

MINUTE

‘A & B’

Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 13 March 2007 at 10.30am

Present:

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

Apologies:

L Angus

In Attendance (Officers):

I Halcrow, Head of Road Services
M Craigie, Head of Transport
M Dunne, Service Manager, Environmental Health
C Medley, Head of Housing & Capital Programmes
I McDiarmid, Head of Planning
B Barron, Planning Officer – Development Plans
R Tait, Planning Officer - Project Implementation
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also:

R Sandison, Hjaltland Housing Association

Chairperson:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes

The minute of meeting held on 23 January 2007, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

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

Mr J C Irvine	CoSLA Modern Governance Member Officer Working Group – Edinburgh - 16 February 2007.
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CoSLA Roads and Transportation Executive Group
– Inverness – 20 February 2007.

CoSLA Annual Conference – St Andrews – 8 & 9
March 2007.

ROSPA Seminar on Evaluating Road Safety
Schemes – Edinburgh - 9 March 2007.

Mr A J Cluness CoSLA Annual Conference – St Andrews – 7-9
March 2007.

Capt. G G Mitchell Meeting with Rhona Brankin, MSP and Tavish Scott,
MSP re Private Sector Housing Grant Scheme,
Edinburgh, 21 February 2007.

Following an update, provided by Capt. Mitchell, the
Chairman wished to note the Committee's
appreciation to Capt. Mitchell and the Service
Manager – Environmental Health for securing the
financial allocation required for 2007/08.

Mrs I J Hawkins &
Mr R G Feather SOTEAG Meeting - Lerwick, - 7 March 2007.

Mr W Tait SPAC Road Safety – Glasgow – 6-8 February 2007.

Following a brief update and discussion on road
safety in Scotland, Members agreed that Shetland
Islands Council should join the campaign for dual
carriageways on the A9 and A96, and that be taken
forward by the new Council Members.

Mr F A Robertson CoSLA Economic Development Plan – Edinburgh -
4-5 February 2007.

12/07 **Bus Fares**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager –
Transport Operations, Infrastructure (Appendix 1).

Mr W H Manson welcomed the report stating that it was good for low-
income passengers and adult students who commute. Mr W A Ratter
said that the new fares was a welcome move and although there
were some proportional increases, the long journeys are the same as
shorter journeys. He said it was important for commuters because of
the way the jobs structure was more centralised.

In response to a query from Mr F A Robertson regarding Service No.
9 Lerwick to Walls, the Head of Transport agreed to look into the 43%

increase in the fare, before the next ZetTrans meeting. Mr I J Hawkins queried the Brig o Fitch fare at Service 4, which was £1.15 as opposed to £1.05 on other services and asked that it also be adjusted.

Mrs B J Cheyne said that as a recent bus user she was pleased to see fares coming down. She said that when she used the bus she got the last seat and was of the opinion that the reduced fares would encourage more users, which would in turn require more buses.

In response to a query from Mrs F B Grains, the Head of Transport advised that the rationale used for the fare structure was zoning based on where people travel from and to and reflected trends and what information the Service had about the travelling public.

Mr W H Manson moved the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr W N Stove.

13/07 **Affordable Housing – Draft Policy for Consultation**

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

The Head of Planning briefly introduced the report. Capt. G G Mitchell said he was pleased to see the draft policy and said it was much needed. He said that the policy covered all sorts of housing and provided information on grants available to people on low pay as well as personal housing plans to show people what would be suitable for them. Capt. Mitchell said that a lot of the building community were concerned about the policy but said that it would be sent out for consultation. He said that a meeting on 23 April had been arranged with the building industry to explain what the plans were and what the consultation process would be.

Capt. G G Mitchell moved the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.

Mrs I J Hawkins referred to Appendix 1 paragraph 1 and said that there was something not quite right about the definition.

Mrs B J Cheyne welcomed the report and said it was a splendid framework. She referred to the table in Appendix 2 and said that there was demand for new housing in the Delting and Lunnasting areas and was of the opinion that the Low Demand Market Area Type was misleading. Mrs Cheyne added that she was heartened to see that Bressay was described as stable even with no fixed link.

Mr W H Manson reiterated Mrs Hawkins point with regard to Appendix 1 paragraph 1. Mr Manson referred to Appendix 2 and said that developers are now building more houses on larger developments but these were in mainly high demand areas and

asked how these would be made affordable. He said that the previous minute item was to provide 10 journey bus tickets, but asked how housing was going to be made affordable in rural areas.

The Head of Planning said that this would be undertaken by the new Council when they would look at where developments should be in the next 10-20 years and whether that would be in rural areas.

Mr Manson said he would not want to leave it till the new Council. He said that it would be difficult to get developers to build in more rural areas like Sandness.

In response to a request from Mr Manson, Capt. G G Mitchell agreed to include in his motion that further work should be done and a report produced within 6 months on the means of affordable houses in rural areas. Mr B P Gregson as seconder agreed.

Mr R Sandison was of the opinion that it was more likely that developers would not accept a lower level profit and want to develop in rural areas. Mr Manson suggested that their definition of rural was more likely to be Tingwall rather than Walls or other commuter areas.

Mr J H Henry said that this was a good report and appendices and said that he often received queries from the public and suggested that the information be provided in an information leaflet. The Head of Housing & Capital Programmes said that the Housing Service already provided a lot of advice and information as well as free use of computers, housing guide, and private rent loans.

Mr W A Ratter said that there were lots of houses going up in Brae and to say that it was a low pressure area was not right and that the low pressure areas required to be looked at further.

Mr J P Nicolson thanked the Planning Service for the work done on this policy.

In response to a query by Mr C B Eunson the Head of Planning advised that "Affordable Housing" was a term that was used to describe what could be provided in a number of ways, but agreed it could be misleading.

14/07 **Conservation Grants. 80-82 Commercial Street and Hay's Dock**
The Committee considered a report by the Heritage Manager (Appendix 3).

(Mr A J Cluness declared an interest and left the meeting)

Mr L G Groat moved the recommendations of the report, seconded by Mr E J Knight.

15/07 **Proposed Resurfacing and Drainage of St Ninians Beach Access Road and Parking Area**

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The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Development Plans (Appendix 4).

Mr W Tait said he was pleased to see the report and said it was a pity that the road was in such a state as St Ninian's was a very popular and important place and was visited by more people than any other beach in Shetland. Mr W Tait moved the recommendations in the report, seconded by Capt. G G Mitchell.

Mr R G Feather drew attention to paragraph 5.9 and asked how the landowner was going to be able to upkeep the parking area and how that would be enforced. Mr W Tait said that the road was to remain a private road but that a written signed agreement was essential. The Planning Officer – Project Implementation said that Legal Services were working on a written agreement to be signed by the landowner.

Mr W Tait amended his motion to include that a written agreement be obtained, Capt. G G Mitchell as seconder agreed.

16/07 **Member/Officer Working Group (Roads) – Report on Progress, 2003/2007**

The Committee noted a report by the Network Manager, Roads (Appendix 5).

After hearing the Head of Roads Service answer questions from Members, the Committee noted the recommendations in the report.

17/07 **SIC (Tarland, Upper Sound) (Parking Place for Disabled Person's Vehicle) Order 2007**

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager, Roads (Appendix 6).

Mr R G Feather said that a Doctor's report had been received stating that the Disabled Space was necessary and although there had been a lot of objections from neighbours, he could see no reason why this disabled space would not be granted. Mr R G Feather moved the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr L G Groat.

18/07 **Procedure on Use of CCTV to Tackle Antisocial Behaviour**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health (Appendix 7).

Mr B P Gregson moved the recommendations in the report, seconded by Capt. G G Mitchell.

In response to a query from Mrs B J Cheyne, the Service Manager - Environmental Health advised that notifying Members was not in the national guidance, but she had written this into the policy as she was of the opinion that it was good practice to inform Members when the equipment was to be used in their area. Mrs Cheyne said that she appreciated the

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thinking behind this and thanked the Service Manager for including it in the policy.

19/07 **Official Control Samples of Shellfish Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health (Appendix 8).

The Service Manager - Environmental Health briefly introduced the report and said that she had received advice from Legal Services that as the NAFC Marine Centre is the only local provider of this specialist service, the service be treated as exempt from the Council's Standing Orders and relating to Tenders and Contracts due to special circumstances applying. The Service Manager advised that Standing Order H2 (e) states: "The Council may exempt from the provisions of these standing orders or any part of them, any contract when they are satisfied that the exemption is justified by special circumstances."

The Service Manager said that the recommendations would therefore need to be amended to say "the Committee recommend to Council that the contract for the service be exempt from Standing Orders (H2)(e)) due to special circumstances. Mr B P Gregson moved the recommendations of the report as amended, seconded by Mr I J Hawkins.

In response to a query from Mr J G Simpson, regarding whether the sampling covered wild shell fish and those harvested from the shoreline, the Service Manager said that she would discuss it at the Service Level Agreement meeting she would be attending.

20/07 **Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006**

The Committee noted a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health (Appendix 9).

The Service Manager – Environmental Health briefly introduced the report and in response to queries from Mrs I J Hawkins she explained that the Act covers any animal with a backbone cared for full time or temporarily which included seals in sanctuaries, farm animals and pets. She added that animals caught or trapped would also be included under pest control measures.

In response to another query from Mrs Hawkins the Service Manager advised that the farming industry would be made aware of the Act and that there was a representative from the NFU on the Animal Health Working Group.

Mr W N Stove, Mr L G Groat and Mr B P Gregson left the meeting.

21/07 **Notes of Environment and Transport Forum – 27 February 2007**

The minute of meetings held on 27 February 2007 (Appendix 10), were confirmed, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr J G Simpson.

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Mr J P Nicolson drew attention to item 1/07 and said that given the importance of the Community Planning Board, he was of the opinion that information should be more efficiently provided. Mr J C Irvine said that the onus was on the Chairman to provide updates, but agreed that a report from the Head of Organisational Development should be sought. Mr J A Inkster reminded Members that when the CPB was set up, it was to meet half yearly and now it met every 4 months, and he advised that Mr J Smith provided the Tagidder Shetland newsletter on the Council's website. He agreed that there were shortcomings and that information had not been as effective as expected.

Mr E J Knight, left the meeting

Mrs I J Hawkins asked that the word "builders" be changed to "owners" at the end of the second sentence in the third paragraph on page 5.

Mr J G Simpson drew attention to item 02/07 and said that he wished to note his opinion that using a Northlink ferry to visit Norway at the peak of the summer season would go against the argument the Council had put forward over the years regarding the lack of cabins. Mr A I Inkster said that the final decision would rest with the Scottish Executive who would look at the contract and possible state aid issues and said that this proposal was in its stages. He added that, in light of the issues mentioned, another possibility was being looked at and that was to hire a cruise liner to go instead of a Northlink ferry. Mr Inkster said that there was no commitment to anything at this stage.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.

CHAIRPERSON