

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 L Bissett
Cllr G Feather
Ms K Fraser
Cllr J Henry

Mr A Johnston
Cllr E Knight
Mr R Leith
Ms M Robertson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr W Spence
Cllr W Stove

Additional Co-Opted Members

Mrs K Greaves

Mr D Ristori

In Attendance

Mr M Johnson, NHS Shetland
Mr I Kinniburgh, NHS Shetland
Dr P Wilson, NHS Shetland
PS M Czerniakiewicz, Northern Constabulary
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

07/01/01 **Election of Chairman**

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman. Cllr E Knight proposed Mr James Anderson, seconded by Cllr L Angus. Mr Anderson accepted and took the Chair.

07/01/02 **Election of Vice Chairman**

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr R Anderson nominated Mrs Averil Simpson, seconded by Ms K Fraser. Mrs Simpson accepted.

07/01/03 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/01/04 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Goudie and Mr M Peterson.

07/01/05 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2006 were approved by Mr R Anderson and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

07/01/06

Business Arising from the Minutes

06/12/10.2 Knab Dyke

Mr R Anderson asked if there had been any response from Shetland Islands Council regarding the rebuilding of the dyke. The Clerk confirmed that a response had been received that day and would be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

06/12/10.3 Resignation of Clerk

Mr R Anderson asked if the post had been advertised and the Clerk confirmed that it had been in the Shetland Times for two weeks. There had been a few responses and interviews would take place very soon.

06/12/07.1 SIC: Housing Plan Review

Mrs K Greaves asked if there had been any progress. The Clerk confirmed that she hoped to receive maps in time for the next meeting.

07/01/07

Police Report

PS M Czerniakiewicz gave an update on the figures for the last 9 months. He noted that some figures were ones they aimed to reduce and others they aimed to increase.

They aimed to reduce vandalism by 5%. 262 incidents to date is on target and they should achieve their aim.

Fatal/serious road accidents were also on target for a reduction of 33%. So far they had had 9 accidents in that category.

Slight injury accidents they hoped to reduce by 10% and they had achieved that so far.

They hoped to reduce incidences of serious and violent crime but they were currently above their target.

Drink-driving had seen an increase in persons reported of 5%. They had had 51 people reported over the limit so far. There had been 3 persons reported for drug driving and 23 people reported for supply of drugs in the area.

There had been 5 complaints against the police since April 2006 and one Quality of Service complaint, which is a more general complaint.

The trend for serious and violent crime appeared to be linked to underage drinking, which was causing concern and they were taking action to sort this. The Safer Scotland Campaign in October had focused on the problem. There had been 55 incidents of removing alcohol from under 16s in the last 3 months and this was an on-going issue. He noted that Shetland was no worse than any other Northern Constabulary area.

There was a close link between misuse of alcohol and violent crime. People had been reported for buying alcohol for underagers. They were

looking to team up with an Alcohol Awareness Nurse, who would go on patrols with officers to get a picture of the levels of misuse.

He noted that, other than the major incident in Burra last week, the new year had gotten off to a good start with no other major issues so far.

Cllr J Henry asked if those reported for supplying alcohol were individuals or businesses, and PS Czerniakiewicz confirmed that they were usually older friends of the young people caught with alcohol.

Cllr L Angus asked if the number of people reported for the supply of drugs was an increase and which classes of drugs were involved. PS Czerniakiewicz confirmed that he had no figures with him to compare them to but confirmed that it was all classes of drugs.

Mr R Anderson asked if the number of serious and violent crime had risen and how they hoped to reduce this over a 3 year period. PS Czerniakiewicz confirmed that there had been a fall in numbers year on year and that their target to April this year had not been met. There was still the opportunity to meet the target though if they had a quiet period from now to March. He noted that this was a pattern common in the North of Scotland.

Mrs A Simpson asked what action was being taken to reduce vandalism. PS Czerniakiewicz stated that from April to September they had had team based in the police station who were dealing solely with these enquiries. They had discovered that the same small amount of offenders were responsible for a substantial amount of reported damage.

Ms K Fraser asked if more people were being detected for drink driving. PS Czerniakiewicz stated that they were not resting on their laurels with regard to drink drivers and that there was an increase in the number of suspected drink drivers being reported by members of the public.

Mr R Anderson asked if there was a correlation between those guilty of drink driving and the number of stoppages. He asked if the number of stoppages varied from year to year. PS Czerniakiewicz confirmed that in the winter campaign there had been 12 breath tests in two weeks, and 10 the previous year. One more positive result had been obtained since last year so the figures were fairly steady.

Cllr L Angus asked if there was any update on the CCTV system for Lerwick but PS Czerniakiewicz replied that it was PS McBeath who was dealing with this and he was not sure of the current situation. He would pass on an invitation to him to attend to give an update.

The Chairman thanked him for attending and PS Czerniakiewicz left the meeting at 7.15pm.

Ian Kinniburgh explained that 4-5 years ago a comprehensive review of medical services had been carried out, with an aspiration to build a new hospital with a complete range of services on the one site.

They found the cost of developing a new building became prohibitive, and they could've built a new building but the high running costs would've meant they couldn't provide the range of services they wanted to.

More consultation with staff had resulted in the present proposal, which was to combine all hospital services on the Gilbert Bain site. The board had agreed to support the proposal and bring all the services together.

Mr M Johnson thought it would be useful to give an update on the existing work on the Gilbert Bain site. He noted the huge success of the local campaign for a CAT scanner to be sited within the Gilbert Bain and work should begin shortly on this. Work would start in March on the final stages of the scanner building, with a view to it being operational by November 2007.

Part of the project was to sort out the car parking problem. He hoped they would be able to provide an extra 26 spaces by the end of March by developing the patch of grass at the corner of Gilbertson Road and South Road, and work would begin here in the next couple of weeks.

They had an aspiration to locate all patient services on one site and combining the facilities of the Gilbert Bain and Montfield hospitals. Medical input had been provided by Dr Wilson and her team of junior doctors. They were committed to working at the Gilbert Bain so input to Montfield can be limited, especially at weekends. If a Montfield patient had a fall and required an x-ray, the facilities were at the Gilbert Bain so a patient would have to be transported there by ambulance for treatment, which was not ideal. They would look for an integrated medical unit providing an enhanced service to all patients.

It was an ambitious capital plan and Mr Johnson said he would pass paper copies to the Clerk for distribution to all members to see clearly the proposals for the next 6/7 years. It would take that length of time to refurbish and build the required new buildings.

The first step would be to look at the space for Ronas Ward from Montfield, the long stay ward and rehab. They would make space by relocating the maternity unit to the day hospital (old Ward 2). They would provide rehab beds within wards 1 and 3. Day surgery patients would be treated in ward 1 and they would refurbish the area next to the theatres to manage through put. Maternity would be the same size with 6 beds and they would create more space under ward 3. Ronas beds would be spread between ward 3 and the old maternity unit.

They were aware they needed to carry out public consultation, in line with Scottish Executive guidelines, and they would have to go through this process before they could move ahead.

There would be the creation of an Interim Placement Unit, with discussion with the local authority. This would be used for patients who need to be discharged into the community but can't as they are waiting for a care package or space in a care home. This would be a better environment for them than being in a long stay hospital ward. They would refurbish the old maternity unit to move the first tranche of Montfield patients to the unit.

In 2008/09 they hoped to create space for a new day surgery unit using other space within the hospital. They would create a new entrance to the hospital using the old ambulance station. They would refurbish it to create a separate entrance and medical records centre. They would keep the main entrance to A&E. They had had feedback from the public that a single entrance was not appropriate as it was used for emergency admissions and injured/ill patients.

This would also give them the opportunity to expand the A&E department, which was getting busier each year. They hoped to be able to create more space in the middle of the hospital for day patients by moving the medical records to the old ambulance station.

By 2010 they hoped to be in discussion with Shetland Islands Council regarding the interim placement unit. They hoped there was space at the Gilbert Bain hospital for a two storey or wrap around building but this would depend on the advice of the builders and local authority. They also had to look at where the dental department would go.

They hoped to be off the Montfield site by 2013. They were at a very early stage of discussions regarding the site but noted it was in a prime location if they were to sell it for building on. They hoped there would be interest from SLAP but they noted that the plans for the Gilbert Bain site was not reliant on the sale of the Montfield site.

There were currently 40 beds at the Montfield site. They needed discussion with Shetland Islands Council regarding the transfer of resources. They think they can cope with the capacity and numbers. They currently had 4 beds for young physically disabled at Montfield and they needed to discuss whether it was the right environment for that particular client group.

Mr Johnson noted that this was a re-provision of Montfield services and not a closure. There were a number of public consultations to go through before it can go ahead and he would ensure the paper giving all the details would be circulated to members through the Clerk.

Cllr L Angus stated that he hoped it would not go ahead. He felt it was unfortunate that consultation had not happened before the plans were issued. He agreed that it was right for all services to be on one site but he was not convinced that the Gilbert Bain site was the right one.

It was 20 years since the Planning officials had recommended against an extension of the maternity unit as the site was clearly overdeveloped. He also had concerns about the additional parking at Gilbertson Road/South Road as he felt this was a piece of road that couldn't cope with it.

He noted the Scottish Executive had indicated a proposal of combining agencies to provide services and he felt this should be looked at. He noted there were a lot of services missing, including Mental Health and a hospice. He noted that other health boards were also strapped for cash and they must all make savings where they can. He felt the council reserves were the best way forward.

Mr R Anderson said he had listened with great interest. He said they all know that the Gilbert Bain site is too small and he didn't understand how they could propose to provide additional services at this site without using Montfield. He felt it was a bit of a conjuror's trick and there was an element of "quarts into pint pots". He thought the plans would mean carrying far too much at one site, and it would be crammed together. He felt this would reap trouble for Shetland later on.

Dr P Wilson noted that it was a big struggle for her staff to look after both hospitals and feared that Montfield would receive a second rate service at the weekends. It was much better to provide all services under one roof.

At present there were 14 people in Montfield who don't need to be there, as they should be at home or in care centres, and there were 6 in the Gilbert Bain also waiting for placements. They were not in the right environment and faced significant turmoil having to wait for care packages or care home places. They could not release beds to people who needed them. Currently one patient had spent 71 weeks in hospital waiting for a bed in a care home with many over 50 weeks.

They could provide a more robust package for people needing medical care if it was not spread across two buildings. She noted that they could do better with re-provision of services if people were in the right places. They would be better equipped if they were all under one roof. Ideally it would be a new hospital on a new site but there was no point in this if they were forced to close services as they could not then afford to operate them.

The Chairman noted there were currently 108 beds across both hospitals and asked how many would be available by 2013.

Mr Johnson stated he couldn't answer exactly at this moment in time but thought around 100.

Dr Wilson noted that bed capacity was currently at 70%. They had days when they were full but had an average of 70%. Ward 1 was often under 50%. They often had unused beds at the Gilbert Bain. She noted there were times when they were pushed but they never ran out of beds. They only had staff at Montfield for 24 out of 26 beds upstairs so there was capacity there too. The proposed Interim Placement Unit would help as they could accommodate 16 people waiting for care homes or packages of care.

Mr Johnson noted that it was impossible to answer how many beds would be required by 2013 as certain surgical procedures which once kept

patients in hospital for days are now being done in day hospital, and other procedures were changing all the time.

The Chairman said he appreciated there would be changes and noted that the paper Mr Johnson would distribute would go a long way to explaining the proposals for the hospital site.

Cllr L Angus noted that he had no disagreement with NHS Shetland as to the needs. He noted that in the past there had been 100 beds provided by NHS for geriatric care at the Old Gilbert Bain, the Brevik and the old Montfield hospitals. These were now reduced to 60 with more people being cared for at home and care homes spread throughout Shetland to provide locally based care. He noted that Shetland Islands Council had projected that they would need to provide an additional 60 beds to provide care, also for the young chronically sick. Every care home had at least one patient in this category. He said there was no conflict between NHS and local authorities, but they were driven by different priorities. He felt if priorities were cash driven by NHS Shetland it would mean an entirely different provision of care. He stated that he didn't have the answer and noted that combining agencies would require closer working. He felt that some of the reserves must be invested in Shetland Health care. They should be providing for the common need.

Mr I Kinniburgh said he agreed with Cllr Angus about the agencies working together and no conflict. He thought they could work well and there were a host of beneficial joint initiatives. With regard to the capital plan for the hospital he noted there would be an opportunity by 2011 to decide whether to commit to the final push of developing the existing site or whether to develop a new hospital. The potential for a new hospital was not ruled out by committing to reprovision work. They were being driven mainly clinically to provide the best services, not cash driven. It was all about how to improve the level of care.

They were reassured by the clinicians that the beds are currently under utilised and it was about how best to manage them. Many procedures were now less invasive so required more day care. They would keep everyone updated and would bring more detailed proposals to the table.

Cllr W Stove noted that he had had a number of calls from residents in the area who felt that the plans had come about out of the blue and they were concerned about the "tight squeeze" when parking there already. He felt that this would not improve with an increase of users when the CAT scanner was operational. The site was not big enough at present for the existing services let alone adding more and there was no space for other buildings.

Mrs A Simpson noted that she had seen the proposals already and it does make sense when you see it written down. She queried whether the site was big enough and noted that this was what everyone would be concerned about.

Mrs K Greaves felt the site was already full. She thought that Shetland deserved a new hospital and asked if there were any projections for the cost of a new build.

Mr Johnson replied it was £45 million, although this figure was 3 years old.

Mrs Greaves thought that the sale of the Gilbert Bain site and the Montfield site would generate a lot of income which could pay for a new building. She felt that patching up an old building won't make it into a new one. She thought that NHS Shetland and Shetland Islands Council should be working together to find a new site.

Mr R Anderson noted that this was not cash driven but was clinically driven and felt that all facilities under one roof was good. He thought that the proposals were actually cash driven as they didn't have cash. He noted that the site had been expanded twice in the past and felt that if money was spent now to expand again it would be increasingly difficult to move to a new site. He thought NHS Shetland should hand over Montfield to Shetland Islands Council to operate as a care home.

Mr R Leith stated he was concerned at the figures being bandied around. He thought that they were looking to create the equivalent of two extra wards at the Gilbert Bain site without adding more wards. He thought there would be a "shoe horn" effect.

Mr L Bissett noted that this plan may be in its favour, as it may prove to be an impossible plan and could force someone to release money to build a new hospital. This proposal doesn't presuppose no new building, it means there are no resources to build. In future the opportunity may still be there and they could have an improved service in the meantime.

Dr Wilson stated that she was not there as an expert on facts and figures, but was there as a clinician with a responsibility to patients. She had been asked how she and her staff felt they could make services better and they agreed that they should all be on one site. It could be traumatic for patients to be moved from Montfield to Gilbert Bain to receive treatment so one site is best.

Mr Johnson said he completely agreed with every comment about a new hospital, however, they can't afford it as a health board, although Shetland maybe could as a community. There was no point in a new building if they can't staff it. At the moment, a new build was not an option. The amount of capital charges which would have to be repaid would mean cutting services to be able to pay them.

He noted there were lots of discussions and debates but they must improve the clinical service to patients. They had already moved as much of the non-clinical services off site as they could to create the maximum clinical provision. They would have to return to the discussion in the next 10 or 20 years regarding re-jigging the site or building a new hospital. He took on board all the comments of the LCC members and would return in a few months to update further.

The Chairman thanked Mr Johnson, Mr Kinniburgh and Dr Wilson for attending and they left the meeting at 8.15pm.

07/01/09

SIC (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2006/07

9.1 Bells Place

9.2 Burns Lane Car Park

9.3 Church Road

Cllr L Angus moved to approve all three applications, seconded by Mr R Anderson.

07/01/10

Correspondence

10.1 House of Commons - Post Office Closures

The Chairman noted that this affected rural post offices and not Lerwick. He said members could complete and return the questionnaire as individuals if they wanted to.

Mr R Anderson felt that LCC should respond and noted that for many older people the only way they could access their pensions was through the post office, and no area should face losing their post office.

Mrs K Greaves noted that the closure of post offices had a negative effect on tourism and other businesses in a rural community.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to respond on behalf of LCC.

10.2 Shetland Amenity Trust - Rebranding of Shetland Interpretive Leaflets

Mr R Anderson said he would go along Shetland Amenity Trust and discuss changes with Mr A Blain. Mrs K Greaves said she would also visit to discuss.

10.3 Scottish Executive - Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997: Planning Appeal: Judane Shetland Ltd, Lower Blackhill Industrial Estate

Ms M Robertson noted that the general feeling from members of the public she had spoken to was the Mr Hodge was being victimised and asked if it was possible to write a letter of support for him.

Mrs K Greaves said she opposed writing as businesses have to work within the guidelines, etc.

Cllr W Stove noted that they had a responsibility to pass comment on planning application to Shetland Islands Council and so they needn't comment. In fairness to Mr Hodge, he felt that SIC needed to change their policy to include Gremista as a retail outlet.

10.4 Ryan Leith - Proposed Reinstatement of Rock Armouring at Sletts

Mrs A Simpson said she had visited the site today and access was not possible. She didn't know how many users there were of the pier but she noted that anyone wishing to launch a boat there would have to carry it down to the pier.

The Chairman noted that the steps had been extended some time ago but felt it was a shame they led nowhere.

Cllr L Angus noted that there was no developments at present. Plans had been produced to re-armour a short piece of road but there had been no modeling to see if it would work. He suggested writing to SIC Infrastructure Department to see where they were at and if they had any developments.

07/01/11

Financial Report

11.1 Financial Report

Noted. Mr R Anderson stated that Community Councils could now carry over 10% of their opening balance to a new financial year.

11.2 Draft Financial Statement

Noted.

07/01/12

Financial Assistance

12.1 Shetland Amateur Athletics Club

Mr R Anderson noted this was a laudable activity and they should be encouraged.

The Chairman noted that 12 of their 38 members were from Lerwick, which was approximately 1/3.

Mr L Bissett noted that their application was in 3 parts and they would have to get through one heat to qualify for another.

Cllr L Angus proposed to agree in principal to £1500 if they reached the finals, seconded by Mr R Anderson.

The Chairman suggested giving them £2000 as this was approximately 1/3 of the amount left to be funded.

Cllr W Stove stated they shouldn't complicate things and, as 1/3 of members were from Lerwick, they should give them £2000 now.

Cllr L Angus withdrew his proposal. Mr L Bissett proposed to give them £2000, seconded by Cllr E Knight.

12.2 Shetland Women's Football Club

Mrs K Greaves noted this was a new group and should be encouraged.

Mrs A Simpson moved an award of £500, seconded by Mr L Bissett.

12.3 Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre

Cllr L Angus moved to award the full amount required of £1657.80, seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

07/01/13

Planning Applications

13.1 Relocation of Fuel Facility, Bod Compound, Gremista

The Chairman issued additional maps received from the architects as requested. There were no objections.

13.2 Extend use of Guest house to provide hot food takeaway, Glen Orchy

No objections

13.3 Convert office to form 3 flats, Staneyhill Hostel, Ladies Drive

No objections

13.4 Erect 3 dwellinghouses, Sands of Sound

Cllr L Angus said he had received a number of phone calls from members of the public objecting furiously to the plans.

Mr W Spence stated that he was one of those who had objected and declared an interest. He felt there would be problems with drainage and sewage from the site, and it was over development.

Cllr L Angus moved to object on the grounds of over development of the site, seconded by Cllr E Knight.

13.5 Change use of paint ball site to gas storage depot, 5 Staneyhill Ind Est

No objections

07/01/14

Election of Representatives to Forums

14.1 AHS Forum

Ms M Robertson stated she would like to attend.

14.2 Planning Liaison Representative

Mrs K Greaves stated she had an interest in planning issues and would like to attend.

07/01/15

Any Other Business

15.1 Town Hall Booklet

Mrs A Simpson stated that Mr Charles Simpson had agreed to update the booklet. They had had discussions with Mr Brian Smith of the Museum & Archives and they have now decided to rewrite the booklet. She noted that there would be financial implications and asked where this would come from? Their next meeting is on 1 February and she should have a better idea from that of how much it would cost.

The Chairman noted that they could commit funds from this year if they know how much.

Cllr L Angus stated he was also involved with the booklet and it was needing to be rewritten. It was written many years ago by Mr T M Y Manson and although it had been reprinted since then it had not been updated. He suggested earmarking £5000 for fees and publication costs.

Mr R Anderson reminded them that a number of 35mm slides of the Town Hall's stained glass windows were held in the LCC office.

The Chairman agreed they would discuss it further at the next meeting when there were confirmed costs.

15.2 Neighbourhood Support Workers

Mr Billy Mycock gave a brief overview of the support workers scheme to date. They had been in place for 2 years and had 4 part time workers, doing 21 hours each. They had increased their office efficiency to allow them more time on the streets, covering every area at least once per month. They had assisted other agencies, e.g. new smoking regulations. They hoped to detect early so that issues did not become anti social matters. They were increasing awareness of themselves to members of the public and to other agencies and were involved in a number of initiatives to improve the neighbourhood.

15.3 Path at Shetland Hotel

Mr A Johnston noted that this had been repaired although he was not aware if it had been done by Shetland Islands Council or the hotel's owners.

15.4 Plaques on Walls

Mr R Anderson noted that there should be something coming soon. Mr John McKenzie, Shetland Amenity Trust, had submitted an application for funding which would be considered at the next meeting.

15.5 Lerwick Community Council Website

The Chairman noted that this had been discussed some time ago. He had received a quote of £250 to design a website for LCC, and he would get more information from them of what this quote included.

Cllr L Angus noted he was in favour of a website but it would have to be regularly updated or it was no use.

Mrs K Greaves noted that the office's computer system would have to be upgraded to maintain the site.

The Chairman would also contact Shetland Islands Council to see if there was any way of being done in conjunction with them.

15.5 Resignation of Clerk

The Chairman noted that this was the Clerk's last meeting and thanked her for all her hard work.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

