

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2017

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

Members

Mr J Anderson	Mrs M Hall
Mrs A Simpson	Ms K Fraser
Mr A Wenger	Mr P Coleman
Mr A Johnston	Mr E Knight
Mr W Spence	Mr D Ristori
Mr B Johnston	Mr A Carter
Mr S Hay	

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell
Cllr S Leask

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr A Wishart
Mr G Robinson
Miss L Cluness
Mr P Jones

In Attendance

Mr R Sinclair, SIC
Mr E Anderson, 7N Architects
Mr N Munro, 7 N Architects
Mr G Nicolson, Vågsøy Twinning Association
Miss A Jamieson, AHS Pupil
Ms M Holzheimer, Whalsay School
Ms F Valente, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chair, presided.

11/17/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read. Mr Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

11/17/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Bell, Cllr C Smith Campbell, Cllr A Westlake, Mr J Fraser, Cllr B Wishart

11/17/03

Minutes of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting on 2 October 2017 was approved by Mrs A Simpson and seconded by Ms K Fraser.

11/17/04 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

11/17/05 **Police Scotland Monthly Report**

Representatives from Police Scotland were not in attendance.

11/17/06 **School exchange visit to Vagsoy**

Graham Nicolson had applied for funding to support some pupils from Anderson High School going to Norway on an exchange visit to a school in Norway. He introduced Alanos Jamieson to talk about the experience.

Miss Jamieson said it had been a good experience and had been great fun. Her host family had been very friendly and welcoming and had taken her swimming and bowling and to the beach. The pupils had been matched up with Norwegian pupils with the same kind of interests and they had all made friends and were remaining in touch. They had visit fjords, mountains, local companies in the Malloy area, including a very successful computing company, and had gone off on a sea fishing trip. They had also seen the famous rock, Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock).

Marina Holzheimer, a French teacher from Whalsay School, who had been one of the two accompanying teachers added that the trip had been a massive success. She commented that the interest in an exchange trip to Norway had been huge and many more pupils would have loved to have gone too, had more funding been available. She said that the teaching experience had been very different in Norway, but there had been many similarities in language and traditions which had been interesting to experience. She said that the exchange programme was very valuable as it broadened horizons and gave young people in both countries the chance to learn about different cultures. She thanked the Community Council for the grant that had enabled the visit.

11/17/07 **Knab Site Masterplan**

The architecture team from 7N who had been tasked with the Knab Site Masterplan gave a slideshow presentation on proposals for what could potentially be built on the land, following the demolition of the unlisted parts of the old Anderson High School. The initial plans show that housing is the most likely option under consideration. This was because it was clear through speaking to the Housing Department that there was a demand for more housing, particularly more affordable homes for key workers. The architects explained that the masterplan would provide a guide to the site developers that would encourage a housing scheme that put pedestrians and cyclists before cars and that a network of paths would be created to make it safe and attractive to walk around the site, and to and from the town centre. Car parking would be available to residents, but possibly not immediately adjacent to the properties. The development would take account of the prevailing winds and sheltered courtyard areas would be created for residents.

With regard to the buildings that would remain, which included the listed buildings, and the science block which would also be retained, there were no firm conclusions on what they might be used for, but a business case for various ideas was being

developed. There had been interest from hotels in the old school building. It was thought that the science block might be redeveloped to form small business units.

The concern among Members was that the emphasis on trying to avoid cars in the proposed residential area was unrealistic. The general feeling was that most families seemed to have at least one car, possibly even two or three, so any restrictions on parking availability were likely to result in chaotic parking. Members pointed out that this part of the town was hilly and exposed and not conducive for walking when the weather is bad; and at the current moment this area was not covered by public transport links. Ms Fraser was one of the only Members to favour the idea of encouraging less reliance on vehicles, and she commented in favour of the courtyards and sheltered spaces.

Members were also concerned that the architects had not understood the nature of the prevailing winds at the Knab. Although the prevailing winds were mainly from the south, the most damaging and colder winds often came from other directions.

Mr Robinson asked what ideas there were for repurposing the Janet Courtney hostel as it would not lend itself very easily for conversion. He commented that it was a shame that an application could not be made to Historic & Environment Scotland to have the Grade B listing withdrawn as the building was not considered locally to be particularly attractive. Ewen Anderson replied that the rules on Grade B listed buildings mean that it wouldn't be a simple matter of delisting the building; there had to be significant plans for a proposal of equal value.

Mr Wishart asked what the sum had been proposed for funding the proposal. Mr Sinclair replied that a figure had not been decided yet, however, the Council was aware that the site needed to be redeveloped as soon as possible as it would soon become a burden. Some of the costs would be met by other organisations such as housing associations, HIE, charitable trusts or private developers.

Mr Carter approved of the retention and creation of green spaces and asked whether this site could be developed for tourism and pointed out that there was still a need for a campsite to replace the one that was lost when the new AHS was built. Mr Sinclair replied that the campsite was unlikely to be sited at the Knab, however, there was still an opportunity to have a conversation about this issue.

It was suggested that the listed buildings should be retained for educational purposes of some description. Mr Hay suggested that the legacy of Mr Anderson who had bequeathed the buildings to Shetland had intended to promote the future of education and therefore, any new use of the buildings should also prioritise protecting Shetland's future by harnessing the talent that exists in the Isles and providing a space for a creative Hub for artists, entrepreneurs and academics. Ewen Anderson agreed that this would be a fitting use of the building.

Cllr Campbell agreed that a creative hub with an educational element was very important. He said that the Knab scheme might benefit from the 'Islands Deal' with new streams of funding becoming available as a result.

Mr Sinclair said that the budget was being looked at with a view to planning demolition and site clearance in order to be ready for the developers.

Mr Anderson asked what the timescale was for the development. The Masterplan would be published at the end of February and would be put to the full Council by the May meeting where approval would be sought for the ideas.

11/17/08 **Correspondence – reply from Roads Dept**

There was a discussion about the reply from SIC Roads regarding the visibility at the Burnside junction. Mr Robinson pointed out that whilst a visibility of 84 metres might be adequate for the legal speed limit, part of the problem identified was the fact that vehicles simply do not always adhere to the speed limits, and in this area in particular it has frequently been observed that a large number of cars are speeding along this road. There is concern that a major accident could occur at that junction because of the combination of speeding traffic and visibility issues. It was suggested that traffic monitoring could be installed so that the Roads Department/Police could consider the extent of the problem.

Members were also concerned by the comment that double yellow lines would not be an option because the Council has been informed that Police Scotland would no longer enforce parking restrictions, except where a vehicle is clearly obstructing traffic or parked in a dangerous location. They wanted to know whether this was now the official policy of the Council, because there was concern that if so, this would send a message to drivers that there was not much need to pay attention to parking restrictions any longer, and therefore over a period of time parking standards are likely to slip into decline. The Members observed that most people would avoid parking on double yellow lines, regardless of whether they were likely to be caught and prosecuted. The fact that the double lines exist is normally to indicate that parking would cause a problem. In this case, it was felt that double yellow lines might go some way towards solving the problem. The clerk was aside to reply to SIC Roads with these comments. **Action: Clerk**

10/17/09 **Finance 2016-17 Annual Report**

The annual report was submitted for approval by the Community Council. Mr Knight asked whether there had been any contributions from other community councils towards the cleaning and repairs to the Shetland War Memorial. Mr Anderson said he would check this and report back. Other than this there the report was accepted.

10/17/10 **Participatory Budget Event for Lerwick**

The Participatory Budget, Loot for Lerwick, event took place on Saturday 4th November and was very successful, with over 260 people coming along to cast their votes for the projects on offer. The successful projects were Disability Shetland, Bell's Brae Pupil Council, Islesburgh Drama Group, Shetland Amateur Athletics Club and Lerwick Boating Club who were all awarded the full grants they had applied for. There was £283 left over from the £5000 on offer so this balance was awarded to the 6th favourite project, Year of Young Ambassadors. The unsuccessful groups were Shetland Archaeology and Staney Hill Hall. The Chairman reported that Michael Duncan, SIC, had suggested that the unsuccessful groups contacted him for possible support for their projects.

11/17/11 **Town Hall Guides**

There was a large number of Town Hall Guides available for sale or gifting. The Chairman suggested that it might be appropriate to mark the occasion of the refurbishment of the Town Hall by gifting a copy of the guide to each school child in Lerwick. There was general agreement that this would be a good thing to do. There was a discussion about how to market the guides better. Mr Wenger suggested coordinating the effort with tour guides who regularly take tourists on walking tours around the town that include the Town Hall. **Action: Clerk**

11/17/12 **Licence Variation – Da Steak Hoose**

There were no objections regarding the application to vary the licence for Da Steak Hoose.

11/17/13 **Grant Application – Islesburgh Drama Group**

A grant application had been submitted by Islesburgh Drama Group for support for the production of *Blue Stockings* at the Garrison Theatre. The grant would help fund a visit to the theatre by school pupils, along with workshops and talks about the production. *Blue Stockings* is a drama about university education for women set in the 19th Century, before women were allowed to graduate. Mr Carter moved to approve the grant, which was seconded by Mr Coleman.

11/17/14 **Planning Applications 2017/313/PPF – 9 Mounthooly St and 2017/333/PPF 11 Market St**

The planning applications for 11 Market St and Mounthooly St were both for change of use from business to residential. Members had no objections or comments to make.

11/17/15 **A.O.B**

The Chairman drew attention to a recent planning application which involved new signage for the Town Hall. He showed the new sign which included the wording “Welcome to Shetland’s Town Hall.” This drew a number of comments from Members about whether this was appropriate, since Shetland is not a Town. Mrs Simpson said that she believed this had been created in an attempt to be more inclusive. However, most Members thought that it should either say Welcome to The Town Hall, or Welcome to Lerwick Town Hall. The Chairman proposed to object to the wording. This was seconded by Mr Knight.

Mr Ristori asked if it would be possible to chase action on the railings at Hillhead.
Action: Clerk

Mrs Hall asked whether it would be possible to chase action on repairing damage at the electric refuelling station at Gilbertson Park. **Action: Clerk**

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

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....