

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

Present

Mr J Anderson
Mr R Anderson
Cllr L Angus
Cllr G Feather
Ms K Fraser

Mr A Johnston
Mr J MacLeod
Mr P Scarsbrook
Mrs A Simpson
Cllr W Stove

Additional Co-Opted Members

Mr D Ristori

Mr W Spence

In Attendance

Ms B Barron, SIC Planning Dept
Ms R Griffiths, Shetland Times
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr P Scarsbrook, Vice Chairman of the Council, presided

06/03/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

06/03/02

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Henry, Cllr J Irvine, Cllr E Knight, Mr T Nicolson and Mr M Peterson.

06/03/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th February 2006 were approved by Mr J Anderson and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

06/03/04

Business Arising

8.3 SIC - Future Use of St Clement's Hall - Informal Consultation

Mr R Anderson asked to add to the minute that, after Cllr L Angus said "no-one could hear what was being said up there" with reference to the main hall of the Town Hall, Mr Anderson added that he felt a similar problem would exist in St Clement's Hall due to the high ceiling.

06/03/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy sent his apologies as he was unable to attend, so there was no police report available. He had asked if the new Road Safety DVD

could be shown at the next meeting as it only lasted 15 minutes, and this was agreed.

06/03/06

Update on Local Plan - Ms B Barron, SIC Planning

Ms Barron had been invited along to update members on the progress of the local plan, which had been approved by Shetland Islands Council in March 2004. They wanted housing zones to be reviewed within the lifetime of the council. They gave instructions relating to housing zones and asked to consider elements relating to housing in Lerwick.

In August 2005 Lerwick Community Council had been invited to nominate a planning liaison representative and Mr T Nicolson had been nominated. He was to guide the community council in looking at various areas. The community council had already discussed housing areas and informal recreation areas at previous meetings.

There would be a later round of housing and social housing discussions which would need sites in the local plan to be looked at. The map was not altogether helpful as it identified all areas in Lerwick as Zone 1 and not as allocated zones.

Ms Barron suggested that Lerwick Community Council could recommend that the Lerwick and Central Mainland areas have allocated sites and not zoned sites. These were to be reviewed every 5 years. Existing sites identified in the structure plan included Staney Hill and Quoys.

The review of 1992 identified a number of sites including North Lerwick, Central Lerwick, Anderson High School, Knab, Sound, Punds, Quoys and Annsbrae. A number of these had been developed but some were still waiting. She needed to know if the community wanted these areas developed or not. There was pressure for development in Lerwick as this is where the jobs are. Lateral thinking was required, such as operating a shuttle bus to houses out of town.

The area identified at the Ness of Sound had had problems with development. Costs were proving to be very high as they were more alert to possible problems with flooding, and access difficulties. In the current local plan it was identified as a green lung for Lerwick. Would the community want this to remain or would they want it developed for housing? Precautionary prevention regarding flooding and policies would have to apply.

Mr R Anderson asked for clarification as to which areas of Ness of Sound were prone to flooding. He said this was not a unique problem in Shetland.

Ms Barron confirmed the area in question was the Sea Road at the roundabout which had the potential to flood. She would like the community council to discuss and identify valuable areas of land, although there was no pressure to look at every space and fill with uses. Access and drainage had already been highlighted in the 1992 plan.

The Chairman noted that the reports were to be reviewed every 5 years. He felt that as a body they could give opinion on where to build and that there were a lot of sites that were historically planned for housing. He felt it was not up to the community council to decide which areas were used for housing and stated there was a lot of consultation required.

Ms Barron replied that other community councils had been looking at zoned areas relating to boundaries, etc. They had come up with their ideas for alteration then there had been displays of the amended maps and public meetings. The community councils had gone back to discuss it further after the public meetings with the planners.

A new planning bill would take effect in 2007 which would be a combination of the local plan and the structure plan. It had been anticipated for a long time and public consultation undertaken now would leave them up to speed in 2007. The public had to be able to comment and debate. When the developer came to develop the site allocated for housing, it speeds up the process as it allows clarity in the planning system.

Mr J MacLeod suggested that Ms Barron provide the community council with a map of Lerwick with all open spaces marked. This would allow the community council to comment and put their message across.

Ms Barron agreed and noted that it was a community plan, not a planner's plan, but the areas needed to be identified.

Mr R Anderson noted that they had been told at the last meeting that there were 600 people on the SIC Housing waiting list and that they would not be building 600 houses. He felt an idea of how many houses would be built would help them to make decisions and asked if she knew how many were planned for the next 5 years.

Ms Barron replied that in the last 5 years, an average of 12 houses per year had been completed.

Mr J MacLeod explained that there was a huge difference between housing need and housing demand.

The Chairman noted that there was a need to get rid of the housing debt before building new houses and that a lot of figures were bandied about.

Mr J Anderson noted that the community council were being asked to state where they DIDN'T want houses built rather than where they do.

Cllr L Angus stated that the housing waiting list was in crisis. Shetland Islands Council were forbidden by statute to build more houses, so the new ones won't be local authority. They won't automatically have the right to buy. He noted that planning was more than just housing. He thought that 60 houses over 5 years did not have much impact. There was the potential for big problems relating to traffic and traffic management. This went hand in hand with housing. Recreation was as important. The last housing scheme the SIC built was Annsbrae and this had been against a number of policies.

It was required for disabled housing and was built on a greenbelt site, which had been reluctantly released for caravans many years before. It had broken nearly every rule in the planner's book. He noted they had to be careful when making recommendations.

Ms B Barron confirmed that they were looking at areas not to be developed, and areas which were prized by the local community. She noted that there used to be a 50/50 split between houses built in Lerwick and those built in the rest of Shetland. These days it was 75/25. This included the Hjaltland Housing Associations' new builds, which were a significant rise in the amount of properties being built each year.

Cllr L Angus noted that 2½-3 years ago the Community Council had spent several meetings making recommendations regarding the site of a new general hospital. They had spent a lot of time on it then NHS Shetland had said they couldn't afford it. Significant public development would need to be considered in the plan, for example, if a new hospital is to be built what would happen to the site of the existing hospital?

Ms Barron stated that they were trying to do this together with the community as it was the community's plan. There had been lots of consultation so far to get the public's opinions. She felt it was off to a good start. The community council will gather the information from the public and then discuss it further with Shetland Islands Council. They would then develop a plan for the next stage of public consultations.

The Chairman thanked Ms Barron for attending and she left at 7.50pm.

06/03/07 **Scottish Executive - Age and Experience: Consultation**

The Chairman noted that this was a very detailed document which would take too long to discuss as a body, so he suggested they should respond individually and return to the Clerk at the next meeting.

06/03/08 **Community Council By-Election 2006**

The Chairman said that any co-opted member who wished to be considered as a full member should make himself known to the Clerk. The members would then vote on nominees at the next meeting.

Mr J MacLeod asked if it was possible to ask full members who did not attend meetings regularly to resign, but the Chairman said it was not.

Mr R Anderson noted that Lerwick Port Authority operated a "3 strikes and out" policy but he was not suggesting that for Lerwick Community Council. He said there was no precedent.

Mr J MacLeod asked if it could be raised at the next ASCC meeting to get the constitution changed so that they encouraged an active membership.

Mr R Anderson agreed that they could look at it if all Shetland community councils agreed.

06/03/09

Correspondence

9.1 ASCC - Meeting

Noted. Mr R Anderson indicated that he would like to attend, along with Mr T Nicolson.

9.2 Dogs Against Drugs Noted

9.3 NAFC - SSMEI Noted

9.4 SIC - Headstones, Lerwick Cemetery

Cllr L Angus noted that relatively new stones in Lerwick New Cemetery had fallen down and taken old headstones down with them. He asked if it was possible for SIC Infrastructure to insist that headstones are secured properly.

Mr R Anderson suggested that Shetland Islands Council issue a simple document giving guidelines for erecting headstones.

The Chairman agreed to write to Mr J Grant, Infrastructure Services.

9.5 SIC - Pavement at Clydesdale Bank, Lerwick

Mr R Anderson agreed to complete the map and return it to the Clerk.

9.6 SIC - Programme of Works: Surface Dressing

The Chairman was pleased to see a schedule of surface dressing and asked that the Clerk write to Infrastructure Services to also request a schedule of resurfacing.

Mr R Anderson noted that Knab Road at the Coastguard Station was also in a very poor state.

9.7 Junior Up Helly Aa Committee - Thanks Noted

9.8 Anderson High School - Thanks Noted

9.9 Dale Murray- Thanks Noted

9.10 Shetland Link Up - Thanks

Noted. The Chairman noted that he was very pleased to see that the grant had meant that all Shetland Link Up clients were able to go on the trip.

06/03/10

SIC (Tarland) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order

Mr J MacLeod asked if future plans received from SIC Roads Department could indicate any other parking spaces in the area. He noted that the spaces are not always removed when a disabled person moves away.

Mr J Anderson noted that the parking space appeared to block off street parking, according to the plan.

The Chairman agreed to ask SIC Roads Department to clarify if the space did obstruct the parking space and, if so, could it be moved along.

06/03/11 **Financial Report** Noted.

06/03/12 **Planning Applications**

12.1 Erect Storage Building, SBS Base

No objections. Mr J Anderson asked if the building would interfere with the bridge founds, but Cllr L Angus confirmed they would be further south.

12.2 Change of Use - 35/37 North Road No objections

12.3 Install Steel Window Shutters - The Camera Centre

Mr J MacLeod expressed concern that steel shutters did not look good and felt there were other more aesthetically-pleasing ways of securing property. He was concerned of the impression it gave tourists using the area.

The Chairman noted that other shops nearby already had these shutters.

Mrs A Simpson agreed that there must be more attractive ways of securing businesses and felt the solid steel type was hideous.

Cllr L Angus noted that obtaining insurance cover was becoming more difficult for businesses on Commercial Street.

Mr J MacLeod felt that the shutters did not have to be solid steel. He proposed there should be no more solid steel window shutters on Commercial Street and moved that more aesthetically-pleasing ways should be investigated. Mrs A Simpson seconded this.

Mr R Anderson moved no objection, seconded by Cllr L Angus.

Mr J Anderson suggested something that was non-visually intrusive, such as roll-down wire mesh. This would also allow customers to see through the shutters at the goods available.

A vote was cast

Amendment (no objections)	3
Motion (aesthetically-pleasing type)	6

06/03/13 **Any Other Business**

Town Hall Guide Book

Mrs A Simpson stated that she was involved in the productions of a new Town Hall Guide and would soon have prices available for the cost of producing a new booklet.

Mr R Anderson thought that Shetland Islands Council were to produce it on their own this time.

Mrs A Simpson confirmed that it was to be funded by Lerwick Community Council again. The previous booklet had cost £7469 for 5000.

The Chairman agreed to put in the agenda for the next meeting.

Speed Bumps - Lovers Loan

Mr W Spence noted that he had attended a AHS School Board meeting where they had discussed plans to install speed bumps in Lovers Loan. He was concerned that this had not come before Lerwick Community Council.

Cllr W Stove stated that the report had gone to every school in Shetland for discussion as part of a Scottish Executive proposal.

Cllr L Angus confirmed that Scottish Executive proposed to install a 20mph zone around every school, such as that in place at Sound School. Other areas are currently under consideration with plans to make it a permanent solution to traffic problems around schools.

Old Cemetery Dyke

Cllr L Angus noted that there had still been no improvements made to the dyke around the old cemetery and it was in a worse condition than ever. He noted that parts of the drystone dyke had been plastered over, but there were monuments inset in to the wall and it would have to be treated with sensitivity. He asked that they write again to SIC Infrastructure Services.

Sewer at back of Lerwick Hotel

Mr J Anderson noted that there had still been no response from SIC Environmental Health regarding the sewer at the back of Lerwick Hotel. He suggested writing to the Lerwick Hotel and SEPA.

Mr R Anderson noted that there was ample evidence of what was happening there. SEPA had said they'd check for Permission to Discharge, and he asked to find out if Discharge Consent had been given for the sewer.

Access Road - Sletts Pier

Mr J Anderson asked if DLO would be tidying up the tar at the access road to Sletts Pier.

Surface Water - Knab

Mr J Anderson noted there was a lot of surface water lying on the Knab path in an area approximately 27 metres south of the ditch from the Coastguard Station which had caused people to slip.

Loganair's Air Ambulance Service

The Chairman suggested writing to Loganair to thank them on behalf of the community for the air ambulance service they provided until recently.

CCTV - Lerwick Town Centre

The Chairman had been given a copy of a petition recently handed to Shetland Islands Council in support of the proposed CCTV system for the town centre.

Cllr G Feather noted that the recent demonstration of CCTV equipment had been very poorly attended and he felt this was a great pity.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

MR P SCARBROOK
VICE CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL