

MONDAY 11 MAY 2009

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

Members

Mr J Anderson
Mr R Leith
Mr A Johnson
Ms K Fraser

Mr A Henry
Mr D Ristori
Mrs K Greaves
Mrs A Simpson

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Wills
Cllr C Miller **left 8.20**

Cllr C Smith **left 8.45**

In Attendance

Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/05/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/05/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Spence, Mr L Angus, Mr E Knight, Mr W Stove and PS B Gray.

09/05/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2009 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

09/05/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Knab Viewpoint

The Chairman advised that to avoid paying twice when submitting the planning application the final version of text for the information boards had to be submitted with the plans for the Viewpoint.

09/05/05

Police Report

PS B Gray was unable to attend the May meeting of Lerwick Community Council but emailed the crime statistics for inclusion in the minutes.

PS B Gray noted the following crime analysis April 2008/09 compared with April 2007/08.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 0 to 4, 4 detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 0 to 2, 0 detected
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 19 to 44, of which 32 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 25 to 24, of which 4 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Up from 14 to 17, with 16 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 50 to 57, with 48 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 57 to 36, with 35 detections

09/05/06

Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC

Mr G Greenhill introduced himself and thanked the Chairman for his invitation to the meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

He advised he had been "working his way through Community Councils" and it was his intention to listen to various people before making judgments and emphasised his desire to hear from the public.

He stated he took direction from Councilors and would listen to staff but was aware they may be biased compared to the general public.

Mr G Greenhill advised that after attending each Community Council meeting he would meet with his officers and pass their responses on to the Clerk.

He stated he had been involved with Mr L Smith, Chairman, Lerwick Town Centre Association in relation to the bid process to reinvigorate the town centre which was in need of some "TLC" and hoped to identify a lead officer for point of contact.

Mrs K Graves asked what was his opinion and view on allotments.

Mr G Greenhill replied he was in favour of anything where people took ownership.

Mrs K Greaves advised the allotments was a Shetland Islands Council initiative which received support from the public and asked what was being done to secure sites in Lerwick for the initiative.

Mr G Greenhill stated Mr S Cooper had gone out of his way to identify sites and thought he had done a tremendous amount to assist in the project.

Cllr J Wills agreed that SIC had made a great effort to support allotments.

Mrs K Greaves advised no allotment sites had been identified and secured in Lerwick.

Mr G Greenhill stated he would look into the issue and try to secure some information on sites available within Lerwick for allotments.

The Chairman advised Mr G Greenhill that despite frequent requests for someone from Planning to come to a meeting of Lerwick Community Council to discuss the Local Plan, no one was forthcoming.

The Chairman stressed the dire need for housing in Lerwick and noted that recently Hannah Nelson, Development Plans Manager, SIC attended a meeting of ASCC with a design for a sustainable house. He stated the presentation seemed ludicrous when time would be better spent identifying sites where homes could be built.

Mr G Greenhill stated he was aware Planning, SIC was failing badly and advised the high turnover of staff was part of the problem. He stated the department had to deal with a very large amount of applications and there was "not enough people at the coal face to deliver".

He noted changes to legislation had added to the problem but admitted that on some occasions the department did appear inflexible.

He advised it was now agreed to work towards one plan for Shetland, time span 2013, with an agreement to visit local plans if there was a need, and indeed there was.

He advised several internal meetings had been arranged where the issues would be addressed.

The Chairman stated it was not good enough to just identify areas for housing, but also the infrastructure to go with it.

Mr G Greenhill agreed with the Chairman's comments and advised he would be attending a meeting to view design work for proposed sites and the infrastructure would be in place.

Mrs K Greaves gave an example of lack of knowledge and poor customer service she received when she contacted Planning Department regarding an enquiry. She expressed concern at the individual's lack of knowledge of Lerwick.

Mr G Greenhill agreed the service Mrs K Greaves had received was very poor and stated the individual should have arranged for someone else to handle the call.

He advised he would be "revisiting customer care" and would work to ensure staff gave "an honest answer based on fact".

Ms K Fraser raised concern over lack of parking in town stating planning permission had been turned down on some proposed builds due to lack of parking amenities.

Mr G Greenhill advised planning permission would be turned down as standard if the necessary parking requirement for each house was not met.

He stated he could take the environmental line and encourage people to walk but it was a free society and people needed cars for a variety of reasons.

He stressed that there was sufficient parking in Lerwick, if people were prepared to walk a little.

Ms K Fraser raised the issue where a car free development was turned down as it was thought that people would hide the fact they had cars, therefore causing more congestion than the area could cope with

Mr G Greenhill stated there was no legal way to stop people having cars and agreed people would try to hide the fact that they owned one.

The Chairman asked Mr Greenhill if he could arrange for the flight of stone steps near the Matchbox house on the grassed area between the old and new road could be reinstated. He explained that over the years the steps had become overgrown with grass and weeds.

Mr G Greenhill replied that he would look into it and may ask the Chairman to meet with him to identify the area.

The Chairman asked what could be done about the problem of surface water on public footpaths. He explained the issue was at its worst in winter when the water was in danger of freezing over and asked whose responsibility was it.

Mr G Greenhill stated the service provided by the gritters was excellent and noted any surface water problems should be dealt with at planning stage.

He pointed out that if the problem occurred at existing private premises it was up to the individual householder, but if on a common footway it was up to Roads Department to sand.

He advised if the problem was drainage, municipal would look at it but if it was on a private residence there was little they could do.

The Chairman noted during a presentation by Mr I Halcrow, Roads, SIC, 9 June 2008, Lerwick Community Council had been promised proposals to further pedestrianise Commercial Street but nothing had been forthcoming.

Mr G Greenhill agreed Commercial Street was not as pedestrian friendly as it could be and stated it was something which could be looked at, subject to the bid process coming through, and put to the public for consultation.

He acquiesced there was a need for some vehicles to use the street but acknowledged the system was being abused.

Ms A Simpson stated many people were unaware of the driving restrictions on the street and no one seemed to know that vehicles should not be driven between McKays and Clydesdale Bank.

Cllr C Miller stated the restrictions seemed to work quite well when Lerwick had a Traffic Warden.

She noted that initially the traffic restrictions had caused her some concern as goods deliveries could be late if the boat had been delayed. However she found that both the Police and Traffic Warden showed some flexibility under these circumstances.

Mr G Greenhill advised Shetland Islands Council could provide a Traffic Warden.

Mrs A Simpson moved that the idea be put in motion.

The Chairman asked what would happen to the funds gather by imposing the fines.

Mr G Greenhill replied if it was a civil function of Shetland Islands Council they would keep the funds but the purpose of enforcement was to learn from it. Enforcement would be publicised well and would be there to educate rather than persecute.

Mrs K Greaves raised concern at the lack of provision of bins in Lerwick stating there needed to be more bins and in the correct location.

Mr G Greenhill stated he would address the issue and noted it was not difficult to tell where the bins would need to be placed.

Mrs K Greaves advised she had previously identified areas which needed both rubbish bins and disposal bins for dog mess but nothing had been done.

Mr G Greenhill offered to meet Mrs K Greaves to further discuss her thoughts on where the bins should be placed.

The Chairman asked Mr G Greenhill his opinion on 'Rising Bollards'.

Mr G Greenhill stated he was not keen on the idea as it was not uncommon for drivers to attempt to "shoot across", only to find themselves snared on the bollard.

He advised he had just started the process of working on the pedestrianisation of Commercial Street and would like time to work on one or two recommendations, after which he would come back to Lerwick Community Council for consultation.

The Chairman asked what steps had been taken regarding the non-functioning part-time 20mph on South Road as you enter Lerwick.

Mr G Greenhill advised the issue had been discussed during a meeting with Heads of Service and he had given them a time limit to get the components and sort the problem or the sign would be replaced by a simple sign which would go on and off at the correct times.

The presentation concluded at 7.55pm.

09/05/07

Issue – Chewing Gum on Flagstones

Mr G Greenhill advised the process of removing chewing gum from pavements had begun at North Road on Sunday mornings.

Mrs K Greaves asked if the procedure was a costly one.

Mr G Greenhill stated that it was but there was a strong desire to have it done.

09/05/08

Proposed Viewpoint at Knab

8.1 Plans

Noted

8.2 Response – Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC

Noted

09/05/09

Correspondence

9.1 Road Sign – Between TSB and Harbour House, Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

Cllr J Wills advised there were two proposals for the area and suggested it would be worthwhile to view them at a meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC and request a copy of the proposals for the June meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.2 Road Signs – Upper and West Baila, Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

Noted

9.3 Dog Fouling, Cunningham Way – Billy Mycock, NSWS, Environmental Health, SIC

Noted

9.4 Parking Direction Sign, Gilbert Bain Hospital – Pauline Moncrieff, Personal Secretary to Chairman, NHS Shetland

Cllr J Wills stated it was intolerable that the general public were being prevented from parking at Gilbert Bain due to staff taking the parking places.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Miss S Laurenson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland and again request that staff are instructed to park at Brevik.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.5 Confirmation, Requirements of Guidelines/Best Practice met – Amanda Hughes, Finance, SIC

Noted

9.6 Sign, Carlton Place – Mrs W Greenwald

As Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC was still in attendance at the meeting, the Chairman asked if he would consider the request and advise the Clerk of the Council of the outcome.

Mr D Ristori stated the newly named 'Mitchell's Road', leading down to the Museum and Archives was still awaiting its sign.

The Chairman asked Mr G Greenhill to request the installation of a sign and advise the Clerk of the Council when it would be in place.

(Action: Mr G Greenhill)

9.7 Decision, Hazardous Substances Consent Appeal: GB Oils – The Scottish Government

In light of the appeal being upheld the Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr B Hill, Acting Divisional Manager, Legal & Admin., SIC and request to be kept informed of the situation.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.8 Proposal to create a Victims' Commissioner for Scotland – The Scottish Parliament

The Chairman noted the document was available online for members to view and comment upon as individuals.

09/05/10

Financial Report

The Chairman stated he planned to apply for grant assistance for the project through 'Awards for all Scotland'. He advised planning permission for the Viewpoint must be in place prior to application and if viewed favourably would attract 50% match funding.

He noted it would take one month to process the application following submission.

Ms K Fraser suggested a 'good chunk' of the cost of the Viewpoint could be taken from the LCCCT funds.

The Chairman agreed and stated that once costs were ascertained a decision could be made nearer the time.

Cllr C Miller left: 8.20pm

09/05/11

Discussion – Chairman's suggestion to collect all grant applications and determine them together in July and another group in January 2010 once final costs for Knab Viewpoint are known

The Chairman stated that if the funding available was reduced due to the costs for Knab Viewpoint, it may be an advantage to gather grant applications for consideration rather than awarding on a 'first come first served basis'.

Mrs K Greaves asked if any applicants had suffered due to grants being awarded on a 'first come first served basis' and if there had been any complaints.

Mrs A Simpson noted complaints may be made if there was less funds to award.

Ms K Fraser stated the move to collect and determine grant applications twice a year may cause difficulties to smaller groups who really needed the assistance.

The Chairman asked if the feeling was that the current system for considering grant applications should remain the same.

Mrs A Simpson agreed that this should be the case.

09/05/12

Financial Assistance

12.1 Sgt T Burns, G Troop, 212 Bty, Fort Charlotte TAC – To Furnish Mess Recreation Area

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Sgt Burns and request a breakdown of costs and to be advised if funding had been received or was expected to be received from other sources.

It was agreed that the hall was important to the community, was in good use all year round and the application should be looked upon favourably once the additional information had been viewed by Council.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.2 Mr L Smith, Chairman, Town Centre Association - Floral Basket Scheme 2009

Mrs K Greaves proposed £1,000 should be awarded.

The proposal was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.3 Mr L Smith, Chairman, Town Centre Association – Bunting & Banner Scheme 2009

Mrs A Simpson proposed £400 should be awarded.

The proposal was seconded by Mrs K Greaves.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.4 Mr & Mrs Ramsay – Repair and re-grade access road

Miss K Fraser stated it was wholly appropriate to favourably consider the application as the road was heavily used by the public.

The Chairman advised that based on 800 sq. m. as noted in the email from Mr A Stevenson, Roads, SIC; the calculation for the normal rate of grant stood at £2,769.25.

He drew member's attention to the fact that the measurement had been taken off a plan and the road would be measured upon completion of the works.

Mr A Johnson proposed that a grant of £2,769.25 should be awarded based on the road measurement of 800 sq. m. but adjustment to the figure should be made once the road has been measured.

The proposal was seconded by Mr D Ristori.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.5 Mr P Malcolmson for Sound Common Grazings – Repair of Sound Hill Peat Road

Mr A Johnson declared an interest but advised the road was well used by walkers and the drainage was very poor.

The Chairman proposed £650 should be awarded.

This was seconded by Mrs A Simpson

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.6 Elaine Park, Coach, Shetland Games Athletic Team 2009 – To compete for Shetland in Aland June 2009

Miss K Fraser proposed £1,487.50, a third of the costs, should be awarded.

The Chairman advised caution stating the team represented a very small percentage of those attending the Island Games.

Mr A Johnston agreed noting many more applications may be received.

Mr R Leith seconded Ms K Frasers proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman asked members of the Council to be aware the decisions made had effectively put Lerwick Community Council 'in the red'.

Ms K Fraser proposed that members agree to use £9,000 from LCCCT to assist in the funding of Knab Viewpoint.

The Chairman seconded the proposal.

Cllr C Smith left: 8.45pm

09/05/13

Planning Applications

13.1 2009/101/PCD – To construct 2 storage units with external storage area, adjacent to Harbourview, Gremista Industrial estate, Lerwick by Fishing vessels Serene and Enterprise

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.2 2009/85/PCD – To amend access road layout, Plots 1 to 3 Sands of Sound, Lerwick by GB & AM Anderson

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/05/14

Lerwick Planning Applications – April 2009

Noted

09/05/15

Any Other Business

Decorative Glass - Shetland Museum and Archives

Mr D Ristori stated the decorative glass in areas on the grounds surrounding Shetland Museum and Archives was becoming a health and safety issue.

He advised the glass had become quite sharp and often littered the area and could be harmful.

The Chairman asked Mr G Greenhill to investigate the reported problem and advise the Clerk of the Council as to the outcome.

(Action: Mr G Greenhill)

Proposed New Anderson High School

Cllr J Wills stated he was unable to obtain a firm closing date for objection to the planning proposal but intended to put in his objection by 21 May 2009.

He advised the report regarding the asbestos issue was due out later on in the week.

Cllr J Wills stated there was no figure for the costs involved in rebuilding the upper part of Knab Road for footways and possible alterations to lower Knab Road and therefore not included in the build cost figure.

The Chairman asked Mr G Greenhill if the costs would come out of the Road department budget.

Mr G Greenhill advised there was a number of works in the rolling programme and was unsure if Knab Road was in there.

Mrs A Simpson stated that Knab Road was not wide enough at the moment and being faced with trucks was a concern.

The Chairman advised it was his concern that the trucks would be most likely to use Breiwick Road and St Olaf Street, both residential area, to access the site.

Cllr J Wills noted there would be approximately 2,000 truck movements to remove debris from the AHS site in addition to trucks taking material on site.

Chewing Gum Bins

Mr D Ristori noted the chewing gum bin at the bus station was well used and suggested some should be placed in Commercial Street to encourage thoughtful disposal of chewing gum.

Mr G Greenhill advised more street furniture meant more clutter, which could detract from an area. He stated gum should be disposed of in normal bins and suggested that although the gum bin worked well at the bus station the street was a different situation and it was unlikely to work so well there.

Damaged Lighting, North Ness

Mr A Henry reported the majority of lights at North Ness were not working and smashed.

Mr G Greenhill noted Mr A Henry's comments.

(Action: Mr G Greenhill)

Cigarette Bins

Mr R Leith asked if small bins could be sited at the bottom of Lanes for cigarette stubs.

Mr G Greenhill noted cigarettes stubs could be deposited in ordinary bins but advised he would make sure multi use bins were put in place.

Shetland Link Up

The Chairman advised that Mr J Hadland, Shetland Link Up, approached Mr E Knight to request that Lerwick Community Council write to Sarah Taylor, NHS Shetland in support of the production of a leaflet in how to deal with mental health.

Lerwick Community Council Members agreed to the request.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and also Mr G Greenhill who attended the entire meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN

LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL