

**MONDAY 6 JUNE 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 A Henry  
Mr D Ristori  
Ms K Fraser

Mr A Johnson  
Mr L Angus  
Mr W Spence  
Mrs A Simpson

**Ex-Officio Councillors**

Cllr J Henry  
Cllr C Miller **left 8.15pm**

Cllr J Wills **arrived 7.05pm**

**Additional Co-opted Members**

Miss J Sim

Mr T Henderson

**In Attendance**

Mr R Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board  
Mr John Robertson, Shetland Times Reporter  
Mr John Johnson, BBC Radio Shetland  
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

**Chairman**

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

11/06/01

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

11/06/02

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Stewart, Mrs K Greaves, Mr S McMillan, Mr M Peterson, Mr S Hay and Cllr A Wishart.

11/06/03

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2011 were approved on the motion of Mr L Angus and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

11/06/04

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Knab Viewpoint**

The Chairman informed members that a good start had been made on the Knab Viewpoint and he was hopeful that it would be completed by the end of the following week.

**Cllr J Wills arrived 7.05pm**

**Agenda Item 11/05/13 - 2011/103/PCD Erect New Day Care Support Centre, Seafield**

Speaking with regard to Lerwick Community Council's objection to the proposed new Day Care Support Centre at Seafield, Cllr J Wills stated that there was a possibility of compensatory recreational land.

Cllr C Miller declared an interest as a member of the Planning Board and stated that if the application was discussed she would excuse herself from the room until it was over.

Cllr J Wills advised that there was no need. All he wanted to say was that the loss of recreational space was far outweighed by the need for the new Day Care Support Centre. However, there was a proposal that, as compensation, the developer could look at starting a public park.

He stated that the suggestion was being looked at by the Councillors for the area. There were no firm details at this stage but he would keep Lerwick Community Council informed.

**11/05/11 Item 11.2 paragraph 6**

Cllr J Wills asked for it to be noted that the word 'co-operation' was incorrect and it should have read 'co-operative'.

11/06/05

**Police Report**

PS B Gray gave the following crime analysis for May 2011 for Classes 1-5 compared to that of the same time last year.

He later emailed the figures for Classes 6 and 7.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Remained the same at 4, 3 of which were detected  
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Down from 63 to 46, 29 of which were detected  
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Up from 3 to 8, 5 of which detected  
Class 4 - Crimes of vandalism – Down from 42 to 30, 9 of which were detected  
Class 5 - Other Crimes – Down from 27 to 11, all detected  
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 64 to 86, with 78 detections  
Class 7 - Traffic Offences – Down from 92 to 90, with 86 detections

For additional information PS B Gray distributed a copy of the crime breakdown figures for areas throughout Shetland.

Cllr J Wills thanked the Sergeant stating that it was good to see a detailed breakdown. He noted that only 15% of reports turned out to be a crime and was pleased that Shetland appeared to be a vigilant community.

PS B Gray informed members that occasionally there could be a one or two man crime wave, which could have a negative effect on the figures, but things seemed not too bad at the moment.

Mr L Angus complimented the Sergeant on his excellent work.

The Sergeant advised that he would try to get the area crime figure breakdown on a more regular basis.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray.

Ms K Fraser asked if things had moved forward with regard to employing a replacement Traffic Warden.

PS B Gray responded that an advert had been placed but staffing was chaotic at the moment. As far as he was aware a replacement was still being sought.

The Chairman asked whether the closure of Dunrossness and Scalloway Police Stations had made much of an impact.

The Sergeant replied that it had not.

He added that the Police Station at Sumburgh Airport was due to open in the middle of the month and that would be an improvement.

Mr D Ristori informed the Sergeant that the visibility for vehicles leaving Harbour Street onto King Harald Street was often hampered morning and evening due to a large white van parked next to the play park wall. He asked if any action could be taken even though the vehicle was not parked on yellow lines.

PS B Gray responded that if the vehicle was causing an issue it would not matter that it was not parked on yellow lines, it may still be covered by legislation.

He advised that anyone who was concerned about the vehicles parking position should phone the Police Station when the van was actually parked there. He noted that quite often drivers who were causing a visibility issue when parking did not realise they were doing so.

The Chairman thanked PS B Gray for attending.

PS B Gray left at 7.15pm.

11/06/06

**Concern at Possible Closure of St Olaf Street Dentist – Mr Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, Shetland NHS Board**

Mr R Roberts, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland Board opened his presentation by stating that he was very conscious of the importance of the issue with regard to the possible closure of the St Olaf Street Dental practice.

He stated that there was a range of different dental services within Shetland. These were, private care; hospital services for major dentistry; salaried general Dental service, where the NHS Board directly employs dentists to provide a service; salaried committed Dental services to provide service to the hard to reach (care homes, dental phobic's) and private but predominantly NHS service, the St Olaf Street practice.

He furthered that the St Olaf Street practice building was leased from the Health Board and it was the responsibility of Shetland NHS to ensure the quality of service.

Mr R Roberts stated that in his opinion a private, NHS committed Dentist was the best way of providing High Street dentistry.

He stated that if the Owens wished to sell their business then it was their responsibility to do so. Shetland NHS was keen to ensure that patients would continue to receive dental care.

He informed members that it appeared the Owens were having difficulty selling the practice and discussions had been held between Shetland NHS Board and the staff at the St Olaf Street practice to see what could be done to sustain the service.

Mr R Roberts stressed that NHS emergency care would be available at Montfield but routine dental treatment would be more difficult to take on as this was an ongoing service.

He advised members that Shetland NHS Board were not yet at a point where they had a solution but would ensure discussions were ongoing with the Owens and the staff at the St Olaf Street practice in order to maximise dental care for patients.

Mr L Angus stated that a considerable amount of people had expressed anxiety at the 'seeming' lack of urgency. Without a solution several thousand people would be left without dental care. He hoped that the situation would be addressed urgently.

Mr L Angus went on to state that, advisedly, he was aware that there were rumours that Shetland NHS had been less than helpful when discussing the St Olaf Street practice with prospective purchasers.

Mr R Roberts replied that he recognised the concern and appreciated the comment 'seeming'.

He stated that he did not want to conduct business in front of the media or at a general meeting but would continue to discuss the situation directly with the St Olaf Street practice.

He emphasised that the initial responsibility, to sell the business, was with the Owen's but it had been made clear that Shetland NHS would be happy to meet with any prospective buyer.

Mr R Roberts informed members that the one interested party, for a variety of reasons, had decided they were no longer interested.

He advised that, via a dental grant, considerable sums of money could be accessed through NHS if a commitment was made to provide NHS dental care. The funds would be administered by Shetland NHS and they would do all that they could to attract a dentist to Shetland to purchase the St Olaf Street practice.

Mr L Angus asked how likely it was that there would still be no solution by September.

Mr R Roberts replied that it was his hope a solution would be found by the end of June or early July and by September the service could continue.

Cllr J Wills declared an interest as a patient of the St Olaf Street practice for over twenty years. He stated that he held Mr A Owen, owner, St Olaf Street Dental Practice, in the highest regard. He thought Mr Owen was an expert and a remarkable man who worked tirelessly as a public servant and most patients regarded him as a friend.

He stated that the practices' patients needed continuity of service, with no interruption, and Mr Owen and his staff needed to be treated fairly.

He pointed out that the situation was very serious. The St Olaf Street practice cared for 5,000 patients, 40% of the adult dental patients registered in Shetland.

Cllr J Wills went on to comment that it was his understanding that there was a willing buyer until a conversation took place with Shetland NHS Board and then for some reason the prospective buyer backed out.

Ms K Fraser stated she had been told that the St Olaf Street practice building was unsuitable.

Cllr C Miller enquired that if the building was unsuitable was it not up to Shetland NHS, as owners of the property, to make it fit for purpose.

She asked if the option of putting in a locum had been considered.

Mr R Roberts replied that the option of using a locum was being looked at.

With regard to the building, Mr R Roberts advised that for some patients there were issues regarding access. However, the main concern was that from 2012, by law, dental equipment had to be decontaminated in a different room from the treatment room. The St Olaf Street practice did not have room to comply with the new law.

He stated that the new law would be less of an issue with NHS run practices as they could use the facilities at the hospital to sterilise the equipment.

Mr R Roberts acknowledged and agreed with Cllr J Wills comments about Mr A Owen but reiterated that the St Olaf Street practice was a private business. He refuted any suggestion that the only reason the prospective buyer lost interest was down to the attitude of Shetland NHS Board.

He stated that what they could do, and had done, was to make prospective buyers aware of the opportunities and funding available.

Cllr C Miller asked why larger premises could not be sought in order for it to be leased to prospective buyers. She also enquired if it would be possible for the private practice to also make use of the sterilisation facilities at Gilbert Bain Hospital.

The Chairman asked if Shetland NHS would allow the use of the sterilisation facility at Gilbert Bain Hospital if it would make a difference in attracting a potential buyer for the St Olaf Street practice.

Mr R Roberts replied that absolutely they would. However, he thought that there would be difficulty in persuading an independent dentist that this was a good idea as they would have to invest in much more equipment. The reason being that additional equipment would be required to cover for the time the contaminated equipment was out of the premises and awaiting sterilisation. There would also be an understandable concern with regard to expensive equipment possibly being lost when out of the practices possession.

Mr L Angus enquired if Shetland NHS would provide any capital funding to assist in attracting new dentists to Shetland.

Mr R Roberts replied that six figure sums in dental grants could be sourced directly from Scottish Government and would be administered by Shetland NHS.

He advised that the possibility of extending Montfield with the aim to rent out to an independent dentist had been looked at, but unfortunately Shetland NHS did not have the capital funding to progress with the initiative.

Mr R Roberts advised members that it appeared that Shetland had more dentists per head of population than the national average and time would have to be spent working out why so many people could not be registered.

He speculated that it was possible that better use could be made of the current facilities.

Mr R Roberts stated that the situation was being taken very seriously and it had been discussed every single day for the last few weeks.

Mrs A Simpson responded that there had been an ongoing problem for years, not just for the last few weeks. Some people had been on the waiting list for five years.

Mr R Roberts replied that the reality was that significant progress had been made over the last few years. However Shetland NHS was aware that the situation was still far from satisfactory.

Cllr C Miller stated that she understood 'the balls were still up in the air' and asked if Mr R Roberts could be invited back to update members when progress had been made to address the situation.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk of the Council to ensure Mr R Roberts was invited to update members at the September meeting of Lerwick Community Council, following the summer break.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

The Chairman asked Mr R Roberts what the Government target was with regard to the percentage of people being registered with a dentist.

Mr R Roberts replied that the Government target was 65% for ages 18-64, 90% for ages 6-12 and 50% for ages 65 plus. Shetland is currently at 64% for ages 18-64, 95% for ages 6-12 and 48% for ages 65 plus.

Mr A Simpson advised that she had been a patient at the dentist in Brae for forty years. Due to their use of locums she often had to wait long periods for an appointment.

Mr R Roberts conceded that there were problems relating to the use of locums.

Cllr J Wills asked Mr R Roberts which dental problem would be regarded as an emergency and therefore eligible for treatment at the Montfield dentist.

Mr R Roberts responded that it would be dental pain or issues requiring emergency care. He acquiesced that it was not a satisfactory long term solution.

Mr L Angus enquired what assurances Mr R Roberts could give that a satisfactory solution will be found before Mr A Owen retires in September.

Mr R Roberts replied that he hoped to be nearer to resolving the situation within the next few weeks.

The Chairman thanked Mr R Roberts for attending the meeting.

Mr R Roberts' presentation concluded at 7.55pm.

11/06/07

**Correspondence**

**7.1 Litter Bins, South Lochside – Mr Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager, SIC**

Mrs A Simpson stated that the real issue was that there were no bins in the car park where people were most likely to dump litter out their cars.

The Chairman responded that the problem was that you could not have a bin next to every car. Unfortunately there were some people would just not walk over to a bin with their litter.

**7.2 Knab Golf Course Signage and Flower Park/St Olaf Street Wall – Mr Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC**

Noted

**7.3 Mareel Premises Licence Application – Mr Brian Hill, Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board, SIC**

Cllr J Wills stated that he thought that some papers relating to the application had arrived late and that the application was to be deferred and considered at the next meeting of the Licensing Board.

**7.4 Withdrawal of Bulk Uplift from Lerwick – Mr Peter Plumridge, Former Lerwick Resident**

The Chairman agreed that Mr P Plumridge had made a good point. Country areas had 24 hour access to skips whilst Lerwick residents were restricted by the opening hours of the dump.

Cllr C Miller stated she could see things from both sides. Skips were a great service but people still needed a vehicle to take their bulky rubbish to the skip.

She did not believe the reduction in service would impact on the quality of life compared to other cut backs.

Ms A Simpson raised concern that the withdrawal of the Bulk Uplift service may lead to fly tipping for those who had no access to a vehicle to take their bulky items to the dump.

Ms K Fraser noted that it would be helpful if the service could be provided even once a year.

Mr W Spence advised that Shetland Islands Council did provide a service whereby they would collect bulk rubbish. A charge would be levied for the service but he did not know what it was.

The Chairman informed members that under the WEEE Regulations the onus was on the retailer to dispose of any old replaced electrical equipment.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr Jonathan Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager, SIC asking if Shetland Islands Council advertises that a bulk uplift service is available for a fee.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**7.5 Bible Reading Marathon – Invitation from St Magnus Episcopal Church**

Noted

11/06/08 **Detailed Financial Report**

Noted

11/06/09 **Applications for Financial Assistance**

**9.1 Westerloch Residents Association – To Purchase Lawnmower**

Mrs A Simpson proposed that a grant of £500 should be awarded.

Mr D Ristori seconded the proposal to award £500.

Cllr J Henry informed members that Westerloch Residents Association worked hard to keep the area tidy. They did well and mowed much more of the surrounding area than they needed to.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**9.2 Shetland Blues Festival – To Assist in the Funding of Shetland Blues Festival 2011**

Mrs A Simpson proposed that a grant of £500 should be offered.

Ms K Fraser seconded the proposal to award £500.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**9.3 North Staney Hill Community Association – Improvements, Staney Hill Hall**

Mr D Ristori stated North Staney Hill Community Association did an excellent job, which was a great benefit to the local community.

Mr D Ristori proposed that a grant of £2,000 should be awarded.

Mrs A Simpson moved an amendment to offer £2,215, the full amount requested by North Staney Hill Association.

Mr D Ristori withdrew his proposal of £2,000 and seconded Mrs A Simpson's amendment to offer £2,215.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**9.4 Town Centre Floral Basket & Bunting and Banner Scheme – Lerwick Town Centre Association**

Mr L Angus stated that grants for the proposed project were available from more appropriate agencies and that it was his view funding from Lerwick Community Council should be restricted.

Ms K Fraser reminded members that following the 2010 funding cuts to Community Councils from Shetland Islands Council, financial assistance to Lerwick Town Centre Association, and other applicants, had been halved compared to that which was previously awarded.

At the end of the financial year, Lerwick Community Council had surplus funds which, she felt, could have benefitted the community.

She stated that the Town Centre really needed assistance this year, particularly with the Tall Ship's Races event.

Mrs K Fraser proposed that a grant of £2,000 should be awarded, the full amount requested.

Mr D Ristori seconded the proposal to award £2,000.

The Chairman suggested that a section of the banners should be printed to show that they were grant aided by Lerwick Community Council.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**Cllr C Miller left 8.15pm**

11/06/10

**Planning Applications**

No planning applications were received as at 31 May 2011.

11/06/11

**Lerwick Applications May 2011**

Noted

11/06/12

**Any Other Business**

**Lerwick Museum**

Mr D Ristori noted that the exterior of the Lerwick Museum was in need of some attention in order to smarten it up. The main areas requiring attention are the railings which are severely rusty, doors on the old net store which need repainting, the benches which need re-varnished and the north facing sail hall roof which needs to be cleaned of slime and moss.

He also noted that the area from the main door to the named flagstones with place names was in need of a regular sweep.

Mr D Ristori also voiced concern that the decorative coloured glass in the paved area of car park could regularly be seen strewn across the road. He suggested it should all be removed and replaced by plantings.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Shetland Amenity Trust with the issues raised by Mr D Ristori.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**King George V Play Park**

Mr D Ristori suggested King George V Play Park could be promoted during the summer months for activities including, stalls and small family events. He thought that perhaps the public could be asked for suggestions. He felt the area was overlooked and quite spacious for such activities.

The Chairman stated the area was a fine place to take children to play at no cost but would be happy for Magnus Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC to be written to with the suggestion.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

**Land Development Sites**

Mr D Ristori raised concern at some of the proposals for house sites in Lerwick. He urged members to look at the site proposals which could be viewed on line.

The Chairman advised that as part of the planning process landowners were asked to submit details of land which could be developed for, among other things, housing. He advised it was at the very early stages of consultation but asked the Clerk of the Council to get copies of the plans and include them in the next agenda.

**(Action: Clerk of the Council)**

Mrs A Simpson informed members that she went to the opening of Quoys and was extremely impressed with the scheme.

She advised that she had also visited the new Children's Home and thought that it was a great improvement on Leog.

Cllr J Wills agreed with Mrs A Simpson stating that the development was "a pleasure on the eye".

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

**Litter Action Day**

The Chairman informed members that for three hours from 11.30am on 9 July 2011, a month's worth of litter would be placed on Commercial Street, at the top of Irvine's Place.

Shetland Islands Council's Street Cleansing team and Environmental Health wish to highlight on this National Litter Day of Action, the accumulative impact of littering and the cost of cleaning it up.

Officers will talk to people about the litter mountain, educating them about the impact of litter and issuing fines where people are seen littering.

A representative from Lerwick Community Council has been invited to attend.

The Clerk advised that Mr James Stewart, who would be working on the project, had previously advised that he would be Lerwick Community Council's representative.

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

MR J ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL