

MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 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 W Spence

Ms K Fraser
Mr E Knight **left at 8.00pm**
Mrs A Simpson

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr C Smith

Cllr J Henry

Additional Co-opted Members

Miss J Sim

Mr T Henderson

In Attendance

Mr R Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board
Mr S Boker-Ingram, Director of Clinical Services, Shetland NHS
Mr A Grains, Director, North Fish (Shetland) Ltd
Mr U Fraser, Managing Director, Synergie Environ Ltd
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

11/09/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/09/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Stewart, Mr A Johnston, Mr D Ristori, Mr A Henry, Cllr C Miller, Cllr A Wishart, Cllr J Wills and Acting Inspector B Gray.

11/09/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2011 were approved by Ms K Fraser and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

11/7/09 9.1 Mareel, Provisional Premises Licence Application

Mr E Knight asked the minute to be corrected as he did not say that 'he had never known anyone to fall into the water after drinking too much alcohol'.

11/7/11 11.2 District Heating Scheme

Mr E Knight asked the minute to be corrected as he had stated the district heating scheme was 'very good' as opposed to 'amazing'. What was amazing was the patience of the public who were waiting for the opportunity to be connected.

11/09/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

11/7/07 Footpath between Fogralea & Murrayston – Safety Concern

Cllr J Henry advised that he had spoken to Mr I Halcrow, Head of Service, Roads, SIC, who promised that he would add the path to their maintenance list.

11/7/08 Co-operative for the Benefit of the Community – Interim Management Board – Request for representative to be nominated from Community Council or Community Council Area

Ms K Fraser advised that she had volunteered to be Lerwick Community Council's representative for the interim, but would appreciate if someone else more knowledgeable and interested would take up the position on a more permanent basis.

11/09/05

Police Report

Acting Inspector B Gray was unable to attend the meeting.

Post meeting note – see appendix 1

11/09/06

Update, St Olaf Street Dentist – 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 advised that Mr A Owen, Owner, St Olaf Street Dental Practice had formally retired on Friday 2 September and Shetland NHS had taken on the practice.

He explained that the practice was to have been closed for one month for refurbishing and upgrading on the basis that the equipment would be purchased from the Owens. But, following the Owen's decision to sell their equipment elsewhere the practice may be closed for longer while alternative equipment is sourced.

The Chairman asked how much longer than anticipated it would take for the St Olaf Street practice to re-open.

Mr S Boker-Ingram, Director of Clinical Services, Shetland NHS responded that they were still working to a four week programme and were focusing on the practice being open on 3rd October. Potentially there could be a delay of two to four weeks. However it was hoped that they would have a clearer idea of how long it would take to acquire replacement equipment within the next few days.

Mr E Knight enquired if the patients of the St Olaf Street practice would remain with their current dentist.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that not all patients would. He furthered that Mr Ian Tinkler was no longer part of the St Olaf Street practice as he had now joined the dental practice sited at the Toll Clock Shopping Centre.

Ms K Fraser asked if existing patients should turn up for their allotted appointments.

Mr S Boker-Ingram advised that Mr A Owen had worked very hard to ensure that as many patients as possible, who had existing appointments, were seen prior to the practice closing. He advised that Mr Owen had also passed on to NHS Shetland, a list of patients who were still undergoing treatment.

Mr S Boker-Ingram further stated that patients requiring a routine check up may be called for an appointment one month later and those receiving routine care would be top of the list.

Ms K Fraser enquired if patients would be kept properly informed with regard to their appointments.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that appointments given would be based on need. Patients in need of treatment would be allotted appointments first and patients requiring a routine check up would receive an appointment later.

Mr E Knight asked if the contact number of the practice would change.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that it would remain the same.

Mr W Spence stated that his dentist at the practice has been Mr Tinkler. He asked what would happen with regard to the dental appointment that he had in November.

Mr S Boker-Ingram responded that if Mr W Spence was an NHS patient, he could still stay with the St Olaf Street practice.

Mr S Hay asked if Mr Owen had given NHS Shetland access to their records.

Mr R Roberts replied that they had but all the records had been kept manually. He explained that it was NHS Shetland's intention to create a data base but it would take a few weeks to do.

The Chairman enquired if there was potential for an increase in capacity now that Mr Tinkler had left the practice.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that there was. He stated that it was the hope of Shetland NHS to recruit dentists rather than use locums.

Mr R Roberts advised that they recognised the need to put an effort into reducing the waiting list. It was their intention to get people in for assessments and hopefully those who had been waiting some time would receive an appointment.

He advised that whilst the St Olaf practice was closed patients in need of emergency care would be seen at Montfield. Patients requiring only routine care would be seen at the St Olaf Street practice when it was up and running, hopefully from October.

Montfield Hospital

Mr R Roberts informed members that a consultation was taking place on the formal closure of the Interim Placement Unit at Montfield Hospital.

He advised that there had been no patients at the unit for over a year.

Mr S Boker-Ingram went on to detail that the consultation was from 25 July to 14 October 2011 after which a decision would be asked for with regard to formally closing the unit.

He took the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the staff who had worked at the unit.

Mr S Boker-Ingram stated that there was now demand for people to remain in their own homes and receive the care that they needed in their own homes. Shetland NHS was working with the local authority in order to allow this to happen.

He asked if Lerwick Community Council would promote the consultation document which he had distributed at the meeting.

The Chairman invited a member of Shetland NHS to come to the October meeting of Lerwick Community Council to give a presentation in order to receive a formal response.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to ensure the item was put on the October agenda.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mrs A Simpson asked if any thought had been given to what would happen with the vacated space.

Mr S Boker-Ingram replied that they had no thoughts and were open to suggestions, provided that they did not have to bear the costs.

The presentation concluded at 7.25pm.

The Chairman thanked Mr R Roberts and Mr S Boker-Ingram for attending the meeting after which they both left.

11/09/07

Gremista Biomass Fuel Production Project – Mr Angus Grains, Director, North Fish (Shetland) Ltd

Mr A Grains, Director, North Fish (Shetland) Ltd advised that the project was to build a woodchip drying facility at Gremista Industrial Estate, opposite the Power Station.

He referred to the growing importance of renewable energy and explained that the woodchips, when used in specialist burners, could replace diesel and kerosene oil.

As well as the 800m³ drying facility the complex would include a integrated 195kw biomass boiler, storage area for unchipped logs, 500kw wind turbine to provide energy to dry the raw materials, access track and flow and return pipework connection to SHEAP.

The existing track to the area would be used, extended and improved.

Mr A Grains advised that a full consultation with other statutory bodies had been completed, all had been supportive of the project and an environmental statement would accompany the planning application.

He explained that the concept was to increase the energy content of wood from 2000kw to 4200kw per tonne of product by reducing the moisture content in chipped virgin timber.

The wood would first be shipped to the facility by sea where it would be chipped at the facility and dried over a six week period through the release of hot air through the floor utilising electric power from the turbine and surplus heat from SHEAP during the summer.

This process would reduce the moisture content in the wood from 55% to 15%.

Other than water there would be no emissions from biomass drying, only extremely low emissions from the biomass boiler. The turbine itself would be only half the height of those at Burradale and a two blade design, reducing visual impact.

The benefits of the project would be cheaper fuel, reduced carbon emissions and employment.

Mr E Knight enquired if the same process could be used with peat.

Mr A Grains replied that the only problem with peat was that no tariffs were awarded. However, he did not see it as the end of the discussion as Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) could see the potential and were getting involved.

He added that HIE, along with Shetland Amenity Trust, were also looking at the possibility of establishing fast growing coppice for use in the biomass facility.

Miss K Fraser asked if the woodchips could be sold to individuals for use in residential homes.

Mr A Grains replied that primarily they woodchips were more suitable for larger users. They could be used in homes but the only real benefit would be lower carbon emissions.

He advised that in typical oil fired burner the woodchips created 25-30% emissions to that of a conventional boiler per kw hr.

The Chairman thanked Mr A Grains for his presentation, which concluded at 7.50pm.

Mr A Grains and Mr U Fraser then left the meeting.

11/09/08

Discuss – Adoption of Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

The Chairman stated that in his opinion the most notable points were Membership of Community Councils, Eligibility and Attendance.

Membership - He advised that from an administrative point of view Mr Jan Riise, Head of Legal & Admin, SIC, was not keen on the minimum age of 16. His concerns lay with how the additional work in capturing the age group on the electoral register would be financed.

Eligibility – Basically open to all. However, if a member becomes a councillor, should they be ineligible?

The Chairman advised that at ASCC meetings the feeling was that the status quo should remain and no one should be excluded.

Attendance – Non attendance. Should a member be disqualified if they do not attend a meeting for a period of six months?

The Chairman advised that the whole of the scheme could be adopted as it goes, or any part of the scheme. Not all Community Councils had to have the same scheme for their constitution.

He again advised that the general consensus was to keep the status quo rather than adopt the scheme.

Eligibility - Mrs K Fraser stated that she could see no need to accept the scheme as a whole. She was keen to allow more involvement for 16 and 17 year old youths and asked if enquiries could be made as to the additional costs involved in capturing the age group on the electoral register.

The Chairman suggested that one way of saving costs may be for the youth to bring a birth certificate or other form of identification when completing a Community Council application form.

He thought that allowing 16 and 17 year olds to stand for election as CC members would be a step in the right direction.

The discussion was interrupted in order for Mr E Knight to comment on the following two items before leaving.

11/09/09

To be approved – Audit of Accounts – Amendment to Community Council Constitution

Approved on the motion of Mr W Spence.

Seconded by Mrs A Simpson
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/09/10

To be approved – Unaudited Financial Accounts for Year End March 2011

Approved on the motion of Mr W Spence

Seconded by Ms K Fraser
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr E Knight left the meeting at 8.00pm

Continued - Discuss – Adoption of Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

Miss Jennifer Sim stated that although it was a good idea to involve more youths, she did not think many of the issues raised were relevant to 16 & 17 year olds. However, she did think it fair to allow youths of that age group to stand.

Disqualification - The right for a Community Council to disqualify a member for non attendance throughout a period of six months was raised by Miss K Fraser. She thought that this part of the scheme should be adopted.

Eligibility – The Chairman did not feel that Councillors should be excluded from becoming full Community Council members with voting rights.

Cllr J Henry stated that he enjoyed attending Community Council meetings as an ex-officio member but did not feel Councillors should be telling Community Council members how they should be spending their money.

Ms K Fraser thought it very useful to have Councillors attending Community Council meetings but thought that only one or two should be allowed to be full members with voting rights.

The Chairman stated he was quite happy to keep the status quo, allowing Councillors the right to be full Community Council members.

Mr W Spence noted that there would only be a problem if more Councillors wanted to be full members.

The Chairman responded that as there were only seven Lerwick Councillors in total. If all were to be full Community Council members, they would still be in the minority.

He thought it inadvisable to exclude Councillors as full members when Lerwick Community Council rarely had enough members to fill available seats.

Miss K Fraser agreed with the Chairman's point.

11/09/11

Correspondence

10.1 District Heating, Properties in Lanes – Mr N Martin, District Heating Manager, SHEAP Ltd

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr N Martin and enquire if, following his recent board meeting, he could now offer advice as to where in the programme of works the Lerwick Lanes are.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.2 2011/182/PCD to Install 2 no. CCTV cameras at 42 Haldane Burgess Crescent – Mr S Pattie, Development Management Officer, SIC

Noted

10.3 Footpath between Fogralea & Murrayston – Mr J C Duncan, Access Officer, Heritage, SIC

Noted.

Previously discussed during business arising.

10.4 South Lochside Litter Bin, Relocation Request – Mr G MacDonald, Cleansing & Grounds Maintenance Officer, SIC

The Chairman advised that further to the email, information was received that the parks/ Clickimin staff have placed a litter bin exactly half way down the stretch of road in question next to the gate on the lower side'.

11/09/12

Financial Report

Noted

11/09/13

Planning Applications

The following planning applications which arrived too late to be included in the agenda were brought to the meeting for discussion:-

2011/268/PPF– Erect new dwellinghouse, Fogralea Lerwick – Mrs & Mrs D Wiseman

No comment

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

2011/224/PPF - Erection of 3 no. turbines, 121 metre high to blade tip, associated access tracks, borrow pits, crane pads, turbine bases, control building and temporary construction compound, Gremista – Mr S Juggins, SSE Renewables

No comment

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/09/14

Lerwick Applications July & August 2011

Noted

11/04/15

Any Other Business

Training

The Chairman advised that training for Community Council members should be available from mid-September following the appointment of new Planning & Development officers.

Mr W Spence expressed interest in the training.

Members will be updated when further information is received by the Clerk.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Youths on Community Councils

Miss J Sim informed members that she felt limited as to her useful input at Community Council meetings due to her age.

The thought that the focus should not be on 16-17 year olds but thought it may be more beneficial to promote the 18-25 year old age group.

Lerwick Community Council Meetings

Mr S Hay stated that it took time to establish how the Lerwick Community Council meetings operated. He found the decision making process fascinating and interesting.

Sands of Sound

Mr W Spence advised that a member of the public had begun excavations in relation to the building of a residential property without the relevant planning permission.

The excavations had now ceased but part of the kerb had been taken away during the process.

He asked if it would be possible for Lerwick Community Council to enquire what permissions, if any, were given.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr I McDiarmid, Head of Planning, SIC and Neil Robertson, Roads, SIC and make enquiries.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Hoofields – New Build Housing

Mrs A Simpson enquired about the planned new homes as the original plan for seventy homes had been reduced to twenty.

Cllr C Smith explained that the plan was to build twenty houses this year. Assistance would still be retained, at £30,000 per unit. Next year further houses were planned with assistance of £45,000 per unit.

The plan was to build in phases in order to get as much assistance from the Scottish Government as possible.

Parking Order

The following order arrived too late to be included in the agenda but was brought to the meeting for discussion:-

(King Eric Street, Lerwick) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2011

No Comment

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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