

MONDAY 5 MARCH 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	Mr L Angus
Mr A Henry	Mr A Johnson
Mr D Ristori	Mr E Knight
Mr W Spence	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr J Henry	Cllr C Smith
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Additional Co-opted Members

Mr T Henderson

In Attendance

Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

12/03/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

12/03/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Peterson, Mr J Stewart, Mrs A Simpson, Mr S Hay and Cllr J Wills

12/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February were approved by Miss K Fraser and seconded by Mr E Knight.

12/03/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no further business arising from the minute.

12/03/05

Police Report

The meeting was not attended by a member of the Police.

The Clerk of the Council distributed copies of the crime analysis for January 2011/12 compared to that of the same time last year, which had been forwarded by PS B Gray.

Noted.

The Clerk also distributed a copy of a monthly report issued by Chief Inspector A MacInnes, Area Commander, Northern Constabulary, Shetland. The report covered the months of January and February 2012.

Mr L Angus particularly noted the high rate of convictions or arrests involving illegal drugs.

The Chairman added that high profile cases involving drugs had recently been reported in the press.

With reference to the Road Safety issues Cllr J Henry informed members that he had attended a meeting of the Road Safety Committee earlier in the day. At that meeting he learned that funding had been secured from the Scottish Government to finance a Road Safety programme at both Lerwick's Primary Schools and Anderson High School.

He offered to provide further information on the programme.

The Chairman thanked Cllr J Henry and asked him to pass the information on to the Clerk of the Council to circulate.

(Action: Cllr J Henry)

12/03/06

Discuss – Proposed Cut to Community Council Budgets for 2012-2013

6.1 Community Council Grant Figures 2009/10 – 2011/12

The Chairman informed members that Mrs K Massie, Administrative Assistant, ASCC, had received advice from Ms J Johnson, Senior Accounts Assistant, SIC, of a proposal of an overall cut to Community Council budgets of £11,000 for 2012/13.

Mr L Angus assured members that he could confirm it had been decided that there would be no further cuts to Community Council budgets. As an alternative it was thought that Community Councils could, instead, take on more functions.

The Chairman was pleased to hear Mr L Angus' assurances but noted that he would be happier when Lerwick Community Council was informed officially.

Mr W Spence enquired as to what functions Community Councils would be expected to undertake.

Mr L Angus replied that it would be up to individual Community Councils and, to date, no 'flesh had been put on the bones' of the proposal.

He suggested that consideration be given to taking on more services such as local transport, unadopted roads and community care functions.

Cllr J Henry commented that Shetland Islands Council may be looking for suggestions from Community Councils. He stated that Mr L Angus had outlined what Community Councils used to do, but times had changed and he personally thought that Community Councils could do a lot more.

Mr D Ristori enquired what had been done by Community Councils in the past.

Mr L Angus responded that Lerwick Community Council had dealt with local 'hirers' and administered the shopping bus. It ran quite well but had been taken back in house by Shetland Islands Council as it was deemed to be more efficient. Transport services had also been provided for special needs and people attending Freefield and Montfield centres.

Mr D Ristori asked when Lerwick Community Council had administered the service.

Cllr C Smith replied that it had been around 25 years ago.

Mr L Angus added that there had also been an environmental element involving tree planting at Clickimin and tidying up.

Mr W Spence asked if it would be worthwhile tabulating what Lerwick Community Council used to do and looking at what could be done.

Mr L Angus suggested that Lerwick Community Council may wish to consider dealing with dog waste.

The Chairman enquired if anyone in Shetland Islands Council would have an idea as to 'what was on the table'.

Mr L Angus advised that it was something that had just been looked at in general to see if services could be outsourced.

Mr W Spence suggested that it may be worthwhile looking to see what other Community Councils did out with Shetland.

Ms K Fraser stated that she found it difficult to see how Shetland Islands Council outsourcing services could save money. She wondered how Community Councils could do things any cheaper and thought that it was just 'moving functions' rather than saving money.

Mr L Angus suggested that Community Councils may consider taking on responsibility for maintaining, cleaning and stocking public toilets. He thought that, at present, much of the work done was on overtime and suggested that pensioners may be interested in the work.

Mr W Spence warned that if too much work was taken on, more funding would be required.

Mr E Knight stated that Lerwick Community Council would need information on what services had to be provided as a statutory requirement. If Community Councils could provide certain services cheaper, it was worth looking at.

Mr E Knight advised that he was against the closure of public toilets.

Mr L Angus stated that there was no statutory obligation to provide public toilets and it was one example of what Community Councils could take on, but it would need to be properly run.

He suggested that the subject could be discussed at a meeting of ASCC.

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of ASCC would be in April.

He thought that Community Councils may take on more responsibility for issuing grants or the Local Service Delivery Groups (LSDG's) tasks.

Mr L Angus agreed that it would be worth investigating if Community Councils would be more effective than LSDG's.

With particular regard to the public toilet issue, Mr E Knight suggested that before taking on any services, Community Councils could possibly request a breakdown of current costs from SIC. He thought that Community Councils would certainly be more flexible than SIC.

The Chairman stated that pensioners would have to be paid if employed to maintain public toilets and suggested enquiries could be made as to what folk do for community service.

He asked that any ideas for services which could be taken on by Community Councils be forwarded to the Clerk of the Council to tabulate until SIC provided more clarity.
(Clerk of the Council)

6.2 ASCC/SIC JLG October 2011 Minute – JLG/10/05 Community Council Budgets
Noted

6.3 ASCC/SIC JLG September 2011 Minute – Item 5 Community Council Budgets
Noted

12/03/07

Parking Issues – Twageos Road, St Sunniva Street, St Magnus Street, Nedersund Road & Anderson High School

With regard to Twageos Road Mr D Ristori noted his concern that cars parked on either side of the road created a hazard for emergency vehicles attempting to pass through. He had suggested that part of the pavement could be removed on one side and parking bays created but this was deemed as too expensive.

Mr L Angus informed members that following a report from a member of the Fire Service that Fire Engines could not negotiate past cars parked on either side of Twageos Road; he had passed the concern on to officials at SIC.

He added that history had shown that parking facilities were oversubscribed the minute that they were provided. Prohibiting parking on one side of the road would create a problem for residents. The Highway Authority would have to act if there was any problem for emergency services.

Cllr J Henry pointed out that there was a similar problem at Murrayston.

Mr D Ristori added that St Sunniva Street was the worst in Lerwick for the problem.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Phil Crossland, Infrastructure Services, SIC with regard to the issue and to include the Clickimin end of Russell Crescent into the list.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr L Angus informed members that for some time he had requested a traffic management plan for Lerwick. There were parking problems for commuters during the day and for residents at night.

He stated that Lower Hillhead could become quite congested during the day and was a road safety concern.

The Chairman added that any proposal to charge for parking would create its own problems.

M D Ristori again stated that parking bays at Twageos, between the Anderson High School fence and first house would help.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr P Crossland, Infrastructure Services, SIC and ask if consideration could be given to reducing the size of one, if not both sides of the pavements at Twageos.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/03/08

Road Safety – Bells Brae School Area

The Chairman advised that Mr G Stevenson, whose letter of concern regarding road safety on Gilbertson Road, agenda item 12/03/08 item 9.1, had phoned to advise that he had seen the Police patrolling the area.

The Chairman added that road safety concerns in the vicinity was frequently discussed at Bells Brae Parent Council.

Mr L Angus suggested that Bells Brae School may consider adopting Sound School's practice of staggered start/finish times. He added that the irresponsible parking of some parents often added to the safety concerns.

Mr D Ristori noted that parents could be seen arriving in cars to collect their children from 2.30pm and appeared in no rush to leave when their children were in the car.

He suggested that that by narrowing the pavement on Gilbertson Road, from the school gate to the Bells Road exit; a stop/go lay-by could be created.

Mr L Angus suggested that parents may be discouraged from parking irresponsibly if the Police began booking them.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mrs Wadley, Head Teacher, Bells Brae Primary School, and enquire as to her views on the viability of the proposal to stagger start/finish times at the school.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Cllr C Smith suggested that a letter should be written to Mr P Crossland and cc'd to PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary.

Mr S McMillan noted that it would be a deterrent if the Traffic Warden could be seen in the area at various times.

Mr W Spence drew attention to the issue of the 20mph speed limit being broken on Gilbertson Road which was highlighted in Mr G Stevenson's letter.

12/03/09

Correspondence

9.1 Gilbertson Road 20mph Speed Limit – Mr G Stevenson, Lerwick Resident

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to forward a copy of Mr G Stevenson's letter to PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary and in addition to the speed concern point out the issues relating to the dropping off and collecting of Bells Brae School pupils.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr W Spence thought that speed bumps may help alleviate the issue.

Mr L Angus, with some reluctance, agreed that it may help but noted that speed bumps could cause other issues.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to request, when writing to Mr P Crossland, if consideration could be given to the installation of a speed bump between 65 & 79 Gilbertson Road.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

9.2 Grit Bin Request – Mr N Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC

Noted

12/03/10

Financial Report

Noted

12/03/11

Applications for Financial Assistance

11.1 Sail Training Shetland – 2012 Sail Training Scheme

Mr W Spence proposed that £1,000 should be awarded to Sail Training Shetland.

Mr D Ristori seconded the proposal.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/03/12

Lerwick Applications February 2012

Noted

12/03/13

Items to be raised during April meeting of Association of Lerwick Community Councils

The Chairman advised that he would request that the proposal for Community Councils to take on additional services be discussed.

12/03/14

Any Other Business

Library Hours

Mr D Ristori asked Ms K Fraser if it was likely the Library would consider opening longer hours to accommodate holiday visitors as tourism feedback indicated it would be appreciated.

Ms K Fraser replied that they already opened until 8pm two weeknights and all day Saturday. She added that the Library may have to cut back on their hours but the late hours or Saturday hours would not be cut.

She advised that out with usual business hours it was the Libraries' internet facilities which was of most interest.

Mr D Ristori asked if the Internet Cafe on Harbour Street could be written to and encouraged to extend their opening hours.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk of the Council to Mr J MacLellan, Manager, Lifeskills Ltd., write regarding the request.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Place Signs

Mr D Ristori noted that signs Copeland Pier, Bain Beach and Stouts Pier had still not been replaced.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Neil Hutcheson, Engineer, Roads, SIC and enquire when they would be erected.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Lane Cleaning and Street Lighting

Mr W Spence informed members that since Mr P Crossland's presentation at the February meeting of Lerwick Community Council the lanes had been cleaned and new lighting installed at Sands of Sound.

Mr D Ristori noted that the lighting which had been installed at Ruddy Court a year ago was very attractive and suited the area. He thought that it would be nice if Shetland Islands Council could install more of that type of lighting.

Ms K Fraser commented that the street lighting was on at the new house site at Hoofields, even though there were no houses on the new site.

Community Benefit Fund

Ms K Fraser advised that there was not much to report at present and no rules on how to proceed had been agreed.

A report suggested that the areas nearest to the Turbines would get the most, from both the disturbance fee and annual fund. However there was thought that the annual fund should be dispersed more evenly. Input from Community Councils would be appreciated when things become clearer.

Ms K Fraser stated that she hoped to have more information by the next meeting of Lerwick Community Council and would circulate documents to members once she received them.

The Chairman enquired if any representation had been made to the three turbines at Luggies Knowe, Gremista

Ms K Fraser replied that they were mostly concentrating on Viking Energy but were not at the stage of approaching anyone.

Mr E Knight stated that he, along with other Community Council members, had gone on a tour of the windmill sites on the mainland, and it was practice that representation was made.

He asked who the beneficiaries were.

The Chairman replied that it was Scottish Southern Energy (SSE).

Mr E Knight responded that if they were the beneficiaries, Lerwick Community Council should approach them for a percentage.

The Chairman replied that he understood that Community Benefit Fund would be looking at any and all opportunities and it should be left with Karen.

Cllr J Henry advised that he did meet with some Community Benefit Groups; they were getting £25,000 each year and seemed willing to talk to anyone.

Ms K Fraser stated that she could see that as things gathers pace she may not have the time to put into it. She informed members that she would be pleased if someone else would be happy to take over from her. This could be someone from Lerwick Community Council or a nominated person out with Lerwick Community Council.

Mr E Knight suggested that the opportunity could be discussed again after the three new members join Lerwick Community Council in April.

Allotments

Mr S McMillan enquired if there had been any word on the allotments.

Cllr J Henry advised that he would soon be attending a meeting of Infrastructure Services, he would ask and report back.

(Action: Cllr J Henry)

Town Hall

Mr L Angus advised that from April Council officers would be vacating the Town Hall and moving to the new offices at North Ness. He understood that the staff would remain in the office and the Town Hall Chamber would remain in use. He suggested that Lerwick Community Council may wish to write to Shetland Islands Council to request inclusion in discussions for future use of the Town Hall.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr L Angus informed members that the Maid of Norway window was damaged during a westerly gale; and an original piece of stained glass had been dislodged. The damage highlighted ongoing maintenance needs and it was quite clear that the sandstone was wearing quicker than anticipated.

He advised that Mr B Sandilands, Town Hall Stewart, SIC, could show anyone who wished to see, a fine dust on the windowsills where the sandstone was wearing and effecting the structural integrity of the stained glass windows.

He urged for a letter to be written regarding concern at the extensive weathering of the sandstone.

The Chairman agreed and expressed his concern. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr A Buchan, Chief Executive, SIC.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr L Angus added that the last maintenance to the sandstone started in the 80's and was completed in the 90's, it took 10 years and cost well in excess of 10million. Although the workmanship was first class, the sandstone was not of the quality that it should have been.

He noted that the original Heraldic Shields, formed using sandstone from a quarry in West Lothian, had seemed to stand up better due to the high quantity of shale.

Street Lighting

The Chairman noted that the lighting from King Harald Street to Grantfield seemed to be out more often than not.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to ask for a time scale to resolve the issue.

Mr D Ristori added that the Traffic Lights near Smith and Harper also seemed to have problems.

The Chairman suggested that they may be on the same circuit.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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