

MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2012

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Miss K Fraser
Mr S McMillan	Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Henry	Mr J Stewart
Mr D Ristori	Mr E Knight
Mr W Spence	Mr A Johnson

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr J Wills left 8.20pm	Cllr J Henry
Cllr C Smith	Cllr A Wishart
Cllr C Miller left 8.20pm	

In Attendance

Mr P Crossland, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

12/02/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

12/02/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Peterson, Mr L Angus and Mr S Hay

12/02/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January were approved by Mr A Henry and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

12/02/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

12/01/12 Main Access Road – Anderson High School Mr D Ristori asked the minute to be amended as he did not specifically mention buses when he raised his concern.

12/01/12 Sands of Sound Access Road The Chairman stated that he had spoken to the owner of the road who advised him that he thought it unlikely that Shetland Islands Council would be willing to adopt the road. He was not too keen to spend much upgrading the road but would fill in the pot holes.

Knab Viewpoint – The Chairman informed members that Planning, SIC had now raised a question regarding ownership of the land. He thought that perhaps their concern may be to do with the boundary between owners, but he would await further correspondence.

12/02/05

Police Report

No member of Northern Constabulary attended the meeting and no report was given.

12/02/06

Mr P Crossland, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC

The Chairman welcomed Mr P Crossland, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC to the meeting.

Mr P Crossland stated that it was his intent to attend meetings of all Shetland's Community Councils to explain about the restructure of Infrastructure Services, SIC and to clarify his remit.

He explained that he was responsible for Roads Service, Environmental Waste & Transport Service, Burial Grounds, Ferry Operations, Ports & Harbours and Environmental Health & Trading Standards.

He opened the floor to questions.

Cllr J Wills raised concern at the proposal to reduce street cleaning.

Mr P Crossland replied that the current financial concern was well known, all Directorates were required to save 10% across the board and that street cleaning was not exempt. These were difficult times with difficult choices but we had to live within our means.

Cllr J Wills asked for further details with regard to the proposal to charge for parking in Lerwick.

Mr P Crossland stated that the proposal was under major review. Consideration would have to be given to the wider impact that it may have on residents and that residents parking would have to be self financing.

He advised that he was unsure how many parking spaces were owned by Shetland Islands Council but that that question would also form part of the review.

Mr E Knight noted that it was now over a year since the arrival of the two new tugs at Sullom Voe and in that time, to his knowledge, they had never been used in the capacity for which they were built. He asked if this likely to happen in the near future.

Mr P Crossland responded that the tugs were idle pending the result of an ongoing enquiry but had been used in the push/pull mode for which they were built.

Mr E Knight stated that he believed that the present enquiry was into one particular incident, which had taken place a couple of months ago, not into the ongoing situation regarding the non use of the tugs in the past year and, to his knowledge, the tugs had never been used in their full capacity.

Mr P Crossland repeated that they had been in service in push/pull mode which was what they were designed for.

Mr E Knight pursued his point, asking if the tugs ever been used in the full capacity that they were designed for.

Mr Crossland stated that the tugs had been used in push/pull mode but had never been used as escort tugs.

Mr E Knight thanked Mr P Crossland for this statement. He said that this was the answer he was looking for and that he 'would leave it at that at this time'.

The Chairman suggested that prior to implementing parking charges, a residents car parking scheme would need to be discussed.

Mr P Crossland affirmed that the proposal was to do a major review, taking into consideration all issues and concerns and with full consultation.

The Chairman asked if there was a proposal to charge for parking out with Lerwick, such as the various car parks on the A970.

Mr P Crossland replied that there was not at the moment.

Mrs A Simpson raised concern at the proposal to withdraw the service provided by the Neighbourhood Support Workers. She thought they did excellent work and that it may cost Shetland Islands Council more, in the long run, without the service they provide.

Mr P Crossland noted that a number of Councillors shared her concern but pointed out that they were not a statutory service and that cost cutting required difficult proposals to be considered.

Cllr J Wills stated that the service provided by the Neighbourhood Safety Warden's was a good example of 'spend to save'. They intervened and prevented small situations from getting out of control.

He asked Lerwick Community Council to offer support.

The Chairman proposed a motion that the Neighbourhood Safety Warden's should be retained on a 'spend to save' basis.

Cllr C Miller advised that residents in the North area of town had felt that the Neighbourhood Safety Wardens had had a positive influence in the area.

Both Mrs A Simpson and Cllr J Henry informed members that residents in the Sandveien area had also found that the Wardens had made a real difference.

Mr J Stewart agreed that the service was one which was worth keeping. He noted that the Wardens had done a lot of work in keeping dog fouling to a minimum, and seconded the motion.

Cllr A Wishart agreed that the Neighbourhood Safety did provide good value for money but reminded members that savings had to be made somehow.

The Chairman referred to a letter, sent to Mr P Crossland, regarding parking issues in the town centre which was still awaiting a response.

Mr P Crossland advised that he would respond in writing and that perhaps a site meeting could be arranged to see what could be done in a cost effective manner.

Mr D Ristori noted that inconsiderate parking was a particular issue in Harrison Square.

Mr P Crossland assured members that all comments regarding parking issues would be taken on board and considered during the review.

The Chairman asked if there was a programme of renewal regarding street lighting.

Mr P Crossland explained that there was a rolling programme and annual budget of £200,000 for the renewal and replacement of street lighting and that it was his proposal to see that level of spending continue.

He advised that potentially street lighting in some areas could be switched off but a risk assessment and full consultation would have to be done.

The Chairman noted that Knab Road and half of South Road were in need of resurfacing.

Mr P Crossland replied that he would find out where in the programme of works the roads were. He furthered that it was his intention to be more proactive and keep communities better informed with what was happening.

There being no further questions the presentation ended at 7.30pm.

Mr P Crossland stated that he would stay for the remainder of the meeting.

12/02/07

Correspondence

7.1 Webcasting Council Meetings – Alistair Buchan, Chief Executive, Shetland Islands Council

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to make a note to contact Mr P Peterson, Executive Manager, IT Service, SIC if she had not heard back by the end of the year.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.2 Access Issues, Pitt and Park Lanes – Anita Jamieson, Executive Manager, Housing, SIC

Noted

7.3 Vehicular access/egress issues, AHS from Lover's Loan – Valerie Nicolson, Head Teacher, AHS

Mr D Ristori raised concern that the issue he had with regard to vehicular access was not correctly understood.

The Chairman agreed to meet Mr D Ristori at the site for clarity.

(Action: Chairman & Mr D Ristori)

7.4 Parking Provision Concern, North Ness Offices – John Holden, Service Manager, Planning, SIC

Noted

7.5 Parking Provision Concern, North Ness Offices – Robert Sinclair, Executive Manager, Capital Programmes, SIC

Noted

7.6 Surface Water Drainage, Commercial Road – Neil Robertson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

The Chairman was pleased that the problem had been addressed promptly.

Noted

7.7 Christmas Lighting – Harry Jamieson, Chairman, Living Lerwick

Mr D Ristori suggested that a landmark building, such as the Tollbooth or Post Office could be illuminated during the festive season.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr H Jamieson, Chairman, Living Lerwick with the suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.8 Rova Head Development – Sandra Laurenson, Chief Executive, Lerwick Port Authority

Cllr C Miller declared an interest as a member of Lerwick Port Authority.

Mr W Spence thought that the proposed development should be promoted and that it would be better for Shetland as a whole.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

7.9 Benches-Cunningham Way – Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC

Mr P Crossland stated that if Lerwick Community Council paid for the benches he was sure that he could arrange for the benches to be installed.

The Chairman explained that part of the land was privately owned.

Mr P Crossland advised that he would look into things.

12/02/08

Detailed Financial Report

8.1 Financial report as at 31 January 2012

Noted

8.2 LCC Main Annual Running Costs 2010-2011

Noted

8.3 LCC Annual Grants & Projects 2010-2011

Noted

8.4 LCC Grants & Projects 2010-2011

Noted

12/02/09

Applications for Financial Assistance

9.1 Rent to LPA for Peerie Galley Shed – Junior Up Helly Aa (fully accounted for in annual grants & projects forecast)

Mr A Johnson noted an interest as a committee member of Junior Up Helly Aa.

Cllr J Wills agreed that LCC should pay the grant requested but suggested that in future it should be funded by Lerwick Port Authority.

Mr A Johnson pointed out that Junior Up Helly Aa had already received a lot of help from Lerwick Port Authority and he would not like there to be any bad feelings.

Mr E Knight proposed that Lerwick Community Council should continue to pay the rent for the next few years and thereafter the Junior Up Helly Aa Committee should be encouraged to ask Lerwick Port Authority to consider forgoing the annual rental charge.

Mr D Ristori seconded Mr E Knight's proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.2 To assist in the purchase of uniforms – Lerwick Royal British Legion Pipe Band

The Chairman proposed that £2,000 should be awarded.

He stated that the Royal British Legion Lerwick Pipe Band were the unsung hero's of Up Helly Aa.

Mrs A Simpson seconded the proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/02/10

Planning Applications

Cllr C Miller declared an interest as member of the Planning Board.

10.1 2011/369/PPF – Demolish garage & construct two storey flat and garage, 3 Brentham Court, Harbour Street, Lerwick

Mr J Stewart declared an interest as the applicant was his father.

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.2 2011/383/CAC – Demolish garage & construct two storey residential flat, 3 Brentham Court, Harbour Street, Lerwick

Mr J Stewart declared an interest as the applicant was his father.

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.3 2012/004/PPF – Change use from office to dwelling, 6 Pitt Lane, Lerwick

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/02/11

Lerwick Applications January 2012

Noted

12/02/12

Any Other Business

Proposed Budget Cuts - Freefield Centre

The Chairman invited Mrs D Williamson, concerned member of the public, to voice her concern with regard to the proposed closure of Freefield Centre.

Mrs D Williamson stated that she was saddened to hear on the news that day that Council Officials were proposing the closure of Freefield Centre by way of cost cutting.

She advised that Freefield Centre was open five days a week serving food to between 30-40 elderly people, each day, from all over Shetland.

Mrs D Williamson asked if Lerwick Community Council could assist and advise what could be done about it.

Cllr J Wills explained that the proposal to close Freefield Centre would have to be assessed but it would save £80,000 in year one and all these £80,000 savings added up.

The Chairman voiced concern that the proposal to cut the service at Freefield Centre was being looked at while three or four other eateries, subsidised by the Council, were left alone.

Reading from a document, Cllr J Wills thought that it may be that the service would continue, but from an alternative building.

He advised that he would go through the document line by line.

Mrs A Simpson asked what the cost would be if the service was provided from an alternative building.

Cllr J Wills advised that things would be discussed more fully during their meeting on Thursday to discuss the 2012/13 and 2013/14 budgets.

He stated that no one was trying to hide anything; things were being looked at openly.

Cllr J Wills advised that consideration had been given to savings which could be made by changing meals on wheels and providing frozen meals as an alternative.

Mrs A Simpson responded that she did not understand what savings could be achieved by that proposal, or how it could be done.

Mrs D Williamson added that not everyone had a microwave or freezer. She thought people would be 'up in arms' if Freefield Centre were to close and appealed for advice on how to get a petition started.

Cllr C Miller suggested that it would have to be made clear how valued the service was and that she had taken their concerns on board.

8.20pm - Cllr C Miller and Cllr J Wills left the meeting.

The Chairman advised that he would ensure Mrs D Williamson's concerns were made known at the Councillors meeting on Thursday.

Ander Hill – Bressay

Mr D Ristori suggested that something should be done to save Ander Hill, soon to be 100 old.

Mr E Knight thought that Bressay Community Council and Bressay Heritage Group had the situation in hand.

Mr D Ristori was persistent that Lerwick Community Council should show an interest.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Bressay Community Council to ask if indeed steps were being taken to preserve the tower.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Proposed Budget Cuts - Viewforth

Mr A Henry noted that there was a proposal to close Viewforth. He was concerned that the excellent care for dementia patients provided at Viewforth would be lost if they relocated as proposed.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council seek reassurance that the same high level of care would be maintained when patients are relocated.

Cllr A Wishart stated that it was a sad fact that savings had to be made or the long term future would not be good. We had to face up to practicalities.

Mrs A Simpson, to quote a 'union line' stated that it was too much, too fast.

Mr E Knight advised that he was 'not too sure keeping the capital reserves was that important' and that 'it was supposed to be for hard times and we have that now'.

He raised concern that if there were redundancies a lot of money would be taken out of the economy. He thought that hanging on to capital for its own sake was not a good move.

Cllr A Wishart stated informed members that if we carry on as we are, the reserves could all be gone in seven years time.

Proposed Budget Cuts – Viking Bus Station

The proposal to shut down the Viking bus station and freight centre was also discussed.

It was suggested that the door could be left open but concern was raised with regard to vandalism. The area also attracted groups of youths and they could be a little rowdy.

Cllr A Wishart agreed that at times around 30-40 youths could be seen. He did not think that they meant any malice but conceded that they could cause some people feel a little concerned.

Mr J Stewart informed members that there were problems and the area facilitated underage drinking. He added that the Neighborhood Safety Wardens had found it to be a problem.

Mr D Ristori advised that the Police had been called 'umpteenth times but seemed to want to see harm to people before they do anything'.

He agreed that the Neighbourhood Safety Wardens had made a positive difference.

Lanes

The Chairman stated that due to slime on the ground Navy Lane had become very slippery. The hand rail was only on one side of the lane so there were safety issues to consider.

Mr D Ristori added that Hangcliff Lane had also become quite slippery.

Mr P Crossland agreed to address the concern.

By-Election Nominations

The Chairman informed members that there had been three nominations to fill Lerwick Community Council's three vacant seats.

They would become full members following the verification and count of ballot papers on 16 March and would attend meetings from April.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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