

MONDAY 7 MAY 2012

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Ms A Westlake left 8.55pm
Mr A Henry	Mr A Johnson left 9.00pm
Mr D Ristori	Mr E Knight
Mr W Spence	Mr A Carter
Mrs E Williamson	Mrs A Simpson
Miss K Fraser arrived 7.30pm	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell	Cllr J Wills left 8.15pm
Cllr M Bell	Cllr A Wishart
Cllr M Stout	

In Attendance

Mr J Edwards, Quality Improvement Officer, SIC
Dr S Taylor, Vice Chairman, AHS Parent Council
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

12/05/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

12/05/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Hay, Mr M Peterson, Mr J Stewart, Ms K Fraser, Mr L Angus and Cllr C Smith.

12/05/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February were approved by Ms A Westlake and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

12/05/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Item 12/04/04 – Road Safety-Bells Brae School Area Cllr A Wishart informed members that there was a Road Safety meeting, in April, of all agencies involved and efforts were being made to find a solution. It was decided that, at least, all parents would be advised of the problem, mindful that each year new pupils attended the school.

He assured members that he would keep them updated with regard to the issue.

12/05/05

Area Commanders Monthly Report – April 2012

Cllr J Wills stated that it was a credit to the Force that the detection rate was up and crime figures down.

He raised concern with regard to 'boy racers' and stated that it was surely possible to install relatively inexpensive wind or solar powered speed recording equipment; he advised that he would be raising the issue with the Transport Department, SIC.

Cllr J Wills added that the situation had gone on long enough and that Lerwick Community Council should make a concerted approach to ensure that Shetland Islands Council takes the concern on board.

The Chairman suggested that the use of temporary "Smiley Face" vehicle activated signs may be a deterrent.

Cllr A Wishart thought it was a good proposal but suggested that the issue was also one of enforcement and that the problem should, in addition, be brought to the attention of the Police.

Cllr M Bell agreed, stating that there was no easy answer; it was about education and enforcement. He added that the "Smiley Face" vehicle activated signs were more effective if moved, regularly, to alternative areas.

Members discussed particular areas of concern and it was agreed that Lochside, Knab Road, Church Road and the Esplanade all regularly attracted speeding motorists.

Mrs A Simpson enquired if an impact assessment had been carried out at Lochside when the "Smiley Face" sign had previously been utilised in the area.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr P Crossland, Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC to request the use of "Smiley Face" signs in the problem areas highlighted, and, to enquire if any impact assessments had been undertaken relating to their use.

He asked the Clerk to also write to PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary to highlight the issues which were raised.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Ms A Westlake asked for clarification as to when a new Traffic Warden would be appointed.

The Chairman responded that he had noticed that the position had been advertised the previous week and thought that it would be two months before the post was filled.

12/05/06

Refresh of the Blueprint for Education – Jerry Edwards, Quality Improvement Officer, SIC

Mr J Edwards explained that the strategy was to attend as many meetings as possible in order to discuss the Refresh of the Blueprint for Education. The deadline for responses was set for 28 June 2012.

He advised that there was currently 50% occupancy in the Primary School estate and that the percentage remained fairly consistent.

It had been decided to only accept responses from groups as historically public consultations had not been good.

They were currently consulting with Head Teachers, school staff, Parent and Parent Councils and Community Councils in order to get a level of input across the whole board. However, many Community Councils had advised that they would not respond, and that would be their response.

Mr J Edwards advised that the pro forma, divided into three broad sections depicting low, medium and high level savings was for guidance only. The savings suggestions came from consultations with central staff, Head Teachers, Youth Voice and a seminar with the previous Councillors.

Cllr J Wills clarified that the document was only an illustration of what was possible; a range of possibilities.

Miss K Fraser arrived 7.30pm

Mr J Edwards advised that there could not be complete anonymity with the pro forma but that it was not their intention to publish them.

The Chairman asked if Mr J Edwards could remember the budget savings for 2010/11.

Mr J Edwards replied that it was £43,011,274; with a budget of £39,570,654 for 2012/13.

The Chairman informed members that an invitation had been sent to the Head Teachers of each of the three Lerwick Schools and Chairs of their Parent Councils to attend the meeting. He introduced Dr Sarah Taylor, Vice Chairman, AHS Parent Council and invited her to speak.

Dr S Taylor stated that the AHS Parent Council had had a meeting with Helen Budge, Director of Children's Services, SIC. Concern was raised that the document was done in such a way that it would set one area against another. However, they were asked to give their opinion so it was decided to send the form to all parents, and then collate their views with their own before sending back a response.

She thought that people had to be mindful that Anderson High School serves all areas.

The Chairman raised concern with regard to the effect that changing the curriculum for excellence may have on Junior High Schools in rural areas and the Anderson High School roll. He hoped that consideration would be given to any possible changes before decisions were made with regard to the Refresh of the Blueprint.

Mr A Carter that noted he was interested to see that the original Blueprint to improve education seemed to have gone on the back burner and it was now all about saving money. He was curious as to the impact that the closure of Sandwick and Aith Junior High School would have on Lerwick and the Anderson High School in particular with the influx of 300 more children. He enquired if consideration been given to the impact on infrastructure and social facilities. What would happen to the teachers and what effect would it have on the community.

Mr J Edwards responded that he was unable to answer Mr A Carter's question but could advise that the closure of Scalloway Junior High School was a happy transition for the pupils which was very well managed.

Cllr M Stout suggested that the reasons that many Community Councils refused to respond was that the Refresh of the Blueprint for Education was too simplistic for the big issues which it could create; depopulation in rural areas and increased pressure on housing in Lerwick.

Mrs E Williamson stated that to be fair the Curriculum for Excellence was done on a national level. She added that, unfortunately, it did not fit well with Shetland.

Cllr J Wills informed members that Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh Community Council felt that Shetland Islands Council was trying to abdicate and delegate their responsibility.

He thought that the Refresh of the Blueprint for Education was political cowardice. He stated that it was not acceptable to close so many Junior High Schools; there were far too many Primary Schools and they needed to amalgamate.

Cllr J Wills felt that Anderson High School was suffering disproportionately and appealed for savings to be made fairly.

Cllr J Wills furthered that it was poor to ask Community Councils to respond to the document, that it caused alarm and despondency and that political decisions had to be taken urgently.

Cllr A Wishart agreed with Cllr J Wills, stating that he had summed things up very well. He added that there was concern from both Bell's Brae and Sound Primary Schools that there was a constant squeeze on their budgets.

Mr J Edwards left 8.00pm

Mr A Carter proposed that Lerwick Community Council should have nothing to do with the document.

Mrs A Simpson seconded the motion.

The Chairman counter proposed that a response should be made.

He suggested that there was a need to rationalise the Primary School estate and preserve Junior High Schools.

Cllr A Wishart responded that there was huge emotional issues with regard to closing Primary Schools in rural areas. He did not think that Junior High Schools could be totally excluded.

Mrs E Williamson noted that the Anderson High School Parent Council's action, to put circulate the document to parents for comment was a good way forward and she looked forward to seeing what came back.

The Chairman stated that Bells Brae Parent Council were doing a similar thing by pulling all parents views into one group response.

Mrs A Simpson stated that although Dunrossness Primary School was a great success she was concerned with regard to transport issues and the consequential carbon footprint resulting from school closures. She added that care would have to be taken, rural schools were suffering too.

The Chairman stated that there seemed to be no parity of service between the schools and that Lerwick Schools were at a disadvantage. He affirmed that that the only logical thing to do was to rationalise the existing un-financially sustainable school estate and stated that the bottom line must be to get the best education possible for all, some schools would have to be closed.

Mr E Knight seconded the Chairman's proposal.

Cllr J Wills left 8.15pm

Ms A Westlake stated that the system had to be fair; children were entitled to equal measures of educational benefits.

Mr A Carter repeated the motion that the decision should be made by Shetland Islands Council and that Lerwick Community Council should not comment on the Refresh of the Blueprint for Education.

Mr D Ristori seconded the motion.

The Chairman counter proposed that Lerwick Community Council replies, not necessarily ticking any boxes, but to say that in the interest of providing the very best of education to all, and to avoid a race to the bottom, thought should be given to rationalising the Primary School estate.

Mr E Knight seconded the motion.

Both proposals were put to the vote.

Proposal not to comment on the Refresh of the Blueprint for Education – 2 Votes

Proposal to respond and propose that consideration should be given to rationalising the Primary School Estate – 8 votes

The proposal to respond was carried.

(Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman asked if anyone had further comment.

Mr P Campbell stated that he had been involved with Primary School education for 25 years and he was strongly opposed to the removal of the provision of specialist teachers.

Mr D Ristori seconded Mr P Campbell's concern.

Mrs A Simpson noted she would be opposed to the removal of teacher input into primary schools.

Mr P Campbell expressed concern that two primary three classes in Sound School had 30 pupils each. He noted that if the class size was to increase to 33 there would be difficulties in accommodating them all in the class.

Ms A Westlake supported Mr P Campbell's concerns and also opposed the removal of the provision of specialist teachers.

Dr Sarah Taylor left 8.30pm

12/05/07

LCC Representation – Community Benefit Fund

For the benefit of new members Ms K Fraser explained what the Community Benefit Fund was and why it had been set up.

She informed members that at the Community Benefit Fund meeting earlier that evening she had put forward the proposal from the Lerwick Community Council Chairman that consideration should be given to some form of weighting to address the size of Community Councils when funds are distributed.

The proposal was considered too complicated and it was still thought that the communities closest to the turbines should benefit most.

She explained that only 10% of any funding received would be distributed to Community Councils; the majority would be held and managed centrally by the co-op.

Cllr A Wishart clarified that contributions made by Windfarms and other Renewables were based on output, purely voluntary, totally separate from investment return and happened in every area.

Mr E Knight enquired where Lerwick stood with regard to contributions from the turbines at Luggies Knowe.

The Chairman advised that he would raise the issue with Bobby Hunter, Chairman, Shetland Community Benefit Fund Co-operative. He added that as far as he was aware Mr Hunter was making representations to SSE with regard to the 3 turbines at Luggies Knowe and around 18 turbines at the south end of Yell. Representations should be made to any and every renewable project.

Mr W Spence expressed concern that no contributions would be gained from the Yell Windfarm.

The Chairman replied that there was always that risk. They were maybe obliged, but not bound, to offer contributions.

Ms A Westlake proposed that Ms E Williamson should take over, from Ms K Fraser, the position as Lerwick Community Councils representative on the Community Benefit Fund.

The Chairman asked Ms K Fraser if she still wanted to stand down from the position.

Ms K Fraser replied that she did.

Mr D Ristori seconded Ms A Westlake's proposal.

The Chairman thanked Ms K Fraser for all her hard work to date and wished Ms E Williamson well as Lerwick Community Council's representative on the fund.

12/05/08

Correspondence

8.1 Concerns & Issues Raised-March Meeting of LCC – Phil Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services, SIC

Mr D Ristori informed members that residents in the area were not happy with the response.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write back to Mr P Crossland and ask that an initiative be taken to improve the situation rather than leave the status quo.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.2 Dog Fouling & Sands of Sound Dog Litter Bin – Maggie Dunne, Executive Manager, Environmental Health and Trading Standards

The Chairman advised members that he had an article for the Clerk of the Council to forward on to Ms M Dunne. The article discussed how dog waste could be DNA tested and registered owners of the offending dogs tracked down.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.3 Community Council Grant – Jacqueline Johnson, Management Accountancy Service Manager, Finance Services, SIC

The Chairman advised that Community Councils stood to lose 11% of their 2012-13 budgets unless a way could be found to save SIC money by taking on additional duties.

He asked members to forward any suggestions on to the Clerk of the Council.

8.4 Disrepair, Footpaths at Sound – Jonathan C Duncan, Access Officer, SIC

Noted

Amanda Westlake left 8.55pm

8.5 Royal Mail Lerwick Road Transport Workshop – Bruce Crossan, Island Manager, Royal Mail

Noted

8.6 Road Safety Concern, Shetland College Bus Route – Michael Craigie, Executive Manager, Transport Planning, SIC

Noted

8.7 Governance of Shetland Charitable Trust (SC027025)-Kenny Mathers, Charities Senior Case Officer, OSCR

Noted

Mr A Johnson left 9.00pm

12/05/09

Financial Report

9.1 Financial Report as at 5 April 2012

Noted

9.2 Grants/Projects 2011-2012

Noted

9.3 Annual Grants & Projects 2011-2012 & Forecast Costs 2012-2013

Noted

9.4 Main Annual Running Costs 2011-2012 & Forecast Costs 2012-2013

Noted

9.5 Financial Report as at 30 April 2012

Noted

12/05/10

Planning Applications

10.1 2012/136/PPF – Change of use from former gas depot, Ladies Drive, Lerwick to Brewery – Staneyhill

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The following planning applications which arrived too late to be included in the agenda but were brought to the meeting for consideration was as follows:-

2012/156/PPF – Dwellinghouse & Garage – Fogralea

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

2012/144/PPF – Replace windows, doors, convert window to door, install ramp, CCTV camera's & security grilles – J&M Fraser Fish Shop

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

2012/148/vcon -Vary condition 2011/309/PPF, increase height 30m to 45m, Turbine – North Hoofield

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/05/11

Lerwick Applications April 2012

2012/122/PPF – Erection of new storage shed, creation of new open storage area, erection of security fence

Objection

Members agreed to object to the application on the grounds that it has failed to follow the advice contained within PAN 61 and that it also fails to comply with the principals contained within SPP7, thus representing a significant increase to the risk of flooding to the Gremista area.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/05/12

Any Other Business

Traffic Lights – Between Shetland Hotel & Holmsgarth Terminal

Ms A Simpson suggested that traffic lights to assist people crossing the road between The Shetland Hotel and Holmsgarth Terminal would be a benefit.

The Chairman thought that the suggestion had been raised at a previous meeting.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to check back through the minutes and report back with the details.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Footpath behind Leog

Mr P Campbell advised that the footpath behind Leog had become very overgrown and left unswept for some time.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr J C Duncan, Access Officer, SIC with regard to the issue.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Sandveien Play Park – Broken Glass

Ms E Williamson raised concern with regard to the high level of broken glass, from bottles, which could be regularly found in the Sandveien play area.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms M Dunne, Executive Manger, Environmental Health, SIC requesting that the area is cleaned up and more regularly monitored.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Town Service Bus – Staney Hill Area

Cllr M Stout advised that residents in the Staney Hill area were complaining that the Town Service bust did not go far enough into the scheme.

Mr D Ristori stated that this was due to safety reasons. The brae was very steep, dangerous when icy and there was difficulty turning the bus.

Path Behind Clickimin Sports Centre

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Shetland Recreational Trust requesting that the footpaths which run behind the Rugby Pitch, and in particular behind Clickimin Loch, are cleared and made safer for walkers.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman..... Date.....