

MONDAY 12 November 2007

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

Present

Mr J Anderson	Cllr E Knight
Mrs A Simpson	Mr W Spence
Mr D Ristori	Ms M Robertson
Mr R Leith	Mr M Peterson
Mr A Johnson	Mrs K Greaves
Ms K Fraser	Cllr C Smith

In Attendance

PS G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary
Mr C Nicolson, Senior Project Manager, SIC
Ms R Griffiths, Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

07/11/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/11/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Goudie, Mr J Henry
Mr R Anderson, Cllr C Miller and Cllr A Wishart.

07/11/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2007 were approved by
Ms M Robertson and seconded by Mrs K Greaves.

07/11/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

07/10/13 On behalf of Mr A Goudie the Chairman asked that an item be placed on the agenda should planning permission be requested for the Staney Hill Shop to be changed into residential accommodation.

Apologies were not received from the following members at previous meetings:-

07/04/02 Mr L Bisset	07/08/02 Mr L Bisset & Mr S Gordon
07/05/02 Mr L Bisset & Mr S Gordon	07/09/02 Mr L Bisset & Mr S Gordon
07/06/01 Mr L Bisset & Mr S Gordon	07/10/02 Mr L Bisset & Mr S Gordon
07/07/02 Mr L Bisset & Mr S Gordon	

07/11/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy began his report by expressing his sadness regarding the recent road tragedies and stated his regards and thoughts went to all those in the community affected.

To clarify an issue from the October meeting of Lerwick Community Council he stated that although it was now an offence to sell tobacco to anyone under the age of 18 there was no change in the law regarding the possession of tobacco by those over the age of 16.

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

Crimes against the person - down from 25 to 8, of which 7 were detected
Crimes involving indecency - up from 10 to 15, of which 10 were detected
Crimes of dishonesty - up from 163 to 174, of which 103 were detected
Crimes of vandalism - up from 141 to 168, of which 82 were detected
Miscellaneous crimes - down from 467 to 459, of which 434 were detected
Traffic Offences - down from 402 to 352, all detected

PS G McCarthy reported that their detection rate of 84.2% was the best in the force but there was a 2.8% increase in crimes compared to that of last year.

Mr D Ristori enquired if there was to be a replacement Traffic Warden.

PS G McCarthy replied that there were plans to replace the Traffic Warden and things would have to go through their due process.

The Chairman echoed PS McCarthy's sentiments regarding the road tragedies and thanked him for his report which concluded at 7.10pm

07/11/06

Mr Craig Nicolson - Proposed New Anderson High School

Mr Craig Nicolson, Senior Project Manager, Capital Projects, Shetland Islands Council noted he would be giving an overview on where we are now regarding the proposed New Anderson High and where we would be going from here.

He stated that an initial attempt to attract contractors failed during the first tendering exercise despite the high value of the project and the Capital Projects Team had to have a rethink.

An Irish firm, O'Hare & McGovern, with their own Architect and environmental firm were appointed and they began by progressing the original design of the New Anderson High School.

Mr Craig Nicolson noted the height of the proposed new Anderson High had been reduced considerably by removing the top floor and underground car park. He explained the design of the school had been simplified and the curved roof structure flattened.

Mr Nicolson stated the plans incorporated a 'state of the art' sports facility, protected courtyard, sensory room, library and enclosed outdoor/indoor garden.

He explained there would be ongoing consultations with residents both locally and Shetland wide and it was hoped consents from Planning and Building Control, Shetland Islands Council would be in place by March 2008.

Mr Nicolson noted that once the design and target costs were finalised Shetland Islands Council would have to be in agreement before O'Hare and McGovern could proceed.

He stated it would take approximately 30 months for the building to be completed, opening in August 2010.

Mr W Spence stated he had heard the current Anderson High School games hall was to be kept.

Mr Nicolson replied that this was not the case as the land the current games hall was built on was needed. He explained that the new sports facility would be one of the areas which would be completed first in order for the pupils to get use of it as soon as possible. He stated that pupils would be able to make use of the facilities at Clickimin until this was possible.

Mrs K Greaves noted that the design put forward by O'Hare and McGovern appeared to reduce the size of the school considerably and asked how this reflected in the cost.

Mr Nicolson explained that although the overall height of the proposed new school had been reduced, the floor area had been redistributed. Current savings were in the region of 2 million although it was the aspiration of Shetland Islands Council to save more.

Mrs K Greaves enquired what consideration had been given to the 'safety aspect' at the school entrances to protect the pupils from intruders.

Mr Nicolson explained the doors would be 'locked down' during school hours with the exception of the main entrance for visitors which would be covered by a reception desk and CCTV.

Mr E Knight raised his concern over the plans for a flat roof and stated it was a poor choice given Shetland's climate.

The Chairman stated it was ludicrous to plan a flat roof for a building in such an exposed area and noted it would require continuous maintenance.

Mr Nicolson stated only the best of material would be used for the roof. He went on to explain that the flat roof could be accessed from the top floor and could be easily checked and maintained. He stressed the maintenance of the flat roof would be carried out by Shetland Islands Council workers.

Mrs M Robertson stated she was very pleased to see there were to be improvements in consultations both locally and Shetland wide. She noted that it had seemed to date, the only information the public ever received was from the newspapers or gossip.

Mrs M Robertson asked if the main access to the proposed new car park would be from Knab Road as opposed to Lovers Loan.

Mr Nicolson stated there were no firm plans as yet. He explained that following demolition there would be much more choice and stated a Landscape Architect had recently visited the site whose remit it was to look at green areas, car parking and soften up car parking areas.

He explained it was the requirement of Roads and Transport to have parking facilities for 122 cars and the Landscape Architect may break up the car parking areas rather than create the usual 'boxed' effect.

Mrs M Robertson asked what the concrete plans were for the proposed new Anderson High School.

Mr Nicolson explained it was only the school plans. He stated they were now going through landscaping issues and designs for car parking and the outdoor surroundings were very fluid.

Ms K Fraser noted there was no reason why there should be more traffic in the area once the school was completed but thought there could be problems during construction.

Mr Nicolson replied it was too early to comment but a Traffic Impact Assessment would be made for both construction and permanent traffic at a later date.

Mrs A Simpson asked Mr Nicolson if he was confident building would begin in 2008.

Mr Nicolson replied it was their aspirations to begin the build in the spring of that year.

Mrs K Greaves noted from the plans that the 'drop off point' for pupils travelling by car was on the opposite side of the road from the school. She stated this was unsafe and asked if this could be reconsidered.

Mr Nicolson agreed it could be a problem and would be looked at by Roads and Transport, Shetland Islands Council.

The Chairman asked what provision was to be made for Hostels.

Mr Nicolson stated Shetland Islands Council had aspirations for a new Hostel but it was quite near the bottom of the list of Capital Projects. He explained the Janet Courtney Hostel would continue to be used.

Mrs A Simpson enquired how many pupils could be seated in the new school dining room.

Mr Nicolson replied that he did not have the figures but it was significantly more than the 70 seats available in the current Anderson High.

Mr W Spence asked what facilities would be available for the pupils, e.g. Lockers.

Mr Nicolson noted school staff also raised the same issue. He replied that locker facilities and coat pegs would be available for pupils.

Mrs M Robertson asked if lifts were to be installed in the New Anderson High.

Mr Nicolson affirmed that lifts were to be installed at various points throughout the school.

The Chairman stated it was disappointing that the consultation process had only begun when the design seemed 'set in stone' barring a few moot points.

The Chairman noted that although the original estimate for the build of 24 million had previously increased dramatically to 48 million, he was surprised they were so pleased to see the new contractors had cut costs by only 2 million and hoped the contractors and architects would work hard to reduce the costs further.

Mrs A Simpson enquired if the contractors were confident that they would be able to hire professional local builders.

Mr Nicolson stated O'Hare and McGovern would have 6-9 months to arrange for local labour.

Mrs M Robertson stated she had read that O'Hare and McGovern were already in negotiations to fly 120 contractors up on a Monday and back on a Friday.

Mr Nicolson noted it was likely contractors would have to be brought up but it was unlikely to be the amount stated.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nicolson for his presentation which concluded at 8.30pm.

07/11/07

Correspondence

7.1 Natural Capital – Proposed New Anderson High School

Noted

7.2 SIC Legal & Admin – Review of Polling Districts and Places – Consultation

Mr D Ristori proposed Sound Hall should be requested for an additional Polling Place.

There was no seconder to this proposal.

7.3 The Scottish Parliament – Inquiry, Scotland's vulnerability to Flooding

Mr E Knight stated the Esplanade to Hay's Dock could be prone to flooding if the sea level rises as predicted.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Mr Peacock, Member of the Scottish Parliament noting the concerns and send a copy of the letter to Planning, Shetland Islands Council.

7.4 Shetland Family History Society – Microfilm Reader

Noted

7.5 SIC Infrastructure Services – Disabled Parking Place, St Magnus Street

Noted

7.6 SIC Infrastructure Services – Disabled Parking Place, Various Roads

Noted

7.7 Mr Theo Nicolson – Letter of Thanks

Noted

7.8 Mr & Mrs Ramsay – Grant Assistance Thanks

Noted

7.9 GL Hearn, Property Consultants – Extension to Co-op Store, Lerwick

Noted

7.10 SIC Infrastructure Services – Lerwick Lane Signage

Mr D Ristori suggested a sign saying 'Todd's Steps' should be erected in the opening between 'Harry's' and the 'Fort Takeaway & Cafe'.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Neil Hutcheson, Roads, Shetland Islands Council, ask if the area has a designated name and request that sign be erected.

7.11 SIC Infrastructure Services – Bruce Hostel Dyke Replacement

Mr E Knight stated the replacement Dyke did not seem the same as the original but conceded if Historic Scotland were happy he had to accept that.

7.12 SIC Infrastructure Services – Lerwick Cemetery Garden

Noted

7.13 SIC Infrastructure Services – Foreshore, Twageos Road: Kissing Gate

Both the Chairman and Mrs Simpson visited the foreshore, Twageos Road and agreed the installation of a Kissing Gate was not necessary.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Sheila Johnson, Planning, Shetland Islands Council and ask if it would be possible, from a planning perspective to install a stile as an alternative.

7.14 SIC Infrastructure Services – Local Protection Areas

Mr M Peterson noted the Ness of Sound was not listed as a Local Protection Area in the letter received from Mrs Bessie Barron, Planning, Shetland Islands Council.

The Chairman thought the Ness of Sound was not an area under consideration for building on and suggested Lerwick Community Council wait until the promised map arrived early in the New Year which will identify the Local Protection Areas.

07/11/08

Financial Report

Noted

07/11/09 **Financial Assistance**

No applications received

07/11/10 **Planning Applications**

10.1 2007/437/LBC Repairs to stone wall, Old Knab Cemetery

No objections

10.2 2007/462/LBC To install CCTV cameras, Commercial Street & Esplanade, Lerwick

Concerns were raised over the proposed installation of camera 11, situated in the proximity of Shetland Alcohol Support Services. This was thought to be very insensitive.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to raise an objection to the situation of camera 11 on the grounds that it may cause discomfort to those using the services of Shetland Alcohol Support.

Mr D Ristori suggested cameras should be installed at the Bus Station and outside Queens Hotel.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Planning with Mr Ristori's suggestions.

Mrs M Robertson asked if CCTV cameras made any real difference.

Cllr C Smith stated the cameras acted as a deterrent to anti-social behavior and had proved very successful in several areas including Thurso where crime figures decreased considerably.

Mrs K Greaves enquired if once in place, could the cameras be moved.

The Chairman replied that subject to planning permission he could see no reason why not.

07/11/11 **Any Other Business**

The Chairman noted the invoice from Baker Tilly for preparing the accounts for Lerwick Community Council came to £1,600. On that basis he proposed that the accounts go out to tender for the following year.

All the attending members at the meeting agreed to this proposal.

The Chairman advised the new Bank of Scotland account was now up and running for Lerwick Community Council. He noted Internet Banking was available free through Bank of Scotland and proposed Lerwick Community Council make use of this facility.

All the attending members at the meeting agreed to this proposal.

07/10/13 The Chairman read out a letter from Mr Duncan Clubb, Asset & Properties, Shetland Islands Council, with regard to Craigielea. It stated that Housing, Shetland Islands Council was considering the structural survey report from the engineers and the possible option for conversion into domestic flats.

Mrs M Robertson again noted the poor attendance by some members of Lerwick Community Council and requested that the Clerk of the Council write to those members and politely encourage them to attend the meetings.

Mr W Spence noted there seemed to be an increase in dog mess in Lerwick, particularly at the Knab and Clickimin. He asked if anything could be done about it.

The Chairman replied it was in the remit of Environmental Health. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health expressing the concern of Lerwick Community Council.

The Chairman noted it had been some time since Neighbourhood Support Workers had attended a meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Billy Mycock and invite Neighbourhood Support to make a presentation at the next Lerwick Community Council meeting.

Cllr E Knight noted the swings situated at Twageos were in very poor condition and highly corroded.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to write to Magnus Malcolmson, Community Development, Shetland Islands Council and ask him to investigate the situation.

The Chairman noted that buses taking tourists to visit Clickimin Broch often parked on the pavement at Westerloch. He stated this practice was unsatisfactory and over time the kerbs were becoming damaged. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Dave Coupe, Roads, Shetland Islands Council and ask that they consider altering the pavement to create a proper parking area for buses.

The Chairman noted there was still a problem of water running over the footpath at the Knab. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Morgan Goodlad, Chief Executive, Shetland Islands Council enclosing copies of previous correspondence regarding the same issue and ask the situation to be dealt with satisfactorily.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL