

MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick, at 7.00pm

Members

Mr J Anderson	Mrs K Greaves
Mrs A Simpson	Mr W Stove
Mr D Ristori	Mrs K Fraser
Mr L Angus	Mr A Johnson
Mr E Knight	Mr W Spence

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr C Miller left 8.15pm	Cllr A Wishart left 8.50 pm
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Additional Co-opted Members

Mr L Henry

In Attendance

PS G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary
Sergeant B Gray, Northern Constabulary
Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads, Shetland Islands Council
Ms R Griffiths, Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

08/06/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

08/06/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Henry, Miss C Holmes and Cllr J Wills

08/06/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2008 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mrs K Greaves

08/06/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

08/05/06 Police report, page 4, paragraph 2.

PS G McCarthy requested the statement 'Inspector M Bell Replied 90% of the information...' be amended to 'Inspector M Bell replied most of the information...'

Also the statement, 'He stated £700,000 worth of heroin..... .' should be amended to 'He stated £100,000 worth of heroin.....'

08/05/05 Club XL – Presentation Following Voluntary Work Undertaken in Cape Town
Mrs A Simpson asked the Clerk of the Council to send a copy of the account of the presentation, to Mrs C Carter, Pupil Support Principal Teacher, Anderson High School.

Proposed New Anderson High School - Mr L Angus stated there would be a complete review of the whole project and a number of fundamentals challenged.

08/06/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy provided the following details of offences compared to those of the same time last year.

Crimes against the person – down from 3 to 2, both detected
Crimes involving indecency – up from 2 to 3, of which 2 were detected
Crimes of dishonesty – down from 60 to 52, of which 40 were detected
Crimes of vandalism – up from 31 to 87, of which 77 were detected
Miscellaneous crimes – up from 126 to 151, with 146 detections
Traffic Offences – down from 136 to 79, all detected

PS G McCarthy stated the increase in vandalism was largely attributed to one particular youngster who no longer resided in Shetland.

PS G McCarthy reported an overall detection rate of 92.5%, a 43.8% increase in crimes compared to that of last year. This relates to 57 more victims of crime.

He stated no other area of command had such high detection rate.

Ms K Fraser enquired if there were less drink related offences since the introduction of the Alcohol By-law.

Sergeant PS G McCarthy replied he did not have the actual statistics. He noted there was a general decrease in crime within Shetland so would say it did seem to be having an effect.

Mr L Angus noted he had read there was a growing market for heroin in Lerwick and the towns' drug problems were similar to that of Fraserburgh 10 years ago.

PS G McCarthy stated the problem was increasing but they had a better detection rate and continued assistance from the public.

The report concluded at 7.15pm.

08/06/06

Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads Department, Shetland Islands Council – Discussion on Pedestrianisation of Commercial Street

Mr I Halcrow noted Commercial Street was pedestrianised 11.30 – 5.30 from Market Cross to the Fort Chip Shop and the area of Commercial Street from Church Road to Market Cross was access only.

He stated initial suggestions to pedestrianise Commercial Street from Church Road to Market Cross had been met with opposition, including that from Lerwick Community Council.

Mr I Halcrow stated that if there was any move to pedestrianise the area there would be a strong case to remove the parking bays in front of the Royal Bank from general availability, thus removing the need for people to drive through that area of the street.

He noted not many people seemed aware Burns Walk leading on to Commercial Street at the side of Clydesdale Bank was restricted. He conceded the signs were not obvious and stated the layout of buildings in the area made it difficult to display signs.

Mr I Halcrow suggested one possibility was to rearrange the parking places at Clydesdale Bank to prevent driving on Commercial Street. He explained this move would be expensive and without a strong case things would be left as they were.

He stated disabled drivers were exempt from the restrictions but they themselves generated quite a bit of traffic.

Mr W Stove enquired if no parking was accepted outside the Royal Bank could people still drive onto that part of the street to deliver items to the post office.

Mr I Halcrow affirmed that after 11.30 only invalid drivers could drive on the street.

Mr A Stove stated that in Ayr parking and vehicles were prohibited on the Street. Barrows were used to transport goods from delivery vans to retailers and it seemed to work well.

The Chairman asked Mr I Halcrow if he had any information on traffic movement in the street.

Mr Halcrow stated the only way to measure traffic movement on Commercial Street was manually and they did not have the funds or manpower to do that. He explained the usual method to measure traffic movement was not suitable on Commercial Street.

Mr L Angus noted there was no evidence to show traders would suffer if Commercial Street was fully pedestrianised.

Cllr C Miller agreed with Mr L Angus saying pedestrianisation of Commercial Street had no negative impact. She noted this was assisted by the 11.30 deadline being flexible, for example, if the boat was late.

Mrs K Greaves enquired if a Park and Ride system would work.

Mr I Halcrow pointed out Lerwick had a Town Bus Service and people living on the outskirts of town should be encouraged to leave their cars at home and use the service.

He stated he did not see a Park and Ride system working as drivers from the country would park on the outskirts of town causing problems in residential areas.

PS G McCarthy stated that the signs at Burns walk were confusing and drivers were unaware it was access only from the Commercial Street access at Church Road to Market Cross. He agreed it would be better and safer for pedestrians to walk with no fear of conflict with a vehicle.

The Chairman noted that in Inverness automatic bollards disappeared down into the street when vehicles allowed access approached.

Mr B Stove stated there was a case for a phased approach over two years starting at the Post Office end of Commercial Street.

Ms K Fraser noted that ultimately bollards might be the way forward. She stated Commercial Street was crying out to be pedestrianised and more short term parking should be made available.

Mr I Halcrow pointed out there were quite a few 45 minute parking spaces around the Esplanade area, 15 minute parking spaces in front of the Royal Bank and 2 hour parking spaces below the Fort.

He noted prior to these parking places being created for short term parking, workers cars would be parked for the full day cutting down on parking spaces for shoppers.

Cllr C Miller stated that in general the current system had been working well but lately, without a traffic warden, people were taking liberties. She expressed her appreciation for the assistance of the Police but noted a Traffic Warden was needed.

The Chairman asked PS G McCarthy if there had been any news regarding a replacement Traffic Warden.

PS G McCarthy replied that there was not.

Mr W Stove suggested parking meters should be installed at the Royal Bank and the money could be used for the Traffic Wardens salary.

Mr I Halcrow stated that there would be lots of hoops for Shetland Islands Council to go through for that style of paid parking. Due to the 'administrative burden' it would only be worthwhile if they covered a wider area.

The Chairman noted that Cllr J Wills had expressed concern over speeding traffic on the esplanade and asked Mr I Halcrow if he had any information on the subject.

Mr I Halcrow replied traffic counters had been used at Church Road but it did not give a true picture.

He stated that during the day the level of traffic, congestion and the narrowness of the street made it difficult for traffic to speed, but in the evening there was more opportunity for traffic to speed. However he felt the proportion that did was quite small.

He noted it would not be impossible to put up speed limits in the town centre but stated it was difficult to know where the limit should start and end, and what people would see as reasonable.

He suggested the problem was not severe enough to warrant speed limits.

Mr I Halcrow stated there was currently a 20mph programme at schools and some residential areas and they took priority.

He noted large delivery vehicles had to drive through the length of Commercial Street rather than Burns Walk and on to Commercial Street as the turn at Clydesdale Bank was too restrictive.

Mr L Angus noted the Roads Service, Shetland Island Council and the Police would have to look at the signage at Burns Walk as many people were abusing the restriction through ignorance.

The Chairman asked where the signs were.

Mr I Halcrow replied the signs were on the upper side of the parking area at the corner of Clydesdale Bank. He stated they would have another look at making the signs more visible.

Mrs A Simpson asked how visible the signs were at Market Cross.

PS G McCarthy replied they were situated on the SYIS building and the Opticians.

Cllr C Miller enquired if it would be feasible to have a campaign heavily publicising the restrictions, highlighting the fixed penalty fine of £30 and having a strong Police presence for a few weeks.

PS G McCarthy replied they had already done so but it had made little difference. He suggested a no entry sign and endorsable fine would have more effect but stated he should discuss things with Mr I Halcrow at a different forum.

The Chairman noted he looked forward to hearing the outcome of any meeting they may have regarding the problem.

Ms K Fraser asked PS G McCarthy if, with the introduction of CCTV, officers could watch drivers on screen and send out fixed penalties to those drivers on the street at prohibited times.

PS G McCarthy replied that unfortunately they could not.

The Chairman thanked Mr I Halcrow for his presentation.

The presentation concluded at 7.55pm.

Mr I Halcrow, PS G McCarthy and Sergeant B Gray left the meeting.

08/06/07

Staneyhill Footpath – Footpath Plan and Quotation

The general view was that the quotation received seemed quite high. The Chairman noted the item would be held over until more competitive quotes could be sought.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr L Cluness, who had originally approached Lerwick Community Council with the proposal, and advise him quotations for the work were being sought.

08/06/08

New Town Hall Guide Book

The Chairman asked Mrs A Simpson and Mrs K Greaves to discuss the spelling errors they had noticed. He requested Mrs A Simpson contact the Clerk of the Council with the amendments.

Mrs K Greaves suggested school children should be presented with a free copy of the Town Hall Guide to mark the 125th anniversary.

Mr L Henry noted that from his experience the Town Hall Guide would not be particularly appreciated by schoolchildren. He stated they would not 'get their £5.95 out of it' and the majority would end up in the bin.

Mr L Angus proposed Community Councilors should each receive a copy and the rest should be sold. He stated Shetland Islands Council could do what they liked with their copies.

Mrs A Simpson proposed children who performed during the celebrations should be given a copy.

Mr W Stove requested that Shetland Islands Council be written to and advised Lerwick Community Council would make available, copies for them to purchase, should they themselves wish to present them to schoolchildren.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Education, Shetland Islands Council as Mr W Stove suggested.

Mrs A Simpson proposed 6,000 copies of the Town Hall Guide should be purchased. This was seconded by Mr W Stove.

08/06/09

Correspondence

9.1 Mr N Robertson, Network Engineer, SIC – Flagstones – Commercial Street

Noted

Cllr C Miller left at 8.15pm

9.2 Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association – Meaning of proposed name ARHEIM

Ms K Fraser stated street names were part of the fabric of the town and Hjaltland Housing Association should come up with something more imaginative.

She suggested streets should go back to being named to commemorate local people or an event.

Mr D Ristori stated he agreed with Ms K Fraser and noted he had sent a list of suggested street names to Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association.

He was advised his suggestions would be kept on file.

Mrs K Fraser proposed Mr B Leask should be written to and asked to choose names which reflect the modern history and culture of Shetland.

This proposal was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

Mr E Knight stated he could see nothing wrong with the name Arheim and noted many places in Shetland had 'Norse' names.

The Chairman stated that as Mr B Leask had been waiting for a response for some time the name Arheim should be accepted.

However he suggested the Clerk of the Council write to Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association with Ms K Fraser's proposal.

Mrs K Fraser agreed with the Chairman's suggestion.

9.3 Mr D Macnae, Network & Design Manager, SIC – Lighting, Chromate Lane

Mr L Angus stated he was very disappointed with the response, as were the other three Lerwick South Councillors. He noted the lamp post had been in a poor state for thirty years and should be seen as a priority.

Mr E Knight noted the issue had been raised by Councillors on previous occasions to no avail.

Mr L Angus thought it would not be unreasonable to write to Mr D Macnae, Network & Design Manager, Infrastructure Services Department, Shetland Islands Council and ask him to review the decision.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr D Macnae expressing Lerwick Community Councils support of the four Lerwick South Councillors in their attempts to have the lamp post replaced.

He asked the Clerk to request a list of current defective lamp posts and details of those expected to be replaced in Lerwick this year.

Mr W Stove stated a panel which had been taped on to the lamp post at the bottom of Lovers Loan had been kicked off by youths.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to mention this when she wrote to Mr D Macnae.

Cllr A Wishart noted there would be a meeting of the Town Councillors the following week and the issue would be on the agenda.

9.4 Cllr J Wills – Emails and replies – Street Lighting, Chromate Lane

Noted

9.5 Prof. Alan Alexander FRSE, Chair, Postwatch Scotland – Post Office Closures

The Chairman stated Lerwick Community Council had already written in support of the two Shetland Post Offices.

9.6 Sheila Johnson, Access Officer, SIC – Request for a gate – Twageos Road

The Chairman noted the gate was now in place.

9.7 Sheila Keith, Shetland Development Trust – Application 2008/157/PCD – Air Drying Facility and Cutting Room for Sheep Meat

Noted

9.8 Grant thanks – Laurence Smith, Chairman, Lerwick Town Centre Association

Noted

9.9 John Uttley, Area Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage – East Rova Head Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Noted

9.10 Jennie Atkinson, Planning Officer, SIC – Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development

Noted

08/06/10

Financial Report

The Chairman reminded members that the estimated free funds did not include the 20% reduction (£8,507) held back by Shetland Islands Council while the Peat Road Grant portion was under review.

He stated that as yet no firm decision had been made as to what proportion if any of the £8,507 would be paid to Lerwick Community Council.

08/06/11

Financial Assistance

11.1 Celtic Badminton Club – To fund travel and accommodation for two members competing in the Masters Triangular Badminton Event

The Chairman stated he had spoken to Mr M Duncan, Grants Officer, Shetland Islands Council who advised applicants seeking funding for this type of event from them could be eligible for 50% match funding if their application is received six weeks prior to their trip.

Mr W Stove expressed concern that the application for funding was from adults. He proposed £100 should be granted and the applicants advised they would not be eligible for future funding.

Mr E Knight seconded the proposal.

Mrs K Greaves stated people from Shetland spent time, effort and money attending competitive events on the mainland and Lerwick Community Council should be trying to encourage this.

She proposed £200 funding should be granted.

Ms K Fraser seconded Mrs K Greaves proposal and suggested the applicants be advised they could be eligible for funding from Shetland Islands Council should they seek further funding in the future.

Mrs K Greaves proposal won six votes to three.

08/06/12

Parking Orders

12.1 SIC (Leog Lane, Lerwick) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2008

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr N Hutcheson and ask for assurance that a disabled parking space was actually required outside No 7 Leog Lane.

12.2 SIC (24 St Olaf Street, Lerwick) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle)

Order 2008

No objections

08/06/13

Planning Applications

13.1 2008/193/PCD – To erect Class 5 (General Industrial) workshop with associated storage shed, Stoney Hill Industrial Estate by Mr F Gibson

No objections

Cllr A Wishart left at 8.50pm

08/06/14

Any Other Business

Mr D Ristori noted there had been a strong smell of sewerage in Bayes, Browns Buildings and Hays upper shop.

Mrs K Greaves noted there had been a strong smell at the bottom of Burgh Road, near the North Road Junction.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Steven Cooper, Head of Service, Environment and Building Services, Shetland Islands Council to advise them of the situation and ask how they intended to alleviate the problem.

Mr W Spence noted he saw a young couple climbing over the gate at Clickimin Broch and challenged them about it.

He stated it was clear the gate was too low and for security reasons and the welfare of the Broch should be heightened.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr G Douglas, Historic Scotland suggesting the security of the Broch be reviewed.

He noted it would be in Historic Scotland's own interest as heightening the gate, fence and other security measures like barbed wire may assist in protecting the Broch from vandals dislodging stone.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL