

MONDAY 8 MARCH 2010

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson	Mr J Anderson
Mr W Stove	Mr A Henry
Mr D Ristori	Mr A Johnson
Mr W Spence	Mr L Angus
Mr R Leith	Ms K Fraser
Mr E Knight	

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Henry

Additional Co-opted Members

Ms Caitlin Watt	Mr Jordan Thomason
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In Attendance

Mr Neil Clubb, Contract Manager (Architecture), SIC **left 7.55pm**
Mr C Medley, Head of Service, Housing, SIC **left 7.55pm**
Cllr A Duncan, Member for Shetland South **left 7.55pm**
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

10/03/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

10/03/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Smith, who was attending a meeting of Dogs Against Drugs, Cllr A Wishart, Cllr J Wills and Mr M Peterson.

10/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2010 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr L Angus.

10/03/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Knab Viewpoint

The Chair advised he had approached stonemasons who were to pool together to put in a tender to provide comparison costs in time for the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

12/02/13 Concern – Dogs Not Under Control

Mr E Knight requested the minute to be amended to read 'Mr E Knight stated an existing fence.....'

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr L Angus asked the Clerk to correct the minute by removing his name from the Ex-Officio Councillor section and adding to the Members section.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/03/05

Area Commanders Monthly Report – February 2010

Mr W Stove commented that he disliked the statement 'We also target known offenders...' He stated the police should be looking for criminals instead.

The Chairman noted it was a poor use of English.

10/03/06

Police Report

No police officer was present at the meeting but the following statistics, emailed earlier that day, were read out by the Chairman.

Crime analysis for February 2009/2010 compared to that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 15 to 17, with 16 detections
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 21 to 33, with 29 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 271 to 332, of which 235 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 292 to 250, of which 101 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 211 to 150, all detected
Class 6 - Miscellaneous Crimes – Down from 578 to 423, with 392 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Up from 468 to 484, with 477 detections

Mr R Leith raised concern regarding the circumstances surrounding the recent event of a death of a man in a taxi. He believed the Police may have been present at some point during the incident.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to contact PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary and request a report of the incident.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/03/08

Hoofield Housing Redevelopment, New Pre-application Consultation Requirements – Mr Neil Clubb, Contract Manager (Architecture), SIC & Chris Medley, Head of Service, Housing, SIC

Mr N Clubb, Contract Manager (Architecture), SIC opened his presentation by stating he would update members on the progress made regarding the proposed redevelopment at Hoofields.

He advised a variety of house designs were being looked at taking into account a flexible layout, sustainability and ease of construction. Attic trusses were to be used to allow the possibility of extending up into the roof space either at the time of building or at a later date. He stated that this option would allow growing families the option to extend up into the loft space rather than go on the housing list to be relocated.

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He noted additional various small modifications could also be added to the house plans such as a dividing wall or sliding doors to section the living area from kitchen/dining area, projecting windows and patio doors.

colours.

Car parking would be in a central core with plans for social space, planting and general areas. The buildings would be wood clad and painted in light fresh

this was a
assessed,

Mr N Clubb advised the houses would be highly insulated to retain the heat and reduce drafts and air to water heat pumps installed.

He stated it would be classed as a major development and that the housing site was 4 hectares, 2 ½ of which was on a Greenfield zone. He stressed that departure from the local plan but in their favour the land had been quality and was found to be very poor.

The Chairman stressed the Local Plan was a living document and should not be restrictive but a guidance document.

Mr C Medley, Head of service, Housing, SIC advised there was a huge demand for housing in Lerwick and although a major development it was only half what was needed.

The Chairman raised concern that the layout of the site might restrict any future development behind it and stated efforts should be made not to 'close doors' to a particular area.

Mr N Clubb stated there were a lot of issues to consider and they did not want to land lock any area so a loop road had been planned into the design to give any future development access.

The Chairman enquired if feeder roads would be more appropriate; he was concerned 100% of vehicles on the road would have to drive past homes.

Mr N Clubb stated they had to consider the gradient of the hill and had been in consultation with Roads, SIC to make sure there was a degree of flexibility with the roads to allow access to other sites, if suitable.

He advised they had received very favourable feedback following public consultations.

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Mr L Angus praised the extent of the consultations and hoped the project would receive the full backing of Lerwick Community Council. He commended thought that had gone into the design of the homes, offering options, space character.

Mr W stove enquired as to the quality and lifespan of the housing.

a foot build

Mr N Clubb advised it would be similar to that of the Hjalatland Housing. They had chosen timber due to the options for colour. For upkeep they would be painted every 5-6 years and their fresh appearance maintained.

Mr W Stove enquired if there would be any private homes within the development.

Mr C Medley replied an advert would be put in the Shetland Times for expressions of interest in buying a completed house or house site. It would give people in the housing market and income received from the sales could be used to elsewhere.

He approved of the idea of house ownership being mixed between local authority and private owners as it would, hopefully, assist in removing the stigmatisation Hoofields currently held.

housing.

Mr N Clubb advised it was hoped they would get a tender advert out for the roads within the next few weeks and be on site for the end of the summer.

Mr L Angus stated that further to his meeting with the Housing Minister in Edinburgh, 4 March 2010 regarding Shetland's failure to secure funding, Mr G Johnston, Head of Service, Finance, SIC and Mr C Medley would be attending a meeting on 9 March 2010 with government officials in Aberdeen. The meeting will allow them to attempt to convince these officials that Shetland Islands Council can successfully manage its housing debt if granted funds for new build local authority

The Chairman thanked Mr N Clubb and Mr C Medley for their presentation.

Mr N Clubb, Mr C Medley and Mr A Duncan left at 7.55 pm.

10/03/09 Correspondence

8.1 106 King Harald Street, Mould Growth on Wall – Steven Cooper, Head of Service, Environment & Building Services, SIC
Noted

8.2 Signage request for dog walkers on path behind Clickimin Loch – Robert Geddes, Manager, Clickimin Leisure Complex

Mr W Stove stated he attended the meeting of the Recreational Trust where the letter from Lerwick Community Council was discussed. No funding was available to erect the signs as requested but should someone else wish to fund the signs, they would be erected.

Mr L Angus noted there was no excuse for dog fouling and it was a few irresponsible dog owners who would not change their ways until people are prosecuted.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Ms Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health Manager, SIC and advise her there was dog mess at the Sandy Loch which would need tended to before lambing season.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

He asked the Clerk to write and invite Ms Dunne to make a presentation at the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.3 Parking Concern, North Ness – Mike Finnie, Capital Programme Service Manager, SIC

Mr L Angus noted each established and planned building in the area had adequate parking for their own average use, but any big event would inevitably lead to parking overspill.

He added he was convinced the original plans did include a two-storey car park but it was cut on grounds of cost.

Mr E Knight stated he thought the focus had been on trying to encourage people to walk more and now there were concerns there would not be enough parking spaces to allow people to take their cars.

Ms K Fraser agreed wholeheartedly with Mr E Knight. She stated that not all establishments at North Ness would be holding big events at the same time and if we were serious about cutting down on the use of cars, we could not expect to continue to drive from door to door.

Mr E Knight added he was at North Ness every day and had never seen the Museum car park full, unless there was a special event, but drivers could still find other places to park.

Ms A Simpson agreed that there seemed to be plenty parking spaces in the area.

Mr L Angus noted there was neither right nor wrong and we would just have to wait and see.

Mr E Knight noted that when all building works were completed the big events, which largely took place at night, could make use of the empty car parking facilities at the office buildings.

Mr L Angus stated at some point multi-storey car parking would have to be considered as land could not continue to be given up for black top car parking.

8.4 Jimmy Col's Steps – Bessie Barron, Planning Officer, SIC
Noted

8.5 Jimmy Col's Steps – Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC
Noted

8.6 Dog Fouling, Knab, Clickimin Loch and Sletts – Maggie Dunne, Service Manager, Environmental Health, SIC
Noted

8.7 Steps at Judane – Sandra Laurenson, Chief Executive, Lerwick Port Authority
Mr D Ristori stated the steps referred to in the letter were not the ones he had issue with.

The Chairman advised he would provide Mr D Ristori with a plan of the area in order for the steps in question to be correctly identified.
(Action: Chairman)

8.8 Email declining invitation to present at a meeting of LCC – Mr Iain McDiarmid, Head of Service, Planning, SIC
Noted

8.9 Confirmation regarding decision to decline Grant Assistance for production of Lerwick Celtic Publication - Laurence Robertson
Noted

8.10 Lerwick Town Action Plan, Priorities & Projects 2009-2012 – Paul Wishart, Secretary, Lerwick Old Town Development Association
The Chairman noted considerable time, effort and enthusiasm had been put into the plan and he would have like to have seen the rest of Lerwick included.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write inviting Mr L Smith, Chairman or Mr P Wishart, Secretary, Lerwick Old Town Development Association to a meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.11 Review of Winter Maintenance Operations – David Macnae, Network & Design Manager, SIC

The Chairman stated Roads Department, SIC did a good job of maintaining the roads in winter. However, there was an issue where the pavement gritter would drive up the South Road between 8am and 9am towards the Observatory causing problems to traffic on the snowy roads.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Neil Robertson, Engineer, Roads, SIC requesting that he arrange for the vehicle to keep on the pavements.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.12 Shetland Visitor 2010, request for amendments & additions – Jenny Henry, The Shetland Times

Mr E Knight noted there was no mention of Lerwick Boating Club.

Mr L Angus stated he thought the publication was intended for use as a guide for accommodation and a vehicle for those with accommodation to advertise.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Jenny Henry with Mr E Knights comment and also note Cubby Hol is no longer open.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.13 Invitation to Public Meeting – Heather Brash, Convener, Waterwatch Scotland

The Chairman advised he would be attending the meeting and asked if members had any issues they would like him to raise on their behalf.

Mr L Angus voiced concern at the poor quality of drinking water in his area, particularly early morning when it had a strong chemical smell.

(Action: Chairman)

8.14 North Staney Hill Pilot – Maggie Dunne, Service Manager, Environmental Health, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms M Dunne and request to be kept informed on the process.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/03/09

Briefing Note, Commercial Street, Lerwick – Extension of Pedestrianisation & Other Works

Harrison Square/Irvine Place

Mr L Angus advised Councillors had discussed the Harrison Square/Irvine Place option at length but had reached no agreement.

He stated there was some concern that the bus stop was being used as a bus park causing difficulty to people to see clearly when going in and out the area in vehicles.

They had looked at the option of movable bollards for traders to raise and lower or to leave things as they were with short term 15 minute parking.

Mr L Angus advised that in general, Councilors were unhappy with the thought of losing any parking spaces.

The Chairman suggested the Bus Stop could be moved nearer to Leasks.

Mr W Spence stated that would cause difficulties for anyone reversing out from the parking bays.

without

Mr R Leith stated it seemed the pavements were very wide, narrowing the road to such a degree that any car reversing from a parking bay couldn't do so going over part of the other side of the road.

The Chairman asked if it was the consensus to maintain the Status Quo, except reinforce the 15 minute waiting time in the parking bays and to request to have the loading bay reinstated.

He stated no other parking should be allowed in the area for reasons of public safety.

Mr L Angus agreed with the suggestion

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Burns Walk

Mr W Spence suggested the Bollards should be moved further up towards Commercial Street and parking should be kept as it is at the moment.

The Chairman agreed with this suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Extended Pedestrianisation

The Chairman stated it was his preference for the south end of Commercial Street to become 2 way; accessible from Market Cross and blocked off at the entrance from Church Road with a bollard.

Mr R Leith stated from a delivery persons point of view there had been chaos and danger when the area was made 2 way during maintenance work on the street between Fairdie Meat and Shetland Times.

Mr W Spence agreed that it had been very unsafe.

Mrs A Simpson stated having a restriction to cars on south Commercial Street from 11.30-5.00 allowed sufficient access time to the post office for people collecting/ delivering large parcels.

The Chairman agreed to support the experimental order.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/03/10

Financial Report

The Clerk advised that due to savings, another £1,000.00 could be added to the free funds figure.

The Chairman stated it would allow Lerwick Community Council the flexibility to fund 60%, £10,800.00, of the estimated Knab Viewpoint cost.

10/03/11

Financial Assistance**11.1 Lerwick Boating Club – Phased upgrade of Clubhouse**

The Chairman, Mr A Johnson, Mr E Knight and Mr L Angus all declared an interest.

Mr W Stove proposed a grant of £2,500

This was seconded by Mr R Leith
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11.2 Club XL – Trip to New Jersey to share Fire Service Training

Ms C Watt stated some pupils thought it was unfair that specific pupils were sent on trips whilst others did not get the opportunity. She stated that they had been promised a presentation as to why this was the case but it had not had been forthcoming.

She said the perception was that those who did not go to classes and showed no respect for teachers got rewarded for mis-behaving.

Mr L Angus suggested the school should be written to for more information and if they were prepared to satisfy concerns they would be worthy of support.

He suggested much of the concern could be down to lack of communication between pupils and teachers

The Chairman stated Club XL specifically supported disadvantaged pupils and asked Ms C Watt to look at the situation impartially and see if she thought something good came out of it.

Ms C Watt noted the scheme was good but it was not open to all pupils.

Mrs A Simpson asked how many pupils would want to go on the trip.

Ms C Watt replied most people would want to go to New York.

Mr L Angus suggested the school should be written to in order to seek confirmation of their support of the scheme.

Mr L Angus proposed a grant of £1,000.00.

This was seconded by Mr W Stove

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the school for confirmation of the long term benefits of the Club XL scheme.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11.3 Sail Training Shetland – To allow sail trainees to participate in Tall Ships' Race

Mr L Angus stated he thought Sail Training Shetland was sponsored by SIC.

Mr W Stove advised they received SIC funding the previous year.

Mr L Angus noted he understood they gave extra funds this year but was happy to support the application.

Mr W Stove stated he was a board member and declared a non-pecuniary interest.

The Chairman proposed a grant of £250 each for four trainees, totaling £1,000.00

The proposal was seconded by Mr E Knight

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11.4 Shetland Stroke Support Group – Assistance required to continue to assist, guide & educate stroke patients and their families

Mr L Angus advised that aside from Lottery funding the group had received no other grant assistance and managed on fundraising and donations following funerals.

He stated Shetland Support Group funded the cost of an approved trainer to train NHS and Council staff in recovery practices and procedures.

Mr L Angus proposed £1,000.00

This was seconded by Ms K Fraser

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/03/12

Planning Applications

Esplanade,

12.1 2010/65/PCD Change use from retail (Class 1 Shops) to restaurant & takeaway (Class 3 Food & Drink) including various external works, The Garrett, Lerwick by Miss Sophy

No objections

At Mr L Angus' request the Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Johnny Wiseman, Planning Officer, SIC for assurance that there would be adequate provision for rubbish disposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/03/13

Lerwick Applications February 2010

Noted

10/03/14

Any Other Business

St Clements Hall

Mr D Ristori enquired if a use had been found for St Clements Hall.

Mr L Angus stated it was to be surveyed for Community Care purposes.

Budget Cut Concern

Ms K Fraser noted she had heard Community Councils were to receive a budget cut of 40%.

The Chairman stated there had been no official word of such a cut.

Mr L Angus also stated he had not heard of any cuts to Community Council funding.

Litter Issue

Ms Caitlin Watt advised that Cara Manson, Chairperson, Pupil Council, Anderson High would bring up the litter issue concerns,

Outdoor Benches

Ms A Simpson enquired who was responsible for the maintenance of benches which had been gifted to the Council.

She noted that a bench seat up at the Knab near the gate was in very poor condition and another one further down also needed attention.

Mr W Stove added that the McLeanan seat on the pier needed repainted.

The Chairman advised he would speak to Magnus Malcolmson
(Action: Chairman)

Welcome to Shetland Sign

Mr R Leith enquired as to when the Welcome to Shetland Sign would have the lettering repainted a more suitable colour.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager and ask for an update.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Steps at the Matchbox

Mr L Angus asked when the steps would be reinstated.

The Chairman replied procedure had been held up due to the snow but he hoped to meet Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC, at the site soon.

(Action: Chairman)

CCTV

Mr W Stove enquired about CCTV in Lerwick.

Mr L Angus stated there were still problems with the software.

He further advised that although the cameras would be recording 24/7 they would not be manned 24/7.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL