

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick, at 7pm

Present

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

Cllr E Knight
Mr J MacLeod
Mr T Nicolson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr W Spence

Additional Co-Opted Members

Mr A Goudie

Mr D Ristori

In Attendance

Mr J Robertson, Shetland Times Reporter
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

06/06/01 **Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

06/06/02 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Peterson, Mr P Scarsbrook and Mr M Shearer.

06/06/03 **Minutes**

Mr R Anderson asked that the minute be amended, under *Community Council Funding* to "he felt Shetland's community councils should be directly involved in these discussions" instead of "he felt the community councils were not getting a fair bite of the cherry".

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 May 2006 were then approved by Mr J Anderson and seconded by Mr R Anderson.

06/06/04 **Business Arising**

06/04/11 Traffic - Oversund Road

The Chairman noted that PS McCarthy was to look at the junction himself and then arrange a site visit. He would update us following this.

Community Council Funding

Mr R Anderson reported that he had attended a meeting of ASCC where it had been agreed to recommend to Shetland Islands Council that all community councils should suffer the same 5% cut in funding as Shetland Islands Council for this financial year, instead of the proposed 16%. This had been the unanimous decision of all those who attended, both community council members and SIC Councillors.

The Chairman stated that a letter would be sent to each SIC Councillor to reflect the views of LCC members.

13.6 Road Surfaces

No update had been received from SIC Roads so they would be contacted again.

06/05/12.1 Name Plaques - Lerwick Lanes

The Chairman thought this was a very good suggestion and there should be more information available to the public. The Clerk noted that a response had been received from Shetland Islands Council indicating that the Head of Planning would look into the possibility of this.

06/05/12.5 Longland Play Area

There had been no response from SIC Community Development so they would be contacted again.

06/06/05

Police Report

PS McCarthy was not present so no police report was available, and the Road Safety DVD would be shown at a later date.

06/06/06

Town & Country Planning (Development by Planning Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 - Notice of Intention to Develop

6.1 Erect Bridge Approximately 717 metres in length between the Point of Scatland, Lerwick, and Heogan, Bressay Noted

6.2 Improvements to the Upper Gremista Road, New Gremista Link Road, new access to Gremista Yard and Bridge Approach Road, Gremista
Noted

06/06/07

Provision of Communal Refuse Bins/Stores

7.1 Parkfield Noted

7.2 Burnside Noted

06/06/08

Correspondence

8.1 Shetland Baton Twirlers - Thanks Noted

8.2 Mr S Manson - Upgrade of Turntable, Knab

The Chairman felt the area was untidy and in need of improvement.

Cllr E Knight noted that interpretive panels for the area had been discussed in the past and this had not been progressed.

The Chairman proposed that LCC funded the cost of seating in the area. He noted that, as the wall is currently being rebuilt, perhaps the contractor could include an enclosure for seating with benches or picnic tables. He suggested contacting SIC Planning to see if this could be incorporated into their plans.

Cllr L Angus noted that the interpretive panels were the responsibility of Shetland Amenity Trust and noted that suggesting financial assistance for the project may encourage the progress of the project.

Mr R Anderson asked which sites were proposed for interpretive panels, and noted that a long list of sites would have to be prioritised.

The Chairman asked that members think about which sites should be included and it would be discussed at the next meeting. He also noted that he would like to see a flag pole flying the Shetland flag being erected on the substation at Twageos as a welcome to visitors arriving by sea. He suggested that Scottish Water be contacted, and an offer of financial assistance be made to help with the cost of the project.

8.3 SEPA - Discharge at Rear of Lerwick Hotel

Mr R Anderson noted that he had twice recently visited the site and had seen no evidence of further discharge. He said that the problem appeared to be intermittent.

The Chairman noted that he had received complaints from residents in the Westerloch area about raw sewage draining into Clickimin Loch from Westerloch Drive. The pipes under the road were not big enough and periodically a blocked sewer in Fogralea backed up the surface water drain and it drained into the loch. He thought that perhaps the Lerwick Hotel suffered from the same problem.

He noted that the Westerloch problem had arisen again recently. He felt that Scottish Water were failing miserably to maintain their pipes and were spoiling an important amenity in the middle of town.

8.4 Shetland Amenity Trust

Cllr L Angus said that he would be delighted to see some of the new, younger members of LCC being nominated. Cllr E Knight agreed and nominated Mr D Ristori, who accepted to be nominated.

8.5 Shetland Community Safety Partnership - CCTV System Noted

8.6 Stappard Howes - Proposed Upgrade of Telecommunications Base Station, Police Station Noted

8.7 Ms J Watt - Street Lighting at Norstane

Mr A Goudie noted that he was familiar with this area and it is very dark with a lack of street lighting. There was a gap of approximately 30-40 metres which was not well lit.

The Chairman agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council and ask them to add to their existing street lights if it was not adequately lit.

06/06/09 **Financial Report** Noted

06/06/10 **Financial Assistance**

10.1 Lerwick Town Centre Association

The Chairman proposed £500 and was seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

10.2 Shetland Blues Festival

The Chairman congratulated the festival organisers for this endeavor by locals to bring in visiting artists for entertainment. He noted that they had not managed to get all the artists to Shetland this year because of the foggy weather.

Mr J MacLeod moved £500 and was seconded by Mr A Goudie.

06/06/11 **Any Other Business**

11.1 Lerwick Town Plan

Mrs A Simpson asked if there had been any development with the proposed new Lerwick Town Plan and how Lerwick Community Council could put ideas forward to the new plan.

The Chairman suggested items were raised through Lerwick Community Council meetings.

11.2 Sakchai Makao

Mrs A Simpson asked that Lerwick Community Council support Mr Makao in his bid to remain in Shetland as he faces deportation to Thailand.

The Chairman noted that the bail hearing was to be held the next day but it would be some time before the matter was resolved. He noted that most of the community had been very active in showing their support for Mr Makao and he hoped the Home Office would take this into consideration when looking at his case. He gave the full support of Lerwick Community Council.

Ms K Fraser asked if LCC could pledge money to the fund raising appeal.

The Chairman noted that he had told Mr D Gardner, campaign organiser, that in the event of a shortfall, LCC could be approached for assistance. However, he noted that guidelines did not allow individuals to be assisted.

The Chairman suggested writing to Mr Gardner to thank him for his hard work with the campaign, and to the Home office pledging the support of

Lerwick Community Council. He added that there may be a need for legal advice regarding financial support for the campaign.

11.3 Education Provision Review

Cllr L Angus noted that the recent Education Provision Review had been published and discussed by SIC Services Committee. He felt that this contained good news for Lerwick pupils, with a replacement for Bells Brae Primary School and an extension for Sound Primary School included in the proposals. He hoped that LCC would support that part of the report and noted that it was important to get the right decision when the final estimates come in. There would be opposition against some of the other proposals contained in the report and so there was a possibility it would get rejected but he hoped that LCC would actively support the proposals for Lerwick schools.

The Chairman agreed and would write to that effect to Shetland Islands Council.

11.4 Coastal Erosion

Cllr L Angus noted that there had been concern about coastal erosion in Lerwick and a recent report indicated that the "Duke's Neb" was in imminent danger of collapse, which would jeopardise the house and roadway, and possibly the north gable of the Anderson Homes. Shetland Islands Council are aware of the problem and works would cost around £100,000. This was a Lerwick landmark and he suggested that remedial works would have to be carry out quickly.

The Chairman agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council expressing concern and urging haste.

11.5 Spurs Junior Football Club

The Chairman had been approached by the football club asking if LCC could provide a gift to present during a visit to Maloy. He asked for permission to spend up to £100 on a suitable gift with an inscription from LCC to the Maloy community and this was agreed.

11.6 Staney Hill Road and Lerwick Walkways

The Chairman noted that extensive repair work had been carried out to the Staney Hill road including drains and surface. The funding had been sourced by Mr V Hawthorne of Shetland Islands Council through Pathways for Scotland, a Scottish Executive initiative. The project was not totally completed as they had gates to erect along Cunningham Way first.

The Ness of Sound walkway was under way but they had been experiencing difficulties with their contractor. They hoped to have these issues resolved shortly and the work completed as soon as possible.

Mr R Anderson noted that the Staney Hill road was not surfaced, and he felt it would not last long without a proper surface on it. He asked that they write and suggest that to Mr Hawthorne.

The Chairman stated that he would be meeting with Mr Hawthorne and so he would raise it with him then.

11.7 Mr Daryl Richards

The Chairman stated that he had been very impressed with an article in the Shetland Times recently about Mr Richards who regularly travelled to Lerwick and tidied up the Lerwick dump. He did not get paid for doing this and he kept the area remarkably tidy.

The Chairman suggested writing to thank him as this made a big difference to everyone who used the dump. He had thought about getting Mr ??? some fuel vouchers to assist with the cost of getting to Lerwick but noted that, as discussed earlier, LCC cannot assist individuals.

11.8 Dyke at Midgarth Crescent

The Chairman asked if there had been any progress on reinstating the dry stone dyke at Midgarth Crescent.

Cllr L Angus confirmed that planning permission had been granted and they were now waiting for the contractor to begin work.

The Chairman agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council to ask for an update.

11.9 Dog Litter Bins - Westerloch

The Chairman noted that the dog owners walking their dogs at Westerloch had been tying dog litter in plastic bags to the fence as there was no bin in place. He suggested writing to Mr J Emptage at Shetland Islands Council requesting more dog bins on this road.

11.10 Sale of Land - Hill Lane

The Chairman had received a letter from SIC Executive Services Department regarding a plot of land at Hill Lane. They requested the views of LCC with regard to the sale of the land. The letter and accompanying photographs were passed around the members, and they agreed that the area of land, which was designed as a seating area with benches, should be retained in public ownership and for public use. The seats had been removed and the members asked that they were reinstated.

11.11 Sands of Sound Beach

Mr J MacLeod noted that Sands of Sound beach was a good resource but was let down by its access. There is no safe access down to the beach and there are no toilets. He asked if there were any plans to develop it as a recreational area.

Cllr L Angus noted that this has been discussed in the past with regard to coastal erosion. The road may eventually be undermined which could mean no access for anyone. He hoped the signs would be taken seriously and noted that SIC Planning have a budget for coastal erosion projects.

The Chairman felt that it was important to get it in the system to be discussed and included in any plans. He felt drainage was a problem and

noted there was a new house holder at the end of the road who had had discussions with Shetland Islands Council. LCC had funded repairs to the road in the past and this had been improved, but the beach itself was still inaccessible to anyone with a pushchair. He felt it was time to put pressure on to get funding sourced for major works.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL