

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Mr R Anderson
Ms K Fraser
Cllr J Henry

Mr A Johnston
Mr T Nicolson
Mr P Scarsbrook
Cllr W Stove

Additional Co-Opted Members

Mr D Ristori

In Attendance

Mrs R Griffiths, Shetland Times Reporter
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

06/07/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

06/07/02 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Feather, Mr A Goudie, Mr J MacLeod, Mrs A Simpson and Mr W Spence.

06/07/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 June were approved by Mr R Anderson and seconded by Ms K Fraser.

06/07/04 **Business Arising**

SIC Planning Notices

Ms K Fraser noted that she had asked last month if Shetland Islands Council were planning to stop printing the planning applications in the Shetland Times and if there had been any response from SIC Planning.

The Clerk confirmed that a response had been received stating that it was to stop in an attempt to make savings.

Mr R Anderson suggested writing to ask them how much they hoped to save by not advertising in the Shetland Times.

Flagpole - Twageos Pumping Station

The Chairman asked if there had been a response from Scottish Water regarding erecting a flagpole at Twageos Road.

The Clerk replied that she had received confirmation that they had no objections to the placing of a flagpole on the pumping station but there had been no mention of funding.

The Chairman noted that Lerwick Community Council would have to apply for planning permission and would have to discuss funding if they wanted to go ahead with the proposal. He noted that he had already been told by one local resident that he would object strongly if this went ahead, and a member of the public had written to the Shetland Times with his objections. He suggested raising the flag in spring and taking it down in the autumn.

He admitted that he hadn't expected Scottish Water to agree to the plan but he felt it would look good as there was something missing in the area. A flagpole would add interest and he realised that there would be opposition to the plan. He suggested getting costings for making the flagpole.

Cllr W Stove felt there were no planning grounds that it could be objected to under, and noted that the Islands Games Committee had a few large Shetland flags left over which LCC may be able to acquire.

Sakchai Makao

The Chairman noted that this had had a satisfactory outcome, with Mr Makao being back in the community. It had been a very well supported and positive campaign throughout.

Staney Hill Road

The Chairman had spoken to Mr Hawthorne of SIC Development regarding the surface of the road. He was currently trying to get funding to surface dress the road with tar spray and chips.

Ms K Fraser stated that she had walked down the road earlier that day and it appeared to have been done already.

Dog Litter Bins

The Chairman noted that they had written to SIC Infrastructure but had not had a response to date. He would keep an eye on the situation and write again if there were no developments.

06/07/05

Police Report

No police officer was in attendance to present the police report.

06/07/06

Community Council Elections 2006

The Chairman noted that there were only 2 more meetings before the elections would be held in November. He brought forward item 8.1, which was a letter from Mrs K Greaves and to conversation with Ms M Robertson, both of whom had expressed interest in becoming co-opted members.

He suggested co-opting them both for the remainder of this Community Council so that they could experience the work of the Community Council and make up their own minds if they wished to put their names forward for election. Cllr W Stove seconded this.

The Chairman added that anyone who did not wish to stand for election in November should let them know as soon as possible. He felt it would be good to return a full councillor list.

Cllr W Stove stated that he did not intend to stand again.

The Chairman also stated that, as things stand, he probably would not stand again either, but the situation may change and he would make a decision in the next few months.

Ms K Fraser asked if there was any way of publicising the elections. She suggested a mail shot of community groups to explain what was involved.

The Chairman thought this could be done but it would involve a lot of work and was probably outwith the Clerk's job description.

Cllr W Stove noted that Shetland Islands Council were planning a similar exercise and were drafting a booklet at present. Mr J Smith has most of the information already. LCC don't have the resources to do this but SIC may be able to help as they have already compiled information. He felt it was too short notice for the November elections.

The Chairman noted that it had been agreed at the last Association meeting to get a programme on Radio Shetland and he suggested contacting ASCC to see if there had been any development.

Cllr J Henry asked when the last review of community council areas had been held and noted that the wards would change in May 2007 with Lerwick now covering a vast area.

The Chairman confirmed that the Lerwick area would have 7 councillors representing Lerwick, Bressay, Gulberwick and Quarff. This would mean Lerwick Community Council overlapped into two other community council areas. This had been discussed at previous meetings.

Cllr J Henry noted that there had been concern from residents in Sound that the area was getting too big.

Cllr W Stove noted that some Sound residents wanted their own community council, but stated that this would not happen as it was up to the Boundaries Commission and not Shetland Islands Council.

06/07/07 **SIC (A970 Lerwick to Sumburgh at Sound Primary School) Order**

Noted.

06/07/08 **Correspondence**

8.1 K Greaves

Discussed under item 06/07/06

8.2 Morag MacLeod - Market Street Roadworks

The Chairman noted that the works in this area was almost completed and was being tidied up. He noted that there had been a lot of work carried out over the past few years which would have been very inconvenient for residents in the street. Contractors had tried to alleviate problems but the work had to be carried out and he acknowledged that this was unfortunate for the local residents.

8.3 SEPA - Discharge at Westerloch in Clickimin Loch

The Chairman stated that he had been contacted by residents in the area regarding the problem which was intermittent. It had last happened in the spring and would probably not occur again until the autumn.

He had spoken to two local residents, Mr David Pottinger and Mr George Leslie, who had agreed to keep an eye on the problem and report it to SEPA and Scottish Water as soon as it occurred again.

Cllr W Stove noted that it was being monitored by Shetland Islands Council, and he had been told the problem was caused by a manhole.

The Chairman noted that there needs to be consultation between Shetland Islands Council and Scottish Water, as they both have responsibility for different parts of the system.

He proposed writing to Shetland Islands Council to suggest they meet with Scottish Water and SEPA next time the problem arose in an attempt to resolve it, and that they inform LCC when it has been.

8.4 Shetland Link Up - Holiday Report

Noted

8.5 SIC Transport - Sumburgh/Lerwick Bus Route

The Chairman noted that SIC were trying to fine tune the timetable to improve the service.

8.6 SIC Roads - Lerwick Lanes Signage

The Chairman noted that they should write to SIC Planning but that he felt it would return to Shetland Amenity Trust as there may be an overlap between the two organisations. He suggested writing to both.

Mr R Anderson suggested stating that there was funding available from LCC to pay for the plaques and the Chairman agreed to this.

8.7 SIC Roads - Reinstatement of Road Surfaces

The Chairman noted that this was an ongoing problem around Lerwick and the roads had been dug up by different groups, e.g. Scottish Water, District Heating Scheme. He noted that they had recently sprayed to the first sleeping policeman at the Old North Road and suggested writing to find out if they were to continue along the rest of the road.

Cllr W Stove noted that they should be asked for a complete programme of their planned works.

Mr R Anderson noted that he found the 19mm variable in road surfaces to be an incredible difference.

8.8 SIC Infrastructure - Dry Stone Dyke at Midgarth

The Chairman stated that they should write to Shetland Islands Council and suggest that they try to progress this as a matter of urgency. It was an eyesore at present.

8.9 SIC Planning - Seating, Turntable, Knab

The Chairman noted that SIC appeared to be in favour of the project but were bouncing it back to LCC to do the work. He noted it was not LCC's job and SIC should be involved to get it done. He felt it could be incorporated into the contract when rebuilding the wall as the contractors will have the materials, etc.

Mr R Anderson suggested also asking them when they plan to start the work.

8.10 SIC Infrastructure - Coastal Erosion, South End

The Chairman noted that this was to be discussed by Shetland Islands Council at a meeting in August. He felt there needed to be a sense of urgency in the report and in raising the funding to be able to stabilise it.

Mr J Anderson asked if there had been any development with the planned works at the Sletts and noted that they were running out of time to get planning permission to carry out the work this summer.

The Chairman felt it would be virtually impossible to get a contractor in now as the earliest it could be raised at SIC Planning Committee was September. He agreed to write and ask what progress had been made and when they planned to start work.

8.11 SIC Environmental Service - Doorstep Selling

The Chairman felt this was not a problem in his area, but it may be in other areas of Lerwick and Shetland.

Ms K Fraser felt that they should agree to go for option 3 and that it should be up to the individual whether or not to deter religious groups.

Mr J Anderson thought that some people may welcome doorstep sellers but not religious groups, and felt it should be an "all or nothing" approach.

Ms K Fraser noted that it would come down to whether or not people wanted to put up the stickers on their property anyway.

The Chairman agreed to select option three - no itinerant salesmen.

8.12 Scottish Executive - Planning Appeal: Nederdale Noted.

06/07/09

Finance

9.1 SIC Finance - Community Council Funding

The Chairman noted that, as a result of discussions with the Liaison Group and the following SIC meeting, the funding cut had been reduced from the proposed 16% to 5%, in line with other SIC funding cuts. He thanked Mr R Anderson and all the other community councillors for this.

06/07/10

Planning Applications

10.1 Install Skatepark Facilities - Clickimin Leisure Centre

The Chairman declared an interest and asked the Vice Chairman, Mr P Scarsbrook, to take over the chair. He then left the meeting at 7.50pm.

The Vice Chairman noted that this had been ongoing for some time and they had been fighting for a site. He also noted that LCC had supported them financially in the past. There were no objections to the proposal.

The Chairman returned to the meeting at 7.55pm.

10.2 Erect 4 x 3 Bedroomed Houses - Ladies Drive

The Chairman noted that there would be limited parking left in the area for the new dwellings.

Mr P Scarsbrook said he believed that the long term plan for Ladies Drive was to end the current homeless housing and instead rent the bedsits as individual units for permanent lets.

Mr J Anderson felt he had no objections as long as SIC Roads and Transport said it would not encroach on current parking.

Ms K Fraser said she did worry that there would not be enough parking available for the proposed tenants.

The Chairman felt they would require more information regarding the long term use of the hostel and plans for parking in that area. He felt there was a lack of clarity regarding the role of Ladies Drive and asked if the permanent tenants would require parking spaces.

Mr R Anderson agreed that there was not enough information. He said the bottom line was that they believed there may be insufficient parking left in Ladies Drive.

The Chairman proposed no objection to the application but noting that if the role of the hostel changed in the future there would be insufficient parking.

Mr R Anderson suggested writing that there were no objections but to seek reassurance that there will be adequate parking available for both these new houses and the hostel long term.

10.3 Convert Old Pumping Station - South Road

The Chairman noted that this building had been in need of development for some time and that the residents in the area had no problems, although they did query if there was adequate parking. He would like to suggest that the access road from the main road be widened as two cars can't currently pass at the same time and any car stopping on the brae to access the site will stop the flow of traffic.

06/07/11

Any Other Business

11.1 Library

Mr D Ristori asked if there were any plans for the old Archives building in King Harald Street once they move to their new premises, as this could be used for part of the library. He stated that he did not want to see another new build and that he would prefer to see the library in an existing building.

Ms K Fraser said that the feasibility study was to be carried out and they would be seeking the opinion of the public. She urged everyone to put their views forward.

11.2 Johnsmas Foy

The Chairman noted that this had been a huge success and thanked everyone involved in organising it.

11.3 Town Centre Floral Basket Scheme

The Chairman noted that, once again, they had done a good job of brightening up the street for tourists and locals alike and suggested writing to thank them.

11.4 Bank Machines

The Chairman noted that there had been no response from the Bank of Scotland regarding the bank machines being out of use. He had spoken to a manager who had told him they had a lot of difficulties at the moment and they would be trying everything they could to improve the situation. It was agreed to write to them again.

11.5 Old Building Next to Salvation Army - North Road

The Chairman noted that this had been discussed at an earlier meeting. The building belonged to two owners, and one of the owners had sold his half to an Up Helly Aa squad, who had started to make improvements to the building. He suggested contacting the other owner to find out what his intentions were regarding the improvement of the building as it was an eyesore at present.

11.6 Parking at Staneygarth

The Chairman had received a complaint from a Staneygarth resident that people appeared to be using their street as an overspill car park when travelling with Northlink. He had seen cars being left parked for up to two weeks. This caused problems for residents trying to park there.

Mr J Anderson suggested an advert in the Shetland Times asking Northlink passengers not to park there and have consideration for the residents.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL