

MINUTE

‘A&B’

Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 3 February 2009 at 10.00am

Present:

A S Wishart	L Angus
L F Baisley	A J Cluness
A T J Cooper	A T Doull
A G L Duncan	E L Fullerton
F B Grains	I J Hawkins
R S Henderson	A J Hughson
W H Manson	C H J Miller
R C Nickerson	F A Robertson
G Robinson	J G Simpson
C L Smith	J W G Wills

Apologies

J Budge	J H Henry
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In Attendance (Officers):

W E Shannon, Assistant Chief Executive
G Greenhill, Executive Director Infrastructure Services
S Cooper, Head of Environment and Building Services
M Craigie, Head of Transport
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
D Macnae, Network and Design Manager, Roads
H Tait, Service Manager, Management Accountancy
B Robb, Management Accountant
K Foster, Accountancy Officer
J Grant, Waste Services Manager
A Taylor, Heritage Manager
M Lisk, Environmental Management Officer
A Cogle, Service Manager, Administration
L Gair, Committee Officer

Chairperson:

Mr A S Wishart, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

Mr F A Robertson, Mrs F B Grains and Mr R C Nickerson declared an interest in item 6, as Trustees of the Shetland Amenity Trust.

Mrs C H J Miller declared an interest in item 11 as a landowner, but confirmed she would take part in the discussions.

Dr J W G Wills declared an interest in item 11 as a Bressay Resident.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Special Infrastructure Meeting held on 21 January 2009 were confirmed on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr A S Wishart.

Attendance at External Meetings

Mr R C Nickerson Nuclear Free local Authorities (NFLA) Manchester, 11-12 December 2008

Mr G Robinson & Scottish & Southern Energy, Perth, 21-22 January
Mr R C Nickerson 2009

02/09 **A970 Oversund Roundabout - Safety Concerns**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Roads, attached as Appendix 1.

Mr L Angus moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report.

Dr J W G Wills said he did not understand why officials had recommended against the use of barriers. The Head of Roads provided a full explanation to the benefits and disadvantages of using barriers.

Mrs L F Baisley seconded Mr L Angus' motion and said that she hoped the Council would not find itself in this position again suggesting that a less expensive material be used in the future.

Mrs Miller asked what the cost would be to remove the red brick and replace with tar and road markings. The Chairperson stated that the matter was well explained in the report, in particular in Sections 5.8.1 and 5.8.2, however Mrs Miller asked why the same material as pavements were used. The Head of Roads explained that nationally red bricks were commonly used in drives and forecourts, but there also was a clear requirement that an over run area is provided on roundabouts to keep down the speed of traffic. He said there was clear advice for a slight upstand and change of colour providing both a physical and visual difference to keep the speed of traffic down. He added that to use bitmac would go against that guidance.

Mr L Angus said that he and other Members had received calls and correspondence on the matter and what research he had been able to do himself, showed that the roundabout was almost identical to what was built elsewhere in the country. He said that children needed to be educated however, some people would continue to act irresponsibly.

The Chairperson concluded by stating that the matter would be well monitored by Roads Services staff and noted from the report that advisory road markings for pedestrians would be put in place and that there would be an awareness and training programme initiated for the benefit of local schoolchildren.

03/09 **20mph Speed Limits at Schools - Proposed Acceleration of Programme**

The Committee considered a report by the Network and Design Manager, Roads attached as Appendix 2.

Mr R C Nickerson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mr A G L Duncan seconded.

In response to various queries, the Head of Roads and the Network and Design Manager advised that permanent 20mph limits would be implemented where

reasonably possible. In order to keep down the costs involved and confusion for the public, however, there was strong guidance in place, which prevented permanent limits at all schools. Part time units were required on main roads where traffic could not be expected to reduce their speed to 20mph for short sections 24 hours a day. Flashing lights were provided on these areas to alert drivers to the change in speed limit.

Members were advised that Hamnavoe and Tingwall were proposed in the new financial year 2009/10 and Scalloway had been added to the current financial year, pending public consultation. Referring to paragraph 7.2 of the report, Members were also advised that pending a decision at the next Council meeting, Symbister would be carried out at the same time as the footways in order to save money. The land had been purchased but the footways had yet to be funded.

Mr A T J Cooper expressed his concern regarding the Lunnasting School stating that the Whalsay ferry was diverted to Vidlin on 16 occasions over the winter and a 20mph was required. He stated that the community had been consulted and stated that the limit could not wait for the capital programme road works anticipated in 2011/12. Mr Cooper made a plea that it is brought forward for the needs of the school and Whalsay commuters. The Network and Design Manager advised that the design works and consultation would be completed in the next month. He advised that the community had chosen a permanent 20mph limit however that could not cover the whole area concerned, he said that it was important to find out what could and could not be done and that would be discussed during consultation. The Chairperson suggested that local ward Members should discuss the matter further with the Network and Design Manager.

Further queries were made and Members were advised that the data on pupil numbers related to 2006 figures, and although there had been changes these would not be hugely significant. They were also informed that of the 13 limits listed, 8 had been completed and 5 remained to do by the end of the financial year. The Head of Roads advised that everything was in place for 4 of the limits, but there was uncertainty with regard to Mid Yell.

The Chairperson stated that progress would be reported at the next cycle.

04/09 **Proposed General Fund Capital Programme 2009/2010**

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive, attached as Appendix 3.

The Chairman observed that, in his view, there were two important aspects to bear in mind, firstly that the report concentrated on 2009/10 budget with a recommendation that a Capital Programme for following years be established as soon as possible after the 2009/10 programme was agreed and secondly that only the Committee should concentrate on Infrastructure projects as the Harbour Board and Services Committee would separately consider their own capital projects.

The Assistant Chief Executive provided a brief explanation to the information contained in the appendices, stating that the 3rd column in appendix 2 was the Chief Executive's proposals. He added that all projects were also to be top sliced by 10%.

Members requested that page numbers should be added to the appendices, for ease of reference.

The Executive Director – Infrastructure said that savings had to be found and although 10% top slicing was the accepted methodology, he sought Members approval for 10% flexibility across budget heads.

The Chairperson stated that the last 5 items in Section C was a big liability in 2010/11 with design works in 2009/10 and that once started they had to continue in future years. Mr F A Robertson said there was little room for manoeuvre and that projects should not be included if they could not be achieved due to land, design or planning problems. He said he would not wish to raise local expectations and said that it was important to ensure the way was clear before committing to the programme.

Mr L Angus referred to the Anderson High School and noted that it appeared in faint type as there was no budget in the capital programme for the project and funding was yet to be identified. He said that if external funding was not found, it would have a detrimental affect on the capital programme.

In response to a query, the Head of Environment and Building Services advised that he would provide Mrs F B Grains with more information regarding the Aith School roof, following the meeting.

Mr A T J Cooper queried the cost of burial grounds, and the Waste Services Manager advised that the only burial grounds in the programme were Fetlar and Bixter. He said everything was in place for Fetlar, and the land acquisition was yet to be completed for Bixter. He further advised that the remaining years capacity for Bixter was five years however there was no capacity for Fetlar.

The Chairperson stated that the report would be considered again at Services Committee on Thursday and again at Council. Mr A S Wishart moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, Mr F A Robertson seconded.

Dr J W G Wills said that he had economies he would like to suggest, including Vehicle & Plant costs being cut to £500,000, ICT being cut to £½ million, Haggersta to Cova Road being postponed with 50mph signs installed, and Fetlar breakwater and Whalsay terminal being postponed. However, he said these were only suggestions, which could be considered further at the Council meeting.

Mr Nickerson said that the Infrastructure Committee should also consider the Sandsayre Pier in Sandwick. He said that the pier was essential for the Island of Mousa and the tourism it brings which also had an affect on the Hoswick Visitor Centre. He advised Members that there would be 60% external funding. Mr Nickerson moved as an amendment that the Infrastructure Committee include the Sandsayre Pier at a cost of £100,000. However, he received no seconder.

05/09

Capital Replacement Programme of Council Vehicles

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Infrastructure, attached as Appendix 4.

Mr A G L Duncan drew attention to paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report and informed Members that the matter had previously been presented to Members at Audit and Scrutiny Committee with a further informal meeting with management and officers. Mr Duncan said that money had been spent “willy nilly” when it could have been spent elsewhere. He said it was a disgrace that the replacement programme

also appeared on the capital programme. Mr Duncan asked that the Chairman ask senior management to explain matters and requested a report be brought to the Infrastructure Committee.

The Chairperson stated that it was for the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to decide if they wished to discuss the matter further, but that it was not for the Infrastructure Committee to address the issues raised by Mr Duncan. He said he was pleased that the recently appointed Executive Director of Infrastructure Services had taken a grip on the replacement programme.

Mrs E L Fullerton said she welcomed the clear report and moved that the Infrastructure Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, with the addition to paragraph 8.3 "with a view to reducing the budget required for capital and revenue". Mr G Robinson seconded and said that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee would monitor progress.

In response to a query from Mr R C Nickerson, the Executive Director, Infrastructure said that it was not possible to define what the under spend would be in the current financial year. He said that the Council had an excellent fleet and maintenance section and that it would assess what was needed so services were not compromised, however it would not be the full amount in the current tendering process.

06/09 **Allotments: Update Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Services, attached as Appendix 5.

Mr A T J Cooper referred to the site identified in Mossbank and stated that the area had been earmarked as serviced housing sites and that the proposal today for allotments would go against that Council decision. He said that he supported the allotments, but not at the Upper Lea site, adding also that the ground was not good enough for allotments and that better ground should be sought. Mr A T J Cooper moved that the Committee approve the recommendations with the exclusion of the Mossbank site. Mrs E L Fullerton requested that the recommendation be amended to read "...lease arrangement for suitable land in Council ownership following consultation and agreement with the Community Council and local Members.....". Mr Cooper agreed to include the amendment to the recommendation within his motion. Mrs E L Fullerton seconded.

During further discussions, concern was expressed that consultation should not delay the progress of allotments. Members were advised that the next step would be for the Committee to approve a lease agreement and were of the opinion that where land was identified and agreement reached, allotments could go ahead. A Member cautioned that the allotments should not be allowed to deteriorate into an eyesore.

(Mr R C Nickerson left the Chamber)

07/09 **Shetland Amenity Trust - Architectural Heritage Programme**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Infrastructure, attached as Appendix 6.

Mr L Angus commented that Amenity Trust investment was contrary to policy and he was concerned that the Council were being asked for assistance at a time when its capital programme was already constrained.

The Chairperson drew attention to paragraphs 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 which explained there were procedural reasons for this request and that the Council had advised the Trust to seek funds through the Shetland Charitable Trust, however they received a response in December and now did not know where funding for the programme would come from. The Heritage Manager added that in order for the programme to continue, the Trust had to ask the Council.

Mr A T J Cooper advised that the Council had received a business plan from the Trust and the request was in accordance with that.

Mr A J Cluness moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr G Robinson.

08/09 **Fair Isle Aerodrome - Request for Subsidy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 7.

Mr A G L Duncan spoke in support of the request stating that the aerodrome was essential for the lifeblood of the Island and moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs F B Grains.

(Mrs C H J Miller left the Chamber)

Some Members expressed their concerns regarding the request from the National Trust stating that it was important that the £15,000 be used in Fair Isle for the upkeep of the fire tender or the salary of the staff on Fair Isle, and that it be made a grant condition and a breakdown of their accounts be provided.

(Mr R C Nickerson returned to the Chamber)

Mr A J Cluness suggested that a meeting be set up with the Trust in order to obtain answers to questions, and moved as an amendment that a meeting take place prior to the release of the grant. Mr A T J Cooper seconded.

(Mrs C H J Miller returned to the Chamber)

Following summing up, voting took place by a show of hands and the results were as follows:

Amendment (A J Cluness)	16
Motion (Mr A G L Duncan)	4

09/09 **Zero Waste Fund**

The Committee considered a report by the Waste Services Manager, attached as Appendix 8.

(Dr J W G Wills left the Chamber)

Mrs C H J Miller moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report and said that this was good use of money and asked what the Council would get back on it.

The Waste Services Manager said that they hoped to provide a quality that could be

sold to the public, however that not been quantified.

Mr R C Nickerson seconded and requested that a small bottle bank be provided in Bigton. The Waste Services Manager agreed that would be possible.

(Dr J W G Wills returned to the Chamber)

Mrs L Baisley suggested collection points be arranged for wood and compost in the North Isles. She was also concerned that the second hand chipper may be false economy and in response, the Waste Services Manager stated that it was an industrial chipper and was being sold as it was not suitable for the processor who purchased it. He said that the Service would not have afforded a new chipper of that size.

In response to a further query from Mrs Baisley regarding the disposal of agricultural plastic, the Waste Services Manager advised that he was aware that a National Scheme was being considered, however he had not heard if it had progressed. He added that the market for all recycling materials in the current economic climate had declined. Mr L Angus also referred to plastic from the fishing industry which should also be kept in mind. The Waste Service Manager said that it was hoped that the chipper would be able to chip salmon cages which would then be shipped south. He added that last year the fishing industry had been offered free disposal, but there had been a low response.

10/09 **A971 Haggersta to Cova - Progress on Report, January 2009**

The Committee considered a report by the Network and Design Manager, Roads, attached as Appendix 9.

(Mrs E L Fullerton left the Chamber)

In response to queries, the Network and Design Manager confirmed that contact had been made with all landowners and there was no indication of any problems.

Members were advised that the Compulsory Purchase Orders process was being done again however the Council would attempt to secure land voluntarily for some months before the CPO process is put into action. They were also advised that there had been no objections with regard to land acquisition.

The Chairperson advised that the timetable had been set and that a report would be brought to the Committee each cycle.

11/09 **Whalsay Link - Progress Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 10.

Mr J G Simpson said that he welcomed the report and advised that he had attended the tank test and had been impressed at how realistic it was. Mr Simpson said however that the capital programme indicated that the project would be carried out in 2013/14 which was 5 years away. He said that the Vidlin Terminal was very congested and next to the school, however if it was not for Vidlin, Whalsay would have been cut off for at least half the month. Mr Simpson said that Laxo, Whalsay and Vidlin terminals were in a poor condition and the budget was tight for what was required but that it was about what could be afforded as opposed to what was wanted. He urged that a decision be made in spring on how to move forward.

12/09 **Bressay Link Project Plan Development and Short-Term Measures**
The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 11.

In response to a request from Mrs C H J Miller, the Head of Transport provided a verbal update on the meeting held on Bressay on 22 January. He stated that the meeting discussed internal community transport, and that depending on what was suitable, they would see how it could be funded. He noted that there was real enthusiasm in the community.

The Chairperson stated that although the fixed link was on hold it was still Council policy to provide a fixed link which meant waiting for the outcome of the capital programme from the Council meeting on 17 February 2009.

Mrs Miller expressed her concern that paragraph 4.3.3 indicated that the Funding Options Assessment was at a halt, and that it was paramount for a decision on the capital programme and queried whether it could be funded from other means. The Chairperson said that they would not stop asking the Government and advised that ZetTrans were due to meet with them where the issue of funding would be brought up.

13/09 **Note of Road Safety Advisory Panel - 9 December 2008**
The Committee noted the minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Panel held on 9 December 2008, attached as Appendix 12.

14/09 **Minute of Inter Island Ferries Board - 15 January 2009**
The Committee noted the minutes of the Inter Island Ferries Board held on 15 January 2009, attached as Appendix 13.

Mr R C Nickerson drew attention to line 5 of the last paragraph on page 3 and asked that the minute be amended to read ".....however, a full and formal STAG process will be undertaken to consider.....".

15/09 **Note of Infrastructure and Environment Forum - Environmental Matters - 16 January 2009**
The Committee noted the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Forum held on 16 January 2009, attached as Appendix 14.

16/09 **Minute of ZetTrans- 19 January 2009**
The Committee noted the minutes of the ZetTrans meeting held on 19 January 2009, attached as Appendix 15.

Mrs I J Hawkins drew attention to page 2 of 4 – fuel prices, and asked that feedback be provided on the Western Isles situation.

In response to a query from Mrs C H J Miller, the Chairperson confirmed that the meeting with GB Oils would take place next week.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am.

A S Wishart

Chairperson