

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

Present

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

Cllr E Knight
Mr T Nicolson
Mr M Peterson
Mrs A Simpson
Cllr W Stove

In Attendance

Mr J Robertson, Shetland Times
PS G McCarthy, Northern Constabulary
Ms C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

05/07/01 **Circular**

The Circular calling the meeting was held as read.

05/07/02 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Anderson, Cllr A Cluness, Cllr J Irvine, Mr J MacLeod, Mr D Ristori, Mr M Shearer and Ms B Wishart.

The Chairman stated he had received a letter of resignation from Ms B Wishart, who was leaving for Orkney to take up a new position of employment. He wished her well for the future and thanked her for her contribution to Lerwick Community Council.

05/07/03 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2005 were approved on the motion of Mr R Anderson and seconded by Ms K Fraser.

05/07/04 **Business Arising**

14.4 Clickimin Broch Lights

The Chairman noted that he had agreed to obtain costs for photocell lighting but had been unable to contact anyone from Shetland Electrical Services due to holidays. He would try to obtain costs before the next meeting.

10.4 Pensioners' Waiting Room

No further correspondence had been received to date.

9.1 Financial Report

The Chairman that the annual allocation from Shetland Islands Council had been queried at the last meeting. He had been discussing the matter with Mrs Margaret Stevenson, Stevenson & Co Chartered Accountants and she was currently in negotiation with SIC Finance Department. A sum had been paid to Lerwick Community Council but this did not agree with the figures presented by Mrs Stevenson. The Chairman hoped that this matter would be resolved shortly and would report at the next meeting.

11.6 Gilbertson Park Signage

The Chairman noted that no new signage had been put in place yet but felt this was probably down to the Island Games.

11.4 Neglected Garden

This had been resolved.

05/06/06 Guidelines

Mr M Peterson noted that it had been agreed all members would be sent a copy of the guidelines but none had been received yet. The Chairman stated that the Clerk had been unable to find a set of guidelines to copy but he had given her his set, and members should receive them within the next week or so.

11.1 Sands of Sound Road

Cllr J Henry asked if Shetland Islands Council had responded regarding the adoption of the Sands of Sound road, and noted that this was an issue he had queried in the past. The Chairman replied that no response had been received to date but he would try to obtain this information before the next meeting.

CCTV – Commercial Street

The Chairman expressed concern at the recent assaults on Commercial Street, and felt that CCTV would have been an asset and a deterrent to this type of behaviour happening in the town centre.

Island Games

The Chairman stated that, on behalf of the Lerwick community, he would like to thank the Island Games organising committee, volunteers, all the helpers, police and the SIC councillors who made the decision to host the Island Games. The event was very well organised and successful. The Shetland competitors did us proud with their achievements, with a grand total of 46 medals. All competitors and spectators enjoyed themselves despite the mixed weather and all the events were well supported. He is sure the Games will inspire young people to get involved with sport for future Island Games, as we all know there are too many undesirable distractions. It is evident that young people properly motivated can compete with the best. He

hoped they would work hard for the Games in Rhodes. It was agreed to write to the Island Games committee expressing these views.

Mr R Anderson noted that there had been a parallel event on the pier, which was also a great success, and he wished to mention this in the same letter.

05/07/05

Police Report

PS G McCarthy noted that the last few weeks had been an extremely busy period for the police officers. He would like to thank the community and all the visitors who he hoped would take away a feeling of respect and regard for Shetland.

He criticised the individuals who stole from one of the visiting teams. There had been a quick detection and the items stolen had been returned to the Gotland team. Reports had been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the Reporter of the Childrens' Panel.

He noted that positive lines of enquiry were being followed with regard to the recent assault on Commercial Street and he hoped to soon see the perpetrators taken to task.

527 incidents in Lerwick

17 thefts	12 detected
12 vandalisms	4 detected
7 assaults	4 detected
14 drug searches	9 positive, involving Dogs against Drugs
3 drink drivers	
112 hours of foot patrol in Lerwick	

He noted that there had recently been occasion to speak to a licensee with regard to drink consumed on licensed premises outwith permitted hours. This is something they will be monitoring closely.

Cllr W Stove asked if the figures given included the Island Games week, and if so how did they compare with the usual statistics? He noted that during the Games held in Guernsey and also in the Isle of Man, there were practically no reportable incidents in either island during the Games.

PS McCarthy confirmed that this period did include the Island Games and took into account that it was 3 weeks since the last Police Report and not four. Every figure was down on the normal amount with the exception of assaults, which was the same. He noted that this was perhaps down to the increase in police officers but most of the community had behaved except for a very small minority.

Cllr G Feather asked if there had been any detection on the vandalism of the disabled housing at Quoys, but PS McCarthy replied there had been none to date.

The Chairman noted that the extra police officers and in particular the motorcycle police had appeared to have enjoyed their time in Shetland and had been mixing well with the local community. He hoped this would mean that officers would be keen to come to Shetland next time a vacancy arose. He thanked PS McCarthy for attending, and he left at 7.30pm.

05/07/06 **Local Government Boundaries Commission for Scotland – Review**

The Chairman noted that there had been no plan enclosed, despite being referred to in the letter. He felt without the plan they were somewhat in the dark. He noted that there were plans for 2 wards in Lerwick giving a total of 7 councillors for Lerwick and 22 for Shetland.

Mr R Anderson said he would like to see a plan for Lerwick and also for all of Shetland.

Cllr L Angus stated that the Scottish Executive had not yet, to his knowledge, produced plans. Shetland Islands Council had created their own copies.

Mr R Anderson noted that he was not sure of the total voting population but thought that Lerwick would have at least one third of it, therefore they should have one third of elected members. Lerwick had in fact been reduced from 8 to 7 under the new proposals, so it was not now one third.

Cllr G Angus noted that the West of Shetland now had an extra member and Lerwick North had lost one.

Mr R Anderson stated that this created an imbalance in representation, with more members on the West Side than in Lerwick.

The Chairman agreed to write to the Boundaries Commission expressing the views of Lerwick Community Council.

05/07/07 **Correspondence**

7.1 **Skeklers Theatre Company** Noted

7.2 **Turning Point Initiative** Noted

05/07/08 **Financial Report**

Noted. Mr M Peterson noted that the rate of interest was incredibly low and it was agreed to write to the Bank to query this.

05/07/09 **Financial Assistance**

9.1 **Fire From the North**

Mr M Peterson noted that there appeared to be very little effort being taken to maintain the dry stone walls along the Sea Road at the Ness of Sound. Damage had not been repaired and he felt they should not be allowed to fall into disrepair.

Cllr J Henry noted that this also represented a safety issue as children often played among the walls and they could be at risk. He had already raised this with Shetland Islands Council.

The Chairman noted that 10-15 years ago there were a lack of stone masons around but this was no excuse now with a number of very good masons working in Shetland. He agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council expressing concern at the condition of the walls.

10.5 Housing Matters

The Chairman stated that he would like to invite Mr Chris Medley, Head of Housing, Shetland Islands Council, to the next meeting to update members of the current housing situation.

He had received complaints from members of the public at the lack of 3-bedroom housing available and also several complaints regarding nuisance neighbours, sometimes quite severe problems with them. He would like to take the opportunity to discuss both these matters with the Head of Housing. It was agreed to invite him to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL