

MONDAY 10 December 2007

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr D Ristori
Mr R Leith
Mr A Johnson

Mr J Henry
Mr W Spence
Mr S Gordon
Ms K Fraser
Mrs K Greaves

In Attendance

Mr B Mycock, Mr E Uren & Mr S Manson, Neighbourhood Support Workers
Mr N Riddell, Shetland Times Reporter
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the council presided.

07/12/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

07/12/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ms M Robertson, Mr M Peterson, Cllr C Miller and Cllr A Wishart

Tribute to the late Rob Anderson, read by Vice Chairman, Averil Simpson

Robert James Anderson
1936 – 2007

Rob was an active member of the Lerwick Community Council for 34 years and for 20 of these, he was Chairman. During his time on the Community Council the Centenary of the Town Hall occurred. A plate was designed to commemorate the occasion. On the back of the plate is written 'Commissioned and designed by the Lerwick Community Council'. It was Rob who designed that plate and as John Nicolson told us at Rob's funeral Rob did not want or expect any recognition of his work, an indication of the modest man he was.

Rob did not shy away from robust debate and was well able to put forward his point of view, livening up many a Community Council meeting. He could also be relied on to keep an eye on the exactitude of the minutes. He was a man of great integrity and was passionate about whatever he did. He was a keen supporter of small voluntary groups and in particular of any of the organisations which involved sport. To ensure the continued financial support to these groups Rob would always strenuously defend any reduction in the funding given to Community Councils.

Rob's long and valued time as a member of the Lerwick Community Council mark his dedication and commitment to public service for which Lerwick is the richer.

We send our deepest sympathies to Mary and to Rob's family.

07/12/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2007 were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

07/12/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

The Chairman read out the following letters pertaining to the November minutes which arrived too late to be included in the December agenda:-

07/11/11 Knab Footpath

Mr Morgan Goodlad, Chief Executive, Shetland Islands Council stated the letter he received from Lerwick Community Council expressing concern over water on the Knab Footpath had been passed on to the Leisure Facilities Officer who would investigate and respond directly to Lerwick Community Council.

07/11/07 7.10 SIC Infrastructure Services – Lerwick Lane Signage

Mr D Macnae, Network and Design Manager, Roads noted the lane in question had been named as 'Fort Steps' in the public roads list for the past 20 years. Due to no main door leading off from the area it was unlikely 'Fort Steps' was in anyone's address therefore changing the name would be relatively straight forward. He suggested 'Kerr's Steps' and 'Harry's Steps' could be considered equally appropriate.

Mr S Gordon stated the name 'Fort Steps' for the area may cause confusion as it would be a more appropriate name for the steps running parallel to the lane adjacent to the Fort.

Mr D Ristori noted places were usually only named after someone once they were deceased so therefore felt 'Harry's Steps' would be inappropriate.

Ms K Fraser put forward the motion that the area should be named 'Harry's Steps'.

The motion was seconded by Mrs K Greaves and received 3 votes.

Mr D Ristori put forward the motion that the area should be named 'Todd's Steps'.

The motion was seconded by Mr A Johnson and received 5 votes.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads and advise him that after much debate the majority of attending members voted 'Todd's Steps' as a more suitable name for the area.

07/12/05 **Police Report**

PS G McCarthy was not present, no police report was available.

07/12/06

Mr Billy Mycock, Neighbourhood Support Workers

Mr B Mycock, Neighbourhood Support Workers introduced colleagues Mr E Uren and Mr S Manson and began his presentation.

Mr B Mycock stated Neighbourhood Support Workers operated from Tuesday to Saturday 8am – 11pm and Monday and Sunday as required.

He explained Neighbourhood Support Workers, also called Community Wardens, were formed as part of a national initiative throughout Scotland with remits differing slightly from local authority to local authority. They acted as the eyes and ears of the community, could advise on matters of community safety, engage positively with young people and discourage and report on anti-social behavior.

Mr B Mycock stated Community Wardens regularly patrolled local areas, reporting visible faults on property owned by Shetland Islands Council and Hjalmland. He explained regular patrolling helped them gather pertinent information and, for example, report on areas which seemed to attract littering or dog fouling and offer a solution.

They could act as a link between local people and services and regularly had a presence at community events such as shows, sports days, school open days and environment days.

Mr B Mycock stated Community Wardens tried to build a good relationship with local youths and encourage them to find alternative more positive activities as opposed to 'hanging around the street'. He discussed a national scheme called 'Midnight Football', which took place between 9pm-11pm and was aimed at youths between the ages of 12-18.

He explained youths were encouraged to see bullying as particularly unacceptable and anyone targeted by bullies supported and encouraged to report any incident to someone they trusted and who would listen to them and respect them.

Mr B Mycock relayed how a child who feared being bullied walking from school was, after haven given consent, followed at a discreet distance by Community Wardens and was given confidence as a result.

He stated Community Wardens could legally award fixed penalty notices to those found littering, smoking in public areas and allowing dog fouling.

He explained that although it was described as 'on the spot fines'. The miscreant would be informed they would be sent a fixed penalty notice and given time to make payment.

Mr B Mycock stated Neighbourhood Support Workers were funded and the funding grant ended at the end of March 2008.

Ms K Fraser enquired where the funding came from.

Mr B Mycock explained it was received from Scottish Executive but in the future funding would come through Shetland Islands Council or Community Safety Partnership.

Ms K Fraser asked if Neighbourhood Support was attached to a particular department.

Mr B Mycock stated that they used to be attached to Housing but since March it was Environmental Health.

Mrs K Greaves noted she lived on Anderson Road where cars often parked on the pavement forcing people with pushchairs onto the road and enquired if this was something which could be dealt with by Neighbourhood Support.

Mr B Mycock explained it was something they could advise on but not enforce. He stated he would find out who could and then arrange for the situation to be dealt with satisfactorily.

Mrs K Greaves also noted there were often problems with garden hedges becoming so overgrown that they hung over pavements forcing walkers out on to the road.

Mr E Uren, Neighbourhood Support Workers stated this was a problem that had been reported several times and each time action was taken very promptly to remedy the situation.

Mr R Leith enquired as to how much authority Neighbourhood Support Workers had and asked how a situation would be dealt with whereby the host of a noisy party refused to quieten things down.

Mr B Mycock stated that both Environmental Health and the police would be contacted. He explained the police had the power to seize musical equipment, if necessary, where Community Wardens did not.

The Chairman enquired what success Neighbourhood Support Workers had with youths.

Mr B Mycock stated they built up relationships with the young by attending youth clubs and events aimed at youths and listening and talking to them about any issues or concerns they had.

He explained the evidence for success was anecdotal and it was difficult to produce statistics but everything was logged and mostly came to a resolution.

Mr W Spence enquired if Community Wardens could enforce on the spot fines for littering.

Mr B Mycock stated they could inform the perpetrator they would be sent a letter informing them of a £50 fine and they would be given time to make payment to Shetland Islands Council. He explained it was the same routine for dog fouling and inappropriate smoking.

Mrs A Simpson enquired as to how many fixed penalties were issued in the last year.

Mr B Mycock replied 30 was issued for littering, 1 for dog fouling and he was unsure how many had been issued to those found smoking in banned areas.

The Chairman stated Lerwick Community Council had written to Shetland Islands Council to request a litter bin be placed at the top of Breiwick Road as the area attracted a lot of litter from Schoolchildren but the request had still not been actioned.

Mr B Mycock stated he would contact Cleansing Services and 'chase them up'.

The Chairman referred to the alcohol Bye-law and asked how Neighbourhood Support would deal with a situation where under 18's were found drinking in public.

Mr B Mycock replied the police would be contacted and the youths would have the alcohol removed from their possession.

The Chairman thanked Mr B Mycock for his presentation and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

Mr Mycock, Mr E Uren and Mr S Manson left the meeting at 7.35.

07/12/07

Correspondence

7.1 SIC Planning – CCTV Cameras, Commercial Street and Esplanade

Noted

The Chairman also read out a letter from Jenny Wylie, Community Safety Officer, Shetland Islands Council, regarding the same issue which arrived too late to be included in the agenda.

The letter made assurances that staff at Shetland Alcohol Support Services was consulted at length about the positioning of the camera.

With regard to Lerwick Community Council's request for cameras at the Viking Bus Station and Queens Hotel Ms Wylie stated the cameras were placed in areas where problems most commonly arose but pointed out the system could be built on if it was deemed necessary.

7.2 The Scottish Parliament – Evidence on Flooding and Flood Management

Noted.

7.3 SIC Roads – Bus Parking - Westerloch

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Historic Scotland and Visit Shetland and enclose a copy of the letter.

7.4 SIC Environment & Building Services – Dog Fouling

The Chairman noted that with regard to dog fouling, a single person could report an incident and the dog owner could either pay the fixed penalty or contest it.

Mrs K Greaves asked if people could be named and shamed.

The Chairman stated the easiest thing would be just to report perpetrators to the police and leave them to take legal action.

Mr S Gordon noted the CCTV cameras may play a part in reducing the incidences of dog fouling.

7.5 SIC Planning – Planning Application 2007/409/PCD

The Chairman noted his disapproval that Planning, Shetland Islands Council was not going to force Scottish Co-op to improve their goods access.

Mr D Ristori noted the yard and storage area around Scottish Co-op was a mess of litter and pallets and should be tidied up. He stated it was very poor to leave any property, particularly a grocery store in such a poor condition.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr B Mycock and raise the concerns of Lerwick Community Council.

7.6 SIC Planning – Rights of Ways – Anderson High School

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to hold the letter over for the January meeting of Lerwick Community Council.

He asked the Clerk to contact Ms M Robertson and request that she speak to neighbours in her area to see who may know of any existing rights of way in the area.

07/12/08

Financial Report

Noted

07/12/09

Financial Assistance

9.1 Lerwick Brass Band – Christmas concert in aid of age concern

Mrs A Simpson moved to grant the £80 requested.

This was seconded by Mr D Ristori.

11.2 The Church of Scotland – Alteration & Refurbishment of St Columba's Church

Mrs A Simpson asked if Lerwick Community Council could grant funds for a specific item.

The Chairman replied that he did not see why conditions could not be put on any grant allocated.

Mr W Spence noted it would be nice to see funding gifted by Lerwick Community Council put towards the cost of seating.

Mrs K Greaves suggested Lerwick Community Council find out the cost of a particular item and cover that cost.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write and request a breakdown of costs in order for Lerwick Community Council to make a more informed decision as to how much funds should be donated and what particular project or item should be funded.

07/12/10

Planning Applications

10.1 2007/467/PCD – To erect detached dwellinghouse with integral garage, adjacent to Ness View, Lower Sound

No objections.

07/11/11

Any Other Business

Mrs K Greaves noted that celebrations at the Market Cross in previous years used to be festive and lively. She expressed regret that the celebrations now seemed like an excuse for drinking and asked if there would be any possibility of a Brass Band playing.

Mr R Leith noted the 'North Boat' would sound its horn at midnight and things did not quite seem the same since the Ferries now berthed at Holmsgarth.

The Chairman stated a Brass Band used to play at the Market Cross during New Year festivities but this ceased after incidents where their instruments were damaged. He noted that some of the small boats in the harbour sounded their horns but stated this too, seemed to be dying a death.

Mr D Ristori enquired as to who funded the Christmas lighting in the street.

The Clerk to the Council noted it was The Lerwick Town Centre Association.

Mrs A Simpson stated she was certain it was Shetland Islands Council.

Mr D Ristori expressed his disappointment that the lighting did not continue from the Town centre all the way to Toll Clock Shopping Centre as it had done in the past. He asked if those responsible for the lighting could be approached and asked if this could be done in the future.

The Chairman stated he was certain he had seen Christmas lighting formally used in the area under discussion in storage at Bolts.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to investigate who was responsible for the lighting and ask if they would consider restoring the practice of running the Christmas lighting from the Town Centre to Toll Clock Shopping Centre.

The following planning application which arrived too late to be included in the agenda was discussed:-

2007/490/PCD Erection of additional dwellinghouse (flat type number 1) (block 8), Quoys (Phase 2), Sound, Lerwick by Hjaltsland Housing Association Ltd.

No objections.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL