

MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2011

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 A Henry
Mr S Hay	Mr A Johnson
Mr J Stewart	Mr D Ristori
Mr M Peterson	Mr E Knight
Mrs A Simpson	Mr W Spence

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr A Wishart	Cllr J Henry
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Additional Co-opted Members

Mr T Henderson	Miss J Sim
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In Attendance

Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

11/11/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/11/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Cluness and Cllr C Smith.

11/11/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2011 were approved by Mr A Henry and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

11/11/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

11/10/14 Broch Lighting – Vandalisms

The Chairman read out a response from Mr Gavin Douglas, Regional Works Manager, Historic Scotland, which arrived too late to be included in the agenda.

The letter acknowledged that the security of the site needed to be reviewed in order to protect both the Broch itself and the floodlights. Architects from Historic Scotland would be looking at options which could then be discussed at a site meeting with a Lerwick Community Council representative.

From figures provided by the Clerk, the Chairman advised members that the cost of repairing or replacing the Broch floodlighting was £250 for 2009/10, £493 for 2010/11 and £1999 from April 2011 to date. The majority of the costs, April 2011 to date, could be directly attributed to vandalism.

Mr E Knight enquired if there had been any further development with regard to CCTV as a deterrent to the vandalisms.

The Chairman replied that unfortunately nowhere suitable had been found to site a CCTV camera.

He went on to state that post and wire fencing, with barbs, did not have to be visually intrusive or expensive but it would be a deterrent. He hoped it was something Historic Scotland would consider.

Mr S MacMillan raised concern that erecting a barbed wire fence may cause conflict with the law.

The Chairman responded that it would be something Historic Scotland would have to consider and he looked forward to seeing what suggestions they came back with.

Mr D Ristori suggested that, in order to deter vandalism, it may be worthwhile to investigate the installation floodlighting which could be installed in the loch itself.

The Chairman raised concern that the costs of changing the floodlighting and any future repairs would be prohibitively expensive as well as a health and safety issue. He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr R Bremner, the electrician for the Broch floodlighting and ask for his opinion along with an idea of the costs involved.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Miss J Sim stated that people wishing to vandalise would always find a way to do it and that some youngsters seemed to use the Broch as a Youth Club.

Mr T Henderson agreed but thought that if there was some kind of deterrent vandals may just 'not bother'.

Mr J Stewart suggested that a letter be written to the youth club at Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre asking if they could discuss the Broch positively with the youths and encourage respect for the monument.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/11/05

Police Report

Acting Inspector B Gray was unable to attend the meeting.

11/11/06

Waste Management – Mr W Spence, Plant Manager, Energy Recovery Plant

Mr W Spence advised that once collected, waste is divided up for landfill, recycling and for use in the energy recovery plant.

Waste is taken in from Shetland, Orkney, Offshore and, after waste used to Fuel the Energy Recovery Plant ran out in February 2010, two loads a week is now also shipped in from Brora in the Highlands.

Household, Commercial and Industrial waste is all taken in and dealt with at Gremista.

Currently waste for recycling is collected from Lerwick and Scalloway but the Government wants all of Shetland to receive the service or to have a MRF (Material recovery Facility) to select waste before it could be burned at the Energy Recovery Plant.

In 2010, 22,000 tonnes of waste was incinerated, 2,300 tonnes recycled and 9,000 tonnes went to landfill, 2,000 of which was from Orkney.

He explained that the type of waste which went to landfill was that which could not be burned, for example, sewage sludge, nets etc.

Plastic, cans, textiles are all baled and shipped for recycling in return for money.

Plastic is baled and shipped to a designated place for recycling, possibly to China. Paper shredded, baled and sold to crofters and farmers for animal bedding and glass goes to Enviroglass in Cunningsburgh for paving.

The Chairman asked if it would not be more environmentally friendly to burn the paper.

Mr W Spence agreed that it would but recycling the paper assisted in meeting recycling targets and thus was something they wanted to improve on.

The Chairman enquired if it would be possible to burn plastic.

Mr W Spence replied that the plant may have to be closed down for extra cleaning and maintenance if plastic was burned. Plastic had a high calorific value and recycling was the better option.

He added that in 2010, 245 tonnes of electrical equipment was shipped to Perth and dealt with appropriately.

Cllr A Wishart asked why, in February 2010, the Energy Recovery Plant ran out of waste to fuel the plant.

Mr W Spence answered that as well as it being a low time of the year for waste, so much of the waste had been recycled. He furthered that waste was now being stored in the hope that the situation would not occur again.

Mrs A Simpson asked if composting was done at the plant.

Mr W Spence advised that composting had not proved very successful. Garden waste was shredded and put on the old landfill site as a capping layer.

Mr T Henderson stated he could not see how it was environmentally sound to send plastic to China for recycling and asked if it was just done to boost the recycling figures.

Mr W Spence advised that he was unsure whether the plastic went to China or not. However, reusing and recycling was much better than mining and using up the Earth's resources.

The Chairman stated he was conscious that, according to Mr N Martin, District Heating Manager, SHEAP, the plant was now out of capacity. He asked how viable it would be to make the incinerator larger.

Mr W Spence advised that a new incinerator to generate both heat and electricity would cost around 20 million. However if feed in tariffs and renewable heat incentives were available at the current level and continued to be paid, an incinerator may pay for itself in something like 7 years.

He added that the landfill tax was currently £56.00 per tonne and this was expected to rise to £64.00 per tonne in April 2012.

The Chairman thanked Mr W Spence for giving the presentation

The presentation concluded at 7.35pm.

11/11/07

Commission on Rural Education – Call for Evidence

The Chairman suggested that members could complete the forms as individuals either online or using the form included in the agenda.

He stated that the Clerk could submit the form online on behalf of anyone if they so wished.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/11/08

Shetland Charitable Trust Governance Review

Mrs A Simpson advised that the letter was discussed at the October meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils. Most Community Council's agreed with the content of the letter and some had not had time to respond. No one disagreed with the letter.

Cllr A Wishart suggested that 'time had overtaken events' following the decision for a referendum with regard to reforming Shetland Charitable Trust.

Ms K Fraser suggested that members should express their views now as the question may be tabled again in the future.

Cllr A Wishart again suggested that members should wait before commenting as 'the Charities Regulator will have something to say'.

The Chairman agreed that members should wait and 'see how the current state of affairs pan out'.

11/11/09

Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils – Consultation Findings

Noted

11/11/10

Proposed Lerwick Community Council Website – Sample Pages

Cllr a Wishart suggested that a picture at the head of each page should be chosen to reflect a more modern Lerwick. The site would be looked at globally and people would 'form an impression'.

Mr S Hay stated that the proposed website looked informative but proposed the site should also be interactive. He thought it would be an effective and important way of engaging with the community, the electorate.

Cllr A Wishart agreed and asked if expert advice could be sought on how it could be run.

The Chairman advised that having a interactive site would have its difficulties. Who then responds? Is the content discussed at each meeting?

Mr S Hay understood the Chairman's concerns but stressed that these days websites were interactive.

Mr E Knight agreed with Cllr A Wishart with regard to changing the picture. He suggested that several pictures should be chosen to reflect Lerwick as a vibrant port and go-ahead community.

Miss J Sim shared Mr S Hay's thoughts that the site should be interactive. She suggested that it could purely be informal, with no particular need for comment by Lerwick Community Council.

Mr T Henderson also thought the site, as it stood, looked quite un-engaging. Vibrant photographs along with the interactive option would make it more viable.

Mrs A Simpson asked if a quote could be sought for introducing the interactive element whereby people could leave their comments, provided it was not done anonymously.

The Chairman warned that the proposals would have a cost implication and it would mean the site may have to be monitored on a daily basis. He asked the Clerk of the Council to contact Diane Wood, the site creator and discuss the proposals with her.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/11/11

Review of Polling Districts and Places – Anne Cogle, Service Manager, Admin., SIC

Noted

11/11/12

Knab Viewpoint

12.1 Perceived Breach of Planning Conditions – Mr N Sineath, Enforcement Officer, Planning, SIC

Noted

12.2 Response re Perceived Breach of Planning Conditions – Mr J Anderson, Chairman, LCC

The Chairman stated that as he had received no further correspondence following his response hoped that the concerns raised have now been allayed.

11/11/13

Correspondence

13.1 Naming of North Star Project – Mr B Leask, Property Services Manager, Hjalmland

Noted

13.2 Notice of resignation as member of Lerwick Community Council – Mrs Kathy Greaves

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write and thank Mrs K Greaves for her tenure and valuable input over the years as a member of Lerwick Community Council.

He advised members Lerwick Community Council had three vacant seats and that the next by-elections would be held in January 2012.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.3 Parking provision in Lerwick, Letter of Concern – Mrs I Rutherford

The Chairman stated that Mr P Crossland, Director, Infrastructure Services, SIC, should be written to with regard to the pedestrianisation of Commercial Street. If there were no cars on the street, there would be no need for a traffic warden or Police presence to control illegal parking.

Cllr J Henry noted that many retailers would raise concern with regard to the pedestrianisation of the street.

Mr E Knight stressed that the content of the letter should be brought to the attention of the Police. He stated that many drivers abused the system and often cars could be seen parked in spaces reserved for disabled person's vehicles without bearing the relevant badge.

Cllr A Wishart moved that a copy of Mrs I Rutherford's letter should be sent to both the Police and Mr P Crossland with a covering letter asking for their comment.

Mrs A Simpson agreed that both parties should be written to and hoped Mr P Crossland may come up with some new ideas.

The Chairman noted that the street was not a safe environment for pedestrians. He pointed out that despite having CCTV in the area it did not appear to be used to catch motorists driving through the street for no reason.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to both the Police and Mr P Crossland with the concerns of Lerwick Community Council and include the letter of complaint written by Mrs I Rutherford.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

13.4 Copy of decision letter - Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 Planning Appeal: Old Judane Knitwear Factory, Lerwick – Directorate for Planning and Environment Appeals, The Scottish Government

Noted

13.5 Update-Proposed New Anderson High School – Selwyn Schofield, Project Manager

The Chairman expressed concern that given the time Capital Programme Service has had to prepare their report they would come back with a 'fait accompli' rather than a consultation.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr R Sinclair, Executive Manger, Corporate Services, SIC voicing the concerns of Lerwick Community Council.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/11/14

Financial Report

Noted

11/11/15

Parking Orders

15.1 Queens Place, Lerwick – Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle

No objection

15.2 Sandveien, Lerwick – Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle

No objections.

15.3 Queens Place & Russell Crescent, Lerwick – Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle

No objections.

11/11/16

Planning Applications

16.1 2011/323/PPF – To erect one and a half storey dwellinghouse, Quoys Road

Mr T Henderson declared an interest as the planning application was submitted by his parents.

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

16.2 2011/322/PPF – To erect dwellinghouse, Sundhamar, Quoys

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

16.3 2011/309/PPF – To erect 500kw wind turbine, access road, trenched cable connection & wood chip drying facility, Gremista

No objections

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

11/11/17

Lerwick Applications October 2011

Noted

11/11/18

Any Other Business

Roads

Mr D Ristori raised concern that particular roads in Lerwick were made so narrow by cars parked on either side that there could be problems for the emergency services if the needed to pass through the road.

He suggested that rather than painting yellow lines on one side of the road and stopping cars from parking, the pavement on one side of the road could be made narrower and the road widened.

He hoped that Cllr A Angus, Cllr A Wishart and a representative from Roads, SIC might meet up with him to discuss the proposal.

Cllr A Wishart advised he would be happy to meet with Mr D Ristori and asked for him to get in touch by email.

SIC – Savings

Mr D Ristori advised that he had emailed savings@shetland.gov.uk suggesting that the formally residential properties currently occupied as offices by Shetland Islands Council are sold for developing back into much needed homes as soon as possible.

He stated that there were several other properties, currently unoccupied, which could also be sold to assist both the SIC in their financial situation and create more homes.

Cllr A Wishart advised that the Shetland Island Council's property portfolio was currently being scrutinised. He asked Mr D Ristori to email him a copy of the letter.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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