

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

**Members**

Mr J Anderson  
Mrs A Simpson  
Mr D Ristori  
Mr I Angus **Left 8.30**

Mr E Knight  
Mr W Stove  
Mr R Leith **Left 8.30**

**Ex-Officio Councilors**

Cllr A Wishart

Cllr J Wills

**In Attendance**

Mr Bryan Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association  
Mr Dougie Thomson, Principal Architect, Gilberts  
Mr N Riddell, Shetland Times Reporter  
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

08/11/01

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

08/11/02

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K Greaves, Mrs M Robertson, Cllr C Miller and Ms K Fraser.

08/11/03

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2008 were approved by Ms A Simpson and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

08/11/04

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**08/10/04 Concept Drawings – Proposed New Anderson High**

Cllr J Wills indicated he had brought copies of the drawings to the meeting for Community Council members to view.

Mrs A Simpson asked if Mrs Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC had answered the questions put forward by Lerwick Community Council which had remained outstanding.

The Clerk replied that she had just that day received two further answers and due to their detailed nature they would be included in the next agenda.

She noted Mrs H Sutherland had advised the Project Team could now provide a general update on the Anderson High School Project.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to ensure Mrs H Sutherland and the Project Team were invited to the December meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

**08/10/08 – 8.9 Footpath from behind Widows Homes at Twageos to South Ness**

Cllr J Wills noted there was strong local feeling against opening up the walkway but he was still making enquiries.

Mr E Knight stated the area was still actually used as a walkway and had been for many years. He felt that therefore it could be construed as a right of way.

He noted many youngsters would walk the 'sea route' which was dangerous. He suggested that a "platform walkway" could be constructed which would both allow access and offer residents their continued privacy.

Mr L Angus advised that originally the area in question was a 'right of way' but due to a local authority oversight had not been written into the deeds when the land was sold.

He suggested a modest 'kissing gate' could be installed.

Cllr J Wills advised he would speak to the residents in the Widows Homes about the concerns they have regarding the possibility of the walkway being opened up.

08/11/05

**Police Report**

PS B Gray noted the following details of offences compared to those of the same time last year.

- Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 8 to 12, all detected
- Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 15 to 16, with 10 detections
- Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 174 to 183, of which 130 were detected
- Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Up from 168 to 188, of which 119 were detected
- Class 5 - General Crimes – Up from 110 to 134, with 130 detections
- Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 349 to 358, with 342 detections
- Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 352 to 304, with 301 detections

PS B Gray advised two new Police Sergeants had been appointed. One was for Brae and the other to fill in shifts at Lerwick.

Mr L Angus asked which 'Class' drug crimes came under and enquired what bearing they had on the rise of crime in Shetland.

PS B Gray replied drug crimes came under Class 1 or 6. He stated drugs were a major issue in Shetland but stated the Police force was getting excellent detection rates.

He advised that rather than the drugs problem being on the increase the detection rate was on the increase, largely down to members of the community assisting the Police.

Mr L Angus stated it was encouraging to hear members of the community were supporting the Police and noted drugs were a "growing menace".

He enquired if PS B Gray knew what the figures were for crimes directly associated with drugs.

The Sergeant replied Shetland was unique whereby not a great deal of crime which goes hand in hand with drugs like house breaking, theft or mugging was a major issue. He noted Shetland's strong workforce made it more likely those taking drugs were working to pay for their habit.

Cllr J Wills asked if it would be possible to get a breakdown of the drug figures, not necessarily every month. He felt the figures would give Community Councils, Shetland Islands Council and members of the public a better understanding of drug issues.

PS B Gray stated he would try to get a more detailed breakdown.

Cllr A Wishart advised some constituents had indicated their reluctance to call the Police over concerns they may have with their neighbours. Their concerns lay with the fact it may be perceived they had called and there would be repercussions.

Cllr J Wills noted the problem could be solved by calling 'Crime Stoppers'.

PS B Gray stated there was numerous ways of dealing with the problem. He explained that they would not go to the complainant's door if they did not wish it. They could either visit the Police station themselves or remain anonymous.

He noted that all intelligence was good but getting a name was even better. He explained that there were 'Firewalls' and informants were protected. He further noted the Police would prefer to drop a case rather than put informants on the stand.

Mr W Stove noted residents in Sandviein and Norderdale communities had formed a group called 'Sandra' and information would be passed on to the Police through the group so no single name would be directly associated with the Police.

PS B Gray reiterated the importance of receiving information from members of the public and the assistance it gave to the high level of detections made by the local Police force.

Mr D Ristori asked if there was a Police presence each day at Northlink.

PS B Gary noted they endeavored to but it was dependant on what else was happening at the time.

Mr D Ristori pointed out that anyone carrying drugs could just stay on the ferry until 10am when the Police had left the terminal following the departure of most of the passengers. He suggested Police officers should, on occasion, board the vessel.

PS B Gray advised it was "a game of cat and mouse" and it was down to resources. He noted resources had to be balanced and they did not want to get into "systematic checking".

He pointed out that just because they were not seen at the terminal it did not mean they were not "up the road, watching". He stated the Police had to strike a balance and based much of their work on intelligence.

The Chairman asked the Sergeant if there was any word on a new Traffic Warden.

PS B Gray replied that there was not.

The Chairman enquired if things were any further forward regarding the installation of CCTV in the town.

The Sergeant advised the equipment had been delivered but he was unsure what stage things were at.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for attending the meeting and giving his report which concluded at 7.40pm

08/11/06

**Hjaltland Housing Association – Redevelopment, Old North Star**

Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association stated the old 'North Star' and 'Moonies Wake' had been purchased by the Association in 2007. A structural survey showed the 'North Star' had seen better days and the top two floors of 'Moonies Wake' had water damage. The better option, as economics dictated, was to demolish the buildings and rebuild in its place. More

accommodation could be created giving better value for money and the community.

A competition was run and Gilberts (Architects) were awarded the contract to design 15 new flats on the scheme.

Mr B Leask highlighted the need for housing within Shetland by stating Shetland Islands Council had a waiting list of 600 while Hjaltland had a waiting list of 433. He noted that the majority, 58%, wanted single bed accommodation, 26% wanted two bed accommodation and the remainder required three bed accommodation.

He stated that they currently had 94 houses on site and hoped to have 74 completed by 2009.

Mr D Thomson, Principal Architect, Gilberts stated his brief was to design 15 flats. The design incorporates a sheltered garden is 'L Shaped' with strong gable forms and all flats accessed from a central courtyard.

He explained the design of the building itself is distinctive and has the look of several buildings rather than a block of flats. The proposed building stands 3½ storeys high and can be seen from the bottom of Harbour Street and the roof top from North Ness.

Inspiration for the design was taken from buildings in Bergen and Lerwick and comprises of 7 single person and 8 two person flats.

Mr D Thomson noted that because the building would be in conservation area Historic Scotland had to be consulted and they were 'yet to be convinced' of the design. Historic Scotland puts much importance on maintaining an understanding to the history of a town but, as Mr D Thomson explained, much has been gradually lost over the years.

He advised that Planning, SIC had insisted commercial units be included in the ground floor stating that Fort Road would become an important thoroughfare after the redevelopment of North Ness as Lerwick's culture quarter.

Mr D Thomson stated that although no flats had been lost from the original plan, two more could be created if they did not have to incorporate the commercial unit within the design. He reiterated that Planning, SIC would not accept the plans without the commercial premises.

Mr B Leask noted he had "fought" with Planning for 6 months over the condition as they were not in the business of providing commercial premises and could not make things "stack up" financially. They were told that if they could not they should sell the property on to someone who could.

The Chairman stated he was aghast that Planning could force Hjaltland to include commercial premises into the build when two more flats could be created.

He stated that as a whole the design put forward by Hjaltland was "splendid" and would receive the support of Lerwick Community Council.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ian McDiarmid, Head of Service, Planning SIC and very strongly express the concerns of Lerwick Community Council regarding the fact that Hjaltland Housing Association are being forced to include a commercial premises in their plans when housing is so desperately short.

The presentation concluded at 8.10pm.

08/11/07

**Association of Scottish Community Councils – National Postal Ballot 2008**

Vote: Motion 1 - To affirm Vincent Waters as National Secretary – **Affirm**  
Motion 2 - To reject Vincent Waters as National Secretary - **No**

Vote: Motion 1 - To affirm Frank Gunning as National President – **Affirm**  
Motion 2 - To reject Frank Gunning as National President - **No**

Vote: Motion 1 - To affirm Nick Walker as National treasurer – **Affirm**  
Motion 2 - To reject Nick Walker as National treasurer - **No**

Vote: Motion 1 - To affirm Norman Bonney as National Vice President – **Affirm**  
Motion 2 - To reject Norman Bonney as National Vice President - **No**

Vote: Motion 1 - To approve Annual Balance Sheet – **Yes**  
Motion 2 - To reject Annual Balance Sheet - **No**

#### **Motions Presented by Member Councils**

1. That a standard period of ninety days be the norm for all local authorities when they launch consultation exercises.

Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood CC. (Falkirk)

Vote: Motion 1 - To approve the motion – **Yes**  
Motion 2 - To reject the motion - **No**

2. That the Association urge the Scottish Government to produce appropriate National guidance, for its own use and for local authorities, on the meaning of “cumulative impact” on a community from the creation of several windfarms around its area.

Pinwherry, & Pinmore CC. (South Ayrshire)

Vote: Motion 1 - To approve the motion – **Yes**  
Motion 2 - To reject the motion - **No**

3. That representation is made to the Scottish Government to alter the guidance to local authorities regarding the appointment of senior officers. The guidance to recommend all Chief Executives and Directors in future be employed solely on fixed term contracts.

Burghead & Cummington CC (Moray)

Vote: Motion 1 - To approve the motion – **Yes**  
Motion 2 - To reject the motion - **No**

4. That we call on every local authority to provide funding to Community Councils specifically to pay a monthly stipend to CC Secretaries, such as to reflect the increased importance of the role in recent years.

Portobello CC (Edinburgh)

Vote: Motion 1 – To approve the motion – **Yes**  
Motion 2 – To reject the motion - **No**

08/11/08

#### **Shetland Draft Core Plan – Discussion Regarding Approval of the Plan**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Sheila Johnson, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC and advise her Lerwick Community Council approved of the plan in principal.

08/11/09

#### **Correspondence**

##### **9.1 Hannah Nelson, Development Plans Manager, SIC – Adopted Local Plan Map, Request for Presentation**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Hannah Nelson,

Development Plans manager and invite her to the January meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

He noted Lerwick Community Council should be involved at the earliest stage with any alterations to the ageing Lerwick Plan.

He stated the social pressure for housing should not mean that plans are pushed through at the expense of green areas that the infrastructure and zoning required to be planned than evolve.

**9.2 Sheila Johnson, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC – Draft Core Paths Plan**

Noted

**9.3 Greame MacDonald, Cleansing & Ground Maintenance, SIC – Litter Bins at Co-op and Road Sweeper Vehicle**

Noted

**9.4 Michael Boylan, Operations Manager, Scottish Co-op – Refuse Problem**

Noted

Mr L Angus Left 8.20

**9.5 Sandra Laurenson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland – Parking Issues, Gilbert Bain**

Cllr J Wills stated he was glad to see such a prompt response from Ms Laurenson and was glad to note staff had been encouraged to park at Brevik.

The Chairman stated the staff should be told to park at Brevik, not just "encouraged" to do so.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to politely point this out to Ms Laurenson and also enquire how many parking spaces were available and how many of these spaces were for patients only.

**9.6 Paul Moar – Heritage Sign, Lerwick Lodberries**

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to forward Mr Moar's email on to Shetland Amenity Trust and advise Mr Moar that this had been done.

He noted Alan Blaine, Depute Manager, Shetland Amenity Trust had been written to September 2007 on the same subject but nothing had appeared to have been done.

Mr E Knight stated he would be attending a meeting of Shetland Amenity Trust the following week and would raise the matter with them.

Mr R Leith left 8.30

**9.7 Hazel Tait, Management Accountancy Service Manager, SIC – CC Budget**

Noted

**9.8 June Burns, Swan Trust – Trustee Vacancy**

The Chairman asked this item to be held over until the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council

08/11/10

**Financial Report**

The Chairman noted the Clerk of the Council had advised him a further £438.08, outstanding income from the sale of the Town Hall Guide, could be added to the 'estimated free funds' figure.

08/11/11

**Financial Assistance**

**11.1 Mrs K Hawkins – Da Soond O' Shetlan' – Talking Books**

The Chairman advised that as the Council was no longer quorate a decision could

made at this meeting regarding any offer of financial assistance.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to apologise to Mrs Hawkins for any inconvenience and advise that the application would be held over until the January meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

08/11/12

**Planning Applications**

**12.1 2008/331/PCD – To remove existing sea wall and construct stepped concrete sea wall, Sletts Road, Lerwick by SIC Infrastructure Department**  
No objections

**12.2 2008/335/PCD – To erect 34 dwelling houses (12, 1 bed apartments, 12, 3 bed apartments and 10, 4 bed apartments), Phase 3, Quoys, Sound, Lerwick by Hjaltland Housing Association Ltd**  
No objections

**12.3 2008/350/PCD – To change use of main hall to offices, Hillhead, Lerwick by Westfish (Shetland) Ltd**  
No objections

08/11/13

**Any Other Business**

Mr D Ristori stated he had been asked by members of the public if it was possible to hire the Sandvieien Neighbourhood Centre and if so how they would go about it.

Mr W Stove replied that the Janitor at Sound School held the keys.

Mr D Ristori expressed concern that the building did not seem to be used during the summer months.

Mr W Stove replied the Centre was used and leaflets were issued to advise members of the public what was on.

Mrs A Simpson raised concern over the lack of maintenance of the garden at Craigielea, and the building itself.

She noted that roof tiles were lying on the grass and the garden appeared in a very poor state. She stated that someone needed to make a decision on what was to happen with the building but in the meantime it had to be properly maintained.

Mrs A Simpson also noted the site at the old Archives needed a good tidy up. She thought a lot of debris appeared to be left behind from when Artmachine moved out of the huts and was now getting blown around.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Grant Gilfillan, Property Officer, SIC and Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager, SIC and advise them of Lerwick Community Council's concerns.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

MR J ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL