

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2011

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

Members

Mr J Anderson
Mr S McMillan
Mr S Hay
Mr D Ristori

Miss K Fraser
Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Johnson
Mr E Knight

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr L Angus
Cllr J Wills *left 8.20pm*

Cllr J Henry

In Attendance

Mr Robert Sinclair, Executive Manager, Capital Programmes, SIC
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

11/12/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/12/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Smith, Mr J Stewart, Mr W Spence, Mr A Henry, Cllr A Wishart, Mr M Peterson, PS B Gray and Mrs H Budge.

11/12/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2011 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

11/12/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

11/11/12 Item 12.1 Knab Viewpoint

Mr L Angus enquired if the concern regarding breach of planning permission had been cleared up.

The Chairman replied that there was no actual breach of planning permission, just perceived.

He added that since responding to planning, he had not received any return correspondence.

11/11/10 – Proposed Lerwick Community Council Website

The Chairman asked members if they were happy with the idea of a Facebook page being added to the proposed website.

Mr S Hay responded that the power of Facebook was fantastic and it would add the interactive element that he had hoped for.

Mr D Ristori raised concern that via Facebook, unscrupulous people may attempt to corrupt the system with a computer virus.

Ms K Fraser welcomed the idea of Facebook and thought it a good solution.

The Chairman advised members that Mr S MacMillan had agreed to provide the photography for the website.

11/12/05

Police Report

PS B Gray was unable to attend the meeting.

Post meeting note – see appendix 1

11/12/06

Feasibility Report-Proposed New Anderson High School – Mr Robert Sinclair, Executive Manager, Capital Programmes, SIC

Mr R Sinclair, Executive Manager, Capital Programmes, SIC opened the floor to questions with regard to the Feasibility Report for the proposed new Anderson High School.

Mr D Ristori enquired if the final decision had been made for the proposed new High School to be built at Lower Staney Hill.

Mr L Angus responded that it had been unanimously agreed to recommend to full Council that they proceed at Lower Staney Hill with a fit for purpose community school, hall of residence and to apply to the Government for financial assistance. This was to be ratified by full Council at their meeting on the morning of Wednesday 7 December.

Mr S MacMillan asked if the school would have to be smaller than initially hoped for in order to qualify for Government funding.

Mr R Sinclair replied that funding was based on floor area set down by the Government.

The Chairman asked if it was decided to build a school larger than national accommodation standards, of say 17,500 sq metres, would the funding available of a nominal £20,000 as two thirds of the estimated costs for an 11,000 sq metre school still be available. He asked for it to be clarified if Shetland Islands Council could fund the remainder of the additional costs without it affecting the Government funding.

Mr R Sinclair replied that he did not know as at this stage 'it was all up in the air'.

Mr L Angus clarified that no capital assistance would be available until 2015. Assistance currently available covered 67% of loan charges only. He stated that the same assistance may not be available if it was decided to borrow money from Shetland Charitable Trust, on sale and leaseback terms, the favoured method of funding.

Cllr J Wills advised that it was important to note that the desired 17,400 sq metres noted in the brief for the proposed school included an ASN and Technicians department which would cover the whole of Shetland's need. He thought that this would assist in justifying the need for the extra space.

Mr S Hay stated that it was crucial give time and consideration to how the building was designed. He furthered that it must suit the current and future need of pupils, not copy what we already have. Everyone should work together on the same vision and take an organic approach.

Mr L Angus concurred. He stated that now more than ever, educational need was changing all the time and an open minded approach had to be taken with regard to the design of the school.

He noted that the Private Public Partnership Scheme (PPP Scheme) worked well for many communities.

Cllr J Henry stated that there had been a lot of trouble with PPP Schemes. Some authorities regretted ever having becoming involved with it. It had led to them being told what to do by companies only interested in making money and no interest in education.

The Chairman advised that under the Curriculum for Excellence no one knew yet if changes would be made with regard to school leaving age. Any change may have a big effect on the size of school needed to accommodate pupils.

Mr R Sinclair informed members that for the report Shetland Islands Council had to prove that the proposed new school could fit into the designated educational area at Lower Staney Hill and optimise the use of the contours of the land. This helped to give an idea of the costs of the build.

The Chairman declared that he was disappointed that in the report no mention had been given to the possibility of shared costs with regard to the infrastructure. He also noted that the report referred to costs for changing the current school site to an area for housing when it was a site currently zoned for education.

Mr R Sinclair responded that a few suggestions had been put forward with regard to what could be done with the current school site at the Knab. These included a primary school, college and housing. The latter generating income but only possible if the site was re zoned.

Mr L Angus advised that Shetland Islands Council previously resolved that if the school moved, the current site would be retained for educational use, until determined not needed. He hoped that this would be reaffirmed at the meeting on Wednesday.

He stated that no detail had been given with regard to consideration for housing, it was only a suggestion.

Mr E Knight suggested that the need for a Hostel should be fully and carefully explored. He was aware that the Janet Courtney Hostel was half empty.

Mr R Sinclair stated that there were many factors to consider. He informed members that for the purpose of the exercise the previous plan had been used only to give an idea of costs.

Mr E Knight expressed his hope that Shetland Islands Council would do their best to secure funding assistance. It was regretful that in his experience Shetland had never received a sympathetic ear.

Ms K Fraser enquired as to the course of action to be taken if funding was not secured.

Mr L Angus replied that the favoured option was to borrow money from Shetland Charitable Trust on sale and leaseback terms.

The Chairman asked if he could confirm that the project would not fail if funding could not be secured for a new Hostel.

Mr L Angus responded that the school was the core project. He added that a Hostel had to be provided to accommodate children from outlying areas but informed members that there was no legislation which obliged Shetland Islands Council to accommodate children over the age of 16.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked Mr R Sinclair for attending the meeting and discussing the Report.

Mr R Sinclair then left the meeting, at 7.30pm.

11/12/07

Correspondence

7.1 Vandalism to Broch Lighting – Aimee Barclay, Youth Development Worker, Schools Service

The Clerk advised that Historic Scotland would be providing an Education Officer who would be attending Lerwick's schools to discuss the importance of the Broch. It had also been agreed that the Officer would also communicate with Ms A Barclay, Youth Development Worker, to ensure as many youths as possible could be included in discussions.

Cllr J Wills suggested that children may appreciate becoming proactive in protecting the Broch and floodlighting. He thought that they may be happy to become involved in coming up with a plan, possibly including CCTV, to watch and protect the Broch.

He proposed that youth groups could be approached and encouraged to come forward with ideas for 'Broch Watch'.

He added that the idea of some form of intruder beam be investigated.

The Chairman agreed that some form of camera would be a good deterrent. He was happy to note that Historic Scotland was being positive and stated that he would investigate the possibility of some form of technological security options for discussion with them.

He also agreed to broach the idea of 'Broch Watch' with youth groups.

(Action: Chairman)

The Chairman noted that underwater floodlighting, a suggestion raised at the previous meeting, **11/11/04**, had been discussed with Mr R Bremnar, the Broch lighting electrician. However, the proposal was thought to have too many health and safety issues.

7.2 Pedestrianisation of Commercial Street – Phil Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services, SIC

Mr L Angus advised that there had once been great opposition from traders with regard to the full pedestrianisation of Commercial Street but over time they had begun to realise that it would cause no adverse affect.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr P Crossland, and promote the scheme which prohibits motorists from driving up Burns Walk and from access to Commercial Street from Church Road, requiring two way traffic between The Cross and Post Office

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.3 Vandalism, North Road, Lerwick – Lindsay Ward, North Road Resident

Mr D Ristori informed members that vandalism in the area had been a recurring problem for over thirty years.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary with regard to the issue and include a copy of the letter.

He asked the Clerk to request that CCTV cameras are extended out to cover North Road and the Broch.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mrs A Simpson mused that it would be good to see if evidence could be provided to show if the use of CCTV cameras made any significant difference.

She suggested that Ms Ward, subject to planning permission, may wish to consider installing her own CCTV camera.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Ms Ward to advise her that a letter has been written to Northern Constabulary to highlight her concerns.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.4 Copy of Letter to Mr A Buchan, Chief Executive, SIC - Seagull Infestation, St Olaf Street, Lerwick - James Hutton, St Olaf Street Resident

The Chairman suggested that a fine net could be installed over the Library tower to prevent the gulls from nesting.

Ms K Fraser responded that she was uncertain what the Chairman meant but would look into the suggestion.

(Action: Miss K Fraser)

7.5 Note of interest in one of Lerwick Community Council's three vacant seats – Amanda Westlake

It was agreed the Clerk should write to Ms Westlake and advise her of the forthcoming By-election.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Miss K Fraser asked if it would be possible to fund additional advertising in order to highlight the forthcoming By-election.

The Chairman advised that the same suggestion had been raised at the recent ASCC meeting. He stated that he would discuss the idea further with Mrs K Massie, ASCC.

(Action: Chairman)

11/12/08

Financial Report

Noted

Cllr J Wills asked if some of the funds available could be used to advertise Lerwick Community Council's three vacant seats.

The Chairman suggested that the proposal could be discussed at Lerwick Community Council's January meeting.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/12/09

Planning Applications

9.1 2011/332/PPF – External alterations & refurbishment – Ogilvie Buildings, Lerwick

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/12/10

Lerwick Applications October 2011

Noted

11/12/11

Any Other Business

Street Lighting

Mr D Ristori raised concern that the 'doors' on some street lights were still in need of repair.

The Chairman asked Mr D Ristori to email the Clerk of the Council with a list of the lighting in question in order for her to write to Mr P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services, SIC.

(Action: Mr D Ristori/Clerk of the Council)

Grit Bins

Mr S MacMillan asked if Grit Bins could be provided at Sandwell and Tarland as some pathways in the area were not gritted.

Mr D Ristori asked that a Grit Bin be placed between Viking Bust Station and Old North Road.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Access Concern – Pitt Lane & Park Lane

Mr S Hay expressed concern that for two years there were no easy access for residents in Pitt Lane and Park Lane to the nearby swimming pool car park. The problem related to building works in the area.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Housing and ask for a progress update.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Community Benefit Fund

Referring to an email and attachments which she had asked the Clerk of the Council to email members earlier that day Miss K Fraser asked members for feedback.

Cllr J Wills Left the meeting, 8.20pm.

The Chairman asked how many people were on the Management Committee.

Miss K Fraser replied that there were 17 or 18 people, so far.

Cllr J Henry asked if money gathered in an area would be kept for use in that area.

Miss K Fraser responded that that was one of the reasons why the Management Committee was being set up. So an agreement could be reached which would be fair to all.

The Chairman stated that an 'inverse target' approach, had been proposed during early discussion, whereby those most effected, gained the most funding.

Miss K Fraser asked if members with any particular comment would contact her before, 12 December 2011.

Church Road Play Park

Mr D Ristori raised concern that the Rocket in the Church Road play park had fallen into disrepair and needed to be removed before it became a danger.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr M Malcolmson, SIC with regard to the concern.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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