owners of the land. They are trying to sell it at the moment and have approached two contractors to clean the site but both quotes were high. The Shetland Islands Council have taken out an Enforcement Order which will expire by 22 October, and the owners will face court action after this date.

Ms K Fraser said she had contacted the receivers herself and was told that a condition of sale of the property was that the area was cleaned up. She was pleased to hear of the Enforcement Order being made.

She had also been told that new signage would be going up but there was no sign of this at the moment.

4.6 Benches

The Chairman said that he had noticed in August that there had been no acknowledgement of the cheque sent to the Shetland Islands Council in April towards the cost of maintaining benches in Lerwick. The cheque had been cancelled and a new one issued, which he hand-delivered.

The question of whether or not it was legal for the Shetland Islands Council to accept money from Lerwick Community Council had then been raised. There was also a problem with the money being given in April as it was at the start of a new financial year and caused difficulties for the auditors.

Also it may be seen as Lerwick Community Council "dictating" to Shetland Islands Council how they spend their money. Mr R Anderson said he hoped this wouldn't strain relations between the two organisations now that they were back on an even keel, and that common sense would prevail.

It was now in the hands of the Legal and Finance departments, and the matter would be up before the full Council for a decision. The Chairman pointed out that if the money went into a "general pool" for bench maintenance then areas outside Lerwick would potentially benefit from this and he urged Lerwick Community Council members who would be at the Council meeting to keep Lerwick in mind when making their decision.

4.7 Shetland Rock Festival

Ms K Fraser said that the organisers of this event had cleaned up the area quickly and efficiently and offered her congratulations to them. The Chairman agreed that it had been carried out effectively.

04/9/5

Police Report

PS G McCarthy was on annual leave and no other officers had been available to come along to the meeting, so there was no police report presented.

Cllr J Henry said he would have liked to raise the issue of traffic in the Sands of Sound area. Over the last 2-3 months a number of young boys had been racing out the Sands of Sound road which was causing concern to the residents in the area. It was agreed to write to the Lerwick Police Station to raise this matter with them.

04/9/6

Traffic Orders

6.1 Disabled Parking Space at Norstane, Lerwick

No objections.

6.2 Disabled Parking Space at Soldian Court, Lerwick

No objections.

04/9/7

Proposed Bressay Bridge

Minutes received from the Bressay Bridge Project Liaison Group had been sent out to members for information, and it was agreed to invite Mr Michael Craigie from the Shetland Islands Council to the next meeting to give a brief presentation on the current situation.

04/9/8

Fire Service Control Rooms

The Chairman expressed concern over too much centralisation of Fire Service Control Rooms with the proposal to switch to one control for the whole of Scotland based in Edinburgh. He had problems with call centres in other parts of the country where they didn't know the dialect or the area. Mr R Anderson said he found it quite appalling, as local knowledge was often critical to quickly locating the site of an incident. Mr M Peterson said that Inverness and Edinburgh were both inefficient for Shetland due to their location and that he would look for the call centre to be based in Shetland. The Chairman said the knowledge of the operator was crucial whether they were in Shetland or on the mainland and it was down to the individual. He had concerns over the dialect and place names, both of these being derived from the Norse language and may not be understood elsewhere. Following discussion it was decided to suggest that Fire Control be based in Shetland and there be one Fire Control per each area.

04/9/9

Scottish Air Ambulance Service

The Chairman said that modernisation and new aircraft were proposed with various options available for Shetland residents. Mr M Peterson regretted the passing of the heli-pad at Clickimin and felt patients could be jeopardised by landing at Tingwall instead of Clickimin as this could add valuable minutes on the time it took to be treated. The Chairman confirmed that the heli-pad was moved to Tingwall when the Clickimin running track was upgraded but that there had been concerns regarding flight paths into Clickimin.

Concern was raised over changing from the use of Islander aircraft to Turbo-prop as they were larger aircraft and the impact this would have on island communities who used the Islander aircraft as a scheduled service. It was agreed to write to the

Scottish Air Ambulance Service to discover if Turbo-props were still suitable to land at Tingwall. Mrs A Simpson felt that bringing a helicopter up from Inverness to fly patients south for treatment was a reduction in service as it took time to get here. The Chairman stated that the rescue helicopter based at Sumburgh was still available as an option in those circumstances.

04/9/10

Shetland Community Safety Partnership

Details had been received and distributed for members' information. It included the proposed by-law, which the Chairman stated Lerwick Community Council supported. There was also information on the Local Action Fund which had funds available for community organisation and youth groups to keep youngsters off the streets and out of trouble. The Chairman suggested passing the information on to the Skatepark Association and the Lerwick Boating Club, and urged members to tell any other groups they thought may benefit from this

Mr J Anderson stated that he thought the decision taken at an earlier meeting had been not to support the by-law but to support it if it covered the whole Lerwick area. A vote had been taken to support the by-law if it covered the whole of the Lerwick area, not to support the by-law itself. The Chairman said he would check back through previous minutes and confirm this.

04/9/11

Shetland Welfare Trust

A number of items of correspondence had been received from the Shetland Welfare Trust expressing their feelings at the proposed changes by the Shetland Charitable Trust. The Chairman said that events had over-taken us and the SIC had already made a decision not to proceed with the suggestions from the Welfare Trust. His main concern was that moves by SIC/SCT were to streamline and save money and that these may affect services. He felt it was difficult to make any savings without staff losses or reduction in service, and that management reduction would not make significant savings. Mr P Scarsbrook asked if the idea was to keep privatisation out of the equation and would this not leave the door open to private enterprise, which often provided a lower service of care. The Chairman felt the services were very well run at the moment with excellent levels of care to the patients. Mr M Peterson asked if the Welfare Trust operated any care homes within Lerwick. Mrs A Simpson replied that the homes in Lerwick were administered by the local authority, and Mr R Anderson added that a large number of Lerwick residents regularly moved into care homes outwith Lerwick. Cllr E Knight asked if it would not need someone from the Shetland Welfare Trust to attend to give an official response, as the correspondence received were actually protest letters from the staff. The Chairman agreed to invite John Grant to the next meeting.

04/9/12

Correspondence

12.1 Islesburgh Trust - Thanks

Noted

12.2 Lerwick Thistle Football Club - Thanks

Noted

12.3 Lerwick Town Centre Association - Thanks

Noted

12.4 Shetland Amenity Trust - Thanks

Noted. They had enclosed a list of Lerwick residents who had organised clear-ups in the area. It was suggested a letter be sent out to each of these residents to thank them for their efforts. Mr M Peterson noted it was all women who had organised a

clear-up. The Chairman replied it was not a sexist venture and all members were welcome to volunteer next year!

Mrs A Simpson felt it was commendable that so many people go out to collect litter but felt the best result would be the year that no rubbish was collected at all. Mr M Peterson suggested that the Community Wardens have the authority to make offenders clear up the roadsides when they come into being.

12.5 Shetland Archery Club - Thanks

Noted

12.6 Shetland Folkdance - Thanks

Noted

12.7 Shetland Ladies Association for Pool - Thanks

Noted

12.8 Shetland Skatepark Association - Thanks

Noted

12.9 Gilbertson Park Gates

The Chairman noted that this was now complete and they looked very smart. He was pleased to see this come to an end as it had been risen at Lerwick Community Council meetings for at least 10 years.

12.10 Lerwick Port Authority

It was agreed that the Lerwick Port Authority could site benches at Albert Dock and a letter be written to them to confirm this.

12.11 Bonfire Site, Breiwick Road

Mr R Anderson confirmed this area had now been cleared.

12.12 Burgh Road

Mr R Anderson suggested the Community Council write to Mr D MacNae at Shetland Islands Council for an update on the working programme of repairs, as none had been received for some time.

12.13 Ronald Street Swings/Knab Golf Course

Mr R Anderson noted that headway was being made with the new footpath. He suggested that a letter be written to Shetland Islands Council confirming that the footpath was at an appropriate gradient for the disabled users of it.

12.14 Dyke at Old Infants School

Noted

12.15 Wild Flowers

Noted. The Chairman suggested writing to Mr J Nicolson of Cunningsburgh who was involved with a group trying to maintain wild flowers in Shetland to ask if they would be in a position to plant the roadsides and also in Fort Charlotte. Cllr J Henry stated that at a recent Transport and Environment meeting Mr S Cooper had outlined a scheme to enhance approaches to towns and suggested we contact him as there may be funding available to assist with this.

12.16 Victoria Pier/Letter from Mr C Swaby

Noted

12.17 ASCC Meeting

The Chairman confirmed that he would attend the next meeting on 9 October, and Mr R Anderson said he too would be available to attend. Cllr E Knight noted that there was still time to get in agenda items to the ASCC.

12.18 Civic Trust Awards 2005

The Chairman said the Tollbooth was a good example of this but unfortunately was not yet finished. It would be suitable on completion. Mr R Anderson suggested the Gilbertson Park Gates be nominated as a restoration project.

12.19 Survey of Flood Prone Areas in Shetland

Noted. Mr R Anderson said that the area at the back of West Dock be added. The Chairman suggested the Grantfield area too. Cllr W Stove stated that the squares at Sandveien were often flooding in heavy rain and he had a number of complaints from residents.

12.20 Scottish Rural Partnership Fund

Mr M Peterson asked if Lerwick was a rural area. Mr R Anderson replied that in Scottish Executive terms the whole of Shetland applied. He will take home the application pack to read through and will report back at the next meeting.

12.21 Community Health Partnership

Local views were asked for on this document. Mr M Peterson said he would like to see some specialisms at the hospital filled by local people, as few positions appear to be filled by locals at the moment. Perhaps they could support young people through their studies in an effort to encourage them back to Shetland. The Chairman replied that generally there was great difficulty in attracting specialists to Shetland. Perhaps the Health Board could do more to encourage young people studying various medical practices to return to Shetland. Cllr J Henry asked if this was possibly already happening. The Chairman agreed to ask this as well as agreeing with the points raised in the document.

04/9/13

Financial Report

13.1 Financial Report as at 13 September 2004

Noted

The Chairman pointed out that the works to the Staney Hill in the committed expenditure had been paid so should be removed from this section. Mr R Anderson asked what the "publicity material" was. The Chairman replied it was for producing publicity to let the public know more about Lerwick Community Council, but nothing had been produced to date.

The Chairman said he had sent a letter to Mr V Hawthorne, Planning Department, Shetland Islands Council, regarding drainage of the Staney Hill Road. He had asked for an engineer to be sent to do a survey on drainage and possible solutions, but no response has been received as yet. The drainage in this area needs improving and considerable money has been spent by Lerwick Community Council in the past on this.

Mr J Anderson asked if the £4500 for benches had been taken into consideration, and the Chairman replied that the cheque had been sent but it had not yet been presented at the bank. It was still within the bank account, and this was reflected in the balance.

04/9/14

Financial Assistance

14.1 Islesburgh Pyrotechnic Display Club

The Chairman read out a letter received today from Mr J Bulter, manager of Islesburgh Trust, which confirmed that due to financial restraints they would not be putting on the annual fireworks display this year, and that the Islesburgh Pyrotechnic Display Club would be seeking assistance to produce the event themselves. Mr J Anderson declared a non pecuniary interest as Vice Chairman of the Club. They did not have any other sources of funding at the moment as it would depend on the amount received from Lerwick Community Council, who has been the main funding body in the past. The total cost of fireworks was unknown at the moment as it would depend on the amount of donations they received. This would be reflected in the size of the display. He also stated that, outside of Up Helly Aa, the fireworks display was the largest gathering of members of the community in Shetland each year.

Mr P Scarsbrook asked if the Club would be collecting money on the night as Islesburgh had done in previous years, but Mr Anderson replied that they would not be doing this, as volunteers would be restricted to marshalling duties only. The Chairman said that without backing from Islesburgh Trust, he would like to consider increasing the amount given from that of previous years. Mr M Peterson asked if there was a scaling down in the event, should there not be a scaling down in financial assistance given. The Chairman moved they should be given £2000 and this was seconded by Cllr E Knight. Mr M Peterson moved for £1000 but received no seconder, so £2000 was agreed.

14.2 High Strings

The Chairman noted this was an application on behalf of an individual, which hasn't been encouraged in the past. Ross Couper was not from Lerwick, but he was an extremely good musician who would be able to pass on any skills learnt to other musicians around Shetland. Mrs A Simpson asked if he had already been to the camp and this was confirmed. Mr M Peterson noted if he had been already, the trip had been financed so therefore this application would be retrospective. The Chairman replied that the application was in on time for a meeting in August, unfortunately, no meeting was held that month.

Mrs A Simpson said that she supported the application and felt that musicians in Shetland should be supported. The Chairman moved to award £200 and this was seconded by Cllr E Knight. Mr R Anderson stated he had concerns regarding grant assistance being paid to individuals but he took on board that a number of musicians within the Shetland fraternity would benefit from the skills learnt.

14.3 Lerwick and Bressay Parish Church

The Chairman felt this was a community project which would benefit disabled residents and should be supported. Mr M Peterson said he had visited the Church of Scotland website and discovered that funds would be available from Parish Development Fund. This consisted of payments of £1500 per year for 3 years, but there was no mention of this on the Church's application. The Chairman said he had attended a service at the Church recently at which the minister had stated the due to a lack of public support it was getting increasingly difficult to keep the churches open, and that subject of the upkeep of St Olaf's Hall may have to be re-addressed in the near future.

Mr R Anderson said he had witnessed a disabled person trying to gain access to the Church recently and so was fully in support of the application. Mr P Scarsbrook asked if grant assistance had ever been paid to a Church before and would this be setting a precedent. The Chairman replied that churches were for the public and were used by the public, therefore they should receive support. They also had major roof repairs needing done soon which would cost another £2500. Mr R Anderson moved they be awarded a grant of £1500, which was seconded by Cllr E Knight.

14.4 Mr and Mrs D Simpson, Westhall, Ness of Sound, Lerwick

Lerwick Community Council had written to them asking for more details on costings and these had been received. The Chairman stated that by using the formula for

road repairs, they would be entitled to a total of £1350. Mr R Anderson pointed out that Mr and Mrs Simpson had also been asked if the house would be used for residential purposes but no response has yet been received. He moved to award £1350 but subject to confirmation that the building would be solely used for their own non-commercial use. Mr M Peterson seconded this.

14.5 Shetland Anglers Association

The Chairman had received a late application from the Shetland Anglers Association and due to the urgency of it he had raised it at the meeting. They had the opportunity to purchase a number of surplus smolts from a local salmon producer, which they would release into Clickimin Loch to maintain stock levels there. They had released 15000 smolts in the past which had survived and were growing in size. This was a good area for provision of angling facilities in the middle of town for local youngsters. He felt that due to the success of the previous smolts, they should be awarded 50% of the total cost which was £200.

Mr M Peterson said he was aware that there was a tendency by anglers to leave hooks and lines around at the Sandy Loch, and would like the offer to be subject to the Shetland Anglers Association ensuring no discarded fishing gear was left lying around. Mr J Anderson moved that £200 be awarded and this was seconded by Mr R Anderson. Mr M Peterson moved that £200 be awarded but with the condition that no fishing gear be left around the loch area. He received no seconder, so £200 was awarded.

04/9/15

Planning Applications

15.1 Safeways, Lerwick - Withdrawn

Noted

15.2 Erect Horticultural Unit & Develop Plant Nursery, Staney Hill, Lerwick - Shetland Amenity Trust

Mr R Anderson asked if this meant the Amenity Trust would be moving into opposition with local producers such as the Plantiecrub by developing a nursery. Cllr J Henry replied that the nursery would be used to advise people on what types of plants would grow, landscaping, etc, and to maintain indigenous varieties of plants. There were no objections.

15.3 Reclamation and Improvement of Land for Agricultural Use, Old Staney Hill Landfill Site, Ladies Drive, Lerwick - G & M Anderson

No objections

04/9/16

Any Other Business

16.1 Vacant Posts

Ms K Fraser asked if there would be an election for the vacant posts on Lerwick Community Council. The Chairman confirmed there would be. Ms K Fraser felt there had been a lack of publicity with the last election and suggested creating a flyer or an advert for the Shetland Times. The Chairman replied that the Shetland Islands Council have procedures which they must adhere to and all nominations must be treated equally. Mr M Peterson suggested the Shetland Times do the same kind of coverage for the Community Council elections as they did for the Parliamentary elections with each candidate having a piece in the paper. The Chairman replied that they could, but they have to treat each Community Council the same. He had suggested a leaflet in the past to the Shetland Islands Council but the rules of election are very tight and it was not allowed. He would put some more thought into it, and suggested that each candidate write a letter in the "Reader's Views" section expressing his/her views.

16.2 War Memorial Wreaths

Mr R Anderson had been asked by a Lerwick resident if anything could be done to stop the wreaths at the Memorial blowing about in the wind. He suggested we provide hooks which would be angled to stop the wreaths moving, but he wasn't sure how this would work. He would try to find out more about this.

16.3 Town Hall Windows

Mr R Anderson noted that the description plaques under each window in the Town Hall were in English. It had been commented on by a tourist that perhaps a translation could be given in Norwegian and Danish. He thought this could be a project for the Lerwick Community Council. The Chairman agreed, and will write to the Chief Executive and the Convenor of Shetland Island Council.

16.4 Westerloch Footpath

The Chairman stated that the Westerloch footpath was in a poor condition and was not suitable for wheelchair users or pushchairs. He believed the Shetland Recreational Trust had been trying to source funding to repair them and provide a better surface. He would like to see this done by the spring, and suggested offering assistance in funding. Cllr W Stove, as member of the board of Shetland Recreational Trust, replied that a feasibility study had been done and perhaps when the Chairman saw the figures he may change his mind on offering to assist the funding. The Chairman stated it was a well used path, and he would write to the Shetland Recreational Trust for information on progress being made with resurfacing.

16.5 Odour at Freefield

The Chairman said he had been informed that there was a strong odour in the area outside Freefield Chemist at the junction of Burgh Road and North Road, but he was unsure of its source. He suggested Scottish Water be informed and asked to investigate the cause of this, as it was very noticeable at times. Cllr J Henry added that a possible cause could be that there were still some red brick drains in existence in this area.

16.6 Benches - Old North Road bus stop and Freefield Centre

The Chairman suggested he write to Mr M Malcomson at Shetland Islands Council Community Development regarding siting benches in the town. There used to be one next to the bus stop on the Old North Road but this had been removed following vandalism and not replaced. He also suggested one be sited outside the Freefield Centre for the comfort of elderly users of the centre awaiting transport. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL