

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2011

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Ms K Fraser
Mr S McMillan	Mr A Henry
Mr S Hay	Mr A Johnson
Mr J Stewart	Mr D Ristori

Ex-Officio Councillors

None present

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr T Henderson

In Attendance

Mr R Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board
Mr S Boker-Ingram, Director of Clinical Services, Shetland NHS
Mr N Coote, Project Engineer, Scottish Southern Energy
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

11/10/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/10/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Spence, Mr M Peterson, Mr E Knight, Mrs K Greaves, Mrs A Simpson, Cllr C Miller, Cllr C Smith, Cllr J Henry and Sergeant B Gray.

11/10/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2011 were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mr S Hay.

11/10/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr M Peterson asked that the September minute be corrected to note that he had tendered his apologies for that meeting.

Dental Treatment

Ms K Fraser advised that she had had cause to request emergency dental treatment and was pleased to report that she had been given an appointment that same afternoon.

Mr R Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board thanked Ms K Fraser for her comments. He took the opportunity to inform members that due to an issue regarding the Dental equipment he now expected that it would be towards the end of October or beginning of November before the St Olaf Street Dental Surgery would be open for business.

11/10/05

Police Report

Acting Inspector B Gray was unable to attend the meeting.

Post meeting note – see appendix 1

11/10/06

Consultation on Formal Closure of the Interim Placement Unit, Montfield – Mr Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board & Mr Simon Boker-Ingram, Director of Clinical Services, Shetland NHS

Mr R Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board stated that they were nearing the end of their consultation on the formal closure of the Interim Placement Unit (IPU) at Montfield Hospital.

He advised that they had held a number of consultation events, all very well advertised, but no one had turned up and they had received no comments.

Mr S Boker-Ingram, Director of Clinical Services, Shetland NHS, distributed copies of the consultation document and took the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the staff who had worked at the unit.

He made it clear that it was only the closure of the top floor of Montfield Hospital, the Interim Placement Unit, which was being consulted on.

He advised that nationally the demand was for people to remain in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Shetland NHS had worked with Shetland Islands Council over the past eighteen months to ensure that people were supported through care packages or supported accommodation. They had focused hearts and minds on getting people back in their own homes as it was what people wanted.

Mr S Boker-Ingram informed members that the Interim Placement Unit had remained unused for over a year. He stated that the ability to manage without the IPU bed base had been strongly demonstrated as within that year was a prolonged period of severe winter weather.

The Chairman commented that he was vexed to hear that no one had attended the consultations.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that this may in part be due to the fact that the unit had been unused for over a year. Although it appeared that the closure of the unit was not an issue, they were keen not to take this for granted and were happy to have the opportunity to present to members of Lerwick Community Council.

Mr S McMillan asked if Shetland NHS would be putting the building up for sale.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that no decision had been made.

Mr S McMillan noted that there were no nursing homes in Shetland and it was something that was badly needed.

Mr S Boker-Ingram informed members that a district nurse was attached to each care centre and people received a high level of care, both social and medical. Complex needs were also met within people's own homes.

The Chairman stated that he could assume that there was no disquiet but raised concern that it may be a short term saving. Statistics suggested that the current 16% of people at pension age could grow to 33% over the next twenty years.

Mr R Roberts replied that it was a good point but how far could they predict. He stated that the way health care was delivered had changed significantly over the years and no doubt services would have to change to suit future needs.

Mr S Hay put forward the possibility of staff being moved from Lerwick Hotel to the vacated top floor of Montfield Hospital in order to save on rental costs.

Mr R Roberts responded that Shetland NHS would want to rationalise their property and all options would be looked at and discussed with Shetland Islands Council.

Mr D Ristori advised that in the recent past there had been strong support for a Hospice in Shetland.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that he had met with the Hospice group but was unsure if they were still functioning.

He again stressed that there was a move to giving people their last days at home. The vast majority of people did not want to be in an institution.

He advised that the cost of running a Hospice was very high and this was an issue.

Mr S Boker-Ingram confirmed that more and more people wanted to spend their last few days in their own homes or at least in their own communities where they had friends, families and familiar faces around them.

The Chairman thanked Mr R Roberts and Mr S Boker-Ingram for giving their presentation and asked if Lerwick Community Council could be kept informed when a use was found for the unit.

The presentation concluded at 7.25pm. Mr R Roberts and Mr S Boker-Ingram then left the meeting.

11/10/07

NINE'S Project – Mr N Coote, Project Engineer, Scottish Southern Energy

Mr N Coote provided members with a short power point presentation on the Northern Isles New Energy Solutions (NINE'S) Project.

A summary of the project is attached – see appendix 2

The Chairman asked if Mr N Coote could clarify if the giant 1 megawatt battery contained sodium sulphate.

Mr N Coote confirmed that it did.

The Chairman enquired how stable it was.

Mr N Coote replied that it was the most proven battery storage in the world. It was used primarily in Japan, then the USA. The battery would be the largest in the UK.

The Chairman asked where it would be located.

Mr N Coote advised that it would be to the north side of the power station.

Ms K Fraser asked if the project was actually going to happen and would a new power station be needed.

Mr N Coote replied, yes. The project was currently being trialled in 6 homes and would be extended to 750 homes by December 2013. The project would also allow the District Heating Scheme to expand and both renewable and conventional electricity be stored. A new power station would still be required but at a reduced size of 80 rather than the forecast of megawatt.

The Chairman asked how NINE'S project evaluated their results.

Mr N Coote advised that this was done by the University of Strathclyde using a number of work packs and key outputs.

Mr S McMillan enquired how the battery would be charged.

Mr N Coote replied that the battery would be charged by wind and wave power and at night when the demand was lower. He added there was scope for windmills, large and small, all over Shetland.

The Chairman noted that the storage heaters shown during the presentation looked fairly standard. He asked how they differed from any other.

Mr N Coote stated that the storage heating was much better with additional insulation to minimise heat loss and fitted with programmable timers to allow better control of temperature and operating times. They were revolutionary and the water tanks were 95% efficient.

The Chairman asked if chemical storage was deemed to be better on cost and for the environment.

Mr N Coote advised that chemical storage was more cost effective in Shetland. They were trying a range of storage combinations.

Mr D Ristori asked if tours were available around the power station.

Mr N Coote replied that there were no official tours but he would be happy to show Mr Ristori, or anyone else, around if they were to call him first.

The Chairman asked when the system was due to be switched on.

Mr N Coote replied that it would be in six weeks time with a mass roll out next year. They would build up confidence in the battery and manage constraints in an innovative way.

The Chairman thanked Mr N Coote for his presentation, which concluded at 7.55pm.

Mr N Coote then left the meeting.

11/10/08

Hjaltland Housing Associations North Star Project – Suggested Names

On behalf of Mr A Smith, Bayes, Commercial Street, Mr D Ristori suggested that 'Sutherland Place' be put forward, as a tribute to Jock Sutherland who worked as a projectionist at the North Star for over 60 years.

The Chairman thought the name was a suitable suggestion to put forward and asked if there were any other options.

Ms K Fraser stated that she would prefer names which would include the words North Star and Excelsior as they more readily reflected the history of the site. It was names that most people would remember.

Mr D Ristori proposed 'Sutherland Place'.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjaltland Housing Association with the suggestions 'Sutherland Place' or a name which takes into consideration the previous names of the buildings, 'North Star' or 'Excelsior'.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/10/09

Correspondence

9.1 Turning Head Widening at Sands of Sound, Lerwick – Mr J Johnson, Engineer, Roads, SIC
Noted

9.2 Excavations at Sands of Sound, Lerwick – Mr N Sineath, Enforcement Officer, Planning, SIC
Noted

The Chairman distributed and read out a letter further to agenda items 9.1 and 9.2 which arrived too late to be included in the agenda.

The letter dated 30 September 2011 Ref: 2007/186/PCO: 2009/85/PCD: 2011/291/VCON provided the following information;

As previously stated, outline planning permission was granted on 3rd August 2007, to erect 3 dwellinghouses at the Sands of Sound, application Ref No. 2007/186/PCO.

On 26th August 2009, full planning permission was granted to amend the access road layout, plots 1-3 Sands of Sound, application Ref. No. 2009/85/PCD.

In response to the concerns outlined in the Community Council letter, received on 7th September 2011, namely that it was believed that excavations had begun for a domestic dwelling at the Sands of Sound without the relevant planning permission being in place, the Enforcement Officer visited the site and established that the excavation works that had been carried out related to the creation of the site access approved by planning permission 2009/85/PCD.

In addition to the above, it came to the Council's attention on 29th July 2011, that the developer had carried out some excavation works for services to the 3 house plot sites in an area immediately to the south of 9 sands of Sound and to the west of the 3 plot sites. There was no planning permission for this. The developer was then contacted and advised that a new planning application would be required for these new excavation works as the route being proposed for this was different to that approved by the 2009/85/PCD planning permission and more pertinently was outside the approved site boundary. A relevant planning application was subsequently submitted to this office on the 6th September 2011, which will be processed in due course.

I hope the above addresses your concerns. If you have any further queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Noted

The Chairman stated that the situation was all very complicated. There appeared to still be a question over whether the applicant had planning permission for the site but it was in the hands of Planning, SIC.

9.3 Copy Letter - Shetland Charitable Trust Governance Review – Mr J Gear, Chairman & Mr L Odie, Vice Chairman, ASCC

Noted

11/10/10

Detailed Financial Report

Noted

11/10/11

Applications for Financial Assistance

11.1 Islesburgh Pyrotechnics Display Club – Lerwick Fireworks Display 2011

The Chairman noted a non pecuniary interest as a member of Islesburgh Pyrotechnics Display Club.

Mr D Ristori proposed a grant offer of £1,000 to assist the annual Lerwick Fireworks display put on by Islesburgh Pyrotechnics Display Club.

Mr J Stewart seconded the proposal.

Ms K Fraser reminded members that prior to funding cuts to Community Councils by Shetland Islands Council, Islesburgh Pyrotechnics used to receive a grant of £2,000 from Lerwick Community Council to assist in funding the annual fireworks display.

She asked for further details with regard to costs.

The Chairman advised that cost of the project was budgeted to be just over £5,000. It was hoped that donations of £1,500 would be received from local businesses with a further, forecast, £500 from foot collections.

Mr S Hay noted that Islesburgh Pyrotechnics put on quite a show and many people received a great deal of pleasure from it.

Ms K Fraser agreed stating that the show was beneficial for Lerwick.

Ms K Fraser counter proposed that a grant offer of £2,000 should be made.

Mr D Ristori agreed that the display was good for Lerwick.

He withdrew his proposal and seconded Ms K Frasers counter proposal of £2,000.

Mr S Hay suggested that it may be worth considering a similar display to celebrate New Year.

The Chairman replied that given the length of time needed to prepare for the display and clear up afterwards it would be difficult to get the quantity of people needed involved at that time of year.

Mr S Hay remarked that Shetland seemed to flounder at New Year and it seemed to be a non-event rather than a community celebration.

Mr D Ristori noted that while the area at Clickimin was a reasonable place for the display, perhaps there may be a more suitable alternative, possibly Bressay.

The Chairman replied that there would be problems logistically. Getting to Bressay with the fireworks would be an issue and much larger shells would be needed for the display to have the same effect when viewed at closer range as at Clickimin.

Mr D Ristori took the comments on board but stated that the display would have more impact if more street lighting could be turned off for the event.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/10/12

Planning Applications

12.1 2011/280/PPF – To alter existing space within building & provide class 4 office space, Mareel

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.2 2011/278/PPF – To site portacabin for use by Riding Club, Seafield

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.3 2011/293/PPF - Develop bus/coach operating centre, yard and associated car parking, Bod Compond, Gremista

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12.4 2011/268/PPF – Proposed new dwelling house at Fogralea, Lerwick, ZE1 OSE

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/10/13

Lerwick Applications September 2011

Noted

11/10/14

Any Other Business

Broch Lighting – Vandalisms

With reference to the recent spate of vandalisms to the Broch lighting, Mr D Ristori reaffirmed the suggestion that he previously made proposing that a higher lockable gate should be erected to assist in deterring would be vandals from entering the site.

The Chair advised that when Historic Scotland was written to with the suggestion in June 2008 their response was that it would take hundreds of meters of fencing at a cost of tens of thousands of pounds to provide secure fencing.

The Chairman suggested that a lockable gate with standard stock proof fencing at either side would assist in deterring vandals, not only to the lights but the Broch itself.

He asked the Clerk to write to Mr Gavin Douglas, Regional Works Manager, Historic Scotland, and ask him to revisit the possibility of erecting a lockable gate as a deterrent.

The Chairman stated that it was wrong to put a price on heritage.

Mr T Henderson raised concern that large ugly fencing may detract from the Broch.

The Chairman replied that the fencing could be standard low post and wire with front and back barbs. It would be inexpensive to erect and enough to discourage people from jumping over.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr S Hay asked for clarification regarding waste management. The public were encouraged to separate their waste for environmental purposes but was it all actually disposed of together at the Energy Recovery Plant.

The Chairman responded that he would not like to think so.

He stated that the Energy Recovery Plant 'was a very sensible and wonderful thing', and that 'we had to recognise we do well to make use of what is here'.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr J Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager, SIC and invite him to a meeting of Lerwick Community Council in order to discuss the process.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

District Heating, Lanes – SHEAP

Agenda item 11/09/11 Item. 10.1

The Chairman read out the following response from Mr N Martin, District Heating Manager, Shetland Heat Energy and Power Ltd which arrived too late to be included in the agenda;

I presented your letter to the Board on 29th August 2011.

The Board regrets that it is unable to give any commitment or programme. Once another heat source is developed, the programme will depend on additional capacity available. Cost of the heat, grant conditions and other factors will determine what connections are viable. These are uncertain at the present time.

Please note that we are already in some lanes at the moment. These include Queens Lane, Navy Lane, Law Lane, Hill Lane, Mill Lane and Pitt Lane.

Noted

Knab Viewpoint

The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from Mr N Sineath, Enforcement Officer, Planning Service, SIC advising that there had been a perceived breach of conditions no. 1, 3 and 4 with regard to the construction of the Knab Viewpoint.

He had already contacted Planning, SIC, to allay their concerns.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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