

MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2010

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson	Mr J Anderson
Mr W Spence	Mr D Ristori
Mr A Johnson	Mr E Knight
Ms K Fraser	

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr J Wills	Cllr C Smith
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In Attendance

Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

10/11/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

10/11/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K Greaves, Mr B Stove, Mr E Knight, Mr G McGhee, Mr L Angus, Mr A Henry, Cllr J Henry and Cllr A Wishart.

10/11/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October were approved by Mr W Spence and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

10/11/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

10/09/13 Play Areas, Quoys

Cllr J Wills advised that officials were doing their best to assist the residents in the Quoy's to secure a recreational area and a meeting was to be held, that night, with Hjaltland Housing Association to discuss the issue.

10/10/07 Siting of Proposed New Eric Gray Centre

Cllr J Wills asked if the reasons noted in the minutes were all the technical reasons as to why the alternative sites were discounted.

The Chairman confirmed that they were and advised that a copy of the feasibility study had been brought to the meeting for anyone who wished to read it.

Cllr J Wills stated that it was "regrettable" that no option was deemed suitable.

The Chairman agreed and suggested that the option to remove Seafield Road, between the Hockey Pitch and existing centers, should be looked at, and the area built on in a southerly direction.

Cllr J Wills agreed and noted the proposal still had to go through planning.

Proposed Knab Viewpoint

Mr E Knight advised the stainless steel plaques had arrived.

The Chairman stated there had been a delay with regard to the start of the work on the viewpoint but he was still hopeful work would be completed before the end of 2010.

10/11/05

Area Commanders Monthly Report – September 2010

Mr M Peterson asked if clarification could be sought to confirm if the details in the report was for the whole of Shetland.

Cllr C Smith responded that the content of the report did indeed refer to the whole of Shetland.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Chief Inspector David Bushell, Shetland Area Commander for confirmation.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr W Spence noted it would be interesting to compare the current statistics to those of ten years earlier.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk to request comparable statistics over the previous ten years.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/11/06

Police Report

PS B Gray was unable to attend the meeting but later emailed the Clerk with the following crime analysis for October 2010/2011 compared to that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Up from 10 to 20, with 19 detections
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Down from 14 to 10, with 5 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 231 to 253, of which were 171 detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Down from 166 to 116, of which 51 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – Down from 104 to 100, all detected
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Down from 303 to 212, with 197 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Up from 298 to 346, with 339 detections

10/11/07

7.0 Association of Scottish Community Councils – Annual National Ballot 2010

Noted

7.1 National Officers Annual Reports – 2009/10 – Vincent Waters, National President; Robert Kerr, National Vice President; Les Morgan, National Treasurer & Frank Gunning, National Secretary

Noted

7.2 Statements of Election ASCC November 2010 – For Position of National President – Vincent Waters, for Position of National Vice President – Robert Kerr, for Position of National Treasurer, Les Morgan & for Position of National Secretary - Sheila Urquhart

Noted

7.3 Letter of Concern Regarding National President's "Statement of Election" – Terry Tweed, Craigmiller Community Councillor

Noted

7.4 Appeal, Annual Ballot, Association of Scottish Community Councils – Norman Bonney, ASCC Area Representative, City of Edinburgh

Noted

7.5 ASCC Executive Response to Cllr Norman Bonney’s Appeal– Bob Kerr, Vice President, ASCC

Noted

7.6 Questions on the Constitution & Operation of ASCC – Cllr Norman Bonney

Noted

7.7 ASCC – Ballot Paper 2010

Mr M Peterson proposed no action whatsoever should be taken.

There was no seconder to the motion.

The Chairman proposed that in the absence of no seconder, the candidates should be voted for as presented.

Cllr J Wills seconded the motion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/11/08

Shetland Community Drugs Project – Gill Hession

merged in Ms G Hession, Manager, Community Alcohol & Drugs Services Shetland (CADSS), stated Community Drugs Team was established ten years ago and was September 2007 to become CADSS.

indications She advised that ten years ago there were only “pockets” of heroin use but over the last 3-4 years there had been a large increase. There were worrying that younger problem drug users were on the increase.

started Ms G Hession stated there were distinct indications that younger problem drug users drank alcohol first, and at a younger age, than older drug users. The average age that CADSS new clients started using drugs was 14, and the average age using alcohol 12.

problem alcohol. She stated that she was seeing, for the first time, that the culture of drug use was matched by problem drink use, problem drug users were now developing alcohol use and vica-versa; previously people were either using drugs or

She advised that 3-4 years ago there was a switch from cannabis to Heroin as there was a perception that the trained Drugs dogs could not smell Heroin (untrue) and so it was safer to use illegal Heroin than illegal cannabis. Dealers would also say they had no cannabis in order to encourage the use of heroin as an alternative.

Ms G Hession noted that most drug abusers state they were drunk when they first tried Heroin and they had no idea it was addictive.

However, the positive news was that people who used drugs at a younger age tended to seek help much earlier.

She stated that 39% of new problem drug users were aged under 24 or younger and statistics from 2009/10 show that 128 heroin users keyed into CADSS services, young people making up 38% of the total.

total million basis. of drug Ms G Hession stated that last year £1,600,000 was spent on drugs, mainly heroin, in Shetland, by new problem drug users presenting to CADSS services. The amount new and existing problem drug users spent in a year was around 3-4 pounds. Considering that there are assumed to be as many again, problem drug users in Shetland who are not using CADSS services, we can conclude that approximately 8-10 million pounds is being spent in Shetland on an annual basis. Therefore this is money out of the Shetland economy and into the pockets of dealers.

Mr E Knight asked what the difference was between a recreational drug user and a drug addict.

Ms G Hession replied many people use drugs now and again but an addict could spend £20-£200 per day.

She stated a lot of young women started taking heroin because an older boyfriend used or was a drinker who mixed with users.

She noted it was true to say that often the people who presented at CADSS were not able to cope with life as well as others.

Cllr J Wills asked what could be done to help with the problem.

Justice
SIC,
going

Ms G Hession replied that CADSS was not a small organisation and already doing much to address the issue, as were CADSS partnerships, including Criminal and Social Care as well as others. Funding for CADSS was received from Scottish Government, Lottery and donations but, she advised, everyone was to have to work harder and cheaper.

She stated it was very important for children to be educated in schools, "Just say no" worked for some but not all.

She stated that alcohol abuse issues had to be addressed or young people would continue to use drugs.

Mr E Knight stated that due to Shetland's relatively small community people using Class A drugs must be known. He asked why people in possession were not targeted.

Ms G Hession responded that the dealers were the issue and the only thing that worked was to cut off the supply. She stated that targeting users would only make them go underground.

Cllr C Smith stated he was a great believer in prevention and not enough research was going in to prevent dealers coming into Shetland. He asked why more was not being done to educate children in schools and encourage parental participation.

He advised that an alcohol and drugs meeting held 14 months ago, at Anderson High School, had only 5 attendees.

Mr E Knight stated he was surprised to learn young people thought heroin was not addictive and stated the facts should be taught in school.

use CADSS
heroin

Ms G Hession advised CADSS' Young Person's Worker delivered drug and alcohol education in most of Shetland's schools. In light of the increase in heroin was reviewing its education to older pupils to include concerns regarding use.

Mrs A Simpson, also a member of Shetland Alcohol and Drugs Team (SADAT), stated that school teachers also provided an element of drugs education.

Mr M Peterson asked if 3-4 million was spent on drugs last year was there a calculation for how much had been spent on alcohol.

Ms G Hession responded that she would find out what the figure was and advise the Clerk of the Council.

Mrs A Simpson asked where the money came from, to spend on drugs.

Ms G Hession replied that the money came from earnings, benefits, parents or crime.

Cllr J Wills stated that prevention should be easier in the Isles and enquired how the drugs were being brought to Shetland and if the Police had the resources to prevent it.

Ms G Hession stated drug dealers were very clever and had plans in place to get rid of drugs if it was apparent Police were making searches. One solution would be to check every single person coming onto the Island but there were not enough resources to do that.

The Chairman asked what sort of volume £10,000 worth of heroin represented.

Ms G Hession replied that £1,000,000 worth of Heroin would be about the size of a bag of sugar.

relieve pain Mr M Peterson asked if the Drugs Dogs could be trained to detect heroin only, not cannabis. He raised concern that people who had to use cannabis to were getting a bad name.

Ms G Hession did not think the suggestion would be something which could be persuaded.

Cllr J Wills asked for Ms G Hession's opinion on legalising heroin.

Ms G Hession replied, "Why on earth would anyone consider making it normal" and stated "she would not support that".

Cllr J Wills stated that as it was clear no one could physically prevent all drugs coming onto the Island the best approach may be to educate children and parents.

messages", for the only used alcohol Ms G Hession advised that we all needed to be aware of how we use alcohol in front of our children. She stated that adults often gave out "mixed example, by taking a drink after work "to relax". If children thought that time they see a parent happy, relaxed or sociable was when they they would associate mind altering substances with being happy.

Mr M Peterson asked when drug misuse began.

Ms G Hession replied it was her understanding that it was in the eighties, during the oil years.

Mr M Peterson enquired what proportion of drug users were not from Shetland.

CADSS Ms G Hession responded that ten years ago 87% of problem drug users were not born /brought up in Shetland. However, last year it was noted that 87% of problem drug users **were** born/brought up in Shetland.

Mr W Spence noted people could visit a pub to drink almost any time of day.

to the Ms G Hession stated the biggest problem was the supermarkets and advertising. and noted sales of vodka had increased by 14,600% in 5 years, mainly due promotion of alcopops.

Cllr J Wills asked if it would be possible for Ms G Hession to make another presentation in a year's time.

Ms G Hession advised she would be happy to.

The Chairman thanked Ms G Hession for her interesting and informative presentation.

The presentation concluded at 8.15pm.

10/11/09

Correspondence

9.1 Walls at Old Cemetery, Knab Road and Commercial Street/Esplanade – Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC

The Chairman stated he was satisfied that LCC's concern regarding the walls had been brought to the attention of Mr G Greenhill; however, it was not the responsibility of Lerwick Community Council to undertake a condition survey of the cemetery wall.

Mr D Ristori still expressed his concern regarding the safety of the Commercial Street/Esplanade wall.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr G Greenhill and ask for a copy of the "report of assessment" on the Commercial Street/Esplanade wall.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.2 Barrier at Foot of Staney Hill Road – Mr C Gair, Senior Engineer, Traffic Road & Safety, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to GB & MA Anderson, as owners of the land adjacent to Staney Hill road, and ask if they would have any objection to the removal of the padlock.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.3 Undeveloped Land – Longland – Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC

Noted

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.4 SIC (Breiwick Road, etc, Lerwick) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2010, Breiwick Road, Lerwick; Road Humps and SIC (Various Roads, Lerwick) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) (Variation No6) Order 2010 – Mr N Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr N Hutcheson and request a copy of the final plans.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.5 Section 36 Application for the Proposed Viking Energy Wind Farm, Shetland

UK

Cllr J Wills proposed that the response could be, "This Community Council commends Viking Energy on its effort made to meet the concerns of objectors but remains of the opinion that the development is too large and that its size appears to be a direct result of the funding agreement for the cable to the Mainland".

Cllr C Smith declared an interest.

Cllr J Wills also declared an interest.

Mr M Peterson asked if Cllr Wills proposal still stood even though he was declaring an interest.

Cllr J Wills confirmed his proposal stood. He stated the entire cost of the cable should be funded in the traditional manner.

Mrs A Simpson commented that it seemed strange that although the overall size of the project was only reduced by 15% the carbon payback of 14.9 years was reduced to 1 year; she noted she could not take the application seriously.

Cllr J Wills responded that the original way of calculating the carbon payback was wrong.

The Chairman stated it was his personal opinion that when you paid professionals they would say whatever you wanted them to say; he suggested a referendum would be more appropriate.

Mr M Peterson put forward the motion that Lerwick Community Council repeats the view that the proposal, even as amended, is still too large.

Cllr J Wills suggested a public enquiry could be requested.

Mr M Peterson withdrew his original motion.

Mr M Peterson put forward the motion that the proposal is objected to on the same grounds as the original objection, the proposed wind farm is still too large.

Cllr J Wills seconded the motion.

Members agreed the Clerk of the Council should check the details of original objection and object on the same grounds.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.6 Section 36 Application for the Proposed Viking Energy Wind Farm, Shetland – Confirmation, Date Extended to allow LCC to make Comment

Noted

9.7 Request for Letter of Support to Build an Agricultural Museum & Heritage Centre – Louise Anderson, Secretary, Tingwall Agricultural Museum & Heritage Centre

Members agreed that a letter of support should be written.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10/11/10

Traffic & Parking Orders

10.1 SIC (Lerwick Port Authority) (Parking Place for Disabled Persons' Vehicles)

Noted

10/11/11

Grant Allocations to all Shetland CC's from Shetland Islands Council

The Chairman stated that according to a recent report in the Shetland Times declaring savings made by Shetland Islands Council, over 50% of that savings came from cutting Shetland Community Council budgets by 40%.

10/11/12

Financial Report

Noted

10/11/13

Planning Applications

No applications received

10/11/14

Lerwick Applications October 2010

2010/380/PCD Extend College Building and Close Through Road

The Chairman expressed concern that the College was to be extended on the current site when the aspiration was for it to relocate to the vacated AHS site once the new school is complete.

Cllr J Wills stated there was no reason why not as the building would be suitable for other purposes in the future.

Mr M Peterson added that the building had been bought by SLAP with the intention of utilising as offices in the future.

10/11/15

Any Other Business

Energy recovery Plant Monitoring Panel

Mr W Spence stated he had nothing to report following the meeting.

Roads Reports

Mr M Peterson requested that no further roads reports be sent to him

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Place Name

Mr M Peterson enquired why Lerwick Community Council was not consulted regarding the naming of 'Brae Court'.

The Chairman advised that as the development was private there was no requirement for Lerwick Community Council to be consulted.

Mr M Peterson pointed out the name 'Brae' was associated with a hill but the area on which the development now named 'Brae Court' stood, was flat.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr L Irvine, Irvine Contractors and enquire as to the thinking behind the place name chosen.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

SIC Grass Cutting

Mr M Peterson noted that Council owned grass areas were cut thirteen times each year; he thought this a little excessive.

Cllr J Wills stated Shetland Islands Council "were looking into it".

Crime

Mr M Peterson stated he had helped staff at Tesco apprehend a shoplifter. He suggested that the "one way ticket" off the island approach, could be reinstated as a solution.

Members' general consensus was that this was not a suitable approach for dealing with shoplifters.

Mr M Peterson stated he would "explore" the possibility himself, with the Sheriff Clerk.

Steps at Matchbox

The Chairman read out a letter which arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion.

In the letter Mr G Greenhill, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC advised that he was hopeful work would begin on reinstating the steps in mid weather permitting.

November,

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL