

**Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 3 October 2012 at 10am**

Present:

M Bell	R Henderson
D Ratter	G Robinson
D Sandison	G Smith
T Smith	M Stout
A Wishart	

Apologies:

J Wills

In Attendance (Officers):

M Boden, Chief Executive
P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services
D Coupe, Executive Manager – Roads
J Emptage, Executive Manager – Environmental Operations
D Polson, Team Leader – Transport Operations
C Gair, Traffic and Road Safety Engineer
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
L Rosie, Communications Officer
A Cogle, Team Leader - Administration
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also In Attendance (Members)

G Cleaver
B Fox
F Robertson

Chair:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

None.

22/12 Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on 15 August 2012, having been circulated, were confirmed on the motion of Mr Sandison seconded by Mr Stout.

23/12 Non-Aviation Use of Council Owned Aerodromes

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Transport Operations (Report No: ETO-05-12-F), which sought approval for non-aviation uses of Council operated aerodromes.

The Team Leader - Transport Operations introduced the report and confirmed to Members that there would be a refund provided in relation to the payment received for Unst if the new Charges are implemented. He explained that the new rate was based on 50% of Tingwall due to the fact that the aerodrome is not licensed and there is less need for staff to be present.

During consideration of the report Members sought clarification on a number of issues and in response the Team Leader – Transport Operations explained that the figures indicated for income to the local Unst economy had been provided by the Motorsport Club, based on the cost of accommodation and the number of anticipated events. He explained that the signed agreement would indemnify the Council against any costs for making good any damage caused. The Team Leader – Transport Operations also explained that the agreement stated that, prior to any event, the Club must consult with the Police, Fire, Ambulance and Community Councils.

Concern was expressed with regard to the potential for serious accidents and the distance in which the blue light services have to go. Members were advised that this was true of any event held in the Isle and would require the same response as any other accident on the island.

Mr Robinson stated that it was incumbent on the Council, at a time of cutbacks, to find new ways of increasing income and this was one example. Mr Robinson moved that the Council approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mr Sandison seconded.

Mr Henderson advised that the Community were concerned that there would be an increase in speeding on the main roads increasing the potential for serious accidents, when these events are being held. It was also anticipated that the income from the events would be less than indicated.

Mr Henderson moved as an amendment that the Council approve the recommendations contained in the report with the removal of the Unst Airport from the situation. Mr Bell seconded.

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

Amendment (Mr Henderson)	5
Motion (Mr Robinson)	4

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED:-**

- to recommend to Executive Committee to approve the use of Tingwall Airport aerodrome for non-aviation uses including but not limited to Motorsport events;
- that the existing licence arrangement between Shetland Islands Council and Shetland Motorsports Club be terminated in accordance with the terms and conditions and the fee be refunded;

- to agree that events may only take place after organising parties have contacted communities/stakeholders and signed agreements to indemnify Shetland Islands Council.

24/12 **Harrison Square and Irvine Place, Lerwick**

The Committee considered a report by the Traffic and Road Safety Engineer (Report No: RD-09-12-F), which informed of the existing policy on the development and enhancement of Harrison Square, the consultations held and sought approval to progress a specific scheme of improvements.

The Traffic and Road Safety Engineer introduced the report and responded to Members questions. He explained that if option 1 was approved there would be a notice placed in the local press and any unresolved objections would be brought back to the Committee. The Traffic and Road Safety Engineer advised that option 1 would mean the removal of the three parking spaces at the chip shop and padlock removable bollards would be placed to restrict entry but would allow access by emergency services.

The Traffic and Road Safety Engineer also advised Members that he had written to the businesses in the area, as well as the BID Company and Lerwick Community Council. He explained that the BID company represented the town centre businesses and shops. The only responses received had been from the BID company and Lerwick Community Council. The Chair added that there had been a meeting with the Bid Company representative and the Community Council Chair and both parties agreed with option 1. It was noted that any further representations could be made once the Traffic Order was advertised.

Members were advised that a loading bay would allow deliveries to take place and it was acknowledged that the distance of the loading bay from businesses was similar to other sections of the main street. It was noted that the road between the TSB and Harbour House would not be closed.

Mr T Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Stout.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to approve

- the layout shown in Option 1 and that it be constructed as soon as possible to make use of the external funding currently available.
- promotion of a traffic order to make Harrison Square traffic-free with loading operations in the area to be carried out from Irvine Place or the new loading bay on the Esplanade.
- that if the above traffic order is confirmed, bollards will be erected to prevent access by vehicles.

25/12 **Appointment to External Organisations – Shetland Environment Forum**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Governance and Law (Report No: GL-88-12-F), which presented a proposal from the Shetland

Amenity Trust to appoint one Member to attend meetings of the Shetland Environment Group.

Mr Fox said that the position should not default to the Chair of Environment and Transport Committee and that this position related to natural heritage rather than the built environment. He said that this report should be presented to the Council to allow all Members the opportunity to be considered.

The Chair nominated Mr Fox to be appointed to this Forum, seconded by Mr Stout.

There being no further nominations, Mr Fox accepted the appointment.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Fox to represent the Council on the Shetland Environment Group.

26/12 **Street Cleansing Service Reduction of Staff – Review SR-R023**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Operations (Report No: ETO-03-12-F), which informed of the outcome of a review of Street Cleansing Services to allow for a reduction in staff employed in Service, through natural wastage.

The Executive Manager – Environmental Operations introduced the report and in responding to questions from Members he advised of the following:

- The reduction in non contractual overtime would mean that the service had changed in Lerwick with a reduction of four to two staff on Saturday and Sunday Mornings. This was being monitored to ensure that an acceptable level of standards continues to be met.
- Feedback since the changes were implemented in Scalloway in June had been good. A street cleansing service is provided 5 days a week and random spot checks are carried out to monitor cleanliness standards. The Executive Manager – Environmental Operations confirmed that the leaf fall and seaweed build ups would continue to be addressed with assistance of specialist equipment provided by the Roads Service when required.

The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the shortfall occurred due to the savings being budgeted for at the beginning of the year but the retirements only took place part way through the year. He advised that savings would be found from elsewhere within the service or department.

Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Henderson.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to:-

- accept option 3 as the outcome from this review; and

- requested that the Director of Infrastructure Services make alternative savings for the shortfall of £26,000 in order to meet the approved savings target for 2012/13.

27/12 **Burial Ground Extensions – Bixter and Voe**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Operations (Report No: ETO-04-12-F), which sought to review the proposed extensions to the burial grounds at Bixter and Voe, in light of the current financial situation and to make efficient and effective use of the Council's existing assets before committing expenditure to new assets.

The Director of Infrastructure Services circulated additional information relating to the number of lairs remaining in graveyards in the surrounding areas to Bixter and Voe, together with a map of the proposed site at Berry Knowe.

During lengthy discussions, Members commented on the advance reservation system and it was suggested that this be reviewed. The tender process was explained to Members who were advised that the lowest tender received was within budget and has been viewed as being value for money.

The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that Members were being asked to approve the recommendations in principle until consultation with Community Councils was carried out. He explained that Officers would write to the tenderers asking them to hold their prices for a period of time but he explained that there was a risk that they would withdraw from the process.

Members went on to discuss the specification for the burial grounds and were informed that this may be an opportunity to reduce the specification by removing the need for a dry stone dyke around the car parks and replacing them with a wire fence as well as reducing the specification on the ground works.

Following deliberations on the recommendations contained in the report, Mr Sandison moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Robinson.

Mr T Smith moved as an amendment that the Committee:

- instruct Officers to review the specification with the removal of the dry-stone dyke around the Bixter carpark;
- re-negotiate a price on the new specification for Bixter extension with the lowest tenderer;
- proceed with the Bixter extension following that process; and
- approve recommendation 2.1.2.

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

Amendment (Mr T Smith)	2
Motion (Mr Sandison)	6

Decision:

The Environment & Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to

- agree in principle to defer work on the provision of an extension to the burial grounds currently in progress for Bixter and Voe in the Council's capital programme for the life of the medium term financial plan from 2012 to 2017 subject to consultation with relevant Community Councils and a further report to this Committee; and
- agree that any future potential extension to Voe Burial Ground be at the alternative site at Berry Knowe rather than next to the existing ground.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

Chair