

MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 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 Spence
Mrs A Simpson	Mr W Stove
Mr D Ristori	Mr M Peterson left 8.15pm
Mr I Angus	Ms K Fraser
Mrs K Greaves left 8.30pm	Mr A Johnson
Mr A Johnson	

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr C Smith	Cllr J Wills arrived 7.35pm
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In Attendance

Ms H Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC
Mr R Sinclair, Senior Contracts Manager, Capital Programmes, SIC
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/02/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/02/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Miller, Mr E Knight and Mrs M Robertson.

09/02/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2009 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Ms K Fraser.

09/02/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mrs A Simpson noted there had been no response from Ms S Laurenson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland.

The Chairman informed Mrs A Simpson that the Clerk had advised Ms Laurenson had been on holiday and would respond soon.

09/02/05

Police Report

PS B Gray apologised for not attending the January meeting of Lerwick Community Council. He explained he had been on leave and due to a misunderstanding the stand in Sergeant did not come in his place.

PS B Gray noted the following details of offences committed in January compared to those of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 12 to 15, 15 detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 15 to 17, with 14 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 211 to 261, of which 182 were detected

Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Up from 210 to 280, of which 147 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Up from 156 to 185, with 181 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 477 to 529, with 501 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 546 to 430, with 427 detections

PS B Gray advised that overall there was an increased detection rate of 4.1% compared to that of last year.

Mr L Angus enquired which class of crime related to drug offences.

PS B Gray replied that it was Class 5.

Mr W Stove asked the Sergeant if the increase in crimes had anything to do with the credit crunch.

PS B Gray stated he did not think so and advised that the increase in figures could be attributed to members of the public being more willing to report crimes.

He stated that reports of house breaking and car breaking were thankfully rare but members of the public should ensure they lock their homes and cars to discourage "sneak in thefts" which seemed to be on the increase.

The Chairman noted when driving out the south road past Sound School the speed sign read '20mph' but when driving back into town the signs read '30mph'.

PS B Gray advised he had been to the school and contacted Roads Department, SIC, about the problem but had come up against arguments over who was responsible for the sign.

He stated the situation was an "absolute travesty".

The Chairman asked if there was any indication as to when the Traffic Warden would be replaced.

The Sergeant replied he had no information as yet but his Chief Inspector hoped to come to a meeting to discuss the matter.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for attending the meeting and giving his report which concluded at 7.25pm

09/02/06

Update, Proposed New AHS – Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC

Ms H Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC, stated she had no further update following the report included in the agenda but would have more information following the meeting of the Services Committee at the end of the week.

She stated there would be another public meeting on 19 February following the Council meeting on 18 February.

Mrs K Greaves raised concern that the atrium seemed like a waste of space and asked what was to stop children throwing themselves over the balconies.

Mr R Sinclair, Senior Contracts Manager, Capital Programmes, SIC, replied it was not a unique feature and was common to many schools. He stated he had heard no reports of any problems regarding the feature.

Mr W Stove stated balconies had been a feature in the Central School and Institute and there had been no reports of pupils throwing themselves over them.

The Chairman asked what the plans were for 'D' block.

Mr R Sinclair stated alternative uses would be looked at for both 'D' block and the Institute and they were open to ideas for use of the buildings.

Mrs A Simpson noted 'D' block was only ever supposed to be a temporary building and asked how long it "had been up for".

Mr L Angus stated it was 17-18 years old.

The Chairman asked if it would be possible to get the sports pitch turned 90 degrees to help get what would be more akin to a full size pitch by running it along the hill rather than down.

Mrs H Sutherland noted she would ask.

The Chairman also asked if it would be possible to site the sports pitch below the Bruce Hostel and Institute.

Mr R Sinclair replied that levels may be a problem and the pitch would be much more sheltered where it was.

The Chairman noted the overall height of the building at approximately 52.5m high was still quite high and would stand a full one and a half storey's above the top of the knob at the coastguard station.

He stated that if he lived in the immediate area of the proposed new school he would be concerned at having a building standing 3-4 storey's above his home.

Mr L Angus stressed all residents had been offered face to face meetings to address any concerns.

Mr R Sinclair stated he had met both of the most affected residents twice to have face to face discussions. He stated the Sports Hall was about the same height as the current one and there was no windows overlooking the houses.

Mr L Angus stated the two outstanding issues were the asbestos survey which would be carried out during the Easter holidays the traffic impact assessment.

The Chairman voiced his concern over the traffic impact not only on the immediate area of the school but also throughout the town.

Mr R Sinclair stated the traffic would have the largest impact on the immediate vicinity of the school and that was the area they would be concentrating on.

Mr L Angus advised there were strict rules regarding construction traffic and sub-contractors and delivery vehicles would have to be very tightly managed.

Mrs A Simpson asked if a decision would have to be made regarding planning before the asbestos inspection at Easter.

Mr R Sinclair advised that plans would be submitted and a Type 3 survey, which was fairly intrusive, would be made during the Easter Holidays.

Mrs A Simpson asked when it was decided to increase the floor space of the building.

Mrs H Sutherland replied that it was in June 2008 when the arc design was changed. She stated the existing space was looked at and dining and social space added in. Balance had to be found between teaching and social space.

She advised that the atrium was moved to increase classroom space, corridors kept between 2.0m-2.5m wide and the concept of light and airiness retained. She stated the extra cost of £110,000 was well worth the extra space gained.

Mrs H Sutherland advised they tried to keep the building as low as they possibly could, design the roofline to break up the impact on the skyline and simplify the whole footprint.

The Chairman stated that until the Blueprint for Education ran its course no one would know the potential increase in pupils.

He asked if the proposed new school would be big enough to cope if pupils came in from all the junior high schools, including the High School at Brae.

Mrs H Sutherland stated there were currently 800 pupils at Anderson High and their design brief was to accommodate 1,000 pupils. She advised the classroom spaces were designed to provide room for 15-30 pupils.

She stated that the proposed new Anderson High could accommodate extra students following any changes in the exam structure resulting in students transferring at 3rd rather than 4th year. However, she stated it was her "gut feeling" that the school could not cope if the school was required to accommodate all pupils from all the junior high schools.

Mr W Stove noted statistics showed that school numbers were reducing and felt there was not too great a need for concern. He thought the design of the proposed new school seemed flexible enough to cope.

Mrs A Simpson remarked it was the wrong school and in the wrong place.

Mr L Angus advised Anderson High was the only school in Shetland which offered the full sweep of education and if the current school role fell much more it may be difficult to maintain that offer.

He stated it was difficult to forecast the reduction in the school role but it could be between 25-30%. He noted that against that backdrop plans would have to be made.

The Chairman stated the onus was on the project to "get moving" and make sure the end result was fit for purpose and within budget.

He reiterated his concern at how the proposed new school would cope if it was only built to accommodate 1,000 pupils.

Mrs K Greaves noted the schools capacity to accommodate pupils had reduced from 1,100 to 1,000. She advised that talk over the last year of an increase in commerce indicated there would be a rise in population and was concerned if the population continued to increase over the next 20 years the problem would be handed down to our children to deal with.

She asked how long the school was built to last for.

Mrs H Sutherland advised the school was built to last 60 years. She affirmed that a high degree of flexibility was built into the design of the school and classrooms could accommodate anything from between 12-15 pupils up to 30.

MR W stove noted that when Mr J J Graham was headmaster. The current Anderson High had to cope with 1,100 pupils, which proved you could make things work if you had to.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. H Sutherland and Mr R Sinclair for attending the meeting.

The presentation concluded at 7.45pm.

09/02/07

Discussion Regarding the Road Safety Plan 2008-10

The Chairman noted school children had been seen walking on the 'rumble strip' surrounding the roundabout at Sound. He suggested the children should be educated at the Children's Traffic Club at Sound School not to do this and the dangers involved.

He also stated that for at least thirty years there had been a drainage problem on South Road between Gilbertson Road and Bells Brae where the area of road could become flooded.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Roads Department, SIC and request they rectify the problem on a permanent basis.

Mr L Angus stated Lerwick Councilors regularly expressed concern at the lack of parking in town in the daytime when traffic came in for business or commerce.

He stated traffic regularly had to park on either side of roads and homeowners who wished to give up part of their gardens to create a parking area often came up against problems of lack of visibility splay.

The Chairman suggested the traffic flow may be eased and peaks reduced if Shetland Islands Council were to introduce flexi-time.

Mr L Angus stated it would not address the problem of all day parking.

Mrs K Greaves suggested that in areas such as Robertson Crescent, 5ft could be taken from gardens to widen the road and allow parking and free movement of traffic.

Referring to page 35 of the report Mr W Stove stated he was surprised to see child casualties so much higher in Orkney and Western Isles compared to that in Shetland.

The Chairman pointed out the figures collated related to one year only.

Referring to page 11 of the report Mr M Peterson questioned why the figures for 2007 were not included. He also noted that the 'Cost of casualties in Shetland' was purely hypothetical and the sub heading should be preceded by that word.

Mr M Peterson noted nothing seemed to be done to prevent cyclists from using the pavements.

The Chairman stated it was his understanding that children under ten could legally cycle on the pavements.

Mr M Peterson responded that people much older than ten cycled on the pavements. He also noted the lack of lights on cycles also posed a problem.

The Chairman agreed cyclists on pavements could cause a problem as they moved quickly and quietly and it could be all too easy to accidentally step into the path of one.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to feed all the comments back to Elaine Skinley, Road Safety Officer, SIC.

09/02/08

Correspondence

8.1 Mr N Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads Department, SIC – Lower Hillhead, Parking Issue
Noted

8.2 Mr M Smith, Engineering Technician, Roads department, SIC – Street Lighting
Noted

8.3 Mr A Robertson, Director, Garriock Bros. Ltd – Street lighting above Pegasus Place
Noted

8.4 Ms M Dunne, Service Manager Environmental Health, SIC – CCTV Clickimin Broch
The Chairman suggested Shetland Islands Council could be approached to see if the CCTV Camera could be fitted on the Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre for a quicker response.

Mr D Ristori advised the angle of the camera would not be as good as it would be on Sound Service Station.

The Chairman agreed and stated things should be left as they were.

8.5 Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC – Remit
Noted

8.6 Mr A Goudie – Letter of resignation from Lerwick Community Council
The Chairman stated it was with regret he accepted Mr Goudie's resignation.

He advised that as Mr L Bisset no longer resided in Lerwick, there were now two available positions for full membership of Lerwick Community Council.

He explained Mrs A Cogle, Legal & Administration, SIC had been advised of the vacancies and the closing date for nominations was 3 March 2009.

8.7 Alec Miller, Secretary, Shetland Anglers Association – Repayment of Grant
The Chairman advised that they were still entitled to receive the Grant as this had been agreed at the February 2006 meeting.

However, in line with Lerwick Community Council 'conditions of grant', it would not be paid until the Wild Trout Hatchery was constructed.

8.8 Mr M Craigie, Head of Service, Transport, ZetTrans – Local Bus Services
Mrs K Greaves stated she was glad to see improvements had been made and noted bus time tables were much more readily available.

Ms K Fraser noted there were still quite a few bus shelters without time tables.

Mrs K Greaves advised ZetTrans were still "working on it".

Mr L Angus stated a public service vehicle should be encouraged for Anderson High School pupils to get to school. He advised it would need to go right up to the school gates as opposed to stopping at Hillhead like the town service bus.

8.9 Kate Massie, Administration Assistant, ASCC – ASCC Bi-annual Meeting
The Chairman asked if Members had any items they wish placed on the agenda.

Items Members requested to be added to the agenda were the Blueprint for Education and its relationship to the proposed New Anderson High, allotments and increased powers for Community Councils, 'Decentralisation through Community Councils'.

The Chairman advised that if Members had any other items they wished added to the agenda they should be passed on to the Clerk of the Council before 20 March 2009.

8.10 Vincent Waters, National Secretary, ASCC – Request for Area Representative
The Chairman advised the item was not pertinent to this Community Council as the representatives were normally sent from the ASCC.

8.11 Claire Linton, Development Plans, SIC – Process of Review of the Local Plan

The Chairman stated that given the dire need for housing, Planning Services, SIC should be working on a plan now looking at Lerwick as a whole instead of the process being held up by Government delay.

Mr L Angus advised Planning Services, SIC had been in agreement that the Gulberwick Masterplan would be prepared first but that had "completely stalled" and there had been no progress in three years.

Cllr J Wills stated the only constraint to building in Gulberwick was the willingness of landowners to sell land.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council write to Hannah Nelson, Development Plans Manager, SIC and ask that 'sketch plans' to update the thirty year old Local plan be worked on.

8.12 Robina Barton, Geopark Shetland Working Group – ASCC Representation Request

Cllr J Wills stated if Shetland did get Geopark status it would be a major boost to the Tourist Industry.

Mr L Angus proposed Cllr J Wills as a representative to report back to Lerwick Community Council.

This was seconded by the Chairman.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to advise Kate Massie, Admin Assistant, ASCC of the decision.

He also requested that she ask Robina Barton, Project Officer - Geology, Shetland Amenity Trust for copies of the minutes of the last meetings and invite Mr J Swale, Scottish National Heritage, to make a presentation.

09/02/09

Draft Traffic Orders

9.1 Draft Order – SIC (A969 South Road at Bell's Brae School, Lerwick) (Variable 20mph Speed Limit) Order 2009

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr N Hutcheson, Roads, SIC and ask for details of where the signs will be placed.

9.2 Draft Order – SIC (Various Roads, Lerwick) (Prohibition and restriction of waiting) (Variation No. 5) Order 2009

Members of the Council unanimously agreed with the order on the left hand side of the page which included Burgh Road and Cockatoo Brae.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr N Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads SIC and advise the text 'Denotes proposed extension to parking' should be corrected to 'Denotes proposed extension to parking prohibition'.

He stated that he could not see why the proposed yellow lines should extend as far as they did.

The Chairman asked Ms K Fraser if closing part of Union Street would offer any assistance to the Library by providing extra parking spaces and exclusive parking space for the Library van.

Mrs K Fraser replied that the Library van needed to park in front of St Ringan's to suitably access the Library and book store.

Mr L Angus suggested the draft should be held pending further discussion. He advised that if Members were in agreement to the draft being held over Roads Service would have to be contacted quickly to prevent plans being put in place.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write advising Mr N Hutcheson of the decisions.

Mr D Ristori suggested the area at the old archives could be cleared and made into a parking area to alleviate some of the parking problems.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Alan Rolfe, Asset and Properties Manager, SIC ask what their long term plans were for the area and put forward the suggestion.

09/02/10

Financial Report

The Chairman advised Members the figure of £29,760.76 included the full amount of £10,000 granted to St Columba's Church for the repair & Renewal of the Church organ.

He also advised an approximate saving of £1,000 was projected for the annual running costs remaining.

The financial report was accepted by Mr L Angus and seconded by Mr W Stove.

09/02/11

Proposal to investigate the creation of a 'viewpoint' at Knab in line with Stanley Manson's letter

The Chairman asked if Members would be in agreement to a 'viewpoint' being created.

Mr L Angus stated that despite assertions to stabilise the Turntable nothing had been done and he was anxious to see a 'viewpoint' being created.

The Chairman advised he would investigate the possibility and approach Mr M Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC to see if the Knab Dyke works currently being undertaken by the Shetland Amenity Trust could be extended to include the proposal.

09/02/12

Proposal to review grant funding for repair & renewal of St Columba's Church organ from 50% match funding from LCC and 50% from LCCCT to full 100% from LCC

The proposal was moved by Mr W Stove and seconded by Mr L Angus.

09/02/13

Proposal to fund 'Heritage Signs'

It was unanimously agreed to postpone the proposal until Mr E Knight was at the meeting.

09/02/14

Financial Assistance

14.1 Mrs K Greaves, Chairman, Shetland Allotments, Gardens & Plots – To provide Allotments

Cllr J Wills noted his full support of the venture and stated "the sooner it is up and running the better".

Mr L Angus expressed some concern advising the allotments should be properly maintained and supervised.

Cllr J Wills advised the scheme was running in Aberdeen where the Council checked once a year that the allotments were being used and kept tidy and on the whole they were.

He moved £500 should be awarded as an establishment grant.

This was seconded by Mr W Stove.

09/02/15

Planning Applications

No applications received

09/02/16

Lerwick Applications from 1 January to 4 February 2009

Noted

09/02/17

Any Other Business

Cllr J Wills passed on his apologies for missing the first part of the meeting. He advised he had been collating comments regarding the proposed new Anderson High from teachers, architects and builders and would pass on the details for the Clerk of the Council to circulate to Members.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL