

MONDAY 5 MARCH 2018

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson	Mr P Coleman
Mr A Johnston	Mr E Knight
Mr A Wenger	Mr S Hay
Mr J Fraser	Mrs M Hall

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr A Westlake

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr G Robinson
Miss L Cluness
Mr P Jones

In Attendance

Ms J Porter, Shetland Partnership
Mr B Hall, Shetland Partnership
Chief Inspector L Tulloch, Police Scotland & Shetland Partnership
Mr S Pallant, SIC Planning
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman, presided.

03/18/01

Circular

Mr Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

03/18/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Smith, Cllr M Bell, Cllr P Campbell, Cllr B Wishart, Mr M Peterson, Mrs P Christie, and Mr W Spence, Mr D Ristori, Mr A Carter, Mrs C Carroll and Mr M Duncan

03/18/03

Minutes of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting on 5th February 2018 was approved by Cllr Westlake and seconded by Mrs Simpson.

03/18/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

03/18/05

Police Scotland Monthly Report

Chief Inspector Lyndsay Tulloch gave an update on Police matters. The Control Centre has recently been moved from Inverness to Dundee and so far it appears to be

working well. There has been a consultation on disposing of the police stations at Sumburgh, Unst and Whalsay. Violent crime has reduced over the last year; with an overall drop in crime of 46%. The detection rate stands at 80%. Work has been carried out on preventing crime and in particular the Prevention Officer has been working closely with pubs to reduce incidents. Bystander awareness training has been rolled out which has helped pub staff to develop confidence in tackling bullying behaviour.

Road traffic offences have been comparable to the previous year with 17 cars stopped for speeding in January and a further 25 in February. Road safety remains a concern and some work with school children is being undertaken to raise awareness of the issues of drink-driving etc. Tyre safety clinics will be organised to help tackle accidents in poor weather.

There have been 726 calls regarding the protection of vulnerable people over the year, which involves the police working with mental health teams, the NHS, and other organisations.

In response to a question from Mr Robinson, CI Tulloch said that the drop in crime has been overall; the reduction in oil/gas related personnel staying in the town has probably contributed to the drop in breaches of the peace, but all crime has reduced across Shetland.

Cllr Westlake said she was reassured by the number of calls regarding vulnerable people as it indicates a caring community that looks out for each other. She asked whether CI Tulloch believed this was the case. He replied that this was a factor, as well as the joint working that has been going on with the Shetland Partnership. He added that we need to work smarter to help vulnerable people in the community.

Mr Fraser commented on the Private Members Bill regarding reducing speed limits in residential areas throughout Scotland to 20mph. He asked whether this was something that the Police in Shetland would welcome, regardless of whether the Bill was passed or not. CI Tulloch replied that reducing speed certainly helped to cut down on accidents and injuries, but a blanket 20 mph speed limit might not be viable, but it would work for specific areas around schools and densely populated residential areas. It would require further study, looking at accident statistics to see if it was necessary.

The Chairman asked about the traffic problems around Bell's Brae School. CI Tulloch replied that the Police were concentrating on this area and trying to work with parents to discourage parking right outside the school. This situation has been looked at many times and it has been difficult to find solutions that make everyone happy. In the meantime parents still frequently park where they are not supposed to which clogs up the road and makes visibility difficult in an area where children are crossing.

03/18/06

Shetland Partnership Plan

Brendan Hall, June Porter and Chief Inspector Lyndsay Tulloch were in attendance for this item. Mr Hall gave a presentation on the Shetland Partnership Plan which was now a statutory requirement for local authorities and their associated local agencies; which in the case of Shetland included SIC, NHS, Police Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Fire & Rescue Service, SEPA, UHI, Sport Scotland, Visit Scotland, Scottish

Natural Heritage, ZETrans, Historic Environment Scotland, Skills Development Scotland and the SIC/NHS Shetland joint Health and Social Care Partnership.

The main purpose of the plan is to address inequalities in the community and the project began by reviewing the evidence for the situation in Shetland. Some interesting facts were produced which showed quite a complex position over poverty levels in Shetland. On the one hand, employment/education/training levels were very high at 97.4% but poverty, assessed as not earning sufficient to enjoy a decent lifestyle and based on minimum income standards, remains high at around 49%. This was exacerbated by the higher than average cost of living. This particularly affected people on benefits which were set at national levels that don't take into account regional differences in the cost of living. Fuel poverty, for example, was higher than the Scottish average and was caused by housing types, cost of fuel and the poor weather. Fuel poverty occurs when over 10% of a household income is spent on heating/energy.

Cllr Westlake said it was a very interesting presentation and that in amongst the bad news about poverty there was some good news. It was heartening to hear that 79% of Shetlanders felt they could turn to their neighbours and friends for help. She added that the volunteer sector really appears to be holding up the community and wondered how statutory services would manage without their help. She commented on the number of social enterprise groups and asked whether consideration had been given to rationalization in order to provide greater efficiency. Mr Hall replied that this was a conversation that would be needed down the line.

Mr Hay asked about the role of government, the third sector, and the community in keeping communities alive. Money was at the core of this, and it would take all the organisations of the partnership to help, but it would appear that national government is at odds with these aims with its current philosophy that the role of the state is not to help. Mr Hall said that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act fundamentally gives communities a greater say in how resources are prioritized. The partnership plan was a Scottish initiative.

Mr Robinson asked about the next stage of the project as these issues had been discussed in one form or other for 20 years or more. A real plan of action was required. There were tensions over priorities, and how to spend budgets which are being squeezed. He drew attention to the drop in attainment levels in the Lerwick schools and suggested that parents should be more vocal about this issue. The population is going down in the town, partly because development is being strangled by the Local Development Plan. Lerwick needed to change in order to help other areas of Shetland that depend on the town for work, entertainment, shops and business. Mr Fraser agreed and said it was time to dispel the myths that Lerwick has "everything," when clearly this is not the case. He added that he was pleased to see the good results in the quality of life table and that life expectancy had increased, but that everyone needed to be able to reach their potential and therefore work was required to address these inequalities.

Mr Hall said it had been useful to have this discussion and that the Community Council could discuss their concerns and suggestions with the Partnership at any time in the future and could contact Pat Christie who was responsible for liaising with the project.

03/18/07 **Lerwick Town Centre Health Check**

Simon Pallant from SIC Planning was in attendance to talk about the Town Centre Health Check that had just been published. It was the first report of its kind for Lerwick and was part of a Scottish Government planning policy to assess the viability of Town Centres throughout the country. The report built on survey work carried out previously by Living Lerwick in 2010, but had extended the boundary to include as far as Mareel and the Marlex. Four footfall surveys had been carried out on different days and had revealed a surprisingly high number of people using the Street with around 383 per hour, rising to 1947 when the old school was still open and children were out in their lunch break.

The population of the commercial area of Lerwick was around 750 people and they tended to be younger than average compared with other areas. The variety of commercial activities was quite surprising but there were a large number of empty commercial properties which it was difficult to know what to do with as there were planning restrictions on so many of the properties.

Cllr Westlake asked how the survey compared to other similar towns such as Kirkwall and Stornoway. Mr Pallant replied that Orkney and the Western Isles were still compiling their reports.

Mr Fraser asked whether the impact of the new school was making a difference to shops other than the fast-food outlets and sweet shops in the area. Mr Pallant said he would be discussing this with Living Lerwick to see what has changed since the survey was carried out.

03/18/07 **Correspondence from Richard Gibson**

Mr Gibson had copied Lerwick Community Council into correspondence with SIC regarding the state of Stout's Pier, Copeland Pier and the road along South Commercial St. Members agreed that the state of the piers should be addressed as soon as possible as it would become increasingly expensive to repair if left. It was not know who owned the piers. The Clerk was asked to write to Robert Sinclair at SIC to enquire what was happening and to the Roads department to clarify what the schedule is for repairing South Commercial St.

03/18/08 **Finance – Core Funding Report as at 28 February 2018**

No comments.

03/18/09 **Licensing Consultation**

The draft revised licensing policy had been circulated to members with the agenda. There were no comments on the changes.

03/18/10 **Grant Application for Living Lerwick for Christmas Lights**

Members agreed to award the full grant of £944.40 for the Christmas lighting project from the next financial year's budget. The decision was moved by Mrs Simpson and seconded by Mr Fraser.

03/18/11 **Old Anderson High School**

Shetland Islands Council recently announced that the old high school would be used as temporary office accommodation for a few weeks. It was noted that the Council had not made a planning application for a change of use. The Clerk was asked to email the Head of Planning to find out if a planning application would be made.

03/18/12 **Community Council Elections**

An advance notice had been circulated about the Community Council elections that would take place in November 2018. The clerk was asked to put this on the Facebook page and everyone else was asked to encourage people to stand for election.

03/18/13 **Update on Knab Site Masterplan**

Mr Anderson referred to the report of the meeting held on 13 February and reminded Members that there would be a public meeting at the Town Hall on 6th March 2018 between 6pm and 8pm for an update from the 7N Consultants on the Knab Site Masterplan.

03/18/14 **A.O.B.**

- a. A planning application had been received after the agenda for the meeting had been sent out. In view of the long agenda it was requested that this be held over until the next meeting.
- b. An email had been received after the agenda had been circulated in regard to consultation over a proposed name for a new residential road near Staney Hill. There were no immediate thoughts on Corinth Place, however, in view of the time it was agreed to hold this over until the next meeting. Note: In response to an urgent request for a decision following the meeting, the Chairman proposed to accept the proposed new road name and this was seconded by Mrs Simpson.
- c. A notice to mariners had been sent to Lerwick Community Council regarding cable removal operations that would take place in the harbour for about a week from 15 March.
- d. Da Voar Redd Up would take place on 28 & 29 April this year and there was a call for volunteers. More details would be discussed at the April meeting.
- e. Mr Robinson reported that the railings at Hill Head would be painted as part of the Bridges Project.
- f. Mrs Simpson commented that on a recent walk around the new High School and around the Staney Hill area she had noticed that the signposts that had been promised as part of the development had not been erected yet. The Clerk was asked to chase this.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 9.00 pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....