

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

Present

Mr J Anderson	Ms K Fraser	Mr T Nicolson
Mr R Anderson	Cllr J Henry	Mr P Scarsbrook
Cllr L Angus	Cllr J Irvine	Mrs A Simpson
Cllr A Cluness	Mr A Johnston	Cllr W Stove
Cllr G Feather	Cllr E Knight	

Additional Co-Opted Members

Mr D Ristori	Mr W Spence
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In Attendance

Inspector M Bell, Northern Constabulary	Mr C Medley, SIC Housing
Sergeant F McBeath, Community Safety	Ms J Wylie, Community Safety
Mr J Robertson, Shetland Times	Ms H Smith
Ms J Moncrieff, Radio Shetland (arrived 7.15pm)	Miss C Duncan, Clerk to Council

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

06/02/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

06/02/02

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Peterson and Mr M Shearer.

06/02/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th January 2006 were approved by Mr R Anderson and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

06/02/04

Business Arising

Cllr E Knight asked if there had been any developments with plans to erect a plaque at the Market Green. Miss Duncan confirmed there had been nothing received to date. Mr R Anderson suggested that the information be passed to Shetland Amenity Trust to be included in their programme of interpretative panels.

Mr J Anderson referred to information sent out regarding the amount of members Lerwick Community Council were allowed to have. He noted that the letter stated co-opted members must not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ of elected representatives, which meant 4, but the next sentence stated there could be no more than 6.

The Chairman explained that the numbers changed following the last election when they were reduced to 16 from 18, and that it was agreed at that time to have 6 co-opted members.

06/02/05

Police Report

Inspector Bell reported that there had been 1157 incidents reported in Shetland since 1st January 2006, 821 of which were in Lerwick - 71% of total reported crime.

Drugs incidents	24	Breaches of the Peace	53
Assaults	12	Thefts	11
Drink Drivers	21	Drug Drivers	4
Under Age Drinkers	9	Dogs Against Drugs used	36

He reported that Shetland had the second lowest crime rate, after Orkney, in the Northern Constabulary area. There had been a 2.2% increase but this was in line with the rest of the force and a slower rate than many other areas. They had a 70.7% clear up rate, which was the second highest in the force. There had been an increase in all categories of crime except crimes against the person.

Ms K Fraser asked if Inspector Bell thought the smoking ban would have much effect on the police's workload when it came into effect, especially in the pubs.

Inspector Bell replied that it would not be up to them to police the smoking ban and he believed that SIC Environment Department would have special staff on duty to ensure the ban was being adhered to. He didn't think it would impact on their workload, unless they were called in by a licensee to deal with any incident.

The Chairman stated he was happy with the figures and pleased to note there had been no great change. He was very encouraged to see that the Dogs Against Drugs were being used frequently and with success. He noted though that they relied on the support of the community to continue their work and he hoped that the Executive would recognise that it needed more external funding if it was to survive. It was evident it was a tremendous tool for the police to have.

He acknowledged that Chief Inspector Cowie was soon to leave Shetland to take up a new post on the mainland, which was a promotion for Chief Inspector Cowie. He would write and thank the Chief Inspector for all the effort he had made with the community during his time in Shetland and he wished him well. He noted that he had been a very popular figure and was always ready to communicate with the community. He would be sad to see him go.

Cllr G Feather expressed his disappointment over recent press reports about local taxi drivers which he felt were untrue and inaccurate.

Inspector Bell replied that they were not the decision-making authority in the process of granting taxi drivers licences. They made reports and passed them to the appropriate body.

The Chairman agreed that the report painted an untrue picture to the public and he hoped there would be an apology in the press in the near future.

06/02/06

Future Provision of Housing, North Lerwick - Mr C Medley, SIC Housing

The Chairman welcomed Mr Medley to the meeting, following the recent public meeting at Staney Hill which had been well attended and the ideas supported by local residents.

Mr Medley stated that for several months, the housing department had been working on plans to redevelop Hoofields. The chalets were coming to the end of their useful lives and needed work done to either extend their life or to replace them. He felt this was a good opportunity to replace them with new units.

The Chief Executive had recently asked the department to give proposals to the Executive Committee of ways to increase housing at the site and across Shetland. They had started by speaking to residents in North Lerwick, which was the most obvious area to begin with. Following the recent decision on a planning application at Nederdale, he was conscious of the need on one hand to develop housing, but on the other hand the community were concerned that they shouldn't fill in all Lerwick's green areas.

There were also a lot of legal changes coming in which will lead to a greater demand on housing in the future.

At the 1st of January this year there were a total of 856 applications for housing on the waiting list, which 600 of those for Lerwick. There was a prospect of Hjaltland Housing Association receiving funding to develop 300 houses in the next 5-6 years across Shetland, but this was never enough. Shetland Islands Council needed to spend money now. He pointed out that 600 people didn't necessarily mean 600 new houses were required. A number of these would include people looking for exchanges to larger or smaller houses, for example.

There were 2 sites immediately available for building on - the field at the top of Staney Hill, although this was technically a difficult site to develop. The other was to consider more units on the Hoofields Site and to extend onto the site to the north of Hoofields. He was at the meeting to get the views of members and proposals to pass to Shetland Islands Council.

Cllr Cluness noted most Lerwick councillors were aware of the demand for housing, and it had been decided to look at the potential of Hoofields. In recent times, the government had insisted that local authorities build more houses for housing associations. Attempts had been made in the past by Shetland Homes but it had been clear that tenants were happy where they were.

The real impact to Lerwick's housing came through the Labour Party councillors of the post World War 2 years. He felt they must be turning in their graves at the current situation. The majority of Scottish housing was now with housing associations, but the housing service here was run very well.

There was now finance available through SIC and SLAP to allow the building of new units, but they had to find land to be able to match what Hjaltland were currently doing. He acknowledged that the housing department deal, on a daily basis, with difficult situations.

He noted that Mr Medley had been asked to come up with proposals and that the Services Committee would commit in principle to meeting the demand. They would still press central government to release SIC from its housing debt.

He stated that they could have had more new housing if they didn't have to pay the interest on the debt. He hoped that building would start shortly and he felt this was the right way forward.

Cllr J Irvine stated that he entirely agreed with everything that had been said and noted that government legislation has prevented a meaningful housing programme by SIC. He felt that Hjaltland were well-meaning but were slow to provide. Other areas had been developed in Shetland before Lerwick.

Cllr L Angus said he was enthusiastic about this approach. He felt they should use their own resources to house their own people. He noted that people would still like to build their own properties when they could afford it, and that there was opposition to people on the housing list from building their own.

He felt there was a need to look at areas around Lerwick to build new housing on, including Bressay which would open up when the fixed link was in place. He thought there was a need to review areas such as Staney Hill. When the area was built on in the 1970s the plan had been to extend southwards on the hill, but the idea had been scrapped due to the land owners. It was not good agricultural land and was intended for housing.

He noted the zoning policy must not be allowed to get in the way of this. It was an ideal opportunity to see that land for housing was made available, as the housing situation was worse than it was in the post-war era.

Mr P Scarsbrook had a twofold question - If the building company was owned by SIC would they be eligible for building grants? And at Hoofields - would they do away with the existing chalets and replace with more substantial units or would it be more chalets?

Mr Medley confirmed that there were no grants available for SIC to build. There was money from Scottish Executive for housing authorities but not SIC. Building must be under SIC's own steam. At Hoofields, they planned to build "proper" houses, not chalets. These would be permanent conventional general needs houses to anyone on the waiting list.

Mr R Anderson felt that the proposal for housing was on the "wrong" side of Staney Hill, as it was a poor area aesthetically. He noted that the Ness of Sound had been bought by SIC to provide housing but they didn't do it, despite having paid an enormous amount of money for the land.

He thought the number of people on the waiting list for accommodation was quite appalling. He noted it was not so long since Hoofields had been built and he suspected it had cost a considerable amount of money. He was worried that the people who lived at Hoofields would be added to the 600 on the waiting list if their chalets were to be removed. He thought it would be best to build new houses on the site next to Hoofields then move the current residents into these houses before redeveloping the chalet site.

Mr Medley noted that he did not know the original cost of the chalets but they were all due extensive refurbishment. This could be done and their life extended but this was not ideal. It was better to re-invest in real houses which would last approximately 60 years.

They would need to think carefully what should be done with the existing tenants at Hoofields. The proposals set out would happen over a period of years. He would like to build a few properties and empty Hoofields in stages by people out in phases. They could then go beyond the Hoofields site if necessary.

Mr R Anderson asked if Hoofields tenants would be housed first in the new houses?

Mr Medley replied that maybe they would be rehoused in the new properties, but possibly they could be moved to other empty properties in the town which were larger, for example, if it was a family waiting to be rehoused. They had to allocate properties to the families who wanted them. He explained that they would be able to build 4-5 units in the large car park behind Ladies Drive, and they would also redevelop the first floor of Ladies Drive into 2 flats.

Cllr A Cluness noted there would be a review of all space in Lerwick. They would need to locate other areas, which may be a better way forward. The Ness of Sound had problems with access, which had been a reason for not building there. Also there had been problems in getting permission to build on the south Staney Hill as Historic Scotland had concerns at how the Clickimin Broch would look with a backdrop of houses.

Cllr J Irvine noted that the Ness of Sound had included plans for a new road as part of the development plan and there had been serious objections by the public not to build there. It was a whole new ball game now and it was time to use some of the money to build. He assured everyone that if money was made available for building then the Infrastructure Committee will soon build a road to Ness of Sound and redevelop the area.

Cllr W Stove felt that SIC had to do something about the current housing crisis and suggested using Cunningham Way. There was not much in the way of scenery but they could build a bypass from the north road to the south road. Everyone wants to build in Lerwick. He noted that the legislation changes proposed for 2012 could mean that anyone in the EU could apply for housing in Lerwick. He wouldn't like to see houses being built and then filled with "outsiders". He felt it was important to build before 2012 and allocate them to locals on the waiting list.

Mr Medley confirmed that the Housing Scotland Act had changed the categories of people classed as homeless. Further changes to legislation due to take place in 2012 could mean they ended up with an obligation to house anyone over the age of 16 from anywhere in the EU. Also it would take away the opportunity for local authorities to refer people back to where they came from.

The Chairman asked if there was any way of means testing people applying from outside the local authority area.

Mr Medley replied that they had a statutory responsibility to house anyone who appears at Fort Road claiming to be homeless. He felt that more people would fall under that umbrella in the future. If his department could prove an applicant was not homeless, they did not have to house them. He pointed out that anyone could sell their house and make themselves homeless though.

Cllr L Angus noted that if SLAP were chosen to build the houses, it wouldn't be local authority housing, and it would put further pressure on SIC and Hjaltland stock.

The Chairman noted that if the legislation was approved for 2012, it would mean that anyone could sell their house anywhere in the EU and return to Shetland, thus putting tremendous strain on SIC to be able to house locals and young people.

Mr J Anderson asked if there would be enough space in Lerwick schools to accommodate the children of the 600 applicants if more housing was built.

Mr C Medley replied that they would not be building 600 houses and were talking about a lot less. Most of those applicants were already resident in Lerwick or nearby anyway. Some schools have reported falling rolls in recent years so shouldn't impact too much on the schools.

The Chairman said he welcomed the SIC's initiative to use their own money to alleviate the housing crisis, which he thought would only get worse in the future. House valuations were increasing all the time, meaning many young people could not get on the housing ladder. He felt that everything that could be done by the SIC should be done, and every possible area in and around Lerwick should be considered. He said he had been very disappointed that pockets of land in Sound had not been used recently. He supported the plans for the Hoofields site to get good quality housing.

Mr R Anderson felt there could be large areas of housing on the "wrong" side of the Staney Hill but it was poor ground with no view. He thought it would cost a lot to develop and the area to the back of Burgess Street would be a better option.

Ms K Fraser noted that, as a resident of Hoofields, she was pleased to see the plans for the site and thought they were bold and forward-looking. She would like to reassure Mr R Anderson that Hoofields was in fact a very nice place to live, for most tenants. She thought that housing should be kept to the back of the hill and didn't like the thought of a bypass over Cunningham Way. She would prefer to see traffic in the area being reduced, not increased.

The Chairman noted that most people were in favour of the SIC initiative. There were some reservations regarding the Hoofields site but in general people were in favour. He felt it was time for the SIC to address the serious housing problem which would worsen. He congratulated the SIC for taking the ideas forward.

06/03/07

Update on CCTV for Lerwick Town Centre

Sergeant F McBeath of Shetland Community Safety Partnership told members that the need for CCTV had stemmed from a workshop held in the Town Hall years ago following a number of serious incidents in the town centre area.

Himself and Ms J Wylie had been tasked to look at a CCTV feasibility study and they had come up with the proposal to run cameras from Charlotte House on Commercial Road along Commercial Street and the Esplanade to Church Road. It was not feasible to cover the lanes off the street but they would cover the main thoroughfare of Commercial Street and will give good coverage.

They hoped the cameras would reduce crime and reduce the fear of crime to people living in the area. They looked at 14 cameras for the area. One option was a fibre optic system wired to a control room but this had been discarded as it would mean digging up Commercial Street and so had looked at other options.

They then looked at a wireless microwave system, which had a lot of advantages. It can be expanded as necessary as additional cameras can be added if required. Costs had been high but had come down recently. They had approached 6 different providers recommended by other local authorities for guideline costing based on the recommendations from the Northern Constabulary expert. Three companies had returned estimates which ranged from £200,000 downwards, with the wireless system being more affordable than the hard wired system.

Power could be supplied from the street lighting system, and the control room could be housed in the Lerwick Police Station. This had the advantages of being staffed 24 hours per day with direct access to officers with local knowledge. The staff had already been checked through Disclosure Scotland. They would use a mixture of paid staff, special constables and trained volunteers to operate it.

Cllr L Angus felt that, whether or not it made a difference to the town centre would remain to be seen, but he felt they should go ahead with it. He noted that a mobile unit used on the mainland was not very efficient. He felt that everyone was concerned about serious incidents when they occurred and thought that, if cameras could make a difference, they should welcome them.

Cllr J Irvine noted that details were yet to be worked out but thought it would work. He felt that the cameras were an infringement of civil liberties but they should probably be introduced.

Cllr W Stove was in favour of CCTV but he had a concern about its ability to be used in court, as it would have to be in the same format, i.e. VHS or DVD. He was pleased to see the report, which had been a long time coming.

PS McBeath confirmed that images required would be downloaded to CD to be used in court cases.

Cllr J Henry asked what experience other police forces had with crime moving away from CCTV areas?

PS McBeath noted that relocation of crime does happen but they were fortunate that it couldn't be moved too far. The town centre was used by the public with

people congregating there at different times, and CCTV would provide reassurance to them. He admitted it would not stop crime completely but would aid detection and reduce the risk of serious offences being committed. CCTV would assist in identifying culprits and witnesses.

Mr R Anderson said he was absolutely delighted that the report was here at last and was particularly pleased that it was more affordable than had been expected.

The Chairman agreed and noted it had been a struggle to get this far with it. He felt it was a requirement to keep down on crime. He had one concern that residents in the area would have cameras pointed at their doors and they would lose their privacy. He felt it was important they were consulted at every step of the process and were not intimidated by the presence of cameras. There had to be a balance, although he recognised most people would welcome it.

PS McBeath agreed that they would run through the systems with anyone it may impact and agreed that the residents in the area were entitled to their privacy. He said they were considering an "open day" where residents, media and members of the public could come along and see how the system operated.

Ms K Fraser felt it was important to be realistic about what was expected from the system. A lot of money would be spent on it and studies have shown a lot of variances. She thought it would be great to reduce crime but the best they could hope for was a small reduction in a small area of the town. She thought it could be a lot of outlay for a small result.

PS McBeath noted that there was not a huge crime rate in Lerwick so the percentage reduction wouldn't be huge.

The Chairman thanked them for the update and said he looked forward to the progression of the scheme. Inspected M Bell, PS F McBeath, Ms J Wylie, Mr C Medley, Ms H Smith and Cllr J Irvine left the meeting at 8.25pm.

06/02/08

Correspondence

8.1 m2 - Redundant Aquaculture Equipment - Feasibility Study

Cllr L Angus noted that the Ness of Sound area was a big problem and had been that way for many years. Mr R Anderson noted that there had been a number of cages with floats up the Staney Hill near the quarry.

The Chairman agreed to inform m2 of these sites and urged members to let them know of any other eyesores.

8.2 Shetland Amenity Trust - ISLA Funded Interpretive Panels

The Chairman said they had already discussed a panel for Harbour Street car park and Mr R Anderson suggested the former gun battery at Ness of Sound. The Chairman confirmed that various panels would be erected when the footpaths were completed.

Mr R Anderson noted that the Market Green sign had been suggested at a previous meeting and asked for the minutes of the meeting approximately 3 years ago to be copied to members.

8.3 SIC - Future Use of St Clement's Hall - Informal Consultation

The Chairman said that the preferred option of the members, as discussed at the last meeting, had been housing, or for Islesburgh to use as a hi-energy space.

Cllr L Angus said he had no idea that it had been suggested to convert it to Council Chambers even though it is in his ward. He felt it was important to generate as little traffic as possible in an already busy area. He was concerned that attracting more people attending council meetings would attract more traffic. He noted he would be making his views known to SIC.

Cllr A Cluness said he did not know who had made the suggestion, but noted that people did not know what to do with the building. If it was converted to accommodation that would be the end of it as a public building. He felt, as it was in a special part of the town, it needed to be restored in some way for the long term. He thought it could be a temporary situation as councillors complain about the quality of the current chambers, although he observed it was not much larger.

Mrs A Simpson said she had supported housing as Hjaltland had expressed an interest in it and had funding available to do the project. She thought that it could be used as a concert hall if there was money available.

Ms K Fraser noted that she had thought it was an early April Fool's joke when she saw it and couldn't think of anything that would impress the public less. She agreed it should be used for housing.

Cllr W Stove noted it was not a done deal and he would like it to be a nursery.

Cllr L Angus noted that Shetland Islands Council had the worst council chamber in the whole of Scotland and that there was no room for the public to attend meetings, which he felt was important.

Mr R Anderson noted that if the council chamber was too small for planned meetings, in the past meetings had been moved upstairs to the main hall. Cllr L Angus said that no-one could hear what was being said up there.

The Chairman noted that the preferred options of LCC was first housing and second leisure. He felt it was very important that the traffic situation was given priority when making a decision. Cllr A Cluness left at 8.40pm.

8.4 SIC - Neighbourhood Support Workers' Year Report

The Chairman noted he would like to take the opportunity to write to the Housing Department as a resident of the North Road regarding the amount of dog mess in the area. He would like to see it cleared up and to have it patrolled more regularly by the NSWs as it was a health hazard.

Mr R Anderson noted that until a prosecution occurred this would not change.

Cllr L Angus stated that this was one area of public nuisance the NSWs had wanted to address when they began. He said that irresponsible dog owners were a disgrace, and it was the minority who allowed their pets to foul on the streets.

The Chairman noted that 5 tons of dog waste had been collected from the dog waste bins, but some people still insisted on allowing their dogs to mess the street. He felt the press could play their part in educating the public, and that it may prick the conscience of the guilty dog owners.

8.5 SIC - Planning Training - Workshop

The Chairman said there should be opportunities for community councillors to have planning training and he urged all those available to register their interest with the Clerk as soon as possible.

8.6 SIC - Pavement at Clydesdale Bank, Lerwick

The Chairman felt that the letter did not make sense and as it was a potential slip area something should be done.

Mrs A Simpson confirmed that someone had already fallen in the area. It was very steep and all that was being asked for was a handrail. She felt that the suggestion of walking among cars was not suitable.

Cllr L Angus said that there had been a handrail on the bank in the past.

Mr R Anderson said that there was currently nothing there except two tube handrails at the entrance to the bank. It was extremely steep at the back and asked that they write back for an explanation of "clutter".

8.7 SIC - Remedial Works, Sletts, Lerwick

Cllr L Angus noted that this had been raised recently by Lerwick councillors. The rock armour needs to be replaced and is unsightly. The armour acts as a "net" for all types of debris washed ashore. The proposal is quite a Civil Engineering task as 60m is quite an extension. They are now looking at it again.

Mr R Anderson felt the drawings were not to scale. He agreed with Cllr Angus that the rock armour was like a net, but he wasn't sure what else could be done. Whatever was in place needs to absorb the impact of heavy waves. A concrete wall was no use. He would prefer to see local sandstone being used.

The Chairman noted that rock armour was more natural than a wall of concrete, so he favoured this option. He felt it should look as natural as possible.

8.8 SIC - Shetland Core Path Plan

The Chairman noted that Mr V Hawthorne of SIC Infrastructure had been invited to attend the meeting but had been unable to attend. He had indicated that outside funding could be available for the Staney Hill Road and Cunningham Way. He would be invited back to discuss what was required to make the route passable and what stage Ness of Sound was at.

The Chairman asked members to suggest which areas could be looked at. While he would like to see a complete route right around Lerwick, one area which could not be accessed is at the rear of the Widows' Homes.

Cllr J Henry noted that these were not fancy paths which were planned, but just access routes so the public can get around.

The Chairman added that directions and some signposting was required.

06/02/09

Traffic

9.1 SIC (Voderview) (Parking Space for Disabled Users' Vehicle)

Noted

9.2 SIC (Oversund Road, etc, Sound) (20mph Zone) and Traffic Calming

Cllr G Feather noted that there had been a lot of opposition to this at the last meeting of the Sound Association and a letter had been sent on their behalf.

Cllr J Henry noted that the Association would like to see a flashing light system when the school opened/closed in place. A letter had been submitted to that effect but he feared the order had already taken effect.

The Chairman stated that the order could be halted at any stage until the cushions were in place. There seemed to be concern from residents in the area and he asked if they preferred the flashing lights.

Mr W Spence confirmed that they supported the flashing lights system. It was currently working in other areas and residents did not see a need for speed humps. Mr R Anderson asked if there had indeed been "extensive public consultation".

Cllr W Stove stated that there had been questionnaires distributed and a public meeting had been held. He was not sure if people completely understood what was planned and confirmed that it would be cushions at the bottom of the road.

The Chairman said his personal view was that the people most affected should be listened to. Lights should go in if this was the preferred option. If safety issues arose, then the plans should be revisited with cushions and bumps. 20mph was not unreasonable in housing areas.

Cllr W Stove noted that the police were not in favour of static lights as people got used to them being there. Lights would be used on the A970 3 times a day, and this was the best they could do on a main road.

06/02/10

Financial Report

Noted. The Chairman noted that the available balance, after deducting costs (wages, expected bills, etc) would be approximately £6700.

06/02/11

Financial Assistance

The Chairman noted that, due to the number of applications and the lack of funding left, some of the applications may have to be carried over to the next financial year.

11.1 Anderson High School Additional Support Needs Department

Mr R Anderson noted they referred to a balance of £2600 and moved to grant this amount. He was seconded by Mr W Spence.

Ms K Fraser felt this was a worth cause but she was inclined to give less. She moved £1000, noting that the children were from all over Shetland, not just from Lerwick.

The Chairman suggested they write to other community councils to for assistance. Mr J Anderson noted that an additional co-opted member cannot move or propose, so Mr W Spence could not second Mr R Anderson's proposal.

Mr Spence apologised, and also noted that he should express an interest as a he is a member of the school board.

Mr J Anderson moved to grant £1600 and this was seconded by Mr R Anderson.

Vote: Ms K Fraser - £1000	4 votes
Mr J Anderson - £1600	4 votes

The Chairman had the casting vote and so £1600 was granted.

11.2 Junior Up Helly Aa Committee

The Chairman felt this project should be supported. As time passes and things get more expensive, it was more difficult for youngsters to take part due to costs. Some families were at risk of being excluded and he felt this was a great pity. He also felt that it was very constructive to keep youngsters interested, and the provision of more equipment would help.

Mr J Anderson proposed £1000 and was seconded by Cllr E Knight.

Mr R Anderson proposed £1500 and was seconded by Mr A Johnston.

Vote: Mr R Anderson - £1500	5 votes
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Mr J Anderson - £1000 2 votes £1500 granted.

11.3 Lerwick Boating Club - Junior Section

The Chairman stated he would like to distance himself from this application as he was a member of the boating club and ex-commodore. He passed to chair to Mr P Scarsbrook, Vice Chairman.

The Vice Chairman noted that it was very important to keep youngsters involved.

Cllr E Knight noted that he was also a member of the Boating Club and so he wouldn't vote due to his interest. He noted that the Junior Club put in a lot to Lerwick society, training youngsters. The boats were coming to the end of their lives and new ones were now required. The club was oversubscribed each year for training, which was done voluntarily by senior members.

Mr A Johnston stated that he was an instructor so he wouldn't vote either.

Mr R Anderson noted that they were being trained 4 nights a week and this showed great dedication by the instructors to give up their free time. He felt it was highly commendable and he moved to grant £2700 to the traditional sport. This was seconded by Cllr W Stove and the grant was approved.

The Vice Chairman passed the meeting back to the Chairman, who thanked him for taking over.

11.4 Shetland Anglers' Association

The Chairman noted that this project was an ambitious plan but would be a very good project. It was very important to encourage youngsters into the sport.

Cllr E Knight declared an interest as he was on the hatching association and Cllr W Stove also declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Mr R Anderson proposed to grant £3500 from next year's financial allocation and this was seconded by the Chairman.

11.5 Shetland Link Up

The Chairman noted that the members should put the remaining applications in order of priority so that those needing assistance in the near future could benefit, and the others carried over to the next financial year. This group were planning their trip for May so they should be allocated from this year's funds if possible.

The Chairman moved to grant £730 from this budget, seconded by Cllr E Knight.

11.6 Sound Nursery

The Chairman felt this was a worthwhile project and should be encouraged.

Mrs A Simpson moved to grant £2000 from next year's allocation and this was seconded by Mr R Anderson.

06/02/12

Planning Applications

12.1 Erect Hatchery - adjacent to Sandy Loch Drive No objections

12.2 Change of Use - Judane Shetland Ltd No objections

12.3 Change of Use - 36 Market Street No objections

06/02/13

Any Other Business

13.1 Fort Charlotte

Mr D Ristori noted that there was a lot of dog mess in Fort Charlotte. As a Shetland landmark, he felt this should be addressed and cleaned up. He also noted that he had witnessed youngsters running and climbing on the exterior wall and he was very concerned regarding their safety.

It was agreed to write to the Community Wardens to ask them to patrol this area and also to ask the police to be aware. It was agreed to find out if Historic Scotland had responsibility for what happened within the Fort in the evenings.

13.2 Breiwick Road Bonfire Site

Mr R Anderson noted that various contractors had been using the area as an unofficial tip for materials, plant, etc. They had destroyed the grass at each side and Shetland Islands Council had put in a stone infill on top of the grass. He requested that they write to Shetland Islands Council to ask that the grass be properly re-instated when the work is completed in the area.

13.3 Headstones

The Chairman asked that they write to Mr J Grant, SIC Infrastructure Services, to ask when headstones blown over last winter would be re-erected. He understood this was supposed to have been done in January but it had not happened. It was now over a year since they had been blown over.

13.4 Letter Boxes - Old North Road and Market Street

The Chairman noted that these letter boxes were not in service due to vandalism.

Mr P Scarsbrook confirmed that they were due to be repaired in March. If it was found that the box inset in the wall on North Road was unable to be repaired, a new stand alone box would be erected next to the bus stop. He confirmed that neither will be removed and should be back in service very soon.

13.5 Gilbertson Park Signage

The Chairman noted that there used to be signage in the Gilbertson Park stating that no dogs were allowed. He asked that they write to SIC Community Development to get the sign reinstated.

Mr P Scarsbrook noted that they should be on both sets of gates at the Burgh Road and the Gilbertson Park entrances.

Mr R Anderson noted that there were also signs within the park and these needed to be reinstated.

Ms K Fraser stated she was unhappy at banning dogs from a public area. She would rather see signs stating dogs should be kept on their leads.

Mr R Anderson stated that it was illegal to have dogs in public play areas and to let a dog defecate in a public area.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN, LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL