

MONDAY 13 October 2008

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
Mrs K Greaves
Mr W Spence

Mr A Johnston
Mrs M Robertson
Ms K Fraser
Mr W Stove

Ex-Officio Councilors

Cllr C Miller
Cllr J Henry **left 8.30pm**

Cllr J Wills

Additional Co-opted Members

Miss C Holmes

In Attendance

Silvija Crook, Library & Information Manager, Lerwick Library
Neil Clubb, Architectural Contract Manager, SIC
Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health Service Manager, SIC
Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

08/10/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

08/10/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from PS B Gray, Cllr C Smith, Mr M Peterson, Cllr A Wishart and Mr L Angus.

08/10/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2008 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Ms K Fraser.

08/10/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Proposed New Anderson High - Mrs A Simpson enquired if there was to be another presentation regarding the proposed new Anderson High School.

The Chairman replied Mrs Hazel Sutherland, Executive Director, Education & Social Care, SIC would be invited back once further progress was made. He stated that Mrs Sutherland still had some outstanding questions which needed to be answered and he would "chase her up".

He also noted that a recent report in the Shetland Times suggested there were problems with the proposed new school being more than 15,000 square metres.

Cllr J Wills stated he had enquired if the new concept drawings would be shared with Councilors and this had been agreed.

He explained the plan was to build the school in seven phases over three years and the land around the site would be used in a different way.

Cllr J Wills noted he had spoken to Valerie Nicolson, Headmistress, Anderson High School who felt encouraged that planners were trying to minimise the disruption to the site.

He pointed out that recent economic events had worsened the financial situation of Shetland Islands Council but noted the shares owned by the council were still providing dividends.

08/09/07 – 7.10 Mrs K Greaves stated she had not heard back regarding the plans set within the town boundaries.

08/10/05

Police Report

PS B Gray was unable to attend the meeting. However he emailed in advance the following details of offences compared to those of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – remained the same at 8, all detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – down from 15 to 13, of with 8 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – up from 150 to 157, of which 109 were detected
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – up from 132 to 169, of which 112 were detected
Class 5 - General Crimes – up from 103 to 116, with 113 detections
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – up from 308 to 319, with 302 detections
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – down from 306 to 280, 278 detected

08/10/06

Silvija Crook, Library and Information Manager – Library Redevelopment

Ms S Crook thanked the Chairman for allowing her the opportunity to update Lerwick Community Council on the current situation following the feasibility study which went to Council, March 2007.

She stated Shetland Islands Council had declined the proposal of a new build but favoured the idea of refurbishing the Old Library Building.

Ms S Crook explained as well as refurbishing the Old Library Building the redevelopment included St Ringans (the current Library building) and the Learning Centre which was the old Sunday school.

She stated she had been asked by Shetland Islands Council to look at the possibility of extending the Old Library Building by either a two storey extension on one side or two single storey extensions on either side of the building.

Mr N Clubb, Architectural Contract Manager, Capital Programme Service, SIC noted the current plans were based on the two single storey options as they were more cost effective. He explained it would be marginally more expensive to build a two storey extension due to the steel frame required to tie the extension on to the old building.

He stated he would be making a site visit with a structural engineer the following week.

Ms S Crook explained the ground floor of the Old Library Centre would be the main adult lending area with a new entrance facing on to St Ringans with a “visual” pedestrian link between the buildings. The main desk would be situated opposite the entrance without being too “in your face” and there would be a roomy seating area.

The ground floor toilets are to be retained, a storeroom and office and the stairs are to be kept in the same positioned but straightened. A lift will also be provided.

She noted an area would be provided for prams and highlighted the growing popularity of 'Bookstart' and other organised events aimed at children and families.

The first floor will house the children's areas on the right hand side and moveable partitions are planned.

The first floor will also include seating areas with refreshment machines, reception desk, offices, computer area and some adult lending stock.

Ms S Crook stressed the importance of having senior staff's offices in the main Library to be more at the heart of the service.

She stated a pull in area was planned for Mobile Library Vans at the back of the building, while this would not provide any cover for the vehicle it would make the walking distance with boxes of books much shorter.

Ms Crook explained St Ringans would be used to house local studies, study space, more computer provision, reference Library and the basement for reserve stock.

The current Learning Centre is to provide a Community Work office, meeting room and staff room.

Mrs K Greaves enquired what the size difference was in floor area between St Ringans and the Old Library Centre.

Mr N Clubb explained the existing area was 1,000 square metres and the Old Library centre would provide 1,600 square metres excluding the extensions.

Mr W Stove expressed surprise at the possibility of the Old Library Centre being refurbished as it had been previously reported the building was in poor condition and not fit for purpose.

Mr N Clubb explained an engineer's report taken in 2007 showed the building was not in poor condition.

Mr W Stove stated a double floor extension should be planned for the Old Library Centre to allow everything to be incorporated on the one site and St Ringans could be given back to the community.

Ms S Crook replied that proposal had been looked at but it was not feasible, problems included the windows overlooking other properties.

Cllr J Henry noted he felt reassured the provision for children within the Library would be improved.

Cllr J Wills congratulated Ms S Crooks on her sensible plan but noted he was unsure how it would be prioritised within the Council budget.

The Chairman enquired how much of the 60% of stock held in storage could be on public display if the plans were to go ahead.

Ms S Crook explained approximately 80% of the 60% could be put on display. She went on to explain all the stock was catalogued but most people preferred to browse books on display rather than catalogues.

Ms S Crook stated in the proposed refurbished Library they had to strike a balance between "space and sparse" by providing a good choice of books on display but also room to move around and enjoy the Library.

She stated the plans and proposals for the refurbishment would be put to the Services Committee in December for their consideration.

The Chairman thanked Ms S Crook and Mr N Clubb for attending the meeting and giving their presentation.

The presentation concluded at 7.45pm.

08/10/07

Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health Service Manager, SIC – Neighbourhood Support Workers

Ms M Dunne explained that in April 2008 the Anti Social Behaviour Funding stream of £208,000 lost its ring fencing allowing Shetland Islands Council to use this funding for any of its functions and not just activities which impact on Anti Social Behaviour.

She explained these activities fall into the categories of prevention, intervention, enforcement and rehabilitation.

The funding is used to fund the Neighbourhood Support Workers and the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator post. It funded the Town Centre CCTV and grants to organisations including Victim Support, Community Mediation, Restorative Justice, as well as one off funding for diversionary projects.

Ms M Dunne stated that since the ring fencing has been removed it is necessary to review the areas that are currently funded and ensure they are effective at delivering a response to community concerns around Anti Social Behaviour and that they remain priorities for the future.

The review approved by the Council included deciding whether the Neighbourhood Support Warden Service continues to be a local priority.

Cllr C Miller enquired how involved a NSW could become if they witnessed a crime being committed.

Ms M Dunne replied they had the power to intervene in low level crimes such as littering and dog fouling. She explained they also created a sense of security and worked up to 11pm throughout the week and at weekends.

She stated NSW's would engage with youths in a non-confrontational way.

Ms M Robertson enquired the annual costs were for the NSW's.

Ms M Dunne replied the total cost came to £100,000 for the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator post, which covered the whole of Shetland, and four part time NSW posts.

Ms K Greaves suggested the NSW's needed a bigger profile in order for the general public to know who they were.

Ms M Dunne explained the Wardens wore a uniform with Neighbourhood Support Worker printed on the fluorescent strip and made themselves known by visiting Community Groups, Schools and they had recently attended the local Shows.

Cllr C Miller asked what powers the NSW's had.

Ms M Dunne replied they could take details of offenders and arrange fixed penalty notices to be served the following day. She expanded a £50 fine could be made for littering, £40 for dog fouling and £40 for smoking in an excluded area.

Cllr C Miller asked if there was an age limit regarding the issue of fines.

Ms M Dunne replied that there was not but it had been agreed with the local Council that a fixed penalty notice would not be served to those under 16. Instead a letter would be sent to the culprit's parents and or teacher.

Ms M Dunne also explained that on occasion she had personally visited the school and given the transgressor a 'dressing down' in front of their teacher.

She stressed there was great value to embarrassment and schools could be relied upon to 'take things forward' and discuss the issues in class.

She stated that there was always a response but it had to be in the right place and at the right time.

Mr W Stove noted the NSW's attended the Sandvieien and Norderdale Associations regularly and were able to deal with the more minor things the Police were sadly too busy to attend to. He felt the Wardens had a positive effect.

Ms M Robertson sympathised with the difficult role the Wardens had and asked if an evaluation of their effectiveness had been done.

Ms M Dunne stated the Wardens dealt with problems in a positive way and engaged with youths instead of criminalising them. She further explained the Wardens would encourage youths to take part in an activity like Midnight Football, diversionary activities rather than enforcement.

She stressed that compared to other areas anti social behavior was not a huge problem.

Ms K Greaves stated she had spoken to a NSW representative regarding bushes overhanging on to public walkways but the problem had not been addressed.

Ms M Dunne replied that unless it was regarded as a road safety issue nothing could be done.

Ms K Greaves stressed that if someone had to step off the pavement to avoid overhanging bushes surely it was a safety issue.

Ms M Dunne reiterated that it had to be proven to be a safety issue.

The Chairman enquired how many fixed penalty notices had been served.

Ms M Dunne replied 50-60 had been served over the last three years for littering and 3-4 for dog fouling.

She noted that would be dog fouling offenders tended to know who she and the wardens were and would clean up dog mess when they were around.

She stated that on a positive theme they had given out a number of 'good behaviour' certificates and affirmed positive reinforcement had greater impact.

Mr W Stove enquired how underage drinking would be dealt with by the NSW's.

Ms M Dunne replied that although the NSW's had no authority to remove the alcohol they would encourage the youngsters to give up the alcohol and in a friendly way remind the youths that although they were not the Police, the Police were not very far away.

The Chairman enquired if the NSW's had received any formal training.

Ms M Dunne explained the Wardens had received training in how to deal with drug, alcohol and social problems. They were well trained and experienced and were told that if in doubt, leave it to the Police.

She also noted the NSW's were effective in assisting those who were the targets of bullying and would provide emotional support as well as keep a watchful but discreet eye out for them.

Ms K Fraser stated the service seemed very valuable and should be allowed to carry on and progress.

The Chairman thanked agreed the service was pro-active and much valued by the Community and thanked Ms M Dunne for the presentation

He asked the Clerk to write a letter of support for the Neighbourhood Support Worker service and send it to Ms M Dunne.

The presentation concluded at 8.00pm.

08/10/08

Correspondence

8.1 Maggie Dunne, Environmental Health Manager, SIC – Mobile CCTV

The Chairman asked Ms M Dunne if it would be possible to borrow the CCTV Camera.

The Chairman proposed that with permission it should be attached at the Sound Service Station and trained on the entrance gate to the Broch.

Ms M Dunne agreed and stated she would investigate the proper signage to be used and get back to Lerwick Community Council with a scheme.

Cllr J Wills noted the complete contrast between Ms M Dunne's willingness to assist and the obstreperous nature of Mr G Douglas, Historic Scotland.

Ms M Dunne left the meeting at 8.05pm

8.2 Mary Lisk, Environmental Management Officer, SIC – Allotments

The Chairman asked if anyone had put their name down as an interested party.

Mrs K Greaves noted that she had.

8.3 Bessie Barron, Planning Officer, SIC – Naming of thoroughfare – Da Vadil

Noted

8.4 Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC – Knab Footpath, Drainage

Noted

8.5 Ian Halcrow, Head of Roads, SIC – Chromate Lane, Damaged Wall

Noted

8.6 Graeme MacDonald, Cleansing & Ground Maintenance, SIC – Lane Cleansing

Mrs K Greaves noted the lanes could still be "slimy" in some places.

The Chairman replied the use of the newly acquired pressure washer would assist in clearing the problem without the use of chemicals.

Cllr J Wills noted he had recently spoken to a resident in the Lanes who, without prompting, stated the Council had been doing a good job of keeping the Lanes clean.

8.7 Jonathan Molloy, Implementation Officer, SIC – Lerwick Adopted Map

The Chairman noted the areas of local protection agreed at a former meeting of Lerwick Community Council had not been added to the map.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mrs B Barron and invite her to make a power point presentation at the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council to clarify the situation.

8.8 Lerwick Boating Club – Grant Thanks

Noted

8.9 Sheila Johnson, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC – Shetland Draft Core Paths Plan

Cllr J Wills noted he had received a letter from a constituent requesting a proper gravel walking path be constructed from behind the Widows Homes at Twageos carrying along to the South Ness.

The Chairman stated the issue was raised at a LCC meeting approximately three years earlier and there had been reluctance to open up the area for public access.

He thought that there had been issues regarding the loss of privacy from residents and their carers in the Widows Homes.

Cllr J Wills stated he would discuss the subject at a meeting of the Roads and Transport Sub-Committee he would be attending the following day.

Mrs A Simpson enquired if there was a booklet or guide available which listed the walks, where they were and how long they were.

She stated it would be much more sense to have a guide to indicate where the walks were rather than walkers just 'happen' to access them.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to contact Sheila Johnson, Outdoor Access Officer, SIC and enquire if a guide was available or if one would be produced in the future.

He asked that the Clerk also advise Ms S Johnson that a decision regarding the Core Paths Plan is to be held over until the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

He requested that in the meantime the Clerk email members of Lerwick Community Council with details of how to access the Draft Core Paths Plan online so members can view the document at their leisure.

Ms K Fraser advised that a copy of the Draft Core Plan was available at the Library.

Mr J Henry left the meeting 8.30pm.

8.10 Shetland Amenity Trust – Da Voar Redd Up 2008

Noted

08/10/09

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for Premises Licenses

No firm objections were made to the applications apart from that made by Da Wheel Bar.

Da Wheel Bar's application of 'Core Times when Alcohol will be sold for Consumption on the premises' extended to 3am every day of the week and several members expressed concern.

Both Cllr J Wills and Mrs K Greaves felt allowing a license to 3am was excessive and may well encourage Anti Social Behaviour other sectors of the Community were trying hard to combat.

Cllr J Wills proposed the application be turned down on the grounds mentioned under Section (c) of the Guidance on Objections and Representations – Premises Licenses, Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

His proposal was seconded by Mr D Ristori.

Mr W Stove stated he did not object to Da Wheel Bar's application and moved that no objection should be made.

Ms K Fraser seconded Mr W Stove's proposal stating members of Lerwick Community Council should not make assumptions that the opening of Da Wheel Bar to 3am would cause a nuisance.

She further stated members should know what they were speaking about before putting in an objection but suggested Lerwick Community Council should voice their concern.

Vote: Motion 1 - to object to the application – 4 votes
Motion 2 - no objection to the application – 5 votes

The Chairman noted that the motion to offer no objection won the vote.

However, he asked the Clerk to write to Mr B Hill, Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board noting the concerns raised at Lerwick Community Council.

08/10/10

Financial Report

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Margaret Stevenson, Elder, St Columba's Church and enquire when the refurbishment of the Church organ was likely to be completed.

The Chairman also advised members that during a meeting of ASCC the possibility of Community Councils being able carry forward a larger proportion of funds, than the usual 10%, at the end of this financial year, was discussed.

He explained the reason for this was due to the 'peat road' funding part of the annual Grant not being paid to Community Councils until half way through the budget year.

08/10/11

Financial Assistance

11.1 Islesburgh Pyrotechnics Display Club

The Chairman noted an interest as a member of the Islesburgh Pyrotechnics Display Club.

Cllr J Wills stated the annual Fireworks Display was watched and enjoyed by many members of the public and deserved financial support.

Mrs M Robertson proposed a grant of £2,000.

This proposal was seconded by Mrs K Greaves

08/10/12

Planning Applications

No planning applications were received

08/10/13

Any Other Business

Clickimin Broch – CCTV The Chairman discussed the recent letter from Gavin Douglas, Historic Scotland regarding the use of CCTV at the Broch.

He stated he found the letter fairly unhelpful and this was whole heartedly agreed by Cllr J Wills who felt Historic Scotland should be left to sort the problem out.

The Chairman stated that to get things 'moving along', as previously discussed in the meeting he would, with the assistance of Ms M Dunne look into the possibility of sighting the CCTV Camera at Sound Service Station. The camera could then be trained on the entrance gates to the Broch site.

He displayed a photograph of camouflaged lighting and stated he would email the Clerk with a copy for her to send to Mr Gavin Douglas for his comments.

Lerwick Bus Time Tables/Oversund Roundabout/Street Lighting in Lerwick -

Mrs K Greaves stated she had received replies to her letters regarding the above issues.

She confirmed Lerwick Bus Time Tables would be put up in Bus Shelters in due course.

The costs for the Oversund Roundabout came in on budget at £520,000 and the maintenance costs are perceived to be much less than if the area was grassed.

However Mrs K Greaves noted the height of the Oversund Roundabout was twice that as planned.

It was confirmed that the street lighting in Anderson Road referred to in Mrs Greaves letter had been fitted for safety reasons.

Mrs Greaves stated she found the reply unsatisfactory and contradictory.

Traffic Lights/Inconsiderate Parking/Traffic on Commercial Street - Mr D Ristori suggested Traffic Lights should be put in place between The Shetland Hotel and the Northlink Ferries building.

He stated that on a number of occasions he had seen pedestrians struggling to find a safe time to cross the road.

Mrs A Simpson suggested the pedestrians walk a little further down the road and make use of the Traffic Lights near the Co-op.

Mr D Ristori also pointed out that frequently drivers would park both outside George Robertson's, Lower Hillhead and directly opposite next to the grassed area causing a considerable narrowing of the road access for cars.

He suggested double yellow lines should be painted on the side opposite George Robertson's.

Mrs A Simpson agreed stating she had also noticed the problem. In addition she voiced concern over the continuing volume of traffic on Commercial Street during the hours when it was supposed to be pedestrianised.

The Chairman agreed and noted how much calmer things seemed to be on Commercial Street since the South entrance to the Street was temporarily blocked off to vehicles and traffic diverted.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Neil Hutcheson, Network & Design, Roads, SIC to suggest double yellow lines are painted to avoid cars parking on both sides of the road at George Robertson's, Lower Hillhead.

Cllr J Wills stated he would be attending a meeting of the Roads and Transport Services Committee the next day and would raise these issues, along with others and report back at the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

Road Sweeper - Mrs K Greaves noted the Road Sweeper cleaned the road prior to the Bin Van collecting rubbish and then it would go round again. She thought the system a waste of resources and suggested it should only go round once, after the Bin Van had collected the rubbish.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr J Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager, Shetland Islands Council with the suggestion.

Gilbert Bain Hospital, Parking Issues – Cllr J Wills stated he had received complaints from constituents who were unable to find a parking space at Gilbert Bain Hospital when attending appointments.

He suggested some of the parking spaces were taken up by vehicles belonging to Hospital Staff members causing problems for patients visiting the Hospital.

The Chairman agreed it was a problem and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Sandra Laurenson, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS and urge her to speak to Hospital staff and request that they park elsewhere.

Co-op, Refuse Problem – The Chairman noted there was a real problem regarding the high volume of rubbish that could gather outside the entrance to the Co-op's storage entrance.

He suggested that a fenced off area, for rubbish to be temporarily kept in, may help resolve the issue.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr D Wilson, Co-op Store Manager, to voice the concerns of Lerwick Community Council and with the suggestion.

Mr D Ristori pointed out that it had been months since the public rubbish bin on the Co-op property had been emptied.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to mention the problem in her letter to Mr J Emptage and request that the bin be emptied and area tidied as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL