

MONDAY 13 April 2009

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

Members

Mr J Anderson
Mr W Stove
Mr D Ristori
Mrs M Robertson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr L Angus

Mr A Henry
Mr R Leith
Mr A Johnson
Ms K Fraser
Mr M Peterson
Mr E Knight

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Wills

In Attendance

PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary
Mr Jonathan Swale, Scottish Natural Heritage
Ms Robina Barton, Shetland Amenity Trust
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/04/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/04/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K Greaves, Cllr J Henry and Mr W Spence.

09/04/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2009 were approved by Mr W Stove and seconded by Mrs M Robertson.

09/04/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Proposed Viewpoint at Knab – The Chairman distributed papers showing plans and elevations for the proposed viewpoint at Knab.

He advised that following consultation with Shetland Amenity Trust the total cost of the project would be in the region of £18,000. He noted the breakdown of costs was £1,500 for each of the information boards and £15,000 for the construction.

Mr L Angus congratulated the Chairman for drawing up the plans and securing a quote for the proposal and moved Lerwick Community Council should proceed "with all means available".

Mrs A Simpson agreed that the proposed viewpoint should go ahead.

The Chairman advised he would request a written quote from Shetland Amenity Trust and contact Planning, SIC.

(Action: Chairman)

He asked the Clerk of the Council to include the proposal in the agenda for the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/04/05

Police Report

PS B Gray noted the following crime analysis March 2008/09 compared with March 2007/08.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 15 to 17, all detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 20 to 21, with 17 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 266 to 295, of which 212 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Up from 255 to 330, of which 203 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Up from 202 to 224, with 223 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 575 to 615, with 590 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 689 to 507, with 504 detections

The figures show an overall detection rate of 87.9% compared to 87.1% of the same time last year.

He advised the detection rate achieved was the highest in Britain.

The Chairman congratulated the Sergeant on improving the figure.

Mr M Peterson asked if it was possible for the figures to be provided for the Lerwick area as opposed to Shetland wide.

PS B Gray stated the figures were calculated by the Northern Contabulary Headquarters, therefore it would be necessary to calculate the breakdown himself.

He advised that the higher portion of crime could be related to the Lerwick area as crime figures generally rise with the population.

Mr M Peterson suggested that the road traffic offences were skewed towards speeding which was an offence which took mostly took place in rural areas.

PS B Gray refuted the statement advising road traffic offences were more easily detectable as the Police were generally there at the time.

He went on to advise their detection rate for crimes Class 1–5 was 75.8%. This compared to 60.2% for Orkney and 52.2% for Caithness.

The Sergeant stated they received around 2,000 calls a year and it would be difficult and time consuming to do a detailed breakdown of each call. He advised that he would try to make available an incident breakdown from 1 January to date.

Mr L Angus enquired how many of the crimes could be related to drugs or alcohol.

PS B Gray stated he could provide figures for drugs offences but, although they often had a good idea, it was almost impossible to say or prove which offences were related to drugs.

Ms M Robertson referred to the figure of 1752 total tablets seized for April to December 2008 which the Sergeant had provided in a hand out and asked what kind of tablets made up the figure.

PS B Gray replied that it was across the range but the majority tended to be valium.

The Chairman thanked the Sergeant for giving his report which concluded at 7.15pm

Geoparks & Shetland's Bid – Mr J Swale, Scottish Natural heritage & Ms Robina Barton, Shetland Amenity Trust

Mr J Swale thanked the Chairman for inviting him to the meeting to discuss Shetland's bid to become a UNESCO European Geopark.

He advised Shetland was unique in the fact that although relatively small in area it has a tremendous range of variety and age of rock, some up to 3 billion years old. All but one type of geology from the Highlands of Scotland can be found in Shetland, Old Red Sandstone, Lewisian, Moine, Dalradian and Caledonian Intrusion

He explained that Shetland, the North of Scotland and Greenland used to be part of the United States and England was "nowhere near".

Windlaying Sandstone and fossil Sandstone could be found in Exnaboe and fossil fish could be found there and several areas around Shetland. Lewisian in North Roe and Eshaness, Moine Group (1 billion years old) was laid thickly in Yell with a thinner layer in areas of Mainland, Soapstone in Cunningsburgh and Limestone in Whiteness giving the soil its fertility.

Mr J Swale explained the bulk of the geology in Orkney was Limestone and that was why it was so fertile compared to Shetland.

Eshaness boasts the best section through the flank of a volcano in the UK and Unst Mohorovicic Discontinuity, a section of mantle and oceanic crust.

Mr J Swale explained minerals were different in land and sea rocks. Land rocks tended to be acidic and were high in silicone and sea rocks were high in iron, platinum and iridium.

He advised the Funzie Conglomerate, found in Fetlar, was a good example of the power of movement as it was formed as rocks caught between two sheets of Earth's crust were stretched out.

Ms Robina Barton stated the European Geoparks Network was formed in 2000 and aimed to protect and promote geodiversity to the general public.

She explained Shetland's bid to receive Geopark status was co-ordinated by herself and driven by a working group consisting of a variety of representatives.

To become a UNESCO European Geopark Shetland has to be recognised as an area with outstanding geology that is used to promote sustainable development, mainly through tourism.

She advised Shetland's application had been well received by the European Geoparks Network and they would find out in September, this year, if the application has been successful.

She stated Shetland was famous for its biodiversity and archaeology and getting Geopark status would be a real "feather in the cap".

Geological walls created by local craftsmen on Fetlar and at Mavis Grind are the first of a series of geological exhibits planned throughout Shetland to introduce visitors and locals to the geological structures of Shetland's main islands and interpretive panels have been set up to provide more information at other key sites.

Cllr J Wills asked what could be said to a tourist in Lerwick who asked about Shetland's geology.

Mr J Swale stated they could be advised to visit the new Museum and Archives as they had an extensive geology display. He also stated an urban rock trail could be created, encouraging locals and tourists alike to take an interest in Lerwick's buildings.

Mr L Angus enquired if there would be any impact on industry and building if Shetland did receive Geopark Status.

Mr J Swale reassured Mr L Angus that there would be no impact. He stated Planning, Shetland Islands Council would be advised of any significant geology but Geopark Status just raised awareness.

He stated it was then up to people to look after Shetland's Geology and if not, Geopark Status could be lost.

The Chairman thanked Mr J Swale and Ms Robina Barton for the very enjoyable presentation.

The presentation concluded at 8.10pm.

The Chairman thanked Mr J Swale and Ms R Barton for their presentation.

09/04/07

Planning Applications

7.1 2009/63/PCD Construction of new secondary school including demolition of and minor alteration of some existing buildings, AHS, Lovers Loan, Lerwick by Shetland Islands Council.

The Chairman moved to raise an objection on the grounds that the application was against; Scottish Planning Policy 17; Planning Advice Note 75; and Shetland Structural Plan 2001-2016, Chapter 12, in that the site did not constitute as sustainable transport accessible site.

He added that if the school was built at Clickimin almost 100% of local pupils would be within the maximum threshold of 1600m for walking.

He advised it seemed strange that when almost 20% of pupils requested locker facilities it had been included in the plans, but when the same number had stated that the existing school was out with walking distance the report had ignored the issue and failed to take alternative locations into account.

Ms M Robertson asked if other Community Councils had been invited to make representations.

The Chairman advised the subject had been raised at a meeting of ASCC two days earlier and very little interest had been shown.

Ms K Fraser raised concern that any objection may delay the build of the school by several years.

Mr L Angus advised laws were now in place to prevent objections from holding up progress unduly.

Cllr J Wills seconded the Chairman's objection, with the proviso that the failure to adequately look at alternative sites was included.

The Chairman agreed.

Mr W Stove moved an amendment to approve the application.

Mr E Knight seconded the amendment.

Vote: Amendment – To support Planning Application 2009/63/PCD **2 Votes**
Motion - To object to Planning Application 2009/63/PCD **9 Votes**
(One abstention)

The vote to object to the Planning Application was carried.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/04/08

Lerwick Community Council By-election 2009 – Mr Alastair Henry elected 27 March 2009
One vacancy, which may be filled by co-option

Mr D Ristori stated he knew someone who may be interested in the vacancy.

The Chairman suggested that anyone who may wish to fill the post should be encouraged to write to Lerwick Community Council and declare their interest.

The Chairman advised that Caitlin Holmes and Lorcan Henry's year as co-opted members was now over.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms Valerie Nicolson, Headmistress, Anderson High School, and extend an invitation for a male and female 5th or 6th year student to be nominated to sit on the Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/04/09

Correspondence

9.1 Sludge Holding Facility – Mr Steve Scott, Regional Community Manager, Scottish Water

Noted

9.2 Surface Water Drainage, South Road, Lerwick – Mr Steve Scott, Regional Community Manager, Scottish Water

The Chairman asked Mr L Angus to discuss the subject during the meeting Lerwick Councillors on 14 April 2009.

(Action: Mr L Angus)

9.3 Off Street Parking Request, Cruden Housing Rebuilds – Mr Chris Medley, Head of Service, Housing & Capital Programmes, SIC

Mr L Angus advised the parking problem in Lerwick was becoming a major issue.

He stated a Traffic Management Plan was underway and would include the looking at the practice of cars parking on both sides of the street overnight causing congestion and problems for the emergency services.

He advised that although off street parking could work well, visibility splay ruled out 90% of Lerwick post war development.

The Chairman stated he hoped new developments would provide off street parking in their plans.

Noted.

9.4 Cruden Housing Rebuilds – Mr Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC

Noted.

9.5 Knab Footpath, Drainage Issue – Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC

Noted

9.6 Site of Old Archives, King Harald Street, Grant Gilfillan, Property Officer, SIC

The Chairman asked Mr L Angus to discuss the suggestion during the meeting of Lerwick Councillors on 14 April 2009.

(Action: Mr L Angus)

9.7 Pedestrianisation of Commercial Street – Mr Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked if, during the meeting on 14 April 2009, Mr L Angus could also raise the possibility of cars accessing and leaving the Church Road end of Commercial Street via Market Cross.

He also asked the subject of automatic bollards to be discussed.

Mr A Henry noted the signs on Commercial Street advising drivers of the Street's restrictions could be difficult to see and confusing.

The Chairman advised the problem had been raised before at meetings of Lerwick Community Council but nothing had been done to improve the situation.

He asked if Mr L Angus could also be raised during the meeting.

(Action: Mr L Angus)

Mr D Ristori noted the one-way sign between the TSB and Harbour House had been taken removed.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC and ask why the sign had been taken down.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.8 Parking Issues, Gilbert Bain Hospital – Mrs Betty Fullerton, Chairman, Shetland NHS Board

Mrs A Simpson suggested Mrs B Fullerton should be written to and asked if a sign could be erected at the Hospital to advise visitors and patients that they may make use of the Brevik car park.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mrs B Fullerton with the request and send a copy to Mrs S Laurenson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.9 Response to Invite, Parking Issues, Gilbert Bain – Mrs Betty Fullerton, Chairman, Shetland NHS Board

Noted

9.10 SIC, Interim Planning Policy (Draft): Towards Sustainable Construction & Better Design – Hannah Nelson, Development Plans Manager, SIC

The Chairman drew member's attention to the web address where the document could be viewed in full.

He advised that any member who did not have access to the website could contact the Clerk of the Council and request a paper copy.

9.11 CCTV coverage, Clickimin Broch – Ms Maggie Dunne, Service Manager, Environmental Health, SIC

Mr D Ristori stated he knew the owner of a house close to the Broch and suggested he could approach him and request permission for the CCTV camera to be sited on his premises.

The Chairman agreed to Mr Ristori's suggestion.

(Action: Mr D Ristori)

The Chairman advised he had met with Mr R Bremner, RB Electrical & Refrigeration who advised there was very little which could be done to make the lights more secure from vandals.

The Chairman stated he would still raise the problem with Scottish Natural Heritage.

(Action: Chairman)

9.12 Harrison Square & Commercial Street, Lerwick – Mr Laurence Smith, Chairman, Lerwick Old Town Centre Development Association

The Chairman asked Mr L Angus to take a copy of the letter with him to the meeting of Lerwick Councilors on 14 April 2009.

(Action Mr L Angus)

9.13 Da Voar Redd Up 2009 – Shetland Amenity Trust

Noted

9.14 Grant Thanks – Filsket Riding Club

Noted

9.15 Grant Thanks – Westerloch Residents Association

Noted

09/04/10

Applications for Premises Licenses

No objections

10.1 Email to confirm extension to objection deadline

Noted

09/04/11

Financial Report

Noted

11.1 Grants/Projects 2008-2009

Noted

11.2 Report-Main Annual Running Costs 2008-2009 & Projected Costs 2009-2010

Noted

11.3 Annual Grants & Projects 2008-2009 & Forecast Costs 2009-2010

Noted

09/04/12

Guidelines & Best Practice – Support of Shetland Wide Groups

Mr M Peterson raised concern that for the last ten years it appeared that Lerwick Community Council had been going against SIC guidelines by granting funds to Shetland wide organisations that were not exceptional.

The Chairman stated the only requirement Lerwick Community Council were lax in was notifying SIC that such funding had been granted.

Mr M Peterson suggested the 'Grant Application' form should be amended to advise that Shetland-wide organisations would only receive grants on an exceptional basis rather than on what percentage of members reside in Lerwick.

Mrs A Simpson enquired when the 'Guidelines & Best Practice' document had been written.

The Clerk of the Council advised it dated from 1 April 1999 but had included, in the agenda, a letter from Amanda Hughes, Finance, SIC, which confirmed the document was still valid.

Mr L Angus stated the document was well overdue for review by SIC.

The Chairman suggested the Joint Liaison Group could review the document.

Mr E Knight noted the financial support of Shetland-wide organisations was discretionary and so long as Lerwick Community Council was prepared to defend their decision it was acceptable.

Mr M Peterson moved to dis-bar Shetland-wide organisations.

There was no seconder to the proposal.

Mr W Stove pointed out that often organisations referred to themselves as 'Shetland' when they were wholly based in Lerwick.

The Chairman noted he would like to think that members could make a fair and proper judgment on each individual application and ensure they were dealt with openly.

He asked the Clerk of the council to ensure Amanda Hughes, Finance, SIC was notified whenever funding was awarded to a Shetland-wide organisation.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/04/13

Financial Assistance

13.1 Tunester – Exchange Trip to Ireland

Mr W Stove proposed £500 should be awarded to Tunester

The proposal was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

Mr M Peterson moved an amendment to refuse financial assistance on the grounds Tunester was a Shetland-wide organisation and the application was not exceptional.

There was no seconder to the amendment and the proposal to award financial assistance was carried.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.2 Sail Training Shetland

Mr L Angus advised Sail Training Shetland had been set up to ensure continuity and as a rolling fund to promote young folk, create opportunities and ensure they got placements on Tall Ships.

Mr A Johnson noted the 2011 Tall Ships' Races visit to Lerwick would do a great deal to promote the area.

Ms M Robertson proposed £1,000 should be awarded to Sail Training Shetland
The proposal was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

Mr M Peterson moved an amendment to refuse financial assistance on the grounds Sail Training Shetland was a Shetland-wide organisation and the application was not exceptional.

There was no seconder to the amendment and the proposal to award financial assistance was carried.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/04/14

Copy Report & Attachments – Safety Concerns, A970 Oversund Roundabout

Mrs K Fraser noted she was happy to read the report and hoped pedestrians would be sensible when crossing the road at the roundabout.

09/04/15

Lerwick Planning Applications – March 2009

Application 2009/85/PCD – To amend access road layout Plots 1 to 3 Sands of Sound, Lerwick. The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr R MacNeill, Planning Officer, Infrastructure Services and ask the planning process to be withheld to allow the plans to be discussed at the May meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/03/16

Any Other Business

Wind Turbines - Mrs A Simpson asked if the issues surrounding the Wind Turbines could be discussed at a meeting of Lerwick community Council.

The Chairman asked if the Clerk of the Council could invite Mr A Priest, Project Manager, Viking Energy, and a representative from Sustainable Shetland to the June meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Lochside Car Parking – Mr W Stove raised concern at the increasing amount of cars parked permanently at Lochside with sale sign on their windows. He advised that Stornoway had suffered the same problem but managed to control it by restricting cars parking to a maximum of eight hours.

The Chairman suggested this was another issue Mr L Angus could discuss during the meeting of Lerwick Councilors 14 April 2009.

(Action: Mr L Angus)

Dog Fouling – Mr M Peterson asked if the NSWS could be advised dog fouling was once again a problem on the Cunningham Way.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the NSWS and advise them of the situation.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

West Baila Signage – Mr M Peterson asked if something could be done to improve the road signs at West Baila. He commented that Shetland Islands Council had previously promised to erect signs to display the house numbers down each road but nothing had been done.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr N Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC and ask that signs incorporating the house numbers be erected.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN

LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL