

MONDAY 7 December 2009

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson
Mr W Stove
Mr D Ristori
Mr W Spence
Mrs K Greaves

Mr J Anderson
Mr A Henry
Mr A Johnson
Mr M Peterson

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Wills

Cllr J Henry

Additional Co-opted Members

Ms Caitlin Watt

Mr Jordan Thomason

In Attendance

PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary
Mr N Riddell, Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/12/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/12/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ms K Fraser, Mr E Knight, Cllr C Smith, Cllr C Miller, Mr R Leith and Cllr A Wishart.

09/12/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2009 were approved by Mr A Henry and seconded by Cllr J Wills.

09/12/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

09/11/07 – Wheelie Bins Mrs K Greaves noted her concern regarding the fact members of the public were to be charged £34.50 for a wheelie bin and stated some people may not be able to afford to have one.

Cllr J Wills advised he had made the same point at the November 2009 meeting.

The Chairman stated it would not be mandatory for members of the public to use wheelie bins and people could continue using the free bin bags if they wished.

Mrs K Greaves responded that regardless how careful some members of the public tried to be, the nets protecting bin bags could be disturbed, allowing birds to access the exposed bin bags and tear them open.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager, SIC and ask if there were to be any concessions made, for example, to people living in sheltered housing and request that he consider the possibility of installing large community bins for members of the community who live in the Lanes or in flats.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/07/05

Police Report

PS B Gray noted the following crime analysis for October 2009/2010 compared to that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Down from 12 to 10, with 8 detections
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Down from 16 to 14, with 11 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 183 to 231, of which 155 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 188 to 166, of which 61 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 134 to 104, 103 detected
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Down from 358 to 303, with 278 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 304 to 298, with 293 detections

09/11/14 Burgh Road-Montfield Lane – PS B Gray stated the area was receiving extra patrols and noted it would be beneficial if parking offences could be reported at the time.

The Chairman asked for further details with regard to class 5 to 7 in the crime analysis report.

PS B Gray replied he would write a full breakdown for distribution to Lerwick Community Council members.

Mr M Peterson asked if it was illegal to park in a disabled parking space at Tesco without displaying a disabled badge sticker on the car.

PS B Gray advised that as the car park was privately owned by Tesco it was not illegal but up to Tesco to monitor and enforce.

He went on to explain that the Police could not act on anyone parking in the disabled bay of a private car park, without holding a disabled badge, but all other traffic offences applied.

Mr D Ristori asked if mobile phone offences were on the increase.

PS B Gray advised that these offences seemed to be dropping.

Mrs K Greaves asked if the public were warned when vehicles were carrying long wide loads.

PS B Gray advised this was governed by legislation and warnings were usually given to the public.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for attending the meeting.

PS B Gray left at 7.25pm.

09/12/06

Correspondence

6.1 Grant Thanks – Mr Kenny Duncan, Treasurer, North Staney Hill Community Association

Noted

6.2 Sands of Sound, Damaged Fencing – Mr Jonathan Duncan, Coastal Engineer, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write a letter of thanks to Mr J Duncan.

Noted

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.3 Parking Issue – Mr Graham Johnson, Head of Finance, SIC

Noted

6.4 Litter Issue, Plastic Foam Cups and Trays – Ms Valerie Nicolson, Head Teacher, Anderson High School

Noted

6.5 Litter Issue, Plastic Foam Cups and Trays – Ms Val Hall, SIC Catering & Cleaning Manager, SIC

Cllr J Wills stated as Shetland Islands Council was a member of Scotland Excel it should not be too difficult to negotiate a deal to purchase an environmentally friendly alternative at an acceptable price.

Ms A Simpson advised that Janet Courtney Hostel should also be included as they used the same type of disposable cups and trays.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write back to Ms Val Hall and request to be advised of the cost comparison between the current choice and a more environmentally friendly option.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.6 Ness of Sound Walk, Crumbling Rock Face – Ms Sheila Johnson, Outdoor Access Officer, Infrastructure Services, SIC

Noted

6.7 Conservation Grant for Replacement Windows – Ms Gwenan Hughes, Planning Officer, SIC

Mrs A Simpson stated she had contacted Ms Gwenan Hughes, Planning Officer, SIC and was advised that the regulations regarding conservation grants for replacement windows were made locally.

The Chairman noted the Conservation Grant Scheme was soon to be reviewed and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms Gwenan Hughes and ask for a copy of the proposed regulations for comment.

He also asked the Clerk of the Council to request the timescale for the proposed new regulations.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.8 Gouges on Path at Clickimin – Mr James Johnston, General Manager, SRT

Noted

6.9 Gouges on Path at Clickimin – Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC

Noted

6.10 Sletts Pier Access and Mill Lane – Mr Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC

Noted

6.11 Sletts Pier Access – Mr Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr I Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC and state Lerwick Community Council would have no objection to the proposal for the contractor to occupy part of the area for storage or as a working area if the access track to the pier is repaired and reinstated as requested.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.12 Planning Application Notices – Mr Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC

The Chairman stated the Clerk to the Council had been verbally advised by Mr Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC that the cost of advertising the applications had been £10,000 per annum.

The Chairman noted that under new planning regulations it was now the responsibility of the local authority to send out neighbour notifications.

Cllr J Wills stated the new regulations would solve a great deal of the previous problems.

Mr M Peterson stated members of the public had a right to know what was going on in the community and neighbor notifications was not always sufficient. He noted that not everyone had access to the internet and stated the Shetland Islands Council website was not particularly user friendly.

Mr W Stove voiced his agreement with Mr M Peterson, particularly regarding the planning applications which could affect the wider public.

The Chairman stated planning applications like these should be advertised as standard.

Cllr J Wills advised all Councillors received a list of planning applications each week; Community Councils also received lists; details were on-line and a list went to the Library. He thought that that, along with the new regulations regarding neighbour notification, all bases were covered.

Mr Neil Riddell, Shetland Times Reporter advised they also received a copy of the planning applications each week and would report on anything contentious or of public interest.

Mr B Stove noted that if the weekly planning application list went to the Library, Councillors, Community Councils and Shetland Times, "Planning could not do much more".

The Chairman asked The Clerk of the Council to ensure the weekly planning application list was displayed in the office window.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

He asked Mr M Peterson if, after hearing the comments, he was reassured about the situation.

Mr M Peterson stated he would "see how it goes".

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC and enquire what criteria is used to decide which applications are sent to Community Councils for comment.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.13 Former Salmon Farm Site, Ness of Sound – Mr Maurice Anderson, GB & AM Anderson

Mr M Peterson stated very little progress had been made over the years and asked if there was a deadline as to when the area should be reinstated.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr I McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC and ask if planning permission to reinstate the site is still valid.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.14 Grant of Planning Permission – PL 2009/210/PCD Construction of viewpoint area with seating and information boards: Gun Emplacement by Old Knab Cemetery, Knab Road

Cllr J Wills stated the Chairman should be congratulated and noted the proposed viewpoint was both an ornament and an amenity.

The Chairman asked members to contact the Clerk of the Council with any amendments they thought should be made to the information boards.

Mr M Peterson advised he had noted a few errors which he would highlight for the Clerk of the Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mrs A Simpson asked when work would be likely to begin on the viewpoint.

The Chairman stated it would be best to wait until the spring; in the meantime he would investigate the possibility of applying for a grant and would seek a quote in addition to the one received from the Amenity Trust.

6.15 SIC Corporate Plan: Action Plan for the Maintenance, Improvement and Use of Road Network – Mr Neil Robertson, Network Engineer, Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked members to contact the Clerk of the Council detailing any roads in need of maintenance in order for her to compile a list for discussion and plotting on the maps at the January meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

6.16 Proposed Future Governance of Shetland Charitable Trust – Ms Ann Black, General Manager, Shetland Charitable Trust

Cllr J Wills stated it was his belief there was strong feeling that Trustees of Shetland Charitable Trust should be elected.

He advised that in order for Shetland Charitable Trust to be kept going in perpetuity the spending of capital funds had to be stopped and finances rebuilt.

Cllr J Wills advised there were enough people within Shetland to run the Trust and appointment selection had to be resisted. He stated "the trust does a lot of good things and we can't risk losing it".

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms Ann Black, General Manager, Shetland Charitable Trust and state it is the consensus of Lerwick Community Council that all trustees of Shetland Charitable Trust should be directly elected to the Trust.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Cllr Jim Henry and Cllr J Wills both stated as many members of the public as possible should write to Ms Ann Black to make their feelings known.

The Chairman encouraged members of Lerwick Community Council to also write to Ms Anne Black as individuals.

09/12/7

Financial Report

Noted

09/12/8

Financial Assistance

No applications received

09/12/9

Planning Applications

No applications received

09/12/10 **Lerwick Applications November 2009**

Noted

09/12/11 **Any Other Business**

Severe Mould on Garden Wall

Mr D Ristori advised that a resident at 106 King Harald Street complained his garden wall had been severely mouldy for over 10 years. Complaints to Shetland Islands Council had proved fruitless.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Chris Medley, Head of Service, Housing, SIC with the details.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Area Between Baroc and Cee & Jays

Mr D Ristori noted the area between Baroc and Cee and Jays was in need of cleaning and tidying and the gate was in a poor state of repair.

As there was confusion over who was responsible for the area the Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to both businesses and ask for the area to be tidied and cleaned and the gate repaired.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Lane Signs

Mr D Ristori advised the cleaning and replacement of the lane signs was now complete and suggested a letter of thanks should be written.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Neil Hutcheson, Roads, Shetland Islands Council and express the thanks of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Lighting – Lerwick Community Council Window

Mr D Ristori suggested a light with a timer switch should be installed in the Lerwick Community Council window to allow the minutes and other information to be read more easily.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to look into the suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Yellow Lines

Mr A Henry noted in some areas yellow lines had not been repainted following roadworks and other yellow lines were becoming worn away. He advised particular areas of concern were Commercial Street, Commercial Road and Market Cross.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC and ask for the yellow lines to be reinstated and renewed and also request an update on the pedestrianisation of Commercial Street.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Traffic Warden – Update Request

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Gordon Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC and request an update regarding the employment of a Traffic Warden.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Proposed Parking Charges at Sumburgh Airport by Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL)

Mr M Peterson voiced concern at the proposed introduction of parking charges, by Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd, at Sumburgh Airport.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to HIAL and strongly object to any proposal to implement a parking fee.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Fence Around Christmas Tree – Market Cross

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to SIC and request that something other than a galvanized steel fence is put around the Christmas tree in Market Cross.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL