

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2009

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

Members

Mr J Anderson
Ms K Fraser
Mr W Spence
Mr M Peterson
Mr D Ristori

Mr A Henry
Mr A Johnson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr R Leith
Mr B Stove

Additional Co-opted Members

Ms Caitlin Watt

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Wills **Left 9.15pm**
Cllr J Henry **Left 8.45pm**

Cllr C Miller **Left 8.15pm**

In Attendance

Mr Neil Clubb, Contract Manager, Capital Programme Service, SIC
Ms Vailla Simpson, Service Manager, Housing & Property, SIC
Mr Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager, SIC
Mr Graeme MacDonald, Cleansing and Ground Maintenance, SIC
Ms Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health Manager, SIC
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

09/11/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

09/11/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K Greaves, Cllr A Wishart, Mr J Thomason and PS B Gray.

09/11/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2009 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr A Henry.

09/11/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Cllr J Wills enquired if there had been any progress regarding Lerwick Community Council's plans for the Knab viewpoint.

The Chairman stated he had spoken to the planning officer dealing with the application and had been unofficially advised that they were recommending approval. Formal written permission would hopefully be forthcoming when, or if, the application was approved.

09/11/05

Police Report

PS B Gray was unable to attend the meeting. No crime analysis was made available for inclusion in the minutes.

09/11/06

New Build Housing, Hoofield Redevelopment – Neil Clubb, Contract Manager, Capital Programme Service, SIC

Mr N Clubb, Contract Manager, Capital Programme Service, SIC stated several public meetings had taken place with regard to the proposed development.

He advised a total of 76 housing units were planned with accommodation to suit one to two people up to four people

Mr N Clubb 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.

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 the kitchen/dining area, projecting windows and patio doors.

Car parking would be in a central core with plans for social space, planting and general areas. Options were being looked at such as larch, natural or painted and render.

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

Cllr C Miller asked when and how would the houses be allocated.

Ms Vaila Simpson, Housing, Service Manager, Housing & Property, SIC advised the allocation of the proposed new houses was still to be looked at but priority would be given to those currently living in the area and would lose their homes.

She stated it would be beneficial to allocate the houses as soon as possible.

Cllr C Miller asked if a newly married couple would be given a larger house if they planned to have a family.

Ms V Simpson replied the houses would be allocated according to current need, not future and stressed the benefit of the flexible build of the properties.

Mr R Leith enquired as to the timescale of the redevelopment.

Mr N Clubb replied he hoped to submit the planning application by January 2010 and all being well work on the infrastructure could begin in March 2010.

Ms K Fraser enquired as to how the proposed redevelopment would be financed.

Ms V Simpson explained the details of how the redevelopment was to be funded had not yet been fully agreed but advised SIC had identified a budget of 20 million and were awaiting the outcome of an application to Central Government for funding.

Cllr J Wills asked if the residents in the area had been consulted.

Ms V Simpson replied that they were.

Cllr J Wills stated the development was original and imaginative and he hoped it would go ahead.

He asked if many residents in the chalets would have to be decanted.

Ms V Simpson replied that as far as possible residents in the area losing their homes would be housed in the new builds but conceded there would still be a requirement to find accommodation for some of the residents until the Hoofields redevelopment was completed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Neil Clubb and Ms Vaila Simpson for their informative presentation which concluded at 7.25pm.

09/11/07

Litter Issue and Wheelie Bins – Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager, SIC and Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health Manager, SIC

Wheelie Bins

Mr J Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager, SIC advised following the successful trial of a demonstration vehicle with bin lift and positive feedback from both Domestic and commercial users it was agreed at meeting of Infrastructure Services Committee that wheelie bin collection will be implemented in February/March 2010 for commercial properties in Lerwick and Scalloway and April 2010 for householders who choose the option.

He explained businesses would be charged according to the volume of rubbish they dumped which was fairer than the same rate for all which was the current system.

He advised wheelie bins were not suitable for some businesses and they would be issued with blue rubbish bags and a sticker system introduced to businesses who bundled up quantities of cardboard for disposal.

Mr J Emptage noted a second vehicle would still be used to collect refuse for recycling.

Mr B Stove enquired who would be responsible for keeping the wheelie bins clean and noted that in Livingstone wheelie bins were cleaned twice a year by their local council.

Mr J Emptage replied it would be the responsibility of householders and explained there may be more of a need for some local councils to clean wheelie bins on the mainland due to warmer conditions.

Cllr C Miller enquired if there was a cost involved to the public.

Mr J Emptage replied the current cost of a wheelie bin was £34.50 but costs would be confirmed once the budget had been prepared and an up to date fuller leaflet would be issued.

Cllr J Wills stated £34.50 was a lot of money to some and asked why SIC could not bear the cost. He noted if there was no charge people may be more encouraged to use them.

Mr J Emptage stated that that point had been fully debated and it was agreed a charge should be implemented. He added it may encourage people to take more responsibility for their wheelie bin.

The Chairman suggested SIC could offer the free installation of a quick release clip to householders to secure wheelie bins by way of compensation.

Mr J Emptage advised it was something they were looking at.

Mr M Peterson enquired as to the cost of the new vehicle with bin lift.

Mr J Emptage replied the cost was £115,000.

With regard to Commercial Street and The Esplanade Mr J Emptage stated the plan was to replace the current black storage boxes with black wheeled bins in order for waste to be stored in a secure and safe way so as to prevent spillage and mess.

He explained the bins would have lockable castors to prevent the bins being inappropriately moved but, as a backup plan, the bins could be clamped to walls.

Cllr J Henry enquired if the cages built to house refuse bags in Sandveien and Nederdale would still be used.

Mr J Emptage replied that they would. He affirmed that it would still be the choice of householders to use wheelie bins and stated the priority was to implement the changes for commercial properties.

The Chairman thanked Mr J Emptage for his presentation which concluded at 7.45pm.

Mr J Emptage and Mr G MacDonald remained for the duration of the meeting.

Litter Issue

Ms M Dunne, Environmental Health Manager, SIC stated fixed penalty fines were issued to people responsible for littering or allowing dog fouling. She advised Environmental Health took a very proactive approach and several fixed penalties of £50 had been issued.

She explained the offenders could be issued with fines at any time and often anger and irritation had been expressed by offenders when she herself had issued fines at the weekend.

She stated that, although many people did not seem to realise, it was an offence to drop a cigarette butt and anyone seen doing this would and had been fined £50.

She stated she issued free pouches to smokers for them to dispose their cigarette butts in.

Ms M Dunne advised if under 16's offended a letter would be written to their school; she would visit the youngster in school and give them a 'dressing down'. She noted the embarrassment would often stop the youngster re-offending.

She stated a letter could also be written to the youngster's parents and at the time of offence she would try to speak to the offender about the consequence of their actions.

Ms M Dunne stated the issues littering and dog fouling were taken very seriously and there was a real drive to make Shetland cleaner and greener.

She advised the 'Pink Poo' campaign was a real success and a new campaign was planned for 2010.

Ms K Fraser asked if there had been a poster designing competition.

Ms M Dunne replied that there had and the posters were displayed out and about in the community and also in schools and at the agricultural shows.

Mr R Leith stated he did not think there were enough cigarette disposal bins in the street.

Mr J Emptage advised Mr R Leith could dump his cigarette butt in any of the street litter bins.

Ms M Dunne advised she would send Mr R Leith a pouch for his butts.

Ms A Simpson asked if the youths in SYIS could be involved as they could often be seen dropping cigarette butts in the street.

Ms M Dunne replied she visited SYIS regularly to make them more aware of issues including smoking and litter; he advised she had also issued them with pouches.

She stated that she would visit SYIS and involve the youngsters in the poster campaign.

Mr D Ristori asked if fines could be issued to people who spat in the street.

Ms M Dunne stated they could do nothing but advised that at Viking Bus Station spitting was against management rules and was therefore an offence.

She advised Neighbourhood Support Workers could approach offenders, speak to them and try to get them to see how unpleasant their actions were.

Cllr J Wills asked if something could not be done to ban the use of Styrofoam cups and trays. He stated Anderson High School was a major culprit in using them and the resulting litter would be blown over to Bressay making it extremely polluted.

Ms M Dunne advised she would discuss the issue with Mary Lisk, Environmental Management Officer, SIC and ask her to encourage people to discontinue use of the containers. She noted that they could look at a campaign to raise awareness of the issue.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms Valerie Nicolson, Headmistress, Anderson High School with regard to the issue.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The presentation concluded at 8.05pm.

The Chairman thanked Ms M Dunne and she left the meeting.

09/11/08 Local Development Plan: Pre Main Issues Report Consultation, Ending 23/11/09 - Hannah Nelson, Service Manager, Development Plans, SIC

Noted

09/11/09 Correspondence

9.1 Changes in Scottish Planning System – Graham Robinson, Planning Modernisation and Co-ordination, The Scottish Government

Cllr J Wills voiced his concern that local authorities could determine their own planning applications and stated there was a need for an independent appeals system.

He stated outside independent expert advice was needed.

The Chairman asked the clerk of the council to write to Graham Robinson, Planning Modernisation and Co-ordination, The Scottish Government.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.2 ASCC - National Postal Ballot (New closing date for receipt of completed ballot 12 November 2009 at noon-by email)

As no supporting documents had been supplied members declined to vote.

9.3 Community Council Elections and By-Elections 2010

Members were happy to accept the dates proposed by Shetland Islands Council.

(Cllr C Miller left the meeting)

9.4 Faulty Automatic Speed Sign, South Road into Lerwick – Cllr A Wishart
Noted

9.5 Damaged Fence, Sands of Sound – Jonathan Duncan, Coastal Engineer, Infrastructure Services, SIC
Noted

Mr M Peterson advised that part of the cliff face adjacent to the Ness of Sound walk was crumbling and needed to be made safe.

The Chairman asked Mr Peterson to give the Clerk full details so she could write to Mr Jonathan Duncan, Coastal Engineer, SIC about the area of concern
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.6 Sign request, 'Otters Crossing' – David MacNae, Network & Design Manager, Roads, SIC For Information - Copy of letter dated 21 March 2008 to which the above refers.
Mr M Peterson stated it was sad that we had to wait for otters to be killed before signs could be erected. He thought the cost of putting 'Otters Crossing' signs on existing posts would not be prohibitive.

He noted an otter had been killed on the road at the Power Station in 2008.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC and state members of Lerwick Community Council are firm in their request for 'Otters Crossing' signs to be erected at Clickimin, on the A970 as it passes between Sandy Loch and Trebister and also at the Power Station.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.7 SIC (AHS)(20 MPH Speed Limit) Order 2009 – Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC
The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC to advise Lerwick Community Council are happy with the proposals in his email of 3 November 2009.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

09/11/10 **Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for Variation of Premises Licence**

No objections

09/11/11 **Financial Report**

Noted

09/11/12 **Financial Assistance**

No applications Received

09/11/12 **Planning Applications**

13.1 2009/304/PCD – To install gas bottle enclosure at gable of ship front, 7 Harrison Square
No objection
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.2 2009/319/PCD – Change of use and conversion of redundant community building to residential accommodation comprising 3 apartments, existing extension to the rear of St Olaf's Hall, Church Rd
Mr M Peterson declared an interest.

Cllr J Wills stated Ms K Greaves had a point regarding her concern over the lack of parking.

Ms K Fraser advised the application should be supported and not constrained due to

the perceived lack of parking spaces. She stated that many people did not own cars and they were exactly the people who wanted to live in a central location.

The Chairman agreed with Ms K Frasers comments and stated that there was a great need for housing, particularly in central Lerwick.

No objection

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.2a To Be Noted – Concerns Raised Regarding Application 2009/313/PCD – Mrs K Greaves

Noted

09/11/13

Lerwick Planning Applications – September 2009

Noted

(Cllr J Henry left the meeting)

09/11/14

Any Other Business

Lerwick Leaflet – Davy Cooper, Shetland Amenity Trust

The Chairman advised the Clerk of the Council had a meeting with Mr Cooper to discuss the comments made by Lerwick Community Council.

Mr D Cooper will now advise Shetland Litho of the corrections and amendments in order for them to be made prior to print.

SIC (Kantersted Road, Sound) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2009

The above order arrived too late for inclusion in the agenda but was discussed at the meeting.

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Argos

Mr D Ristori raised concern that traffic travelling to the Argos office may have a collision with forklifts. He noted signs were erected in the area which stated 'Harbour Traffic Only'.

In addition, he asked if Argos could be written to, encouraged to move closer to town centre and also be provided with a list of suitable vacant offices.

The Chairman advised if the road was open to the public drivers must take care.

Mrs A Simpson stated that if individuals felt compelled to write to Argos and request they move closer to town then they should do so as individuals.

The Chairman agreed with Mrs A Simpson.

Sletts

The Chairman advised that a response from Mr Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, Infrastructure Services, SIC regarding the Sletts Pier Access would be sent in time to be included in the December agenda.

Mr D Ristori advised that due to the state of disrepair of the handrail, a caution sign should be erected at the top of the steps leading from the path at Sletts to the rocks.

The Chairman advised he would visit the site then discuss the issue with Mr Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, Infrastructure Services, SIC.

(Action: Mr J Anderson, Chairman)

Mill Lane

Mrs A Simpson stated that although concern regarding the danger to pedestrians on the pavement at the foot of Mill Lane had been raised during a presentation by Mr C Gair, Traffic Engineer, Roads, SIC (**Agenda Item: 09/09/09**) nothing, as yet, had been done to resolve the situation.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr I Halcrow, Head of Roads, Infrastructure Services, SIC and ask that the issue be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Grants – Window Glazing

Mrs A Simpson stated it seemed bizarre that grants were given for single glazed windows to be fitted in a conservation area but not double glazed and asked who made the decisions.

Cllr J Wills thought it was Historic Scotland who made the legislation.

Mr B Stove asked if secondary glazing could be installed and grant still received.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Alan Jarden, Building Standards Manager, Planning, SIC and request clarification.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Helipad – Clickimin

Mr W Spence advised that a member of the public had contacted him to inform him of an objection they had raised against the proposed new helipad at Clickimin. They were objecting on the grounds that vibrations from the helicopters landing at Clickimin have caused pictures, on the wall, to move in their home in Westerloch.

He noted that helicopters had landed on the helipad seven times over the last year.

The member of public had emailed Planning, SIC with an objection to the proposed new helipad; his email had been overlooked and not included in Planning's report to Council. They have subsequently received a written apology from Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services as due to a shortage in staff his e-mail had been overlooked.

Concern was also raised due to loss of parking at Clickimin Centre's overflow car park which was often frequently used, danger to campers and their equipment and the resulting effect the possible extension to Clickimin Centre may have if the proposed New Anderson High School is built at Clickimin.

Mr W Spence asked if a more suitable area could be identified for the helipad.

Cllr J Wills stated there was no other suitable area within easy reach of the hospital.

Mr W Spence stated it was a key point and agreed that as a life saving service the Helipad needed to be as close to the hospital as possible. He noted that the Police would be there to cordon off the area in the event of a helicopter landing.

Mr B Stove declared a non-pecuniary interest but stated the site was not ideal, being so close to residences, however he could not see there was any option.

The Chairman stated that presumably the decision to site the helipad at Clickimin was taken before it was proposed the new Anderson High School should be built at Clickimin.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Planning and state Lerwick Community Council are happy with the current site providing all other options have been investigated.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Planning Applications

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Iain McDiarmid, Head of Planning, Infrastructure Services, SIC and request that the practice of advertising all planning applications in the public notice section of the Shetland Times is reinstated.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

(Cllr J Wills left the meeting)

Trenches either side of Path – Clickimin

Mr A Henry noted there were deep gouges in the land on either side of the path at Clickimin at the north end of the rugby pitch near the junction at Bruce Crescent.

He advised they had been made by tractors while preparing for the Horse Show held during the summer, he said the gouges were dangerous, unsightly and were now filling with water.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr James Johnson, Shetland Recreational Trust and ask for the ground to be reinstated.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Welcome Sign

Mr R Leith noted the Welcome sign had yet to be repainted.

Mr J Emptage advised he would "chase things up".

(Action: Mr J Emptage)

Burgh Road-Montfield Lane

Mr B Stove noted traffic often parked illegally on the solid white line on Burgh Road at the opening to Montfield Lane potentially causing a danger to pedestrians and other road users.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the Police with the information.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

He also asked that the Clerk write to Mr Graham Johnston, Head of Service, Finance, SIC and request that members of staff are reminded to park with consideration.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN

LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL