

## MINUTE

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**Infrastructure Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Thursday 27 January 2005 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present:**

J C Irvine	L G Groat
J A Inkster	I J Hawkins
L Angus	J H Henry
B J Cheyne	Capt G G Mitchell
A J Cluness	J G Simpson
C B Eunson	T W Stove
R G Feather	W N Stove
F B Grains	W Tait
B P Gregson	

**Apologies:**

E J Knight	J P Nicolson
W H Manson	F A Robertson

**In Attendance (Officers):**

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services  
A Hamilton, Head of Planning  
I McDiarmid, Planning Control Manager  
V Hawthorne, Development Plans Manager  
B Barron, Planning Officer (Development Plans)  
S Cooper, Head of Environment  
M Lisk, Environmental Management Officer  
I Halcrow, Head of Service – Roads  
S Hughes, Financial Support Manager  
L Adamson, Committee Officer

**Chairperson:**

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

**Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 30 November 2004, having been circulated, was confirmed.

**Members' Attendance at External Meetings**

Mr J H Henry advised that he recently attended a CoSLA Sustainable Energy Seminar in Edinburgh. Sarah Boyack, MSP, chaired the meeting and the main speaker was Allan Wilson, MSP. The main theme of the seminar had been energy saving and sustainable energy. He said that the waste energy plant in Lerwick had been referred to during the Seminar. Mr Henry was of the opinion that Shetland should be adopting a Green Energy Policy and the Council should be taking a lead in co-ordinating energy resources in Shetland.

2/05

**Housing Zone Review – Views of Community Council**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 1).

The Chairman commended Mrs I J Hawkins, Spokesperson for Planning, Mr F A Robertson, Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee and Planning officials for the amount of work they had put in to this exercise.

The Head of Planning explained that the first round of meetings held with Community Councils had gone quite well and Planning is basically half way through the process. The general view is that the current Housing Zone system works well and although alternative systems were discussed, the zoning system appeared to be the best for Shetland. The Head of Planning stated that it is important to be able to give people clear advice.

(Mr B P Gregson attended the meeting)

The Head of Planning said that as well as consulting further with all Community Councils, additional meetings were being arranged with the four Community Councils nearest to Lerwick, in order to refine exactly what they want.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that she had attended as many Community Council meetings as possible and had found them very interesting. It appeared that although no one wanted to move from the current zoning system it would be more sensible to follow natural lines on the ground. Mrs Hawkins said that she had recently been involved in dialogue where it was felt that there was too much new build development in Lerwick and that more housing should be developed in outlying areas. She suggested this subject be discussed with individual Community Councils to ascertain areas where housing can be developed. This could link in with consultation on the Housing Zone system and provide a useful outcome.

Mr J G Simpson stated that site visits are very valuable and suggested that site visits be arranged, prior to the Planning Sub-Committee meetings, to view planning application sites.

Captain G G Mitchell said he was of the opinion that following this review of the housing zone system, zoning will be much more logical and sensible. Captain G G Mitchell accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

Referring to Recommendation 7.1(3), Mrs F B Grains requested clarification that all Community Councils will be involved in this further round of consultation and that the public will also be

included. The Head of Planning confirmed that all Community Councils would be consulted but at different levels, depending on the circumstances. A number of Community Councils may decide to have the public in attendance, and a number will have Community Council involvement only and some may decide that a local display would be adequate.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Planning explained that Local Protection Areas can be established to protect views enjoyed by existing settlements, or perhaps from a road, although an individual's view cannot be protected.

3/05      **The Shetland House – Adoption**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 2).

The Head of Planning reported that the Shetland House document had been well received at the Environment and Transportation Forum in November 2004. People who have been building houses recently have been asked to test drive the document and the responses have been favourable and encouraging. These comments have been fed back to the Planning service.

The Committee agreed to give authority to the Head of Planning to make minor legislative and technical amendments to the Shetland House document. These amendments will be made in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee and the Spokesperson for Planning.

Mr L Angus congratulated the Head of Planning on the splendid initiative and accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

In referring to the proposed house design competition, Mr B P Gregson commended this project and said that it could have ramifications beyond Shetland.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that guidance for the siting of windmills, similar to the Shetland House document, would be advantageous. The Head of Planning stated that similar guidance documents, on various subjects, are planned for the future.

4/05      **Scottish Executive Environment Group Review of the Scottish Climate Change Programme**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 3).

The Head of Planning explained that the appendix to the report contained draft answers to the Scottish Executive's consultation

document. He added that this issue would be discussed in more detail at the Transport and Environment Forum on 1 March.

In referring to the draft response, Mrs I J Hawkins raised several issues including the need for sufficient financial incentives to encourage people to change to alternative energy saving initiatives. She referred to Question 48, Scottish Building Regulations, and highlighted the many standards that someone building a new house has to adhere to. She was of the opinion that homebuilders should be able to have more say in the colour and design of their homes. It should also be up to the individual which type of light fittings they use in their home. In Question 51 she noted the reference that Shetland is sinking and the lack of detail given to this statement. Referring to the section on Climate Change, Mrs Hawkins stated that more research is required which is relevant to Shetland.

In response to a query from a Member, it was agreed that the local MSP and MP should be asked to get involved in an attempt to influence America to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol.

Captain G G Mitchell suggested that a campaign be introduced to encourage individuals to save energy, to switch off appliances when they are not in use.

The Committee noted the deadline of 25 February for response to this consultation. In agreement with the Convener, the Head of Planning undertook to update the comments on the draft response, for presentation to the Shetland Islands Council meeting on 10 February.

5/05

**Shetland Islands Council Waste Prevention Action Plan and Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Environmental Management Officer (Appendix 4).

Mrs B J Cheyne referred to Section 3.4 in the report, to the salary of £25,000 for employing a Waste Prevention Officer for a period of one year. She enquired whether it would be possible for staff in post to carry out the work or share the workload. The Environmental Management Officer explained that the work associated with the Waste Prevention Action Plan was momentous and it would be necessary to recruit an individual to carry out the audit work for one year and thereafter existing staff could implement the Action Plan. The Executive Director, Infrastructure Services suggested that the audit work could be carried out by a graduate trainee, following the one year graduate placement, to gain further experience, or by internal secondment.

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report, on the motion of Mr L G Groat, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.

6/05      **The Shetland Environmental Pledge**

The Committee considered a report by the Waste Services Manager (Appendix 5).

Mrs B J Cheyne stated that she had read the report and associated appendices with some disbelief. She explained she was not against the principles in the report but it was the signing of the pledge itself that she had concerns with. Mrs Cheyne suggested that the pledge should be removed from the report and accordingly moved that the Committee do not approve the recommendation in the report. Mr A J Cluness seconded.

Mr L G Groat said that the initiative would make people aware of the Shetland Environmental Pledge and open up discussion. He added that anything to improve Shetland's image should be sponsored. Mr L G Groat moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr W Tait seconded.

The Environmental Management Officer explained that it is important that people take environmental issues more seriously and the Pledge is all part of raising environmental awareness and commitment. The Pledge has supporting material to advise households and businesses what can be done to improve environmental awareness in a Shetland context.

Mr B P Gregson said that children in Shetland are generally more aware of environment issues as they are involved in green/environmental initiatives at school. He stated that it was important the Council put forward a positive signal on environment issues to the younger generation.

After summing up, voting followed by a show of hands and the result was as follows:

Amendment (Mr L G Groat)	10
Motion (Mrs B J Cheyne)	5

7/05      **A970 Bigton Junction – Proposed Reconstruction of Embankment**

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 6) and, on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Mr T W Stove, approved the recommendation contained therein.

In response to a query, the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services confirmed that the cost of the works would be funded through the Capital Programme.

8/05 **Bell's Road Proposed Traffic Calming**

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 7). A further letter of objection, was tabled at the meeting and is attached as Appendix 7A.

Mr L Angus summarised the background to the report. He explained that events have now overtaken the report as it is now proposed that the existing parking layby be extended to allow for 3-4 car spaces. Mr Angus referred to the letter of objection tabled at the meeting and said that the letter raised many relevant issues.

In referring to the letter of objection from the Head Teacher of Bell's Brae Primary School, Mr L Angus advised that he had met with the Head Teacher and the Head of the Special Unit and they had not been aware of the proposed extension to the parking layby.

Mr L Angus moved that the road hump be installed when the parking layby is extended, during the reconstruction of Bell's Road, with a condition that the issue be reviewed should it be found that the speed hump exacerbates the situation. Mr L G Groat seconded.

9/05 **Traffic Order Progress Report**

The Committee noted a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 8).

Mr L G Groat referred to the record of Parking Places for Disabled Persons Vehicle Order 2004 and said it was important that when the parking spaces are no longer required, they are removed.

The Committee otherwise noted the contents of the report.

**On the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, the Committee resolved, in terms of the relevant legislation, to exclude the public during consideration of the following item of business.**

10/05 **Unst Bus Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Transport Operations and, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson, seconded by Captain G G Mitchell, approved the recommendations contained therein.

CHAIRPERSON

Infrastructure Committee  
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