

MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017

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

Members

Mrs A Simpson	Mr J Anderson
Ms K Fraser	Mr D Ristori
Mr A Johnston	Mr P Coleman
Mr E Knight	Mr J Fraser
Mr S Hay	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Stout	Cllr C Smith (left 8.00pm)
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Co-opted Members

Mr B Johnston	Mrs M Hall
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Additional Co-opted Student Members

Miss E Thomson

In Attendance

Mr Ross Jones, CARES Development Officer, Local Energy Scotland
Mr Stephen Leask, Director, Northmavine Development Company
Mrs M Sandison, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

04/17/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

04/17/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Wenger, Mr A Carter, Cllr J Wills, Cllr M Bell and Cllr A Wishart.

04/17/03

Minute

The minute of the meeting on 6 March 2017 was approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Mr D Ristori.

04/17/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Minute ref 03/17/7.3 – Review of Support to Association of Community Councils (ASCC) - Feedback from Sub-group meeting

Mr Anderson informed members that there had been five options, one of which had been removed by the time they met. VAS had confirmed that they were not in a

position to carry on the administration for the ASCC. The preferred option had been to go for the in-house council committee clerks to take on the role.

There was a decision at the Association of Community Councils Bi-Annual meeting last month that a meeting of the community council Chairs would take place and this would be fed back to the council.

(Action: Chairman)

04/17/05 **Police Scotland Monthly Report**

Mr Anderson noted that no representatives were in attendance.

04/17/06 **Potential Community and Renewable Energy Scheme Supply to Sandy Loch Water Treatment Works – Ross Jones, CARES Development Officer**

Mr Anderson welcomed Mr Ross Jones from CARES, a Community and Renewable Energy Scheme to the meeting.

Mr Jones introduced himself and informed members that he worked for a consortium called Local Energy Scotland. He had recently approached the community council with the potential idea of exploring a community renewal supply at the Sandy Loch Water Treatment Works.

He explained that the Scottish Government had set up Community Energy Scheme, it had been running for some time and they delivered it. They were a consortium of social enterprise organisations supported by an environmental consultancy.

The scheme had been established to increase the local benefit of renewable energy. It was about the community being able to develop schemes themselves or form some form of shared ownership into the schemes so they could ultimately benefit from the income themselves rather than the developer. To do this the Scottish government would fund through a loan, at the most risky part of the development, where you would struggle to find another investor, to enable community groups, local authorities, businesses, housing associations, co-operatives or ben comms [society for the benefit of the community] get involved in the scheme and develop it themselves or take a stake from a commercial development scheme.

In Shetland they had been involved in quite a few projects. At Garth Wind Farm, the community had done the work around planning consent, and they had funded it with an initial loan in 2013 and a second loan to take them through a lengthy and difficult process to then attract bank funding and through to completion. The recent opening was a great celebration for the community and also for them. Ultimately they were an enabler, they had worked with Fetlar Green Energy, both with development of their micro-grid which provides heat and power to the local school and other buildings, but also to help set up a Ben Comm to build the turbines, to power it and create a demand and supply within that system.

They had also supported Foula Electricity Trust in terms of the upgrade to their system and Shetland Island Council, as they look to do a thermal storage. Also in Unst to look at the opportunities around what they could do to better utilise the supply and demand that they have on the island.

He stated that Scottish Water already had renewable energy powering many of their assets in terms of solar PV, wind and hydro and were keen to have renewable projects on land adjacent to their asset to supply them. It could be a commercial developer or the preference being for a community providing their supply. They were supportive of communities as developers to look at the feasibility and if it was compatible with what Scottish Water were trying to do, on the various sites.

Sandy Loch had a significant demand, so potential for a renewable resource, and with a guaranteed demand it was only necessary to see if it was financially viable.

Any scheme supported by Scottish Water to supply their site would be developer led, they did not want to have the risk, but were happy to talk to a developer around how they could utilise that supply, how that would relate and if they were happy around how that would work. The supply would be via a private wire, a cable coming into the site and to reduce the cost it would have to be right next door to the site. They would then take that renewable energy and consume it taking away demand from the local grid. This would be done by a formal Power Purchase Agreement set for a 20 year period, so have a guaranteed demand and allow a financial business case, to take the risk and develop it.

Two communities had taken the step forward; Strathaven Town Mills Arts and Heritage Centre who were quite well developed now, in terms of developing the hydro scheme and the agreement with Scottish Water to supply Strathaven Water Treatment Works.

Also the Carloway Estate Trust in Lewis, they put out an invitation to tender a couple of weeks ago, setting out exactly what they were looking for a potential contractor to do in terms of full feasibility on that, with a view to providing a supply to West Harris Water Treatment Works.

Mr Jones said it was an opportunity to work with Scottish Water to determine whether a local renewable supply was feasible and financially viable and if interested and wished to progress or perhaps realise it was not viable for various reasons.

It was an opportunity to commit some limited resource, putting an application through with some support, with a view that should the feasibility become successful then looking to find an appropriate vehicle, probably not the community council, but something that would sit alongside the community council, to take forward to actually creating a generation supply.

It was necessary to establish if the community council were interested, and if the owner of adjoining land would be interested in leasing. In terms of their offer of grant funding it required there being no 'show stoppers' with planning, and if anything prohibited some form of wind turbine or solar PV array on the land. Following that they would be happy to receive an application that would allow a proper feasibility study to be carried out.

Mr Anderson thanked Mr Jones and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr Knight asked what sort of land area was needed.

Mr Jones replied that land suitable for a turbine, two or three or an area sizable enough for a solar array. He mentioned the solar array down by the lighthouse and suggested the need for a sizable chunk of land.

Mr Anderson asked about the number of turbines.

Mr Ross said that it could be just one turbine, but probably better to have two, if one was not working. Smaller turbines would mean more and at the same time not having such a large turbine towering over the site. He said provision would be only part, so perhaps the decision there to have one or two small ten kilowatt turbines which would only give you so much in return or whether you could put something larger and have a number of fifty kilowatt turbines or whatever else it may be to. It could be a mixture of a turbine and a solar array.

Cllr Stout asked about risk to the supply due to equipment failure and the resulting mitigation due to the contract with Scottish Water.

Mr Jones replied that the contract with Scottish Water would pay for what was supplied. The risk came down to the known reliability of the equipment. He suggested that a lot had been learnt as to what stood the test in Shetland and mentioned the West turbines re-engineered in Foula which they had funded a loan for. It had a technical problem that had stopped it working, but had stood up to gales it still had to do its test of time. They were not for sale and not something to consider.

Cllr Stout enquired if their targets made them more sympathetic to wind turbines or solar arrays.

Mr Jones replied that this was something for the community council to decide. Scottish Water would have a view on supply and preferred type of power and the reliability of it. He explained that this would be where the feasibility would come in. Ultimately it came down to their decision about whether as a community it felt right to explore, as an income generator and ability to take those steps that were required, to then be in a position to make an application. He offered support with questions to planning and drafting of the application form.

Ms Fraser queried about the 'vehicle' required to run the scheme and if a company would have to be established.

Mr Jones replied that some form of special purpose vehicle would have to be formed to do it. He suggested that income would be dependent on the technology used but expecting in the region of a four figure sum each year of generation for it to be worthwhile, requiring some volunteer time as well as paid project management to push that forward.

Mr Anderson informed members about the discussion at the recent ASCC meeting regarding planning and locally the exclusion of a three hundred metre radius.

Mr Jones agreed this was something to be discussed with planning and the with regard to decisions to made over technology, distance of wind turbines based on costs.

Mr Anderson asked if it was something members wanted to further explore.

Mrs Simpson suggested they find out more information before deciding.

Mr Anderson asked Mr Jones' advice on the next steps to be taken.

Mr Jones said the first step was to establish if there was interest from the landowner and to send any further questions to him. He suggested talking to other groups. Following a look around he had seen the potential for it to work and possible reasons why it may not.

Ms Fraser enquired if he envisaged something been near to the waterworks building and the dam.

Mr Jones replied that it needed to be on land adjacent due to the costs of putting in a private wire. He suggested the feasibility study would look into that and provide the information on whether to take it forward or not and the income that could be used for the benefit of the community.

Cllr Stout expressed his thoughts on the scheme fitting in with community empowerment and an opportunity for the community council to develop its capacity to be of benefit to the community.

Mr Jones agreed and advised they talked to those who had gone down this route not to produce renewable energy, but for the income.

Mr Fraser asked if as a community council they were allowed to hold fundraising assets such as this. He suggested that it was grey area regarding holding funds, assets, property and staff.

Cllr Stout clarified that the community council couldn't directly do any of those things as it was currently constituted, but it was simple to set up a vehicle to take that forward.

Mr Anderson added that the new community empowerment act might allow that to happen.

Mr Stephen Leask informed members that he was a director with a community based company that dealt with wind turbines. He said that the company was established for the benefit of the community and this was what they needed to do. They had many different avenues for the community.

Mr Jones explained the benefit of the community council looking into the feasibility and if it was worthwhile first then the establishment of a vehicle to take that forward.

Mr Leask explained the formation of various groups or management committees within the company to take things forward.

Ms Fraser asked if they applied for a grant would it entirely fund the feasibility study.

Mr Ross said the grant would cover the cost of the feasibility study up to ten thousand pounds.

Mr Jones left the meeting at 730pm.

Mrs Simpson asked what they were to do.

Mr Anderson suggested firstly approaching the landowner. He mentioned that Scottish Water had planning in that would result in substantially less power being used.

Mr A Johnston said that he had passed details of the landowner to the clerk.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

04/17/07

Correspondence

(Item included in agenda documents)

Damaged Wall at Brevik House – Inspector Lindsay Tulloch

Mr Anderson pointed out the damaged wall and said the police had been informed.

7.1 Lerwick Speed Limits Gilbertson Road – Dave Coupe, Executive Manager, Roads, SIC

Mr Anderson noted the correspondence from Roads regarding the speed limits.

Mr Ristori mentioned the need for a 20mph zone near to the new Anderson High School.

Discussion took place on the different speed limits on the map from Roads.

Cllr Stout commented that there had been much on-going discussion regarding the situation at Bell's Brae School. He said that there was much sympathy around the problems, there was no single solution, but the starting point had to be how to alter folks' behaviour. He suggested that this response be passed to the concerns that had come in to the community council.

Mr Anderson said that the issue had been raised by a resident and they had approached Roads with the concerns.

Mr B Johnston suggested that it was education that was needed.

Cllr Stout informed members that the council were limited to what they could do and it came down to evidence as opposed to folks' perception. The Esplanade was the only area that had statistics and shown potential to do something. He said a lot of thought had gone into the balance between safety and traffic flow. It was important to keep traffic flowing and visibility was a key issue.

Cllr Stout added that the Police present on the street had shown to effect folks' behaviour and as soon as they knew that the Police were not there their old behaviour

had come back. He stated it was not about engineering or signs, but was an opportunity for the community council to be visible and vocal.

Mr Anderson replied that most people would probably agree with that.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of having a 20mph blanket speed limit in the town.

Mr Anderson didn't agree that this or traffic calming measures would go anywhere towards changing the situation and it came down folks' behaviour.

Cllr Stout stressed the responsibility of the community council in informing the community and having a broader understanding of what the situation was.

Ms Fraser suggested that they forward their support to Roads for the proposed introduction of further 20mph speed limits. She enquired about also replying to the resident at Gilbertson Road.

Mr Anderson proposed that they copy the letter from Roads to the resident and any reply the community council make to Roads. He asked if anyone had any comments or if they would happy to welcome the proposals from Roads.

Mr B Johnston agreed they welcome the proposals and perhaps also make the comment about the need for education.

Members agreed they write to Roads and welcome the proposals.

Mr Knight remarked that educating drivers was useless unless physical reasons were in place to stop speeding nothing was going to happen.

Cllr Stout suggested asking for representation from Roads.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

7.2 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service – Local Plan Shetland Review

Mr Anderson said that unfortunately the questions had not been noted before the on-line portal had closed but suggested the clerk ask for them and circulated to members and if anyone had comments then these could then be submitted.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

7.3 Scottish Ambulance Service – Registration to Resuscitation

Mr Anderson noted that the PADs [Public Access Defibrillators] were being promoted.

Ms Fraser suggested that they check that defibrillators were registered on the Scottish Ambulance website.

Mr Anderson agreed that members could feedback and forward to the clerk and they could check they were on the system. He commented that it was a wonderful idea.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

7.4 Housing Land Audit – Briefing Note – I. McDiarmid, Executive Manager, Planning, SIC

Mr Anderson asked if any members had any questions, concerns or comments on the document.

It was noted as an interesting document and that Lerwick had the highest rate of depopulation during the period.

7.5 Employment Land Audit – Briefing Note – I. McDiarmid, Executive Manager, Planning, SIC

Noted.

7.6 SSE Networks – Kirsty Wood, Lead Engagement & Submarine Policy Officer

Mr Anderson pointed out that an Open Day was to be held at the Museum about the new cable to be laid from Yell to Mossbank, if anyone wanted to go along.

7.7 Da Voar Redd Up – Sita Goudie, Environmental Improvement Officer, S.A.T.

Ms Fraser asked if members were interested in taking place on Sunday 23rd April at 11.00am. Some members were able to attend and names were noted.

Mrs Hall pointed out the area she had suggested at Gremista and the advice given by the Amenity Trust.

Ms Fraser mentioned areas near to Holmsgarth in need of clearing.

Mr Anderson agreed they would agree the areas with the Amenity Trust along with the number of bags and bids required and let everyone know the meeting arrangements.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

7.8 Northern Isles Digital Forum – Sally Ritch, Secretary to Tavish Scott, MSP

Mr Anderson pointed out the event to be held on the 22nd April from 1130 until 130pm if anyone wanted to attend.

7.9 Daffodils at Hillhead – Karen Anderson

Mr Anderson said he had not actually seen the daffodils looking bad and not received the photographs. He said he would chase up the photographs and have them circulated for information.

(Action: Chairman)

7.10 Charitable Exemption Approved – Business Stream

Noted.

7.11 Community Capacity & Resilience Fund – Michael Duncan, External Funding Officer

Mr Anderson noted the money to be made available later this year and suggested the clerk circulate the link and it be included on the agenda for next month.
(Action: Clerk to the council)

(Item 7.12 was held over to the end of the meeting)

03/17/08

Finance

8.1 Core Funding Financial Report 30th March 2017

Noted.

8.2 Invoice for Staney Hill Sign – SIC Finance

Mr Anderson informed members the sign was up at Staney Hill and Paths for All had offered additional funding if we could use it. Plans were moving ahead for putting a back on that sign and additional sign further up the hill at the other end of Cunningham Way. He suggested checking with landowners.

Ms Fraser suggested a sign at the cattle grid as folk did walk up there from the Clickimin, but were not sure if they could get back into Lerwick that way. The sign could point to the view point and down the hill showing the way back to Lerwick and the other pointing along to Cunningham Way.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

8.3 CDF (Distribution & Project) Acknowledgements – Elsa Manson, Community Planning & Development

Mr Anderson said that they had applied for three thousand pounds for a small PB event and one thousand pounds a bit of scoping research for the around Lerwick walk. He suggested they could walk around and take photographs to see where all the gaps were.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

8.4 Living Lerwick – Confirmation of Winter Christmas Lights '16 Grant – Christena Irvine, Manager, Living Lerwick

Noted.

04/17/09

Any Other Business

Road over Staney Hill

Ms Fraser asked what could be done to discourage traffic from using the road over the Staney Hill following it been opened up after the Anderson High School works were completed.

Mr Anderson mentioned the barrier at the bottom near the former campsite which had not lasted long.

Ms Fraser added that gates in the past had prevented it from becoming a through-fare. It was something that they had brought up during the planning of the new school for safe walking routes. She wondered if they could write to the project manager and ask about the plans were to keep the route safe for walkers

Lerwick History Group

Mr Anderson informed member that Monday 8th May had been suggested for a meeting regarding the proposed formation of a Lerwick History Group. The clerk was to send out the information to members. He asked if members could pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

(Action: Clerk to the council)

7.12 SIC Salary Scales – Clerks wages

It was agreed that the clerk's salary increased in line with the local government pay award with effect from April 2017.

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

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....