

MONDAY 3 DECEMBER 2018

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall, Lerwick, at 7.00pm

Members

Mr D Ristori

Ms K Fraser

Mr S Hay

Mr A Wenger

Mr A Irvine

Mrs A Simpson

Mrs M Hall

Mr J Fraser

Mr G Robinson

Mr E Knight

Mrs J Williamson

Mr A Johnston

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell

Cllr M Bell

Cllr B Wishart

Cllr S Leask

Cllr A Hawick

Additional Co-opted Members

Miss E Arthur, AHS

Mr D Morrish, MSYP

In Attendance

Mrs J Hawick, Citizens' Advice Bureau

Mr J Leask, SIC Youth Services

Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

12/18/01

Circular

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the two new members and explained that the first order of business was to appoint a chair and a vice chair. She explained the rules of nomination and voting.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bell declared an interest in the Planning item, as a member of the Planning Committee.

Mr Anderson declared an interest in the grant application.

12/18/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Carter, Cllr C Smith and Mrs C Carroll.

12/18/03

Election of Chair

Mr Anderson was nominated for the post of Chair by Mr Robinson. This was seconded by Mrs Simpson. Mr Anderson was duly elected.

12/18/04

Election of Vice Chair

Mr Robinson was nominated for the post of Vice Chair by Mrs Simpson. This was seconded by Ms Fraser. Mr Robinson was duly elected.

12/18/05 **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Mr Fraser and seconded by Mr Robinson. Cllr Wishart and Cllr Hawick said they had been left off the list of attendees. This would be corrected for the records. Mr Robinson clarified the item about the review of Community Councils. They have not been reviewed since they were created in 1978.

12/18/06 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mr Wenger asked if SIC had responded to the report of a street light not working. The Clerk will chase this up.

12/18/07 **Police Scotland Monthly Report**

The Police were not in attendance.

12/18/08 **Citizens' Advice Bureau – Fuel Poverty**

Mrs Hawick gave an overview of the work of the Citizens' Advice Bureau. She said the Lerwick office is the last remaining CAB in Scotland that has a drop-in (no appointments necessary) service. It also carries out a regular outreach service to the outer isles and remote locations, using NHS health centres. They also carry out home visits for some people who are not able to travel.

Much of the work CAB does is connected to helping people understand and claim their benefit entitlement; helping to fill out the forms. CAB also helps with consumer issues; employment problems; housing; and signposting people to the appropriate lawyers for complex issues.

CAB also provides a range of energy advice. Mrs Hawick reported that 53% of Shetlanders are living in "fuel poverty" which is measured as spending over 10% of your income on fuel bills. If you spend 20% or more of your income on fuel bills you are considered to be in extreme fuel poverty. Of the 53% in fuel poverty, around 81% of these people are on some form of benefit, including pensions.

The range of help CAB can offer is advice on getting the right tariff; changing suppliers; obtaining grants for heating or insulation; understanding unfamiliar heating systems; ensuring meter readings are taken on a regular basis; understanding meter readings; and registering for priority services. You are eligible to register for priority services if you are over 65 or have young children in the household.

Mrs Hawick said CAB would be running a series of roadshows around Shetland to help more people access information and support about energy use and keeping their homes warm.

Mr Fraser commended CAB for the work it carries out. He asked whether SIC carries out a technical introduction to heating systems to new tenants in the same way Hjaltland Housing Association does. Mrs Hawick replied that SIC did do this, and CAB can also offer advice on this.

Mr Wenger commented on the frequent and recent price rises from SSE and asked what campaigning had been done about this. Mrs Hawick said they report regularly to the Scottish Government on fuel poverty.

Mr Anderson said he was aware of a new fuel poverty measure that would reduce the number of people in fuel poverty by well over half in Shetland. Mrs Hawick replied that in the case of Shetland this new measure would mean that only 20% of the population were in fuel poverty. CAB was campaigning to keep the measure the same, pointing out that the measures do not take into account the additional cost of living in remote areas, such as Shetland, Orkney and the Western Isles; and the lack of choice in some fuel options.

Cllr Leask asked whether the introduction of Universal Credit was having an impact. Mrs Hawick said that UC had only been introduced to Shetland since 1 October 2018 but it had already produced a considerable increase in people contacting the CAB for help. She also warned that this would increase again when the full effect of UC would be noticed for people who currently get tax credits, as these would cease on 1 April 2019. CAB was lobbying to get fuel vouchers for people who are struggling and who need to use the food banks.

Mr Anderson thanked Mrs Hawick for giving such a useful update on the work CAB was carrying out.

12/18/09 **Finance – Core Funding Report as at 26 September 2018**

There were no comments on the core funding report.

12/18/10 **Planning Applications 2018/325/PPP & 2018/326/PPP**

There were no objections to the two planning applications which were both to provide housing in the Clickimin Loch area.

12/18/11 **Viking Energy**

There was a discussion about the Viking Energy application. It was not entirely clear why LCC had been asked to comment, however, it appeared that all the community councils had been included in the consultation. The variation application was to increase the size of the rotor blades which would increase the amount of energy produced. The letter explaining the application was difficult to unclear.

Mrs Simpson proposed that the application should be noted. Mr Robinson seconded the proposal.

12/18/12 **Grant Application – Shetland Amateur Athletics Club**

There was a discussion about the grant application from Shetland Amateur Athletics Club. Mr Fraser said the club did an excellent job and provided great opportunities for young people in Lerwick. Roughly 100 of the club members are from the town. He suggested supporting the grant in full if this was affordable.

Cllr Hawick asked whether the grant would do anything towards cutting down the waiting list for membership as it was currently very long. Unfortunately the grant was for technical scoring equipment which was unlikely to impact on membership but which would help athletes compete better and with more accurate results on achievement.

Ms Fraser proposed that since LCC funds were low and there was still a while until the end of the financial year that the club should be awarded £1000. Mr Ristori seconded the motion. Mr Fraser said the club should be asked to reapply next financial year if it still needed the funds.

10/18/13

A.O.B.

- a. Mr Ristori asked whether it would be possible to provide a Christmas tree for the hospital and for outside the Legion where trees have been in previous years. It was pointed out that it was not so simple to buy trees for public places, because it also needed people to maintain them. Cllr Campbell suggested that it would be a better, more environmentally friendlier idea to plant a Christmas tree outside of the hospital as a permanent feature which could be decorated each year. It would be too late for this year, but the clerk was asked to find out whether it would be possible for COPE Ltd to provide and plant a tree at the hospital which LCC would pay for. Clerk to liaise with COPE Ltd and NHS Shetland.
- b. Mr Robinson said he had been asked to raise a concern about the planning application for temporary accommodation at Sella Ness. It was thought that the provision of accommodation for oil and gas workers was having a negative effect on accommodation providers in Lerwick. Cllr Hawick agreed that it was contributing to problems in Lerwick with a recent downturn in business. However, as Mr Robinson said, which was confirmed by Cllr Bell, the Planning Service cannot take competition issues into account when deciding on planning applications.
- c. Mr Fraser asked whether the Post Office had replied to correspondence regarding the moving of post boxes in the South Lerwick area. The clerk was asked to chase up a response.
- d. Mr Fraser praised the organisation by Living Lerwick and the various volunteers, some of whom were community councillors, for the Christmas parade on Saturday afternoon. He said it had been brilliant to see so many folk in the town.
- e. Mr Fraser recommended the purchase of a CD that had been launched by the NHS Choir which cost £5. All proceeds would go towards the scanner appeal.
- f. Cllr Hawick said that she had been contacted by someone to report a dangerous section of the new Sletts footpath. The clerk was asked to contact Kevin Serginson to report the problem.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.05 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....