

MONDAY 19 March 2007

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Mrs A Simpson
Cllr E Knight
Mrs K Greaves
Cllr G Feather
Cllr J Henry

Mr D Ristori
Mr A Johnston
Ms M Robertson
Mr R Leith
Mr M Peterson

In Attendance

Mr R Baker, Emmanuel Christian Fellowship
Mr J Tonge, Emmanuel Christian Fellowship
Mr A Wishart, Member of Public
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

07/03/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/03/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Goudie, Ms K Fraser, Mr R Anderson, Mr W Spence and Cllr L Angus.

07/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2007 were approved by Mrs K Greaves and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

07/03/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

07/02/06 The Chairman stated that after checking with Mrs A Cogle, Legal and Admin, it was possible for Mr A Goudie to become a full co-opted member of the Lerwick Community Council giving him full voting rights. He put forward the motion and it was seconded By Mr D Ristori.

07/02/07 Cllr J Henry queried the situation of the Knab Dyke and asked if anyone would be coming to a Lerwick Community Council meeting to discuss the situation. The clerk to the council stated that Mr Malcolmson had been contacted but she was yet to hear back.

07/02/05 The Chairman noted that he had contacted Roads & Transport and they were unsure who put up the barrier on the Staney Hill road but it was thought to be the planning department of the Shetland Islands Council.

07/02/11 Mrs K Greaves stated that at an Assets and Planning meeting she attended the subject of St. Clements was raised. It was agreed that no plans would be made until the situation with the Library was resolved but any suggestions from the Lerwick Community Council would be looked at. Current possibilities are an extension to King Edward House or more Council Offices.

07/03/05

Police Report

As PC G McCarthy was not present, no police report was available.

07/03/06

Emmanuel Christian Fellowship: New Multipurpose Centre

Mr Bob Baker, Treasurer and Trustee for the Emmanuel Christian Fellowship thanked the Chairman and the Lerwick Community Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and make their presentation. He stated the Emmanuel Christian Fellowship wished to move from where they were in Bank Lane where their premises offered no room for expansion and build a new custom designed multipurpose facility for use by the whole community. He stated that their plans were to make the facility available to people of all ages and backgrounds and create an impact on the Lerwick community as a whole, not just worshippers. They planned to have a 'Holiday Kid's Club', welcome families, old folk and singles groups and have rooms available for meetings. He noted that their preference was to purchase one or two acres of land in the North end of Lerwick and had hoped to hear from Chris Medley, Head of Housing soon after Christmas if land could be made available but had as yet heard nothing concrete. He stated that Hjalmland had expressed an interest in purchasing their current property for residential use.

Mr Jamie Tonge, the Church Pastor stated that the Fellowship had been in their current building since 1984 and wished particularly to move to the North area of Lerwick where there were no Churches. He also felt the Fellowship fitted in well with the Salvation Army ethos. He noted they had resources to assist with areas of social concern such as parenting, debt problem management, relationships and did overseas work eg. helping orphanages. The Fellowship also work closely with Sabina Holtbrook and the Papa Stour Project. He stated that the facility would have rooms available to rent out for Conferences, Seminars and Toddler Groups.

Mr Baker noted that the sale of their current property to Hjalmland could be in excess of £100,000 and that the land costs would be approximately £70,000. The building costs for the proposed project were estimated to be £400,000 - £500,000 and said he would be grateful for any funding advice which would help make their project a reality.

The Chairman noted that it seemed the facility would be used much more than a place of worship. Mr Baker replied that their current building was intensively used and reiterated it was not just for worshippers.

The Chairman asked to be kept up to date with the project and invited Mr Baker and Mr Tonge to make another presentation when land is secured and more details of the project are known. He thanked Mr Baker and Mr Tonge for coming to the meeting. Mr Baker and Mr Tonge left at 7.25pm.

07/03/07 **NHS Shetland, Hospital Capital Plans**

Due to unforeseen circumstances Mr Johnson was unable to make his presentation which has now been held over until the next meeting of the Lerwick Community Council.

07/03/08 **Library Provision in Lerwick, Feasibility Study**

Mrs Silvija Crook, Shetland Islands Council Library and Information Services Manager, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to attend the Lerwick Community Council meeting and began her presentation.

Mrs Crook stated that the feasibility study was completed and ready to be presented at a full Council meeting on 28th March. She noted there were three main options under consideration which were; option one, do nothing. This would incur a cost of £30,000 for a stairway to be built as a link between the basement and the ground floor to prevent staff from having to go outdoors to gain access to the basement for stored books. Option two, which would be to remodel the old Museum and Library which would cost £2.5 million and also incur extra staffing costs and option three which was to pursue a new build on the Old Archives site costing 9.5 million including the fitting of the building. Mrs Crook stated that with this option revenue costs would be neutral, no extra energy or staffing costs.

Mrs Crook noted that when the cost was calculated over 60 years, the life of the building, it showed the new build was still more costly but only by 2 million. She stated that it would meet all their needs, would require no additional staff, provide much needed 'under cover' for Mobile Library Vans and due to high specification for energy conservation, no extra energy costs.

Mrs Crook noted that the disadvantages of option two were that revenue costs would rise due to the need for additional staff to cover both buildings, one on two floors. There would be no 'under cover' for the Mobile Library Vans and having the Library split between two buildings was not ideal. She stated that with option one, only 60% of the books could be on display and currently staff had to go outside the building to get books from storage. The option of putting in a staircase would help but it would also cut down on the current floor area.

Mrs Crook stated that she would welcome any questions and thoughts from the Lerwick Community Council members.

Mrs K Greaves asked if any consideration had been given to building on the Waterfront. Mrs Crook stated that option had been looked at but there had been technical difficulties such as a problem with road levels and there were grave parking implications. Mrs Crook noted that the North Ness area had also been considered but it was felt to be too far away. She stated that

three public meeting with staff, youths and other Community Councils all identified the Town Centre as their choice for a Library.

Mrs K Greaves noted that reinstating the old Library and Museum seemed to be the preferred choice of people she had spoken to. Mr M Peterson noted that the professional fees of 20% of costs seemed very high. Mr Neil Clubb, Project Manager, replied that Mike Finnie felt that it was a very realistic estimate for professional fees and the work which would be involved from the outset of the project.

Mr M Peterson stated that he was saddened that extending St. Ringans was not considered an option. Mrs Crook replied that as a listed building Historic Scotland would not allow any extension. Mr Peterson stated that Historic Scotland was not as inflexible as that. Mrs Crook assured Mr Peterson that a glazed extension to St. Ringans had been looked at but it had been dismissed out of hand by Historic Scotland.

The Chairman questioned if additional staff would be needed if option two were chosen. Mrs Crooks stated that they would try to contain lending in the old building where the children's section would be in the upper floor and a lift installed. By spreading over two floors, three levels would have to be staffed between the old building and St. Ringans which would require two additional staff on both shifts. Mrs M Robertson stated that anything other than a new build would be a backward step and asked which option Mrs Crook preferred. Mrs Crook replied that from a professional Librarian point of view, the new build was the best for provision of service but understood the financial concerns. Mr N Clubb noted that over the life of the building, 60 years, and taking into consideration staff and maintenance, the figures between option two and three were much closer together and it comes down to capital costs.

Mr R Leith asked where the funding in the budget would come from and noted his concern that it would be at the expense of the Cinema/Music venue. Mrs Crook stated that the Cinema/Music venue was far too advanced and had its place. She explained the Cinema/Music venue was eligible for different sorts of funding and that the Library would be prioritised in terms of need. Mrs K Greaves noted that the 7 million between option two and three were considerable and asked which Mrs Crook preferred. Mrs Crook stated that the new build was her preference so long as costs were accepted and stated she did have concerns over the extra revenue costs of option two and the fact that there was no under cover area for the Mobile Library vans. Mrs K Greaves stated that she felt the new build would not go ahead due to costs and thought the Archive site would be better suited to housing. Mrs M Robertson stated that it was not a huge amount of money and any other option was just a waste of time.

The Chairman asked if a new Library could not be combined with the building of the new Anderson High. Mrs Crook replied that the option would not be suitable for the general public. Mrs A Simpson stated that a new Library was needed and the Council could find the money from somewhere. Mr M Peterson stated that we should 'lock horns' with Historic Scotland and pursue extending the current Library. Mr R Leith noted that it was 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' and other projects should not be cut down in their funding. The Chairman stated that it was up to the Council and it would be prioritised as they see fit.

He noted that a new build seemed to be the best option and in the long term would save on revenue and offer an improved service. Mrs A Simpson proposed the new build option and this was seconded by Mrs M Robertson. Mr M Peterson put forward the motion to leave things as they are or extend St. Ringans. No one seconded this motion.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Crook and Mr Clubb for attending the meeting and making their presentation. They left at 8.15pm.

07/03/09

Correspondence

9.1 Shetland Regeneration Partnership

Noted

9.2 Scottish Parliament - Future of Post Office Services

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write in support of rural Post Offices. Mr M Peterson noted the Lerwick Community Council could lend their support if the Association for Community Councils are going to pursue it.

9.3 Shetland Amenity Trust - Trees at Clickimin

Cllr J Henry, Mrs A Simpson and Mrs M Robertson agreed to volunteer their services. Mr M Peterson stated he would be interested in knowing what plans the Amenity Trust have as an ongoing maintenance plan. The Chairman noted the willingness to help but asked the Clerk of the Council to write and request a copy of their maintenance plan for ongoing care. Cllr J Henry stated he was sure someone from the Amenity Trust would come and show volunteers what to do. He noted that the Amenity Trust had a Woodlands Officer and lots of volunteers and felt the Lerwick Community Council should put in a bit of effort as part of the community.

Cllr J Henry stated that Mr J MacKenzie should come to a meeting and speak about their long term plans of care and upkeep. The Chair asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr MacKenzie and invite him to make a presentation.

9.4 Sletts Rock Armouring Reinstatement

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Robertson, Roads Service and ask for an update from the meeting of the Member Officer Working Group for the Maintenance and Improvement of Roads on their future intentions at the Sletts.

9.5 SIC - Gilbert Bain Hospital - Traffic Congestion

The Chairman noted the letter from Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, who did not seem to be overly concerned regarding the new parking facilities at the Gilbert Bain Hospital despite this Council's concern over an increase in traffic adjacent to the primary school. Mrs A Simpson stated that as work was well underway for the car park we would just have to wait and see.

9.6 Zoning Proposals

The Chairman Stated that the proposal to open up the back of the hill may be construed as self interest however, whether it is embraced in part or in full they should be commended for coming up with a plan, whether we agree

with it or not. Mrs A Simpson stated that she agreed with the Chairman and thought it was worth looking at and discussing further.

Cllr E Knight stated that he thought the idea of building a new road along the Cunningham Way had come before the Lerwick Community Council on a previous occasion. Mr A Johnston noted that it had but was thought a bad idea and he declared an interest. Cllr E Knight stated that it had come before the Lerwick Community Council before and the Lerwick Community Council recommended it should happen and it went to the S.I.C. who turned it down or 'lost it' but it was before his time as a member of the Lerwick Community Council. Cllr J Henry noted that Mr Theo Nicolson would know.

Cllr E Knight noted it would link into the old Staney Hill road offering an alternative road getting in and out of town. Cllr J Henry stated that things change over time and there was a drastic change in housing demand. He felt the Lerwick Community Council should be involved from the beginning as this wasn't going to go away. The chairman stated that the Lerwick Community Council did need to get involved early and see things were planned properly. He asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Maurice and invite him to come to the next meeting to discuss things more fully. It was also suggested that an invite to Bessie Barron, Planning, be extended to come along at the same time.

9.7 Shetland Amenity Trust - Grant Assistance Thanks

Noted

9.8 Shetland Woman's Football Club- Grant Assistance Thanks

Noted

07/03/10

Financial Report

After costs for the new office computer system and projected costs before the end of the financial year are taken into consideration, approximately £500 will be left in the budget.

07/03/11

Financial Assistance

11.1 Shetland Gymnastics Association

The Chairman requested that the decision for this application be deferred until the next meeting when the Clerk to the Council inquires as to how many people involved are based in Lerwick. Cllr J Henry noted that the sport was indoor based and ideal for Shetland and should be supported.

11.2 and 11.3 Moving on Employment Project

Mr M Peterson suggested the Moving on Project should be awarded a combined total of £500 funding to be shared between both projects. This was seconded by Mrs M Robertson.

07/03/12

Planning Applications

12.1 Norstane, Burnside, Soldian Court and Voderview-20 Miles Per Hour Zone

No objections.

07/03/13

Any Other Business

Mr M Peterson stated that he was perplexed at how few planning applications came before the Lerwick Community Council compared with the building going on in Lerwick. He felt that notice of planning applications should be published again in the Shetland Times as it was for public interest. The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to the Planning Department with the Lerwick Community Council's concerns.

Mr M Peterson stated the resurfacing of Hillhead and Ladies Drive was not done well, tar and chips had been laid down but not properly. It was agreed to write to the SIC expressing concern at the resurfacing. He also noted that the bench at the Sea Road entrance to the 'Avenue' had been broken and wondered if there were any proposals to have it replaced. The Chairman stated that when they heard from Mr Malcomson he could be asked.

Mr M Peterson noted that the wind had blown the contents of the recycle skips at the Amenity Trust Compound at Staney Hill Industrial Estate all over the place and stated that those responsible for the skips should pay close attention to their upkeep. Mr Peterson went on to say he thought that plans for a slaughterhouse at the Shetland Marts when there was housing planned in the area was unsuitable. The Chairman stated that this was precisely why this Council should get involved early with any zoning proposals to stop this type of thing from happening.

The Chairman noted that delivery trucks to the Co-op were still causing problems to pedestrians by reversing off the road and parking on the pavement. He noted this should still not be happening as the Co-op's request for a new goods delivery access from the Lerwick Port Authority's new link road had received planning permission in July last year. He asked the Clerk to the Council to write to the Co-op to enquire about the situation

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL