

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

Present

Mr R Anderson	Mr T Nicolson
Cllr G Feather	Mr M Peterson
Ms K Fraser	Mr P Scarsbrook
Mr A Johnston	Cllr W Stove
Mr J McLeod	

Additional Co-Opted Member

Mr D Ristori	Mr M Shearer
Mr W Spence	

In Attendance

Reporter, Shetland Times
Miss C Duncan, Clerk

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

05/06/01

Circular

The Circular calling the meeting was held as read.

05/06/02

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Anderson, Cllr J Irvine and Ms B Wishart.

05/06/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2005 were approved on the motion of Mr R Anderson and seconded by Mr M Shearer.

05/06/04

Business Arising

14.4 Clickimin Broch Lights

Mr R Anderson queried the use of a timer switch at Clickimin Broch. The Chairman confirmed it was a photocell and he would obtain costs for the meeting in July.

14.1 Left Luggage Facility - Aberdeen Northlink Terminal

The Chairman confirmed that the Director of Northlink had indicated during a Radio Shetland interview that facilities would be in place at the terminals by

September or October of this year. He said we should an eye on the situation and await with interest the outcome.

10.4 Pensioners' Waiting Room

No further correspondence had been received to date.

05/06/06

Police Report

PS G McCarthy was unable to attend the meeting but had forwarded a copy of the police report, which was read out by the Chairman.

The figures for the month previous were:

697 incidents recorded in Lerwick

19 thefts

22 vandalisms

7 assaults

12 drug searches - Dogs Against Drugs were present during some of these

2 drink drivers

Almost 100 hours of foot patrol had been carried out.

The final preparations for the Island Games were under way and all staff in Shetland are looking forward to enjoying the friendly atmosphere that is anticipated with the influx of competitors and officials.

With the number of cruise ships arriving in Lerwick Harbour increasing, it presents officers with the opportunity to continue with their foot patrols in and around the town centre, offering reassurance to the local community as well as those tourists who venture in the town centre.

The greater number of pedestrians increases the opportunity between them and the motoring public in and around Commercial Street. Officers have been briefed regarding the pedestrianisation of Commercial Street and recently 4 motorists have been issued with Fixed Penalties for failing to comply with the prohibition on driving.

There has been no further contact from the companies who are tendering for the installation of CCTV and they are being contacted to establish if they are actually going to quote or not.

Two members of staff have been transferred out of Shetland and their replacements have already been identified. One will be in place in August with the other arriving in Shetland in October.

05/06/06

Financial Assistance: Guidelines

The Chairman referred to a letter from Mr M Peterson, which queried the eligibility of some applications for grant assistance. This item had been deferred from the May meeting as Mr Peterson had been unable to attend.

Mr Peterson noted that he had been advised by various members since the last meeting that there were actually guidelines in place for ensuring that all conditions of grant are adhered to, but he had never received a copy.

The Chairman confirmed that these guidelines did exist and that they had been agreed by all Community Councils and the Association of Shetland Community Councils some time ago.

Mr Peterson asked if members could all receive a copy as it would be useful. The Chairman agreed to arrange for copies to be sent to everyone but noted that each member should have already received a copy previously.

Mr Peterson asked if applications could be prioritised as to need, rather than the current system of first come, first served. He suggested that applications be on the agenda every 2 or 3 months instead of monthly at present.

Mr R Anderson stated he was disappointed at the tone of Mr Peterson's letter. He noted that first come, first served was a common system of grant allocation and one which worked well. He felt resentful at Mr Peterson's use of the word "specious" in his letter, which he understood to mean "superficially plausible but actually wrong".

Mr Peterson noted that this was his style of writing and his interpretation of the word.

Mr J McLeod felt that at the moment, when it neared the end of the financial year, grants were allocated according to how much money was left and not by what was actually required by the organisation applying for assistance.

The Chairman replied that each member had the right to allocate grants and to approve or oppose grants as they saw fit. The Shetland Islands Council decides the allocation of funds to Community Councils, and it is up to each Community Council to decide how they distribute these funds to the maximum benefit of the community.

He added that under a new agreement, each Community Council would now be allowed to carry forward 10% of their total grant allocation instead of the current maximum of £1000, and thought this would end the need to "get rid off" money at the end of each year.

Mr J McLeod proposed a amendment that members are prohibited from voting on grant applications for any associations they are members of.

Mr R Anderson replied that it was up to each member to declare an interest as stated in the Code of Conduct.

The Chairman agreed to copy and send out copies of the guidelines to all members, and to return to the subject at a future meeting.

Mr J McLeod volunteered to be nominated for the committee as he had a career background in housing matters.

05/06/08

Correspondence

8.1 Lerwick Pre-School Parents Group - Thanks

Noted

8.2 Shetland Island Cruisers - Thanks

Noted

8.3 Shetland Mid Summer Sevens - Thanks

Noted. The Chairman stated that he had attended the prize giving ceremony and noted that there had been a sign acknowledging the grant assistance from the Lerwick Community Council displayed in the tent. Photographs had been taken for their website.

8.4 Lerwick Port Authority - Parking Spaces, Victoria Pier

The Chairman noted that there was pressure for parking spaces on Victoria Pier and that Lerwick Port Authority worked very hard to accommodate everyone who required space.

8.5 Shetland Islands Council - Rebuilding of Bruce Hostel Wall

Noted

8.6 Lidl - New Store Proposal

The Chairman had spoken to a representative of the store during his visit to Lerwick. They were trying to find out if there was sufficient interest from the public in another store in the town, and they planned to have a public meeting in the future. The Chairman would like to know how the public felt.

Cllr W Stove added that the Structure Plan had identified a Lerwick area for another store and that Lidl had looked at sites in the past.

The Chairman agreed to invite a representative along to a future meeting to be kept informed of proceedings when they manage to identify a site.

05/06/09

Financial Report

Noted. The Chairman noted that Mr R Anderson had queried the current allocation of funds from Shetland Islands Council at an earlier meeting. He had discussed the matter with the accountants and was waiting to obtain further information, which he would bring to the next meeting.

05/06/10

Financial Assistance

10.1 Fire from the North

The Chairman agreed that more information was required on costs. It was unclear whether the delegates would be paying accommodation and travel costs or if this was part of the application.

10.2 Skeklers Theatre Company

Further information had been received from the Company clarifying a query at the last meeting. The Chairman felt that the Community Council should

approve this in some way as it was a local theatre venture, and he proposed £500. This was seconded by Mr R Anderson.

10.3 Turning Point Craft Initiative

The Chairman noted that they had received assistance of £470 in April 2004 and he felt that the Community Council support it again.

Mr J McLeod suggested that the application form be modified to include future income, so that everything is on one form and we don't have to go back to the group to obtain further details. The Chairman agreed.

Mr J McLeod proposed £1000 and this was seconded by Cllr W Stove.

10.4 Up Helly Aa Committee

The Chairman noted that the Committee have been very independent in the past and had managed to raise a lot of funding themselves in the past.

Mr A Johnston stated that this was not a booklet but was a series of albums which collated photographs from each year as a pictorial record for future generations to appreciate. They were displayed at the Galley Shed, which was open to visitors each summer.

Mr R Anderson moved to grant £1000 and this was seconded by Cllr W Stove.

Mr J McLeod moved to grant the outstanding balance of £3140.50 plus VAT and to ask for acknowledgement by the Committee in their display or album. This was seconded by Mr M Shearer.

Mr R Anderson withdrew his motion and the total grant of £3690.09 was approved.

10.5 Islesburgh Pyrotechnic Display Club

The Chairman noted that the volunteers did a tremendous job each year and that they had all obtained the relevant qualifications to carry out the display. They also carried out displays around Shetland during other times in the year. He felt that when people came forward to do work like this voluntarily they should be supported. He proposed £2000 and this was seconded by Mr P Scarsbrook.

05/06/11

Any Other Business

11.1 Sands of Sound Road

The Chairman distributed a copy of a letter received from the SIC Roads Department which stated that they will contact the landowner and arrange a survey. They will report back findings when they are available.

Mr R Anderson noted that the Community Council had previously funded the tarring of the public part of the road. He asked if this had now been adopted by the Shetland Islands Council.

The Chairman agreed to ask the Roads Department.

11.2 Quoys Development

Cllr G Feather had been approached by a resident in the Quoys area who was concerned at the amount of dust in the area. They had also noted the amount of lorries coming and going from the development, and the ongoing noise level. Cllr G Feather had spoken to the foreman who said the noisy works should be completed within the month.

The Chairman noted that the residents in the area had been very tolerant to the noise, but that this would have to continue until the work was completed. He agreed to write to the company to ask if there was anything within their powers to restrict the dust as much as possible.

11.3 Vandalism

Cllr G Feather also stated that one of the new houses built for disabled use had been vandalised, thus delaying when the occupants could move in.

The Chairman was surprised that the contractors had no CCTV on site as this would be a deterrent and found it disturbing that vandals should target disabled housing.

11.4 Neglected Garden

Cllr G Feather had also had a complaint about the state of a garden in the Sound area which, he understood, was supposed to be maintained by Social Services but had not been done for some time and was now in a state. The Chairman agreed to look into this.

11.5 Fire Brigade Thanks

Mr J McLeod passed on his thanks for a grant paid to the Fire Brigade which had assisted them to obtain oxygen equipment. This had been used during a recent fire and had saved the casualty from having to have a stay in hospital.

11.6 Gilbertson Park

The Chairman noted that signage on the Gilbertson Park Gates stating "No dogs permitted" had been vandalised a long time ago and never replaced. Also that the area inside the gates was supposed to be for the use of disabled drivers who wanted to watch sports activities in the park, but there was no signage to indicate this and non-disabled drivers were using the facility. He suggested signage or road markings to remedy this.

The area of sand on the north pathway which had been used in the past for long jump practice was no longer used for this, so the Chairman suggested the sand was removed and the area filled in using the same material as the rest of the path, as dogs were fouling the sandy area. It was agreed to write to the Community Development Department with regard to all these matters.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL