

MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2015

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

Members

Mr E Knight	Mr D Ristori
Mrs A Simpson	Mr A Henry
Mr A Carter	Mr A Wenger
Mr A Johnston	Mr W Spence
Miss S Sinclair	Ms G White

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr C Smith	Cllr M Bell
Cllr P Campbell	

In Attendance

Mr Michael Craigie, Executive Manager Transport Planning/Lead Officer ZetTrans Development Services
Mrs Pat Christie, Community Involvement & Development Officer, SIC
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

01/15/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

01/15/02 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Hay, Mrs K Fraser, Mr M Peterson, Cllr J Wills and Cllr A Wishart.

01/15/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December were approved on the motion of Mr A Carter and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

01/15/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr A Carter enquired if anything further on the planning application for the car parking at Lochside had been decided.

Cllr M Bell informed members that the application had yet to go before the planning board.

Mr J Anderson mentioned that he was sorry, but he never managed to get back to Mr W Spence about the graffiti on the cemetery wall and mentioned that there were actually two areas affected.

Mr W Spence said that they had attempted to clean one area on the bottom cemetery wall and they were now going to try steam cleaning it. It was disappointing.

Mr J Anderson thought that it looked not as bad as it was.

Mr J Anderson requested to take item 7 early. As there were no objections he handed over to Mr Michael Craigie to talk about the Shetland Transport Strategy.

01/15/07

Shetland Transport Strategy: Refresh Stage 1 – Initial consultation

Mr M Craigie informed members that he was aware of issues already raised by the council and promised to come back with a written response for the next meeting. He mentioned the lack of staff and resources.

The Shetland Transport Strategy was under review and an email from the consultants had been sent. The 1st step in the process has required asking for views from a list of main consulters. If community councils have any issues in their own thinking/planning they are welcome to feedback as part of the process.

They feel that by looking ahead and taking account of the Shetland Transport Strategy it will help focus on what may no longer be relevant. He said they also wanted to introduce issues that were going to be relevant currently and for the next 5-10 years time, that was the aim. The 'refreshed' framework would be more workable and relevant to local circumstances. The Scottish Government were fairly guided towards national issues. So thoughts on importance in a Shetland context were needed. Some that sprung to mind were; the ferry links contract, buses, and inter-island ferries. How to support the Shetland economy and concentrate attention around that was the aim.

Mr M Craigie said he was happy to address any questions.

Mr J Anderson thanked Mr M Craigie and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr D Ristori enquired about the progress of the new 'Smart Cards' which would allow single payment throughout Shetland on both ferries and buses.

Mr M Craigie stated that it was going to take progress at a national level to take this forward. It was going to be taking place, but they hoped for a strong strategy to enable that to take place.

Damien further enquired as to the workability of a National Strategy.

Mr M Craigie said that it was more workable now. A structure to fares would make it easier to link into to. Transport Scotland were dragging their heels.

Mr A Wenger remembered previous contact with the Scottish Government and remarked how positive they had been. He further queried as to the progress with the fixed links to outer isles.

Mr M Craigie mentioned that fixed links were the main goal however it was based on finance being available and that they were to engage with the government on this. Moving on strategy for future ferries provision would explore fixed links as part of the process.

Mr A Wenger queried the timetable for replacing ferries with regard to the tunnel provision.

Mr M Craigie stated that even if the decision was taken today, it would be 15-20 years before tunnels would be in place. Therefore there was need for sustaining existing network during this time and any spending on this now would be detrimental.

Mr A Wenger asked if the lead time for a fixed link to Bressay would be less due to works already completed.

Mr M Craigie said that realistically it would still be 10 years before it could be open and used; it was possibly a shorter timescale than many of the other links.

Mr J Anderson mentioned that one of the points he had raised was regarding the bus services and whether it would be better going out the old North Road. This would be closer to domestic properties, up the Gremista Brae and Hoofield.

Mr M Craigie said that it made sense and would need to be explored.

Mr J Anderson added that it was the late service to which he referred as through the day the Town Service serviced these areas. He also questioned Northlink Ferries continuing to run through Orkney and asked Mr M Craigie if this was a good use of fuel.

Mr M Craigie replied that Orkney and the Scottish Government were discussing all the options. As they move ahead they will discuss these things. Looking at direct route to Aberdeen was one of these. It may add pressure in costs. It would be a faster journey, but would will it lead to less costs was the question.

Mr D Ristori stated that he was aware that a number of folk actually missed the daytime sailing to Orkney and queried if this would not be a more sensible time to sail to reduce need for speed and hence fuel. It would also allow for a more joined up timetable with other onward links within and without Orkney.

Mr W Spence asked if there was any update on the new harbour at Nigg.

Mr M Craigie said that Aberdeen harbour was committed to develop Nigg Bay. The Scottish Government were looking at that as an option. The strategy was looking at that, but couldn't move on this without a step change. There was broad support in Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire for the development. Aberdeen was the main constraint, but also Lerwick and Kirkwall. Bigger vessels can be used in Lerwick, but not in Kirkwall without further expansion on infrastructure.

Mr J Anderson asked how long the 1st stage would last.

Mr M Craigie said that the first date had been unrealistic. They would welcome feedback as soon as possible. They then plan to hold a series of workshops and develop an info pack which will be issued to stakeholders. They will use all the feedback to inform them. Getting it right was very important, for example the Northern Isles Ferries/ Inter-Island Ferries need to be looked at from the ground up. It has to be relevant. Also as many people are travelling from further afield, it has to be easier and cheaper and to encourage business relocation. It has to be from the ground up and embedded in order to help local communities and businesses.

Mr J Anderson thanked Mr M Craigie and said that if anything crops up then we would feed that over to him.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/15/05 **Informal consultation of West Path Diversion CPPL01 and co-existing PROW, Lerwick**

Mr J Anderson asked if there were any comments or concerns about moving the Public Right of Way.

Members had no objections to the proposal.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/15/06 **Shetland Local Plan – Consultations on Supplementary Guidance Documents**

Mr J Anderson hoped members had managed to have a look through the documents since the last meeting and asked if there were any further comments anyone wanted to make.

6.1 Local Landscape Areas

None.

6.2 Local Nature Conservation Sites

None.

6.3 Onshore Wind Energy

None.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/15/08 **Joint Lerwick Schools Meeting**

Mr J Anderson commented that the meeting had been planned for a Saturday early last month, but due to too many apologies this had to be postponed. He had to admit he had not spoken with the chairs of the parent councils to see what date would be best for them. He asked if anyone had any feelings on the subject.

Mrs A Simpson replied it would be right to speak to them and see if they wanted it to go ahead.

Mr J Anderson proposed he would speak to the three chairs and move on following that.

(Action: Chairman to the council)

01/15/09

Correspondence

9.1 By-election January 2015

Mr J Anderson noted the forthcoming by-election and the two vacancies. The notice was to be advertised shortly with the closing date for nominations 17 February. He asked if anyone knew of anyone who might be interested and were looking for a nomination paper to contact the clerk or Anne Cogle. He said it would be good to fill the last two seats if possible.

9.2 Traffic Management of Commercial Street

Mr J Anderson commented that there had been a marked reduction in vehicles travelling illegally from 170 down to 29.

Mr A Carter said it had not been this bit of the street that had been the problem. The other end of the street up to the Market Cross was traffic bedlam. It was a hazard to pedestrians and folk shouldn't be able to park anywhere they liked. They were probably aware that nobody was looking into the parking situation. He welcomed the traffic measures at one end of the street, but asked what could be done at the other end to make it more user friendly.

Mrs A Simpson remarked that it would be back to the bollards as mentioned previously.

Mr J Anderson said it had been like this in the past – closing off from Burns Walk.

Mr E Knight suggested that if the police gave heavier penalties folk would stop. They should apply the law. It was a criminal offence.

Mr J Anderson said that this had been discussed with the Chief Inspector and he was not interested.

Cllr M Bell remarked that it was something that concerns him. It was not the fault of the Local Area Commander; it derived from the establishment of Police Scotland as of last year and the need imposed by central government to save money. The one size fits all approach doesn't help. The council are unable to take on a system of decriminalised enforcement like some city councils, as it is simply not economically viable. He recommended writing to the Chief Constable asking for parking enforcement to be part of local police duties with a copy being sent to the Islands Minister at Scottish Government: Mr Derek MacKay MSP.

Mr A Simpson commented she certainly thought we should write to the Chief Constable.

Cllr M Bell observed that the one size fits all policy was a serious issue for small area like Shetland. There was no doubt that community policing, for which Northern Constabulary excelled, had suffered since the inception of Police Scotland.

Mr E Knight stated that somebody had to confront this and step in.

Mr J Anderson proposed writing and sending a copy to Tavish Scott, and Nicola Sturgeon. He mentioned the temporary road closure on the street, which we didn't have this year, but opens up the street and makes it safer.

Cllr M Bell said that if we wrote to the Chief Constable to copy to the Justice Minister and Derek McKay.

Mr J Anderson suggested we write and see how we get on.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.3 Visit to Met Office

Mr J Anderson pointed out that following on from the planning application for the Laser at the Met Office, a visit had been suggested. We were welcome to visit and have a look around. He asked how many folk might be interested and any suggestion as to which day/time might be suitable.

The general agreement was that a Saturday morning would be best for most. It was suggested trying to arrange for Sat 7th Feb or Sat 14th at 1030am.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.4 Sletts – Rock Armouring – Mr Colin Smith

Mr J Anderson suggested that as Colin was on holiday it would be best to wait until we received his reply next month.

9.5 Islesburgh Christmas Lunch – Press Release

Mr J Anderson pointed out that it was for member's information. The press release was circulated following on from the Christmas dinner that had been attended by around 30 people. A donation of £200 had come from the Lerwick Community Council and £100 from the Shetland Rotary Club grant.

He proposed we write thanking Shetland Rotary Club for their donation.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.7 St Margaret and the Sacred Heart Church – Grant Thanks – Fr Anil Gonslaves

Noted.

9.8 Dogs off the leash concern – Mrs Irene Rutherford

Mr J Anderson informed members of the concern received regarding folk with loose dogs. He suggested he might have to declare an interest in having a dog which was sometimes off the lead.

Mr A Carter declared that a lot of folk didn't particularly like cats and they may not understand that there are some folk who do like them.

Ms G White pointed out that it can be a problem when walking around the Knab with young children, dogs bounding along really fast can be quite scary. She could see this women's point and agreed it was a problem at the Knab.

Mr E Knight agreed and said it was intimidating. Some dogs were use to that, but for those with small kids it was concerning.

Mrs A Simpson made the comment of what could we do about that as we don't have a bye-law to keep dogs on the lead.

Cllr M Bell replied that a law did already exist. He said he would doubt if we had the power to create a bye-law. Any matter would need to be reported to the police as a law covers the situation already.

Mr A Carter admitted that a valid point had been made when a few dogs came together.

Mr J Anderson pointed out that although seven dogs had been walked together, as reported there was no misbehaviour, but the potential. He questioned where we go.

Ms S Sinclair suggested that we could encourage people with dogs to go to a certain area to be off the leash.

Mr W Spence held the view that we couldn't restrict folk from certain areas.

Mr A Carter had seen an area like this last year that was specifically a dog park.

Mr D Ristori remembered a chap approaching folk at the Knab if they had the dog off the lead. This was about 20 years ago and he thought that signs had been there at the time.

Mr A Carter said it didn't matter what the law says, the fact that nobody is able to police it makes it a silly law.

Mr J Anderson proposed that we write to Maggie Sandison and forward the letter of concern on. A couple of signs for folk would be appropriate, next to the other signs at the Knab. A copy of our letter can be sent to Mrs Rutherford.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

9.9 Lerwick Town Hall Conservation Project – Niall Braidwood, Groves-Raines Architects

Mr J Anderson noted the email received asking for the photographs as displayed in the Town Hall Guide booklet. He said we were in the process of finding the originals and would pass these on for the folk to use.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/15/10 **Financial Report**

Mr J Anderson asked if there were any questions.
None.

01/15/11 **Planning Applications**

11.1 2014/363/PPF To create a mini roundabout; turning head; provide rainwater attenuation chamber and various service connections below ground serving proposed building described in approved application 2014/281/VCON – Seafield Rd, Lerwick – SIC Capital Programme Service

Mr J Anderson pointed out this was for the new Eric Grey Centre, for a roundabout and drainage works. There had already been an approved application for the centre and the car park. He asked if there were any comments.

Mrs A Simpson responded that the application looked fine.

Mr J Anderson said he wanted to draw attention to a couple of letters from concerned residents regarding the fact they would have to reverse onto the roundabout. One also concerns access into the car park. He queried why the roundabout could not be moved down to where the other access is and have both accesses for the old and new car parks come off the same roundabout.

Cllr C Smith point out that it would be an offence to back onto a roundabout.

Mrs A Simpson asked if it was main road and Mr J Anderson said as far as he was aware it was.

Mr W Spence enquired why it was necessary for a roundabout as he thought the reason for a roundabout was to keep traffic moving.

Mr J Anderson said that traffic was going into both car parks associated with the centre. His second thought had been about the necessity of an attenuation base on the lower part of the hockey pitch. To his mind firstly the expense of public money, as it was not going to flood the North Sea. Secondly, it would sterilise the ground to further use as perhaps a campsite. Only need to cut pipe into the sea.

Mr A Carter responded can we make a recommendation based on that, as it sounds sensible.

Mrs A Simpson agreed that we should do that and question if the roundabout had to be there.

Cllr C Smith declared an interest as a member of the planning committee. He stated that this issue had come up before, he couldn't remember why, but it had to be included and made reference to Mr Colin Gair and Mr Robert Sinclair's input. He suggested sending letters would only delay progress and it would be October before work would begin on site. He thought we could do better than to send letters and recommended speaking to Colin and Robert about the situation.

Mr J Anderson agreed they wouldn't want to jeopardise the application. There were legitimate concerns from the neighbours about roundabout being there. Looking at the plans there may be a constriction with the red line boundary and possibly no room to move on that.

Mr A Carter remarked that the recommendations suggested may make it cheaper and quicker.

Mr J Anderson thought that any changes may require a new planning application which could delay things.

Mr A Carter suggested we invite someone here to discuss it.

Cllr C Smith mentioned that Mr Colin Gair and Mr Robert Sinclair would be the main contacts.

Mr J Anderson noted that it was 14 day consultation period which had lapsed, but planning had been informed of our reply following this meeting. He proposed that he very quickly speak to Colin and Robert tomorrow and if we make a formal reply it would need to be made now. He asked if there were any further thoughts.

Cllr M Bell declared an interest as a member of the planning committee and explained that was why he was not taking part.

Mr J Anderson stated that if we make a representation we would need to do that now, so that it was lodged with planning. He said he would get in touch with Colin. Could be withdrawn or pushed through to February. He asked Cllr C Smith if he had any idea.

Cllr C Smith said that the next planning meeting was next week, so he said it would probably be pushed back to February.

Mr J Anderson said he never seen any replies back to the residents addressing their concerns. It was legitimate to support them and raise concerns regarding access to private dwellings and also whether the SUDS system was actually required.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.2 2014/364/AMSC – Application of matters specified in conditions 5 and 7 of previous permission 2014/281/VCON

Noted.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.3 2014/369/PPF – To replace existing balloon shed – Met Office Observatory

Mr J Anderson displayed the photograph of the new balloon shed and asked if there were any comments or concerns.

Mr W Spence expressed that he liked the building and it was a lot better than the current one.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

11.4 2014/373/PPF – To construct a steel framed & stretched fabric building for indoor/sports training; incorporating a 3G synthetic grass sports pitch, changing facilities, lighting & associated draining works – Clickimin Centre, North Lochside, Lerwick – Shetland Recreational Trust

Mr J Anderson displayed the site plan and asked if anyone had any comments.

Mr A Wenger asked if this was the building to be used as a sports hall for the new school.

Mr J Anderson replied that this was to provide teaching space. It was also intended to fit in with changes at the Clickimin Centre itself. He did have one comment about the existing access to the Clickimin Centre being sub-standard. Presumably there will be an increase in traffic and so far there are no proposals to improve the access to the centre.

Discussion ensued about the access paths, changing rooms and toilets for the facilities.

Clr P Campbell mentioned that ½ million had been donated by Sport Scotland. The facility would allow for less demand on the Clickimin and at 60 x 40m it was a fair size.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/15/12

Traffic and Parking Orders

12.1 SIC (Stouts Court, Lerwick) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2015

None.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

01/15/14

Any Other Business

Clickimin Loch Brig

Mr D Ristori mentioned that for two years the stone 'brig', (concrete walkway), at the back of the Clickimin Loch had been broken.

Mrs A Simpson thought that this may be affected by the new path.

Mr J Anderson said that they could ask about it, although he supposed that after the creation of the new 3m footpath, no money would be left after that to do up the causeway.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Disabled Parking Space – Clickimin Road

Mr D Ristori wondered if the disabled space along the Clickimin Road was no longer needed and if we could enquire if the person who had used it was no longer resident.

Mr J Anderson said that he thought that the council would get rid of them, but we could send up to roads.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Health & Social Care Integration

CLlr C Smith mentioned the update to the Health & Social Care Integration and said that the document and planning would be published on the web fairly soon. He said to make a response if anyone had any concerns. The timescale was tight. There was to be series of meetings. If any comments were to be made to do so, as soon as possible. The document was to go in mid February to NHS, then to the full committee and on to Scottish Government by mid March.

Mr J Anderson asked if a link could be sent to the clerk and then it could be circulated to everyone and they could feedback any comments to the clerk or individually.

Mr A Wenger had observed a cable on the pavement near to the Barber Shop and taxi office on Commercial Road at the top of Garthspool. He said that it was a hazard in the dark and would need to be reported.

Mr J Anderson agreed and said that we would pass that on.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Brass plaques on cemetery benches

Mr J Anderson had a question for Mr W Spence regarding the two benches near the cemetery which were gifted by the Lerwick Community Council to mark the Millennium. He noticed the brass plaques had been removed.

Mr W Spence agreed to ask and find out about them.

(Action: Mr W Spence)

01/15/13

Clerks Hours

Mr J Anderson reminded members that they had agreed to review the Clerks hours after 6 months, as they had been reduced when Marie started in mid June from 60 hours a month to 50 hours. She had been doing in excess of 60 hours a month. There would be no financial impact in moving the hours back as they were budget had never been reduced pending this review. He asked if everyone agreed to increase the hours. The motion was approved by Mr E Knight and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Lerwick Community Council Draft Minutes – January 2015
Subject to approval at the February 2015 meeting

Date.....