

MONDAY 23 July 2007

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

Present

Mr J Anderson	Mr D Ristori
Mr R Anderson	Mr W Spence
Mrs K Greaves	Cllr L Angus
Ms K Fraser	Mr R Leith
Cllr C Miller	Cllr J Henry
Mr A Johnson	

In Attendance

PS G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

07/07/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/07/02 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Goudie, Mr M Peterson, Mrs A Simpson, Mr L Bisset, Mr S Gordon, Ms M Robertson, and Mr E Knight.

07/07/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2007 were approved by Mr R Anderson and seconded by Mr R Leith.

07/07/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

07/06/04 Cllr C Miller stated that the existing steps at the Old Judane Factory would be taken away and not replaced once the new pedestrian walkway was built as they were not a public right of way.

07/06/12 Mr R Anderson noted the grassy area at Breiwick Road had now been tended to.

07/07/05 **Police Report**

PS G McCarthy provided the following details of offences since the last meeting of LCC.

Crimes against the person - down from 8 to 3, all of which were detected
Crimes Involving Indecency - up from 5 to 10, 8 of which were detected
Crimes of Dishonesty - up from 77 to 88, of which 46 were detected
Crimes of Vandalism - up from 59 to 64, of which 28 were detected
Miscellaneous - down from 141 to 139, of which 123 were detected

Traffic Offences – down from 202 to 188, all of which were detected

PS G McCarthy noted there was an 82.6% detection rate with less than a 1% increase in crimes compared to the same time last year.

PS G McCarthy stated there had been a two week drink/drugs driving campaign where 24 people were breathalised and 1 detected.

Since the inception of the alcohol bye-law PS G McCarthy stated that 43 people had been charged.

Mr R Leith referred to the recent death of a youth through drugs abuse and asked PS G McCarthy why it seemed that although some places were well known as a 'water hole' for drugs users this information did not seem to be known by the police. He asked if the public could help more.

PS G McCarthy stated he would encourage any member of the public to contact the police with information, no matter how insignificant it may seem. He explained that any information would have to be corroborated before it could be acted on and all informants would be dealt with in confidence.

He noted that anyone not wanting to speak directly to the police could call the Safer Shetland Action Line and their information would then be passed on to the police.

Mr R Anderson asked PS G McCarthy what was the course of events following those who were charged through the alcohol bye-law.

PS G McCarthy explained that to date no one had contested the charge and all were given a fixed penalty from between £30 - £50.

The Chairman asked if it was mainly Commercial Street where the bye-law offences took place and PS G McCarthy replied that it was.

The Chairman thanked PS G McCarthy for giving the report which concluded at 7.10pm.

07/07/06

Approve Minutes of the 'special meeting' to define Open Areas for protection held on 11 June 2007

07/06/02 Mr R Leith noted that Mr Peterson's proposal received 4 votes and Mr Anderson's received 3 votes.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to amend the minutes.

The Chairman stated that Mr M Peterson requested that the area at the back of the Sound Gospel Hall be included as an 'open area for protection'. He asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Bessie Barron, Planning Officer, Shetland Islands Council and ask that this area be protected.

Cllr L Angus stated that it seemed illogical for Shetland Islands Council to grant planning permission for three houses to be built at Sands of Sound against both the wishes of Lerwick Community Council and the residents in the area.

Mrs K Greaves enquired if the Shetland Islands Council could be written to and asked if they would consider purchasing land to be kept as meadowland.

The Chairman stated that if the Shetland Islands Council wanted land to be kept as meadowland they would just refuse planning permission. He noted that the 'Local Plan' was there to preserve open areas for a restricted period of time and then the area would come up for review again.

The minutes of the 'special meeting' held on 11 June 2007 were approved by Mr W Spence and seconded by Ms K Fraser.

07/07/07

Proposals put forward by the Chairman.

7.1 To present LCC 'Shield' to former Chairman, Theo Nicolson.

All Lerwick Community Council members were in agreement to present former Chairman Mr Theo Nicolson with a 'silver' Shield.

7.2 To purchase two weather-resistant outdoor benches for public use.

All Lerwick Community Council members were in agreement to purchase two benches to be sited at Breiwick road, replacing the existing ones which are damaged.

Mrs K Greaves proposed a third bench be purchased for North Taing where many people stop to watch the seals. This proposal was seconded by Mr R Leith.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, Shetland Islands Council and ask if he would accept the donation of an additional bench seat for North Taing.

07/07/08

Correspondence

8.1 SIC Corporate Plan: Action Plan for the maintenance, Improvement and use of Road Network

The Chairman asked if any members of Lerwick Community Council had any comments.

Mrs K Greaves expressed concern regarding the resurfacing of Gilbertson Road and the 'build outs' on kerbs creating a 'slalom' effect.

The Chairman stated he could not comment as he had not seen the changes but would like to assume that it was safe. He noted that any 'build outs' would probably have been added to slow traffic down and discourage drivers from using Gilbertson Road as a throughway.

Mr R Leith stated it was a nightmare for parking due to the difficulty of getting into parking 'inserts'.

Cllr L Angus noted a lot of parking space had been lost due to the 'build outs'.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Neil Robertson, Roads, Shetland Islands Council and ask why the changes have been made to Gilbertson Road and how many parking spaces has been lost as a result.

The Chairman asked that at the same time Mr Robertson be asked which of the two plans of the proposed new Sletts Sea Wall sent for review to LCC 07/06/08 is to be used.

Mr W Spence asked if Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, Shetland Islands Council could make a presentation regarding the Sletts Sea Wall and Oversund Roundabout.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to Write to Mr Halcrow and invite him to the next meeting of the Lerwick Community Council.

8.2 Shetland Gymnastics Association: Grant Acknowledgement

The Chairman stated a representative from the Gymnastics Association had contacted him to say that one of the boys who travelled south on the Gymnastics trip had won a gold medal for the under 12's floor and vault and another boy had won a silver medal for the under 8's floor and vault.

8.3 SIC Infrastructure Services: Hazardous Substances Consent

Ref: 2006/323/HSC

Noted.

8.4 SIC Executive Services Department: Knab Dyke Reconstruction

Mr Rob Anderson noted that there was nothing in the letter to indicate the cost of the Knab Dyke Reconstruction. He Stated that Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, Sport and Leisure Services, Shetland Islands Council should be invited to a meeting of Lerwick Community Council and asked to give a straight answer to a straight question. Mr R Anderson noted that it had been three years since the Knab Dyke was damaged and any intended works should be brought forward and given priority.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Mr Magnus Malcolmson and invite him to a meeting of Lerwick Community Council to discuss the situation and also to Mr Mike Finnie and request that the costs for the Knab Dyke reconstruction be specified and included in the capital programme.

Mr L Angus noted that the banks had eroded up to the dyke at the South East corner of the cemetery and could cause damage to the dyke and footpath.

The Chairman stated a letter had been written about the problem a while ago as the wall had started to 'bell out'. He noted the problem could again be raised and discussed with Mr Malcolmson.

8.5 Anderson High School: Proposed New Build

Cllr L Angus noted there was to be a meeting of the Services Committee on 30th August where the subject of the new AHS would be discussed.

The Chairman stated that the Clickimin Site should still be given consideration and a comparison of costs for the build on both sites be made.

Mr R Leith asked if it was the underground car park which made the costs of the build so high.

Cllr L Angus explained the car park was to be on ground level with the school above so no excavations would have to be made for an underground car park.

Cllr L Angus proposed that as Bells Brae Primary School also needed to be replaced a design should be considered that could accommodate both the Primary School and the Secondary School as one package. He stated that the savings made would be considerable.

The Chairman proposed the motion that outline costs for the school to be built at Clickimin be investigated.

Mr R Anderson agreed with Cllr L Angus and asked that the proposal be put to the meeting of the Services Committee in August.

8.6 Stout's Court, Maintenance Enquiry from Member of the Public

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Chris Medley, Housing, Shetland Islands Council and enquire what their programme is for refurbishing the flats at Stout's Court.

He asked that a copy of the letter to Mr Medley be sent to Mrs Lilian Jamieson who raised the issue.

8.7 Shetland Amenity Trust – Annual Election of Trustees

The Chairman stated that anyone interested should fill in the form and send it to the Amenity Trust.

8.8 SIC Executive Services Department: 1 Stout's Court – Repair

Noted

8.9 SIC Sport & Leisure Services: Knab Dyke Reconstruction/Horses Head Seating Area/Benches/Brewick Road Grass

Noted

8.10 SIC Education & Social Care Department: Provision of Commemorative Coins

Noted

07/07/09

Financial Report

Noted

07/07/10

Financial Assistance

10.1 Cunningsburgh & Districts Agricultural Society

Mr R Anderson proposed Cunningsburgh & Districts Agricultural show be awarded £500. This was seconded by Mr R Leith.

07/07/11

Planning Applications

11.1 2007/255/PCD Erect two dwellinghouses, Quoys

No objections

11.2 2007/259/PCD Demolish and rebuild existing dwellinghouse, 15/17 Russell Crescent

No objections

11.3 2007/260/PCD Demolish and rebuild existing dwellinghouse, 15/16 South Lochside

No objections

11.4 2007/261/PCD Demolish and rebuild existing dwellinghouse, 29/31 Cairnfield Road

No objections

11.5 2007/263/PCD Develop site for storage and distribution of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Rearo Supplies Ltd, Staney Hill

No objections

11.6 2007/272/PCD Partially demolish, rebuild and restore existing cottage, extend cottage and change use of adjoining store as a dwelling, West Hall Cottage, Lower Sound

No objections

11.7 2007/274/PCD Change use from shop to domestic flat above 76-78 Commercial Street

No objections

11.8 2007/282/PCD Create landscaped area, car parking and install public art, Oversund/South Road Junction

No objections

Cllr Caroline Miller left the meeting at 8.15pm.

07/07/12

Any Other Business

Mrs K Greaves stated that although the Planning Department was, for financial reasons, no longer willing to put planning applications in the Shetland Times alternative methods of displaying planning applications should be sought. She proposed the Planning Department be approached and asked if Lerwick Planning applications could be printed on an A4 sheet, laminated and put on display in a public place.

The Chairman agreed to this proposal and asked the Clerk to the Council to write to the Planning Department requesting that this be done.

Mr D Ristori noted that some of the signs in the Lanes had been missing for years, in particular the sign for Back Charlotte Lane.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Neil Hutchinson, Infrastructure Services, Shetland Islands Council and ask what proposals they had to renew and replace signs in Lerwick's Lanes.

Mr D Ristori also expressed concern for St Clements Hall and feared it may be taken over for housing or offices and lost to the community.

Mr L Angus stated that a soft play area for children was currently under consideration. He also noted that extensions that had been added to the building may have to be removed.

Mr Ristori suggested that it should be made available for the Islesburgh Exhibition next year.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Mr Alan Rolfe, Asset and Property Manager, Shetland Islands Council and ask them to look favourably on this request.

Mr L Angus proposed that due to the renovations shortly to take place at the Town Hall, production of the Town Hall Booklet should be held off and printed to coincide with the 125th Anniversary of the Town Hall on 30 July 2008. He stated that photographs could be taken showing the renovations taking place and included in the new booklet.

The Chairman agreed to this proposal and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the Finance Department, Shetland Islands Council and ask to be allowed to carry over £6,000-£7,000 over and above the usual 10% from this year's budget to cover the cost of having the booklet produced.

The Chairman stated that Mr M Peterson pointed out that the area around New Craiglea looked very unkempt and needed to be tended to and re-seeded.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to contact Mr Robbie Simpson, Acting Manager, New Craigielea and ask for the area to be tidied up and re-seeded.

Following a letter from Mary Lisk, Infrastructure Services, Shetland Islands Council regarding Seaside Award, the Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to contact Mr Cooper, Head of Waste Services and suggest Bain's Beach be put up for consideration.

Following another letter from Mr George Leslie regarding sewage in the Clickimin Loch the Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Scottish water asking that the situation be treated with urgency and request when Capital Funds will be made available to rectify the situation.

The Chairman asked that copies of the letter be sent to Waterwatch, SEPA and Mr G Leslie.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL