

MINUTE

‘A’ & ‘B’

**Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 19 October 2004 at 10.30 a.m.**

Present:

J C Irvine	L Angus
B J Cheyne	C B Eunson
R G Feather	F B Grains
B P Gregson	L G Groat
I J Hawkins	J H Henry
J A Inkster	E J Knight
W H Manson	W A Ratter
F A Robertson	J G Simpson
W N Stove	T W Stove
W Tait	

Apologies:

A J Cluness
Capt G G Mitchell
J P Nicolson

In Attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services
M Craigie, Projects Unit Manager
C Nicolson, Projects Manager
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
D Macnae, Network Manager
J Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager
V Hawthorne, Development Plans Manager
S Pallant, Planning Officer (Implementation)
P Wishart, Solicitor
D Fiedler, Chief Accountant
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Chairperson:

Mr J C Irvine, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minute of the meeting held on 31 August 2004, having been circulated, was approved.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

The following Members provided a brief synopsis of their attendance at the following meetings:

Mr J C Irvine: (27 August) Sumburgh Airport Partnership Board,
Inverness

The Chairman advised that the extension to the runway at Sumburgh Airport had been discussed.

(3 September) Meeting with Loganair, Glasgow

The Chairman advised that general concerns had been discussed, including Loganair's service in Shetland and air ambulance issues. This meeting had been followed up with a visit to Shetland by the Chairman and Chief Executive of Loganair.

(13 September) SAPC 55th Annual Conference, Crieff

Conference, (14 September) Corporate Social Responsibility
Edinburgh

Executive (14 September) CoSLA Roads and Transportation
Task Force

The Chairman said that the meeting discussed Scotland's Transport Future White Paper.

Scotland (27 September) Tourism Conference – Promoting
Abroad, Edinburgh

AGM, (29 September) Scottish Accident Prevention Council
Glasgow

and (5 October) Reserve Forces & Cadets Highlands
Islands, Inverness

(8 October) HITRANS Meeting, Inverness

The Chairman reported that the meeting in Inverness had discussed Scottish transport issues and the air ambulance service. A special meeting in Inverness has been arranged for 25 October, where the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services and the Chairman, will meet with representatives from the Western Isles Council and Orkney Islands Council to discuss a possible joint submission regarding the air ambulance contract. It was proposed that the outcome of that meeting would be reported to the Executive Committee on 26 October.

The Committee considered a report by the Projects Unit Manager, (Appendix 1)

(Mr L G Groat declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Chairman of Lerwick Port Authority (LPA)).

Mr L G Groat, spoke on behalf of his constituents, Lerwick Fish Traders Ltd, who have submitted a planning application to extend their factory. He stated that construction of the Bressay Bridge would have an adverse effect on the proposed extension to the factory, with the whole production possibly having to relocate to Scotland.

Mr Groat stated that LPA have repeatedly tried to bring Members' attention to the problems LPA have with the planning of the bridge. He referred to a letter from LPA dated 18 October (copy attached as Appendix 1A) which had been sent to Members and Officers. Mr Groat added that he supported the content of the letter. Mr Groat reported that there are currently three objections with the Scottish Executive and that an enquiry could take up to 4-5 years. Mr Groat said that as the Project Team had not listened to the objectors concerns, he suggested that structured meetings should be arranged to allow the objectors views to be heard. He added that the objectors would not withdraw their objections unless SIC meets their requirements.

(Mr L G Groat then left the meeting while this item was discussed).

Mr L Angus said that he had been quite shocked at the content of the letter from LPA, as it contained some serious allegations. He referred to several statements in the letter and said it is apparent that LPA's problems are not about the engineering detail but regarding the whole principle of the bridge. He stated that as informal meetings are no longer acceptable to the LPA, properly constituted and minuted meeting should be held with the Convener, and other Members and officers in attendance.

The Executive Director, Infrastructure Services referred to the implication from LPA that the Project Team had not listened to LPA's views. He said that the Project Team had listened to the views of all stakeholders, however they cannot always agree.

Mr J A Inkster said that he was saddened by the situation which had arisen between LPA and SIC, after years of negotiation and communication regarding the Bressay Bridge project. He suggested that the recommendation in the report was the best way to move forward, to take onboard continuation of dialogue and to reach a settlement on all issues. Mr J A Inkster moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr J H Henry seconded.

Mrs B J Cheyne moved as an amendment that recommendation 15.2(a) be changed to read: "approach LPA to determine the LPA's

current specific requirements". In receiving the consent of his seconder, Mr J A Inkster agreed to incorporate Mrs Cheyne's amendment into his motion.

Mr W H Manson said that it appears that should SIC meet all LPA's requirements, and LPA withdraw their objections, the price of the project could be increased significantly and beyond the budget which has been set; and should the project be delayed due to the objections, the project could lose its European funding. Whichever way, it could jeopardise the Bressay Bridge project.

In response to a query from a Member regarding the wording in paragraph 15.2, the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services confirmed that the Convener, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Infrastructure Committee, Members for the harbour areas and the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services would be involved in discussions with stakeholders regarding the Bressay Bridge project.

(Mr L G Groat returned to the meeting)

53/04

Winter Service – Proposed Changes to Gritting Routes and Times

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 2).

The Head of Roads advised that this report was prompted by the introduction of a new scheduled early morning flight from Sumburgh to Edinburgh, commencing on 1 November. The current airport bus timetable has been revised with the first bus departing Lerwick at 6am, instead of 6.30am. The winter service provision needs to be addressed to cover this earlier departure of the bus service to the south mainland and to meet the requirements of school transport on a number of roads in Shetland.

Mr B P Gregson said that clearly status quo is not an option as there is a need to commence gritting earlier in the south mainland. He suggested that a sensible solution would be to commence all road gritting at an earlier time, including Sundays and public holidays. He accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr W H Manson seconded.

A Member suggested that consultation with staff should start as soon as possible. In response to a request from a Member, it was agreed that a report on the maintenance budget should be presented to the next Member Officer Working Group – Management of Road Schemes.

The Chairman commended Captain G G Mitchell on his efforts which have led to the introduction of the new early morning flight to Edinburgh.

54/04 **Tingwall Airport**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Transport Operations (Appendix 3).

Mrs I J Hawkins stated that the new regulations being introduced do not take into account that Shetland is a peripheral area. The Committee approved the recommendation in the report, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr J G Simpson.

55/04 **Siting of Wind Turbine at Skeld Primary School**

The Committee considered a report by the Energy Manager (Appendix 4) and, on the motion of Mrs F B Grains, seconded by Mr W Tait, approved the recommendation contained therein.

56/04 **Public Convenience Provision**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Services (Appendix 5).

Mr L Angus said that although he was concerned with the ongoing revenue commitment to allow for the increased public toilet provision, he hoped that the opening times for certain public toilets in Lerwick could be extended. Accordingly, Mr Angus moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr B P Gregson seconded.

In response to a query from a Member, it was confirmed that all toilets would be suitable for disabled use.

57/04 **Investing in Water Services 2006–2014 – The Quality and Standards III Project – A Consultation Paper**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 6). Following discussion, the Committee agreed, on the motion of Mr W A Ratter, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, that the Planning Service write to the Scottish Executive, stating that the view of Shetland Islands Council is to return the control of water services back to Local Authorities, along with appropriate resources.

58/04 **Interim Planning Policy Guidance – Domestic and Community Aerogenerators and Solar Energy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 7).

Mr W A Ratter stated that the policy document was good but it should perhaps be an interim policy. Accordingly, he moved that the Committee agree to the recommendation in the report and to an additional recommendation 7.1.2, to read: “this remains a live

document and consultation will continue with the appropriate bodies". Mr L Angus seconded.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that her concern was with the colour of the small wind turbines, and suggested that they should be white or grey, rather than black.

Mr F A Robertson commented that Shetland Renewable Energy Forum, in responding to the draft policy document, had raised some excellent points, primarily from a technical viewpoint.

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J C Irvine
CHAIRPERSON