

MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in Board Room, Solar House, North Ness, Lerwick, at 7.00pm.

Members

Mr J Anderson	Mrs A Simpson
Mrs K Fraser	Mr A Carter
Mr W Spence	Mr S Hay
Mr A Johnson	Mr E Knight
Mr A Wenger	Mr J Fraser
Mr P Coleman	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr A Wishart	Cllr M Bell
Cllr J Wills	Cllr P Campbell

Additional Co-opted Student Members

Mr Tommy Carroll

Additional Co-opted Members

Mrs M Hall	Mr B Johnston
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In Attendance

Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

01/17/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

01/17/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Ristori, Mr M Peterson, Cllr C Smith, Cllr M Stout and Miss E Thomson.

01/17/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 5th December 2016 were approved by Mrs A Simpson and Mr E Knight.

01/17/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr Anderson informed members that Mr M Duncan and Mrs P Christie had been in attendance at the December meeting.

11/16/06 Item 1 Lerwick War Memorial

Mr Carter asked if there were any developments with the War Memorial.

Mr Anderson explained that Mr Duncan was waiting for a reply from assets or legal.

01/17/05

Police Scotland Monthly Report

Mr Anderson welcomed representatives from Police Scotland and asked them to introduce themselves.

PC Chris Hardwick and PC Oliver Cradock introduced themselves.

They advised that no new report was available since the end of November, so had no figures to bring to the meeting, but were happy to answer any questions.

Ms Fraser asked if anything interesting had been going on.

PC Hardwick mentioned the Drink Driving Campaign and domestic assault arrests.

Mr Anderson asked about events over Christmas and New Year.

PC Hardwick replied that it had been relatively quiet. They had made their presence known and were out and about speaking to folk.

Mr Wenger pointed out a silver Yaris car lying abandoned at the Black Gate about a week before Christmas and said that it was still there.

PC Hardwick said that they would make enquiries and look into it. If there had been a car incident, it would be normal for the person's car insurance company to look into it.

Cllr Wills reported seeing a headline proclaiming that drink related driving offences were up nationally over the Christmas and New Year season. He enquired if this was reflected in Shetland.

PC Hardwick couldn't say.

Mr Fraser mentioned an abandoned car in Harbour Street, just outside St Margaret's Church. He suggested that it had been there in excess of a year.

Mr Wenger thought that it had been only six months, as it had been at the Ness for sale and then appeared in Lerwick.

PC Hardwick said that they would make enquiries.

Mr Anderson thanked the Police representatives for coming along and looked forward to seeing the report when it was available.

PC Hardwick said that it would be forwarded on.

01/17/06

Correspondence

6.1 Call for Sites – Kimberley McNeillie – Development Plans, SIC

Mr Anderson asked if anybody had any sites they would like to list and forward onto the planning department.

Cllr mentioned the sites already spoken about such as Seafield and anywhere in the vicinity of Tesco.

Mr Carter mentioned the north end of North Lochside where the contractor for the new high school was currently situated. He said the contractor had to re-instate the site with no cost to the council and suggested that it be re-instated as a caravan site.

Ms Fraser suggested Hoofields following the removal of the chalets. The site was already set up with hard standing, fences around them and a block possibly suitable for a toilet. She thought it might be worth suggesting.

Mr Carter agreed as it was not too far from a shop.

Cllr Wills thought that perhaps a caravan site, especially for visitors, should be somewhere reasonably scenic, with shelter, views of the sea and amenities.

Mr Carter mentioned the land at Twageos after the Anderson High School moved.

Cllr Wills suggested a site between the Anderson High School and the Coastguard Station as there was quite a large area there.

Mr Anderson said that it was Bellvue and part of the Anderson High School site. He asked if members were happy with those four sites.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

6.2 Planning Permission Notification – Jill A Garriock – Planning Department, SIC

Mr Anderson noted the need to advertise now and for the applicant to pay the cost.

6.3 Bus Stop Markings/Pavement Safety Concern/Sign at Sound – Mr D Coupe, Roads, SIC

Mr Anderson informed members that plans were to re-instate the bus stop, although they were considering a decision to move it depending on visibility. They had arranged for the lighting stump at Allied Taxi's to be made safe and the new speed restrictions at the Sound Brae had been delayed, but hopefully would commence at the end of January.

Mr Wenger reported his near accident along Westerloch, where the road meets the start of the path. He said it was dark and he was running and nearly knocked into someone who was walking. He wondered why there was no street lamp and if there had been any objection from the residents.

Mr Anderson suggested that they could highlight this concern along Anderstown Brae when they consider replacement of the new columns.

Cllr Campbell informed members he understood the work would be starting this month on the street lights. He mentioned the start of work on the first phase extension to the path around Clickimin Loch, in the next few weeks.

Mr Anderson said that he was pleased to hear that and enquired if the extension was to cover the distance to the South Road.

Cllr Campbell acknowledged that it was.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

6.4 X-rays/Scans out of hours – Mrs Carolan – Director of Nursing & Acute Services, NHS

Mr Anderson noted the reply back informing them that the service was not running 24/7, but they did have somebody on call 24/7 for emergency purposes.

6.5 Untreated Sewage – George Leask

Mr Anderson declared an interest as an employee of Scottish Water and handover to Mrs Simpson.

Mrs Simpson had a letter from the Team Leader at Scottish Water who had spoken to Mr Leslie and explained the works that Scottish Water carried out. The letter confirmed that Mr Leslie was more than happy with the works that have been done to ensure that there is no risk of pollution to the environment within the area from their network.

Mr Leslie has been asked if he has any further concerns to deal directly with Scottish Water and if Lerwick Community Council has any further queries on this to contact Scottish Water.

Mrs Simpson commented that this hopefully seemed like a satisfactory conclusion.

6.6 LCC Representative for Anderson High School – Nicki Hamer, Clerk, Parent Council, Anderson High School

Mr Anderson noted the letter from Ms Hamer advising that any community council could ask to attend if there was a part agenda item or issue they would like to discuss or be involved with.

Mr Fraser remarked that was great and he was pleased with that response. However he asked about pre-notification of the agenda items so that they could make that judgement as to attend or not. He suggested contacting the clerk about distribution of the agenda to the various community council clerks for forwarding on to community councillors.

Mr Anderson said that they could ask them to do that and didn't see any problem with that.

Cllr Wills remarked that there were two councillor representatives on the parent council and he was one of them. He regularly attended and commented that the

agenda contained routine items. He suggested the quick way was to talk to the council representatives or by contacting the headteacher.

Mr Anderson said that he also was on the parent council and if Mr Fraser had anything to raise or a concern, it could be passed on to either Cllr Wills or Cllr Stephen Coutts or to himself, who would be happy to raise at the meeting.

Mr Fraser said his only concern was for the considerable change which would alter the whole dynamic of Lerwick, with the school moving from one side of town to the other. He felt that it would be prudent for the community council to keep themselves abreast of what was going on during that transition period and in order that, if they felt it appropriate they could have a relative input.

Cllr Wills mentioned that there were quite detailed plans for this.

Mr Anderson agreed that there would be a direct impact on the town, but the only concern he was thinking about in the short term, was for the young adults at the school and finding out what they were thinking. He asked Mr Carroll if he was aware of anything.

Mr Carroll said that there was not so much excitement in his year, as they were not going to be experiencing the transition.

Mr Anderson said that if there were any concerns to bring them up.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

6.7 CC Training & Support Needs – June Porter – Team Leader, Community Development

Mr Anderson noted the good level of replies coming from Lerwick and Gulberwick, Cunningsburgh & Quarff Community Councils and thanked those who had replied.

He asked if members were aware of any questions that had been missed off the questionnaire, or anything to ask about the training plans.

Mrs Simpson pointed out that they were asking what time would suit for training sessions.

Mr Anderson asked members when the training sessions would be easier to attend, evenings or weekends.

Members replied and agreed that evenings would be most suitable.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

6.8 Paths for All – Grant Offer – John Duffy, Senior Development Officer

Mr Anderson informed members that they had managed to be successful in securing grant funding for £450, for a sign on the old Staney Hill Road. They had asked the council for a draft sign to look at before and would have it installed before the end of the year.

Mr Carter asked what kind of a sign it would be.

Mr Anderson replied just a simple road sign pointing left to view point at Stoney Hill, straight ahead to new Anderson High School and Clickimin Centre and right along Cunningham Way to Sandy Loch.

Ms Fraser suggested it could be two-side that folk over the hill could see it as well.

Mr Anderson said that it would probably double the cost, but they could ask Mr Scobie how much this would cost.

Ms Fraser pointed out the need for volunteer hours.

Mr Anderson mentioned his plans to take photographs.
(Action: Clerk to the Council)

6.9 Rotary Club for Shetland – Grant – Paul Bendix, Charitable Donations Treasurer

Mr Anderson noted the letter and grant of one hundred pounds towards the Christmas lunches. He remarked that we would send a note of thanks.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

6.10 Islesburgh Community Centre – Older Citizens Christmas Lunch – Neil Watt, Executive Manager, Sport & Leisure, SIC

Noted.

6.11 Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards 2017 – Call for Nominations – John Pelan

Mr Anderson asked if members had any suggestions following the Christmas holidays.

Discussion ensued about possible projects and Park Lane Community Garden was mentioned under the category of landscape designs.

Cllr Wills agreed that although it was a temporary arrangement, it had transformed the site and thought it deserved to be recognised.

Mr Hay agreed, but thought the fact it had temporary planning permission, might make it difficult to sustain the nomination.

Mr Anderson suggested that they could still put an application in. He asked if members were happy to do that.

Members were in agreement about nominating Park Lane Community Garden for the My Place Award.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

01/17/07

Finance

7.1 Core Funding Financial Report 4th January 2017

Noted.

Mr Fraser offered his services for painting the office ceiling and Mr Anderson said that they could discuss this later.

(Action: Mr Anderson)

01/17/08

Planning Applications

8.1 2016/417/PPF – To demolish existing glazed entrance link and form new entrance , central reception area and additional fitness gym, together with improvements to external access and landscaping – Clickimin Centre, North Lochside, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0PJ

Mr Anderson highlighted the current option to slip off children or anybody at the Lochside entrance and the necessity of having to walk around the swimming pool to enter the main door. He said that this would increase the amount of traffic coming and going at what was not a very good junction onto Lochside Road.

Mr Anderson mentioned previous discussions at the school, regarding the junction not being suited to an increase in traffic. He pointed out the new 60/40 pitch and now the planned two hundred and fifty square metre gymnasium, all of which would increase the custom, the footfall at Clickimin and the fact that they plan to move the front door is further pushing vehicles round the back and making more use of the junction. He proposed that they note concern for increased traffic movements at that junction.

Cllr Wills made a suggestion that they could have a pedestrian only entrance and footpath on the South side of the building.

Mr Fraser raised the point that following a concert or event all would have leave out the back entrance.

Mrs Simpson agreed with the issues raised and that they should bring to the attention of planning.

Mr Anderson said that they would write to planning.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

8.2 2016/425/PPF – To demolish existing buildings and construct three new two-three storey buildings containing in total 27 one bedroom flats - Site between Union Street & Prince Alfred Street, King Harold Street, Lerwick, Shetland – Hjaltland Housing Association

Mr Anderson declared an interest as a member of Hjaltland Housing Association on behalf of Lerwick Community Council.

Cllr Wills enquired if any of the housing was sheltered accommodation.

Mr Anderson said that far as he was aware there was nothing specific, but he imagined that there would be level access on the ground floor, but not on the two upper storeys.

Ms Fraser commented that when looking at the papers on-line, traffic papers had lines of information about traffic, but no summary. She suggested that they could have presented the information a little better.

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

8.3 2016/426/CAC – Demolition in a Conservation Area – Site between Union Street & Prince Alfred Street, King Harold Street, Lerwick, Shetland – Hjaltland Housing Association

No objections.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

01/17/09

Any Other Business

Bus Route along Lochside Drive

Mr Ristori had forwarded concerns about excessive use by buses along the Clickimin Road with two per journey or four per hour. He suggested looking at using the road once per journey and instead divert along King Harold Street.

Ms Fraser suggested that Mr Ristori had a point, but it was quite a complicated route to do in the time and any changes would need to be carefully thought out. It had taken a long time for people to get use to the new timetables. She suggested that if there was going to be other changes in general that were coming up, for example when the new school was finished or use of the old school site and the bus was to be re-routed, than that would be the time to make changes.

Mr Anderson agreed that when the school moves, it would change the dynamic of the town. He said that might be an opportunity to look at if the town service could be changed. He suggested that they could then look at the bigger picture.

Discussion took place on the current route of the buses.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Access roads for graveyards – Unst Community Council

Mrs Simpson said that Lerwick had no unadopted roads.

Refugees

Mr Carter had read that Stornoway had taken in three refugee families and he wondered what the state of play was in Lerwick and if anything was happening with that.

Cllr Bell informed member that the situation was the same as it was since the start of the crisis. The council had made it clear to the Home Office that they were willing to bring families to Shetland and that had always been the case. He said that they had to recognise that it was no good if it just gave us a warm fuzzy feeling by taking a family in, it was about getting the right solution for the families involved.

He said that if that meant within five years of the scheme the Home Office decided to allocate to Shetland, then so be it. The cost of living here was higher than anywhere else, so they would need to look at that when it came down to payments. Another thing to keep in mind was the housing shortage that we have.

Cllr Bell said that these were very vulnerable people and needed to be within easy reach of support services and they were not necessarily going to be available here in Shetland. He personally didn't think that they would be first or second on the list, just because of where we are.

Mr Anderson could understand to a certain extent the situation, although happy for people to come here.

Cllr Wills added that the council were one of the first to volunteer and to take part in programs organised by COSLA. He had heard people ask what the council were doing and they must not like refugees. He stated that nothing could be further from the truth and the points that Cllr Bell had made were very valid.

He said that if you accepted a refugee on the payments made by this government, it would only cover about twenty eight percent of basic costs, if in Unst or Fetlar or somewhere the council has available housing. He said that the council would like to help, but it was not in their hands to decide as they did not yet have immigration control to Shetland.

Mrs Simpson commented that it would be interesting to find out how Stornoway had managed to do this.

Cllr Bell replied that majority of councils had offered, but some were in a better position than others in terms of location, for example central belt councils had support networks on their doorstep. He suggested that their pro-rata share would be only two or three individuals based on facilities available in Shetland. They were only in the first year of the five year scheme and the Home Office may well come forward with those who would be able to stay in Shetland.

Cllr Wills noted the excellent voluntary work going on within organisations in Shetland in helping to send supplies to Europe.

Building Budgets Meeting

Mr Arwed asked about the feedback from the Building Budgets meeting.

Mr Anderson said that they could ask. He thought that perhaps they were the first community councils to attend and they would be going around all the community councils before feeding back the information.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

Anderson High School Murals

Cllr Wills said many years ago, fifth and sixth year pupils at the Anderson Institute painted two murals, in panels for either side of the division between the hall and the dining room. Both were exceptional and done under the tutorage of Charles Forage.

He was concerned for them and grateful if the community council could write to the Education Department to ensure that these murals were preserved and displayed in some public building and looked after. He was hoping they could perhaps be incorporated within the new school.

(Action: ?)

Devolution of power to Community Councils

Cllr Wills wanted to offer his support and advice, acknowledging he had always been in favour of community councils having more powers. He didn't think there would be significant devolution from councils until community councils were 'bodies corporate' so that they could own property and employ staff.

He said the council were currently looking at the future of local government in Shetland and Scotland as a whole, as part of devolution settlement and part of the 'Our Islands Our Future' campaign and discussions for an 'Islands Bill' which was to come from the Scottish Government soon. Following discussions, he had proposed that they recommend community councils be given additional, legal and special powers, so they could be in a position to take on responsibilities that could be delegated by the council and councils in general.

Cllr Wills thought a lot of enthusiasm and talent lay within community councils, but they were frustrated and held back by practical difficulties, put out by local and government legislation. He suggested that this was a way forward and he wished to inform the community council this was happening and that there would be a consultation as part of the 'Our Islands Our Future' paper. He added that he hoped they would respond.

Mr Anderson thanked Cllr Wills for informing them.

Centralisation of Emergency Services

Mr Spence raised concern regarding the fire in Yell and Bressay fire crews called out to deal with it. He questioned if there was any way the community council could voice its opinion. He stated it was because of centralisation and was what the government was doing with everything. He said that this was just one mistake and it was just early days.

Mr Anderson said that they could write, but that once removed from Lerwick or Shetland, what odds it would make if it was in Inverness, Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Cllr Bell agreed with the centralisation point and agreed that having the control room in Dundee, Glasgow or Inverness was any less likely to make that mistake. He suggested what would be best was having a control room for all emergency services under one roof in Shetland.

Discussion ensued about the difference having been when control was removed from Shetland and the need for emergency services to have control within Shetland. Members agreed that they supported local MSP Tavish Scott following his concerns as voiced on local radio that evening.

Mr Anderson asked members who they should write to.

Mrs Simpson thought that they should write and support Mr Scott's statement that he had made on Radio Shetland.

It was agreed that they write to the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and copy in Cllr Alastair Cooper, Chairman of the Community Safety and Resilience Board, also with perhaps a joint letter coming from the Association of Community Councils.
(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Lane Gate between Kelly's Opticians and Andersons

Mr Knight queried the steps between Kelly's Opticians and Andersons and the gate which appeared to be permanently padlocked. He thought this might be a 'right of way.'

Mr Anderson said he thought that the gate was supposed to be closed at midnight and opened at eight o'clock the next morning. He suggested they see what they could find out.

(Action: Clerk to the Council)

Older Citizens Christmas Lunch

Mr Anderson showed members some photographs taken at the Christmas dinner held at the Islesburgh Community Centre and thanked members for agreeing to contribute towards the event.

There being no further competent business the meeting concluded at 8.15pm.
Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....

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