

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

Present

Mr J Anderson	Mr T Nicolson
Cllr A Cluness (left 8.20pm)	Mr M Peterson
Cllr G Feather	Mrs A Simpson
Cllr J Henry (left 8.00pm)	Cllr W Stove
Mr A Johnston	

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr D Ristori	Mr M Shearer
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In Attendance

Mr P Barnam, Shetland Times Reporter
Mr M Malcolmson, SIC Community Services (left 7.40pm)
Mrs J Porter, SIC Community Services (left 8.00pm)
Mr E Uren, SIC Neighbourhood Support Worker (left 8.00pm)
Mr S Mills, SIC Neighbourhood Support Worker (left 8.00pm)
Miss C Duncan, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr T Nicolson, Chairman of the Council, presided

05/10/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

05/10/02

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L Angus, Mr R Anderson, Ms K Fraser, Cllr J Irvine, Cllr E Knight and Mr P Scarsbrook.

05/10/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2005 were approved on the motion of Mr J Anderson and seconded by Mrs A Simpson.

05/10/04

Business Arising

05/09 Housing Zone Review Boundary Maps

The Chairman noted that the section "...and the money had been bought by public money..." should have read "and the area had been bought....."

Alcohol Bye-Law

Mr J Anderson noted that it had been agreed to put this on the agenda for further discussion, but the Chairman explained that he had been making enquiries and there were some matters outstanding which would have an effect on any vote in the future. He felt it would be premature to have the item on the agenda at the moment and agreed to raise it again when the outstanding matters had been resolved.

14.4 **Clickimin Broch Lights**

The Chairman confirmed that the photo cell had been installed. However, in the last month, there has been a considerable amount of vandalism done to the existing lights, and he expressed his disappointment that there was no police presence at the meeting that night. Six lights have been damaged beyond repair and one is completely missing, with another four possibly being repairable.

He noted that he has asked the Clerk to prepare a report for the next meeting detailing the amount of expenditure in the last three years relating to the lights at Clickimin, including electricians and electricity bills, and he would like to have the item added as an agenda item, with a view to discussing whether or not to continue funding the lighting of the Broch.

He added that he hoped the media would pick up on this story and bring it to the attention of the public.

05/09/05 **Speeding Motorists at Lochside**

The Chairman stated that he would like to request that the temporary traffic indicator be replaced at Lochside. It does appear to deter drivers from speeding and that it would be better than nothing. It was agreed to write to SIC Roads to request it be reinstated.

Cllr W Stove added that himself and Cllr A Cluness had been in contact with SIC Infrastructure Department for a report on any other options available.

05/09/10 **Oversund Road: Possible 20mph Speed Limit**

Cllr J Henry noted that it had been agreed at the last SIC Infrastructure meeting to recommend a 20mph zone near the school with 3 traffic calming measures situated in the area. This, he felt, was the best option.

05/10/05 **Police Report**

No one was present from the Police Station so no report was available.

05/10/06 **Play Area Review**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs J Porter and Mr M Malcolmson from SIC Community Services Department.

Mr Malcolmson explained that the Department are currently undertaking a review of Shetland's play areas. There are problems with maintenance and repairs as there is no budget available, and so a moratorium had been put in place to prevent any new builds.

The first part of the review involved a survey by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) to assess each play area, by identifying the equipment, the expected life span of the equipment, assessing the area and the accessibility of the area. They then give it an overall rating, called a Play Value. They then assessed which areas have a low play value. At the moment there appears to be an over-provision of play areas which are in a poor condition, with a lot of them being in a poor state of repair.

The second stage is underway at the moment. This involves consultation with communities to form an action plan, as identified in the report. Lerwick currently has 22 play areas, but a lot of these are small, unused and in a poor condition. They have a low Play Value and do not hold any attraction for children.

The consultation process will involve three public meetings, in the Sound area, the North Road area and the Central area. SIC Community Services are also consulting schools, youth clubs and tenants associations to explain what they are doing.

Mrs Porter explained that they are distributing a questionnaire to groups, with a set of questions to gauge the views in each area. They are looking for suggestions how to revamp areas, and what they think attracts children to play in them. One option may be less play areas but with better equipment, and this is what they are hoping to ascertain from speaking to all the community groups.

Mr Malcomson agreed that it may be better to rationalise numbers. This would cut down on maintenance costs and insurance costs, and thus enabling facilities to be improved for the children.

Mrs Porter added that a report will be prepared at the end of the consultation process, and this will go forward to Shetland Island Council.

Mr S Mills, NSW, said that children have approached him to find out what is happening to the roundabout which used to be in the play area at the bottom of Church Road. Mr Malcomson confirmed that there will be a replacement in place by the new year, although it is not the same type.

The Chairman felt that the review was needed. He noted that the population often outgrew the play areas, and so they needed upgrading and modernising. He noted that this was expensive, and would cost a lot to maintain to a high standard. He thought, therefore, that reducing the amount of play areas and improving the equipment in them was the only way to attract children to them. He also noted that no-one would want to lose a play area from their neighbourhood but a sensible approach must be taken to ensure the play equipment best served each area.

Cllr W Stove noted that a lot of the play areas in Ackrigarth were very small sites with poor equipment. He had attended the presentation given by Community Services recently to SANTRA, whose members had expressed that they would like to see one of the four areas in Ackrigarth being

updated and the other three being turned into quiet gardens or seating areas. He thought this may be the way forward, as the neighbourhoods would not lose the area, but instead it would be used by other members of the community.

Mrs A Simpson asked where she could obtain a copy of the questionnaire, and Mrs Porter replied that they were only being distributed at community group presentations at the moment, but they would also be available at the public meetings.

The Chairman noted that Lerwick Community Council donated money to Shetland Islands Council last year to use for the maintenance of seating in public area, and Mr Malcolmson agreed that this had been beneficial.

The Chairman asked if there was any update on the proposed skate park, and Mrs Porter replied that there had been a report to the Services Committee the previous week. A site had been identified at the rear of the running track at Clickimin, and a lot of money has been raised from outwith Shetland, as well as from within, some of which was time-dependent. Shetland Islands Council had made a motion to approve the report, but a counter motion was raised to support the original site at the Gilbertson Park and this was approved. It would be going to a full council meeting the following week.

The Chairman noted that he would await the outcome with interest and thanked them both for attending. Mr Malcolmson left at 7.40pm.

05/10/07

Neighbourhood Support Workers Scheme

The Chairman welcomed Mr E Uren and Mr S Mills, Neighbourhood Support Workers, to the meeting to give an update on the scheme so far.

Mr Uren noted that the Clickimin Broch was regularly patrolled by the workers and three separate acts of vandalism had been reported by them to the police in recent months.

They also patrolled the Lochside area and regularly reported speeding drivers to the police. The play areas are also checked and any broken glass, dog fouling or other incidence of litter were reported to be cleared.

He noted that the figures for the 3rd ¼ were similar to those of the first two with the main issues again being education, littering and lost & found.

Education - this was becoming a bigger issue, with more people asking more questions. The NSWs were attending more meetings and were keen to find out what they can do to improve quality of life in the community. They are discovering what kind of fears are in the community, and they will soon begin a comprehensive survey in Lerwick of anti social behaviour issues. This will help them focus on what is required.

Littering - still a big issue but figures are slightly down each month.

The Chairman agreed that littering was still an issue and he felt everyone has to be quite hard to get the message across, as the amount of litter was not acceptable. He noted that there were less incidences of dog fouling, and it was encouraging to see the improvement in attitude.

Cllr J Henry noted that Shetland Islands Council had recently purchased a new more powerful machine to remove chewing gum from the streets, but it was an ongoing problem.

The Chairman felt the media could help, by highlighting the problem, and it was all part of the education process. He was very disappointed in the vandalism at the Clickimin Broch and thought it would be a great loss to the community if the lights were switched off permanently. He noted there were safety aspects to having no lighting and that it aided the security of the Broch, but he could see no easy solution.

Cllr G Feather complimented the NSW on their work as he could see a big difference in the amount of litter in Lerwick. He noted, however, that there should perhaps be a bin sited at the bus stop at Somerfields on South Road, as there always appeared to be litter in that area. He also asked if Quoys would be included in the patrol area.

Mr S Mills confirmed that at present they went as far as the Observatory, and that the new housing scheme would be included in their route.

Cllr W Stove asked if their job description couldn't be extended to include issuing on the spot fines for litter offenders in the future, as this would have more of an effect than reporting it to other officials.

Mr Uren replied that at present they were able to issue fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling, but that an offender had to be warned first and asked to pick up the litter. He also felt that at the moment they were approachable by members of the public who wanted to speak to them or pass on information, and that having more powers may alienate people.

Mr J Anderson stated that he believed Shetland Islands Council had purchased a new "essy kart" which had a lift at the back, and enquired if it would mean that wheelie-bins were now a possibility.

Mrs A Simpson agreed that they were a better option, not least because they kept seagulls away from the contents. She asked who was responsible for the litter caused by ripped bags if people had to be put them out in the morning before they went to work and before the bags were due to be collected.

The Chairman confirmed that it was the responsibility of the householder to ensure that the bags were adequately covered to avoid being torn by seagulls. He also noted that wheelie bins may work well in an estate which was more or less on the flat, but that there were very few houses in Lerwick which did not have steps leading up to them, and that the lanes in particular were not user friendly.

Mr J Anderson noted that large refuse storage sheds had recently been built in Sandveien which seemed to be working well. He asked if residents could buy their own wheelie bin if they desired to be uplifted by the new vehicle.

The Chairman replied that he did not think it would be an option due to the amount of steps around the town, and also that the wind would cause problems.

He thanked Mr Uren and Mr Mills for attending and hoped they would return in a few months for a further update and they, along with Mrs Porter, left at 8.00pm. Cllr J Henry also left at this time.

05/10/08

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

Mr J Anderson noted that people sometimes moved house after such an order had been made and wondered what happened to the parking place in such a case.

Cllr W Stove stated that he had raised this recently at an SIC Traffic meeting and an audit was to be carried out. He referred to three spaces which had recently been made after the residents had died.

The Chairman noted that there were no objections to this particular parking place and agreed to write to ask for parking places which are no longer required to be removed.

05/10/09

Proposed Walkways

The Chairman referred to a letter from Mr Vic Hawthorne, SIC Infrastructure Services Department, and stated that he had met with him for an update as he was unable to attend the meeting to do so himself.

Ness of Sound - this walkway had been delayed as there was a Health and Safety issue with regard to access through the old salmon station. A fenced pathway is to be put in place around the site and old war buildings further on. The public will want to explore these areas but Shetland Islands Council have to protect the public. There are ongoing fencing work around the Ness of Sound to Sands of Sound for stock reasons and public safety, and this work was progressing slowly.

North Ness - construction work at Hay's Dock and the business park had held up plans for a route through there, but it was hoped to get it done when the construction work had been completed.

Cunningham Way - no movement. Mr Hawthorne was going to write to the landowners to see about siting a kissing gate for public access, as the area has to be kept stockproof. He was also to contact Scottish Water.

Mr A Johnston noted that a big piece of Cunningham Way was being destroyed by motor bikes and scramblers.

Mr M Peterson said that there is a recognised scrambling park at the quarry on the Ladies Drive and they should be encouraged to use this facility.

The Chairman agreed, noting that an organised club would help ensure this area was utilised. He did not want to stop them completely, but felt that they were causing damage and there had to be a balance.

Old Staney Hill road - the Chairman noted that Lerwick Community Council had funded repairs to this area in the past. He understood that outside funding could be available from a Scottish countryside organisation to improve the drainage and resurfacing.

The Chairman stated that he would invite Mr Hawthorne along to a meeting in the New Year when he may be better placed to answer questions.

05/10/10

Correspondence

10.1 Shetland Choral Society - Thanks Noted

10.2 Up Helly Aa Committee - Thanks Noted

10.3 NorthLink - Left Luggage Facility

The Chairman noted that NorthLink promised to have the facility in operation by March 2006 and he would await with interest any developments.

10.4 SIC Signage for Upper Sound and West Baila Noted

10.5 SIC Dry Stone Dykes - Sea Road

The Chairman felt that a whole rebuild of the wall was not necessary. Mr M Peterson agreed, and felt that it should be done in the present style with sea boulders rather than dry stone dyking.

The Chairman agreed to write to SIC Executive Services requesting that the work be carried out as there were a lot of stone masons resident in Shetland now and the work needed to be done imminently.

10.6 Michael Stewart Noted

05/10/11

Financial Report

The Chairman noted that there was approximately £17,000 left to be spent before the end of March.

Mr M Peterson asked if the guidelines were discussed at the recent meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils, as was agreed at the last meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that Mr R Anderson and Mr J MacLeod had attended the meeting and that the issue had been discussed. The ASCC were happy with the operation of Lerwick Community Council and their interpretation of the guidelines but they had made a decision to refer it to

the Liaison Group. They will discuss it and decide whether they want to amend anything and we will hear from them in due course.

05/10/12

Planning Applications

12.1 Extend existing retail store - Co-operative Store, Holmsgarth Road

No objections. Members were pleased that the delivery access to the store was to be moved to the rear of the building and away from the main road.

12.2 Erect 12 dwellinghouses - south of Nederdale Housing Scheme

Cllr W Stove noted that the site was on the boundary between his ward and that of Cllr J Henry, and that they had both recently attended a meeting with residents in the area. Concern had been expressed at this meeting that it was a very tight site and access to it could cause problems. They felt amending the plan to have less houses on the site would be an improvement.

The Chairman noted that, given the length of current waiting lists and the shortage of housing in Lerwick, any new builds must be welcomed.

Cllr W Stove stated that the residents felt the plans could be amended slightly. There were a number of parking places available on the site and perhaps could be made available to residents in Nederdale. He suggested including a path between the two housing schemes to allow access to parking, which may make it a better "selling point" to the residents.

The Chairman noted that there were no objections and that an observation should be added that access to parking should be made available to Nederdale residents by way of a path between both schemes.

05/10/13

Any Other Business

13.1 Free Travel for Pensioners

Cllr G Feather noted that members of the public had expressed confusion over the planned free travel for pensioners and asked if Lerwick Community Council could obtain clarification on the scheme.

Cllr W Stove stated that the plan was open to consultation at the moment and that other councillors had suggested free air tickets instead of boat passages. He urged the public to request air tickets.

The Chairman agreed to write to Tavish Scott, MSP, for further information and to suggest free air travel for pensioners and others who were eligible.

13.2 Dry Stone Dyke - Bruce Hostel

Cllr W Stove noted that rebuilding work still has not been done to the wall at the Bruce Hostel which was taken down over a year and a half ago.

The Chairman agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council to find out when they intend replacing the dyke.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

MR T R NICOLSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL