

MINUTE

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Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 1 September 2009 at 10.00am

Present:

A S Wishart	L Angus
L F Baisley	J Budge
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
J H Henry	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

In Attendance (Officers):

D Clark, Chief Executive
G Greenhill, Executive Director Infrastructure Services
S Cooper, Head of Environment and Building Services
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
M Craigie, Head of Transport
B Robb, Management Accountant
P Sutherland, Solicitor
M Dunne, Service Manager – Environmental Health
W Spence, Energy Recovery Plant Manager
R Beardsley, Maintenance Manager
M Lisk, Environmental Liaison Officer
J Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager
L Gair, Committee Officer

Apologies

W H Manson (for lateness)

Chairperson:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

Mr R C Nickerson declared an interest in item 16 as a Consultant for KIMO.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Infrastructure Meeting held on 16 June 2009, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Attendance at External Meetings

None

62/09 **Allotments in Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environment & Building Services, attached as Appendix 1.

Mr J H Henry moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr R C Nickerson. Mr Nickerson expressed his thanks to the Environmental Liaison Officer for her work over the last year.

In response to Members queries, the Head of Environment and Building Services and the Environmental Liaison Officer advised that communities would set up their own sub committees under the umbrella of the Shetland Allotments, Garden and Plots Committee. These community groups would make decisions on whether to allow hens and discuss the use of pesticides and weed killers. Members were advised that progress was being made on a site for allotments in Lerwick and further information would be available when this progressed further. They confirmed that the type of fencing was addressed by the planning conditions and that stock proof fencing would be used. Waste disposal would also be addressed by the hiring of skips in the autumn and spring with smaller bins being used at other times. There would also be a notice board providing information on plot holders and of the Committee/Sub-Committee membership.

The Chairperson advised Members that further queries could be presented to Officers directly.

63/09 **Scheme of Assistance**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health, attached as Appendix 2.

Mr L Angus said that this scheme had always been over subscribed and used to improve old houses without modern amenities. This allowed the elderly to stay in their own properties for longer. He queried whether there was budget to cover the likely demand. The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that demand had been managed by looking at priorities whilst recognising there was a reducing budget. She said it was not possible to meet the needs of all but focus had been restricted to those most in need and money was recycled by introducing repayable loans in the event that a house is sold.

In response to a query the Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that the budget would go down by £200,000 from this year to 2013.

Mr L Angus moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report and that the Scheme be reviewed annually. Dr J W G Wills seconded, and the Service Manager – Environmental Health confirmed to him that maintaining existing homes was more cost effective then transferring individuals into Council properties. She advised that where possible a property would be improved to keep individuals safe in their home with the minimum of work.

64/09 **Contaminated Land Identification and Assessment**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health, attached as Appendix 3, and approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr A T J Cooper, seconded by Mr C L Smith.

65/09 **Scottish Road Condition Survey Results**

The Committee considered a report by the Maintenance Manager - Roads, attached

as Appendix 4.

Mr A T J Cooper requested that in future, graphs be provided in colour and asked that Administrative Services be provided with a colour copier. Mr I J Hawkins agreed stating that she had raised the same point many times.

Mr L Angus said that he would like to see a strategy developed for busier roads to replace single track with double track. He referred to the Aith, and Vidlin to Laxo as busy road, not suitable in relation to the size and volume of traffic.

The Chairperson advised that this would be addressed under agenda item 9.

(Mr W H Manson attended the meeting)

Mr R S Henderson said that he would be pleased if the Cullivoe road was at a similar standard to that at Aith. He said that there were 20+ articulated lorries and buses using the Cullivoe road and that had to be addressed.

Mr A T J Cooper referred to paragraph 7.2 and said it would be wrong to earmark £1½million until the capital programme had been considered. He said that he was not against the concept, but there was no budget. The Executive Director agreed and said that it would be put into the capital programme process.

Mrs L Baisley moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr G Robinson.

66/09 **Review of Air Services in the Highlands and Islands**

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

The Head of Transport briefly introduced the report and encouraged Members to respond individually by 11 September 2009.

During discussions, Members were advised that communication with Orkney was carried out through HiTrans and the Tier 2 Forum. The Head of Transport advised that authorities would deal with local issues through their own consultations. Members agreed that there was a good external air service that was saving the authority money due to the benefits of the Air Discount Scheme, but concern was raised with regard to the age of the Saab Aircrafts. Mr A T J Cooper stated that forward planning was required to ensure resources were in place for the future.

Dr J W G Wills asked whether it was possible to combine the Public Service Obligation (PSO) with Orkney and was concerned that Aberdeen may lose its link with Heathrow.

Mr R C Nickerson was concerned that Loganair may lose slots in Edinburgh and suggested that a PSO arrangement would address that. He added that the single engine aircraft had a high safety record in Canada and Scandinavia but stated that the Islander aircraft have a definitive lifespan and alternatives need to be considered for the long term.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that she supported the PSO arrangement and said that it was also important for tourists to have the opportunity of cheaper rates. She added that she would also like to see the link with Glasgow improved to reduce the stay necessary when attending to business in Glasgow.

Mr G Robinson advised that Flybe considered 12 year old's as adults and queried why they were looking at adult fares for 12-16 year olds.

The Chairperson reiterated that Members should also submit their comments by 11 September 2009 to the Mott Macdonald study.

67/09 **Appointment of Members to Outer Isles STAG Working Group**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 6.

The Head of Transport briefly introduced the report and the Chairperson called for nominations for the appointment of Members to the Outer Isles STAG Working Group. The Committee agreed that substitute Members should also be nominated. Therefore the following Members were duly appointed:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
R C Nickerson	J Budge
G Robinson	F A Robertson
R S Henderson	J G Simpson

68/09 **Whalsay Link – Choice of Site for Whalsay Ferry Terminal**

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

Mr J G Simpson advised that the island's view was split and having considered all the information he had decided that the terminal should remain in the South Harbour. He said that it was important to get a new terminal and the design team had come up with a plan that would accommodate the Marina with a solid pier to separate it from the ferry. He said that the tie up berth for the ferry would move back to where the ferry operates at present which would open 3 berths for the white fish fleet. Mr Simpson said that Symbister was the hub of Whalsay with the boating club and a proposed new Cope restaurant. He said if the Committee supported his view, planning permissions should be sought and put in place. Mr J G Simpson moved that the Committee agree that the Whalsay Ferry Terminal be located in Symbister Harbour. Mr G Robinson seconded.

Some Members spoke in support of the decision and Mr Simpson advised that a larger ferry of the type on Yell Sound that would replace the Linga would double the car capacity on the ferry.

In response to a query from Mr J H Henry, Mr Simpson advised that it would be up to Ports and Harbours Operations whether dredging the pelagic vessel berthing area would be done.

Dr J W G Wills said that both options were good and the estimated costs were reasonably close, however Officers had recommended North Voe and they had looked at matters more closely. Dr Wills moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. No seconder was received.

Mr R C Nickerson queried whether there would be an impact on any application for external funding with the decision going against the findings of the STAG and the advice of Officers. The Head of Transport advised that both options had pros and cons and the outcome had been close. He said that the North Voe placed the least constraints on capacity and the ability of the service to operate in more extreme

conditions and was the more clinical option, however Symbister was the heritage and community hub for the Island. The Head of Transport was of the view that there would be no additional risk to securing external funding, as both options were defensible.

Mrs E L Fullerton said that although Members accepted Officers advice, there would be times when they would not always agree with Officers.

Mr A T J Cooper advised, as Chairperson for Harbour Board, that the Harbour Board would consider the matter of dredging at the pelagic berths.

69/09 **Scottish Ambulance Service Consultation**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 8.

The Head of Transport advised Members that the second ambulance had been secured and a second crew was being recruited. Once that had been completed the crew would be trained. Mrs B Fullerton advised that NHS Shetland had agreed to pay existing crew overtime to have the second ambulance in place as soon as possible.

Mrs L F Baisley said that the Yell Community Council wanted it made known that they did not want the removal of the Yell service. Mrs Baisley also referred to the condition of the road to the Fetlar Airstrip stating that it could cause discomfort to patients who were transported to the airstrip to be transported by helicopter. She queried who was responsible for the road and whether the Council could improve it. The Executive Director – Infrastructure said that he was familiar with that stretch of road and he would investigate who owned the road and report back to the Committee.

Mr R C Nickerson said that there was a perception that the Inverness helicopter was not suitable for the remote isles in Shetland and stated that the fall back position was the use of the Bond helicopter based at Scatsta. He said that this would not be available on demand due to commitments off shore. He said that meant that the emergency helicopter Oscar Charlie would be used, however that was not a perfect scenario for Fair Isle as there was concern that it would not be reliable due to being called away on other emergency calls.

Mr W H Manson referred to the comment at paragraph 4.1.2 and queried the use of public transport for non-emergency outpatients. The Chairperson said it would depend on the condition of the patient. Mr Manson said that someone being released from hospital may have difficulty getting to the bus terminal and said that the matter needed to be handled with care. The Head of Transport said that consideration had to be given to how we can share resources with other agencies to provide non-emergency transport and how to involve the communities in developing a strategy. The Head of Transport asked for the Committee's views on how we could work together towards an integrated transport system. He said that various resources existed in the public sector there are perhaps opportunities to be more integrated in their use. He said that some of the transport the Scottish Ambulance Service provides could be likened to demand responsive transport perhaps there is an option to integrate services through a call centre that the Transport Service is looking at, and this would be pursued. He said that Members views would be taken on board.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that some areas have dial a ride services but not in every area. She said she was pleased that there would be a second crew for the ambulance services, and added that it was essential for there to be second ambulance.

Members discussed the possibility of there being a landing pad at Clickimin and noted there may be planning issues around this. Mrs E L Fullerton agreed that agencies needed to work together. She said that some patients needed a method of getting to the hospital or other elements of health care but did not necessarily need an ambulance. She said that Clickimin would provide a big advantage to patients, as it was closer to the Hospital. She added that there is already a good relationship between NHS Shetland and the MCA and the availability of a helicopter based at Sumburgh meant that Shetland was better serviced than Orkney who are covered by Inverness.

Mr L Angus said that the Red Cross provided a good service to Lerwick and said that dialogue should be encouraged with the Red Cross to develop their service throughout Shetland. He added that Oscar Charlie could cope with winds that no other aircraft could and suggested that links with the MCA should be encouraged so that the helicopter can be used in extreme weather. He said that this would be an important link for the isles.

The Committee noted the recommendations.

70/09 **Review of Main Road Improvement Policy**

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

Mr A G L Duncan spoke in detail with regard to the two blind spots on a stretch of the A970 at Levenwick, stating that it required the highest priority. He also referred to a stretch of road between the Dunrossness Public Hall to the South of Mainland's Shop and Allan's of Gillock. Mr Duncan thanked the Head of Roads Services and his staff for the prompt research work on the speed limit, and asked if there was sufficient evidence to reduce it further to 40mph. The Chairperson indicated that reducing a speed limit was not an easy process.

Mr R S Henderson referred to paragraph 3.4 and said that he would like to see Gutcher to Cullivoe road added to the list.

Mr R C Nickerson said that he supported Mr Duncan's comments. Mr Nickerson referred to the visits to each ward and said that a progress report had been sought on several occasions and asked for an update to be provided. He also referred to page 9 of 10 and said that although priority had been given to Levenwick, the Bigton Loop road was still important.

(Mrs C H J Miller left the Chamber)

The Executive Director advised that communication had been identified as a problem and a letter would be issued to each Councillor Member and Community Council advising of their road engineer and update would be provided on work to be carried out with accountability being invoked.

Mr F A Robertson advised Members of the role of the MOWG Roads and said that Community Councils were involved in the visits within their area. He advised that lists were prepared, but they were constrained by finance. He said that the capital rolling programme allow for works to be carried out that might not otherwise be possible through the capital programme.

(Mrs C H J Miller returned to the Chamber)

Mr F A Robertson moved the recommendations contained in the report in conjunction with the debate that Members put forward. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

In response to a query from Mrs F B Grains, the Head of Roads advised that he would update her after the meeting on the progress made at Park Hall and Lax burn. She also advised that the Brig 'o' Fitch sign for Sandness said 22 miles but at Tingwall it stated 24 miles. The Head of Roads noted this error.

Mr G Robinson said that providing a bus interchange drop off, clear of the main road might address the problem at Dunrossness. With regard to safety, he added that school buses should not be over taken. Mr Nickerson and Mr Duncan felt that the interchange would reduce traffic, but would not reduce the speed of traffic heading to the airport.

Mrs L F Baisley referred to paragraph 4.6 in Appendix 1 and queried whether the phrase "(See 4.3 above)" at the end of the fourth bullet point was an error, as there was no mention of Mid Yell Link road in paragraph 4.3. The Head of Roads advised that it was an error and should have been removed. The Head of Roads said that he would provide Mrs Baisley with an update on the Mid Yell Link Road following the meeting.

Mr W H Manson referred to paragraph 3.3 and stated that the word "almost" should be removed and that it includes all projects. Mr Manson referred to paragraph 4.5 and noted that Hillswick to Urafirth was not being progressed but stated that it was a dangerous road with only one passing place across three and a half miles and said he would like to now when the road would appear on the capital programme.

Mrs E L Fullerton referred to paragraph 6.1 and asked that all Councillors be included in the consultation process. She added that the staff on the Member Officer Working Group did a good job and the trip to the central ward created a list, which was agreed by Members. She said that this list was monitored and a lot of work had been done. She said there was onus on Members to ensure what comes out of the trips are followed up. Mrs Fullerton asked that the road to the salmon farm on Burra Isle be inspected.

(Dr J W G Wills left the Chamber)

Mr A T J Cooper said that to alleviate the concerns of the community, it was important to give consideration to adjacent works when larger project are carried out.

Mr J G Simpson said it was important to mark blind dips and blind summits across the network and he would like to see progress on that.

(Mr J G Simpson left the Chamber)

(Dr J W G Wills returned to the Chamber)

In response to a query from Mr C L Smith, the Head of Roads agreed to provide feedback from the Gulberwick Loop Road exhibition, to the Gulberwick Community.

Mr F A Robertson, with the support of his seconder agreed to include within his motion, that the Cullivoe to Gutcher Road be included on the list and that the word "almost" be removed from paragraph 3.3.

71/09 **Papa Stour Road: Progress Report on Urgent Remedial Works**

The Committee considered a report by the Network and Design Manager - Roads, attached as Appendix 10.

(Mr J G Simpson returned to the Chamber)

Mr G Robinson said that Members should recognise that these works will be a temporary measure but will make the road passable in a reasonable condition for the winter. Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs L F Baisley.

Mr F A Robertson said that this was a good example of managing a project from the capital programme to minor works programme. He said that there would be a complete reconstruction of this section of road to bring it up to a suitable standard.

72/09 **20 MPH Speed Limits at Schools – Progress Report, September 2009**

The Committee noted a report by the Road Safety Engineer, attached as Appendix 11.

Mrs L Baisley moved that the Committee note the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr L Angus.

Mr A G L Duncan referred to paragraphs 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5 and asked when the fault would be fixed. The Head of Roads advised that one of the units had been returned to the manufacturer, and it was hoped that it would not take long to resolve the problem and an answer was expected shortly.

(Mr F A Robertson left the Chamber)

In response to a query at 5.18, Mrs Baisley and her seconder agreed that the Lunnasting School be carried out in 2010/11.

Members acknowledged the speed in which the speed limits project was being carried out and thanked the Roads Service staff for their efforts.

In response to Mr L Angus' concerns regarding the length of time the Scottish Water South Road works were taking. The Chairperson agreed that contact should be made with Scottish Water.

73/09 **A971 Haggersta to Cova – Report on Progress, August 2009**

The Committee noted a report by the Network and Design Manager, Roads, attached as Appendix 12.

The Head of Roads advised that the period of negotiations for land purchase would conclude at the end of September. Should no agreement be reached, the Compulsory Purchase Order procedures would be initiated.

(Dr J W G Wills left the Chamber)

74/09 **Infrastructure Revenue Management Accounts**
General Ledger and Reserve Fund
For the Period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Finance, attached as Appendix 13.

75/09 **Sustainable Transport Demonstration Project**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 14.

76/09 **Integrated Ticketing Across Shetland's Transport Network**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Transport, attached as Appendix 15.

In response to a query from Mr A T J Cooper, the Head of Transport said that he would check whether the ERDF funding was being used for this project, and report back to him.

77/09 **Minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group**

The Committee noted the minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group held on 10 April 2009, attached as Appendix 16.

78/09 **Minutes of the Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group held on 16 April 2009, attached as Appendix 17.

79/09 **Minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Panel – 16 June 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Panel held on 16 June 2009, attached as Appendix 18.

80/09 **Minutes of Infrastructure and Environment Forum – 25 June 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Forum held on, 25 June 2009 attached as Appendix 19.

In response to a query from Mr L Angus, Mrs I J Hawkins confirmed that the NAFC Marine Centre was involved with matters relating to renewable energy.

81/09 **Minutes of ZetTrans – 14 August 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the ZetTrans meeting held on 14 August 2009, attached as Appendix 20.

Mrs L F Baisley expressed her concern that the Fetlar Breakwater may be lost within the capital programme to other expensive projects and made a plea that it does not get overseen.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr A S Wishart moved, and I J Hawkins seconded, to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of agenda items 21 and 22.

(Mr G Robinson declared an interest in the following item, as the Chairperson for Shetland Heat, Energy and Power)

82/09 **Waste to Energy Plant – Shell Waste**

The Committee considered a report by the Energy Recovery Plant Manager and approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

83/09 **Purchase of New Refuse and Bin Lift – Exemption from Standing Orders**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport and approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr J H Henry, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

The meeting concluded at 12.40 am.

A S Wishart
Chairperson