

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Mr R Anderson
Cllr L Angus
Mr D Ristori
Mrs K Greaves
Ms K Fraser

Mr A Johnston
Cllr E Knight
Mr R Leith
Mr W Spence
Mrs A Simpson
Cllr J Henry

In Attendance

PS G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary (arrived 7.10pm)
Mark Latham, Shetland Times Reporter
Wendy Fraser, LCCT
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

07/02/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/02/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr W Stove, Ms M Robertson and. Cllr G Feather.

07/02/03

Minutes

Cllr L Angus asked that the minute be amended, under *Town Hall Booklet*. He stated that he was not involved with the Town Hall Booklet, it was the Town Hall Management Committee with LCC paying the costs.

Mrs A Simpson stated a draft copy would be available at the end of March for the LCC to see.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 January 2007 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr R Anderson.

07/02/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr J Anderson stated that the LCC would have to commission their own website as the Shetland Islands Council were not in a position to assist.

07/02/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy provided the following figures and compared them those at the same stage last year.

Crimes against the person were up to 31 from 13 last year.

Indecency - 37 last year, down to 16 this year

Dishonesty - 241 last year, down to 227 this year

Vandalisms - 270 last year, up to 285 this year

Traffic Offences - 739 last year, down to 555 this year

Miscellaneous, inc. drug offences - 134 last year, up to 179 this year

PC McCarthy stated that there had been a 6% decrease in crime with an 87-88% detection rate. Crime rate coming down and more detection. He noted the Alcohol Bye-law comes into force from 2nd March, the first month more of an education phase about the bye-law and what it means and the second month would be the enforcement phase. He stated that reports would go to Fiscal until Fixed Penalties could be applied.

There had been complaints about motorists using the road over the Staney Hill. A motorist was convicted and disqualified for not having the correct paperwork. He stated that the Staney Hill Road was covered by the same legislation as other roads, no restrictions on vehicles using the road but drivers should be licenced and car have MOT, insurance, etc. Mr A Johnson noted he had seen a permanently open barrier at the end of the road and asked if it was to be closed off. PC McCarthy stated he was unaware of any plans to close the road. Cllr L Angus asked if the public had access to the road and PC G McCarthy confirmed that they did stating that the public have right of passage and the road comes under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mrs K Fraser stated that since the gate had been left open more and more traffic had been using the road and it was not designed to be a busy road and suggested the landowner be written to in order to ask his views and to restrict access. Mr R Anderson noted that any gate which can be opened and closed will inevitably be left open.

Mrs K Greaves asked who tarmaced the road and Cllr E Knight replied that it was the LCC. The Chairman stated that the Planning Department should be written to in order to find out who owned the road and find out who erected the barrier. Mr R Anderson stated that he thought the barrier and gate was put up by the Recreational Trust. PC G McCarthy stated the road over the Staney Hill had a public right of access and that information was received from the Roads and Transport department and would copy the letter from Colin Gair. The Chairman stated he would speak to Colin Gair in order to get clarification on who erected the barrier.

PC G McCarthy noted that the Dunrossness Community Council had brought up the issue of vehicles using Commercial Street during the hours of non access and asked for LCC's views. The Chairman stated that Commercial Street should be pedestrians only and this was seconded by Mr

D Ristori. Mrs K Greaves stated that drivers should be fined if found on Commercial Street during times of exclusion. Cllr L Angus agreed and noted that this was something the Police should enforce. PC G McCarthy stated a fixed penalty of £30 could be applied and if the LCC was in favour the Police would look at enforcing this more vigorously.

The Chairman thanked PC G McCarthy for attending. PC G McCarthy left at 7.30pm

07/02/06

By-Election - 16 January 2007

The Chairman stated that Mr K Greaves and Mr D Ristori had filled two of the three vacant LCC posts. Mr A Goudie's application arrived 5mins after nominations had closed but he still wished to be co-opted. The motion was agreed by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mrs K Greaves. The Chairman requested that the Clerk of the Council write to Mr A Goudie to inform him he would be taken back on as a co-opted member of the LCC.

07/02/07

Correspondence

7.1 NHS Shetland Hospital Capital Plan

Cllr Angus noted that the NHS wanted to move patients from Montfield to GBH to located patients where clinical services are situated. The Roads and Transport Department had reluctantly agreed to car parking plans but would object strongly to further traffic based developments. Cllr L Angus stated that he could not see how this could be done as 40 more beds would be moved to GBH creating additional traffic congestion. He stated that local people were fed up having their driveways blocked and the problem was increasing. Cllr L Angus stated that it would be preferable for a new hospital to be built on another site but sympathised with the GBH because they have no alternative at the moment.

Mrs A Simpson asked if they could not just leave Montfield as it was and upgrade that service. She noted that work had already started while still speaking about consulting over the move. The Chairman suggested that Michael Johnson could be invited back again to further discuss their plans. Cllr L Angus suggested Roads and Transport should be contacted and asked to comment on their views and then contact NHS Shetland to discuss further.

Ms K Fraser noted that some plans had been made to reduce traffic on site for example, moving the Laundry, so there may not be that many more cars. She felt they should be commended for doing the best with what they had although it was not ideal.

Mrs A Simpson asked what were the clinical reasons for not upgrading Montfield and could portable x-ray machines etc, not be used.

Cllr L Angus stated that the fundamental reason for the move was all about money and it was NHS Scotland driving NHS Shetland trying to squeeze more and more out of them. Mrs A Simpson agreed with this statement. Mr R Anderson noted that he agreed with most of the comments and stated

that the LCC should make it clear that they disagree strongly with the concentration of hospital service on that site. The Chairman proposed the sending of a letter to that effect and this was seconded by Mr W Spence.

7.2 SIC - Access Development and Visitor Management

Noted

7.3 Knab Dyke

Mr R Anderson noted his interest in learning the budget and time scale for the project. The Chairman stated the drainage by the path was very poor leaving standing and running water on the path which was very dangerous when frozen over. Cllr L Angus stated that the situation was very unsatisfactory and subsidence was a real problem. He felt that the LCC were entitled to full financial information and needed to know what the plans are.

The Chairman noted that the idea was to eventually rebuild the whole wall and a viewpoint at the 'Horse's Head' could also be suggested. Cllr J Henry suggested someone come along to discuss the problem of the dyke and also the suggestion of a viewpoint. The Chairman suggested a letter be written to Magnus Malcolmson and invite him to make a presentation.

7.4 Viking Energy

Meeting to be attended by Mrs K Greaves, Mr R Anderson and Mr W Spence. The Chairman requested the Clerk of the Council write to Viking Energy and put forward their names.

07/02/08

Financial Report

Cllr Angus asked if the £5,000 needed for the Town Hall Booklet could be retained from this years LCC budget as the delay in its production was not the fault of the LCC. The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to contact the SIC Finance Department to see if this was possible.

07/02/08

Financial Assistance

9.1 Shetland Amenity Trust - Grant Application

Cllr J Henry declared an interest. Mr R Anderson stated part of the application was incorrect as the setts were not from the Esplanade but the ones the council brought up from Aberdeen during the 70's. He was however anxious to see the project supported and moved to approve a grant of £6,000, this was seconded by Cllr E Knight.

07/02/08

Planning Application

10.1 Erect Dwellinghouse, Lower Sound, Kantersted Road

No Objections

10.2 Erect Dwellinghouse, Plot 2, Quoys

No Objections

10.1 Erect 10 Retirement Homes, 15 South Road, Lerwick

Mr R Anderson expressed concern about the road access. Mrs K Greaves stated that she felt the area would be overdeveloped and it was not a good idea. Ms K Fraser stated she was happy with the proposal as there was a need for high density housing in Lerwick. Mrs A Simpson noted that retired people may wish to move from their larger homes to smaller ones thus freeing up the larger houses for other people. This was seconded by Mr D Ristori. Mrs K Greaves proposed that the plans should be looked at with a view to less houses, no one seconded this proposal.

No Objections.

10.4 Change of Use, Chris Hodge Direct

No Objections

07/02/11

Any Other Business

The Chairman noted that the computer at Stouts Court needed renewed. The cost would be approx. £1,500 if purchased locally and £1,000 if purchased outwith Shetland. Mr R Anderson stated he was happy with funds being allocated for a new computer. Mr W Spence suggested we buy locally and support Shetland business. The Chairman stated he would again request quotes from local firms and Mrs K Fraser suggested that a 10% discount be requested from local firms. This motion was seconded by Mr R Anderson.

Mr D Ristori asked what was to happen regarding St Clements. Cllr J Henry stated that nothing had been heard of as yet. The Chairman suggested that Mr D Ristori pass on any ideas to Mrs K Greaves to raise at the next planning meeting. Cllr Henry noted that the building had been made wind and water tight and was being looked after but there was no firm idea as yet what to do with it.

Mrs K Greaves passed out papers following a planning meeting she had attended which discussed a new planning act due in March. Cllr J Henry also attended the meeting. He noted the new act would allow Salmon Farmers permission for life and mooted the possibility of eg. Norway gaining planning permission and expressed concern. Mrs K Greaves stated she would get details of the new planning act for the next meeting.

Cllr L Angus Suggested the LCC should write to the SIC for their revised plan for Rock Armouring at Sletts.

Mr R Anderson stated that there were still ashes and debris following a second bonfire lit by children at Breiwick Road and asked that the SIC be contacted to clear the site.

The Chairman stated that Scottish Water intended to introduce a disinfectant process to the Sandy Loch and suggested that they be contacted and someone do a presentation to explain their proposals to the LCC.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Mr J Anderson
Chairman, LCC