

# Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  
AT TOWN HALL/MS TEAMS AT 6.00PM

## 1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

### Present

Jim Anderson (Chair)  
Shayne McLeod (Vice Chair)  
Karen Fraser  
Averil Simpson  
Brian Harris  
Andy Carter  
Amanda Hawick  
James Paton  
Robert Leask  
Scott Nicolson  
Diana Winfield  
Cllr Arwed Wenger  
\*Emma Williamson

### In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)  
Shetland Times  
Steve Mathieson  
Julie Graham

### Apologies

Stewart Hay  
Jonathan Duncan  
Jonathan Williamson  
Cllr John Fraser  
Cllr Cecil Smith  
Michael Duncan  
Joanne Fraser  
Ian Taylor  
Police Scotland

### Ex-Officio

\*Cllr Gary Robinson  
Cllr Stephen Leask  
Cllr Dennis Leask  
Cllr Neil Pearson

\* On-line Via MS Teams

## 3. Declarations of Interest

6 – Amanda Hawick  
12 – Cllr A Wenger

## 4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Approved by: Andy Carter  
Seconded by: Averil Simpson

## 5. Police Report

5.1 December 2024 / January 2025

JP said he was shocked by the quantity of incidents reported relating to 'protecting vulnerable people' and asked if it would be worth a discussion with the police/social work.

DW agreed but added that the higher quantity could be due to false alarms e.g. home link alarms activated in error.

→ ACTION: Clerk to ask if Police Scotland can clarify if the number of incidents were genuine concerns, or if the number included any false alarms reported.

AH added that it is reassuring to see that concern has been raised – it is nice to be part of a community that cares.

## **6. UHI Shetland (Julie Graham)**

Julie Graham, Engagement Officer - UHI attended the meeting to introduce herself and gather feedback from members on the services provided by UHI.

Julie explained the current focus is to try and improve learning and training in remote communities to provide better provision throughout Shetland. She asked for members views on how learning and training is accessed in Shetland and if they had any thoughts on how this could be improved. She will be reviewing information received from Community Council's across Shetland with a view to put a development plan in place to review the current strategies.

JA asked how a member of the public would find out what courses are on offer, and when. All course information is on the UHI website; however, Julie is aware the current website it not very intuitive. This is one of the areas UHI are hoping to streamline.

Cllr A Wenger suggested another route could be to implement an option for people and businesses to subscribe to a newsletter which could be emailed with relevant information on upcoming short courses available. He felt this would encourage more people to look at the website.

Cllr N Pearson asked how much engagement Julie has had with local employers. She explained they are doing some data analysis on short course offerings and are meeting with industries to establish what courses they would be interested in being offered. They are hoping to develop a more targeted training offer. They also want to manage expectations to ensure they are not offering courses where there is no capacity to run them.

Julie has a close working relationship with DYW and is also working with SDS. She hopes to bring the UHI data together with DYW and integrate this into the adult service.

KF said UHI used to be part of the community learning network through the Shetland Library but haven't attended for a while. Julie would be interested in attending.

JP recommended Julie to look at the Shetland in Statistics publication on the SIC website. This will give a picture of trends in Shetland.

JA asked what the biggest challenges are for UHI in terms of student numbers. Julie said that from the feedback so far it would be how information is disseminated and making sure it is easily accessible and understandable. There are also some issues with the booking system which needs to be streamlined. Julie said some people don't realise there is accommodation available through UHI with 10 rooms at the Scalloway campus.

KF is aware there is some concern over the cut back on the creative courses on offer e.g. BA in Textiles which has been discontinued without much consultation or research.

The discussion moved on to the proposed move of the main UHI campus from Lerwick to Scalloway. AC felt this was the most significant issue currently for UHI. He asked how a move would affect student numbers and attendance in the future, expressing concern on how the move would impact students.

SN also added concerns on the size of the Scalloway campus. He feels there would be an issue with capacity, especially when the cadet and vocational pathways courses were running.

In terms of accessibility, DW added further concerns. She felt that geographically a move from Lerwick to Scalloway would be an issue with the limited bus services offered in Shetland. She felt a move to Scalloway would put additional pressure on the Scalloway bus service which could impact on availability for local residents.

Julie explained discussions regarding the proposed move to Scalloway was out with her remit and she was unable to provide any updates on whether a decision had been made but she would be happy to take back comments to the appropriate person.

## **7. Actions from last meeting**

### **7.1 Action tracker spreadsheet**

→ ACTION: Clerk to email Roads for an update.

### **7.2 Bicycles on Public Transport – response form Transport Planning**

Cllr A Wenger felt the response was inadequate. Bicycles users are required to contact each individual bus operator to ask for information on the carriage of bikes on buses.

DW explained that part of the reason for the requirement to contact each bus operator is because bikes use the wheelchair space/pushchair spaces on buses. A bus operator could approve the carriage of a bicycles in principle but if a wheelchair user

or parent with a pushchair needed access to the bus and the appropriate space, they would no longer be able to carry the bicycle.

## **8. Correspondence/ Discussion Points**

### 8.1 Relationships Scotland - Shetland

[Lets Talk about Shetland Communities](#)

Survey closed.

### 8.2 Gremista Grid Supply Point (Shetland) – SSEN Draft Strategic Development Plan

Noted.

JP said that the consultation document was over complicated and unclear. He felt that a PhD in physics would be required to begin to try and navigate the document to establish exactly what was being consulted on.

### 8.3 Proposed Changes to the Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Guidance on Public Participation and Fit and Proper Person Test – SEPA Consultation

Noted.

## **9. Association of Shetland Community Councils**

### 9.1 Meeting Papers for **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

JA and SM will attend the ASCC meeting.

## **10. Finance**

### 10.1 Financial Update

The account is currently sitting with a negative available balance.

There was a discussion on the committed expenditure detailed on the financial statement. JP asked for further clarification on why grant applications from as far back as 2022/23 were still outstanding.

The clerk advised that most invoices/receipts had been received in relation to the outstanding grants, and these would be paid out as soon as the signatory changes to the bank account had been completed.

→ ACTION: Clerk to chase all outstanding invoices/receipts.

JP asked why Gulberwick Toddlers had been approved a grant from Lerwick Community Council. This was agreed as there are many Lerwick families who attending the toddler group.

### 10.2 SCT Grant Application Decision

A letter was received from the Shetland Charitable Trust to advise that they were unable to provide funding for the community benches. This is because Community Councils are not eligible for the Small Grant Scheme.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact SCT for a copy of the eligibility criteria for the Small Grants Scheme.

Members discussed applying to SCBF for funding towards the community benches.

Proposed by: Karen Fraser

Seconded by: James Paton

→ ACTION: Clerk to apply to SCBF.

## 11. SCBF

### 11.1 Proposal LCC to apply for funding re Dog Fouling Signage

Members discussed a proposal to apply to SCBF for funding to create and display signs to raise the profile around dog fouling in Lerwick. JP volunteered to help with this project.

Proposed by: James Paton

Seconded by: Andy Carter

→ ACTION: Clerk to apply to SCBF.

## 12. Planning (all plans can be viewed at: <https://pa.shetland.gov.uk/online-applications/>)

### 12.1 Formation of a temporary car park and associated works (including temporary road surfacing) within phased Knab redevelopment site.

Former Anderson High School Site Knab Lerwick Shetland ZE1 OAR

Ref. No. [2024/304/PPF](#)

FOI Request 16303 – Car Parking Spaces

[Noted.](#)

### 12.2 To erect dwellinghouse with integral garage; install air source heat pump; install new septic tank and connection to existing sea outfall pipe; remove section of Westhall wall at junction.

Bankfield Lower Sound Lerwick Shetland ZE1 ORN

Ref. No: [2025/001/PPF](#) | Received: Wed 08 Jan 2025 | Validated: Mon 17 Feb

2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

### 12.3 Non material variation to planning application 2023/167/PPF (Construction of an extension to existing premises to create additional retail and sorting space) proposed changes to elevations and floor plan designs.

Cope Ltd Port Business Park Lerwick Shetland ZE1 OTW

Ref. No: [2023/167/NMV](#) | Received: Fri 31 Jan 2025 | Validated: Fri 07 Feb

2025 | Status: Approved

[No comments.](#)

### 12.4 Installation of signage to south and east elevations of building.

Thule Bar Esplanade Lerwick Shetland ZE1 OLL

Ref. No: [2025/020/ADV](#) | Received: Wed 05 Feb 2025 | Validated: Tue 11 Feb 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration  
[No comments.](#)

- 12.5 **Non material variation to planning application 2024/290/PPF (To install an electric vehicle rapid charge point in the staff car park to serve two parking bays; cable is to be ducted underground to the charge point from the building plant room) proposed change of position of charge point.**

Shetland Islands Council Islesburgh Community Centre King Harald Street Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0EQ

Ref. No: [2024/290/NMV](#) | Received: Thu 06 Feb 2025 | Validated: Thu 06 Feb 2025 | Status: Approved  
[No comments.](#)

- 12.6 **To demolition existing dilapidated shed and erect new 2 storey dwellinghouse with air source heat pump and parking/turning area; install connection into combined sewer; install french drains.**

Site At Waarie Geo Lerwick Shetland

Ref. No: [2025/028/PPF](#) | Received: Fri 14 Feb 2025 | Validated: Fri 14 Feb 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

There was some concern raised that the extent of the earthworks shown in the Site Plan (supplementary) would not provide the open aspect as shown in the submitted Elevation drawings. Members agreed to seek further detail and clarification on the extent of the works required to provide the open aspect in the elevation drawings. Further detail on the extent of rock removal from the top of the banks above Waarie Geo and confirmation that no works are required out with the Red Line Boundary.

Concern was also raised regarding the apparent removal of public access to the beach and the old 'Point', in front of the proposed house. Members agreed to ask that provision would be incorporated within the plans to include a distinct path for public access to the beach.

→ ACTION: Clerk to submit comments to Planning.

- 12.7 **Alterations to existing entrance to building to create an external accessible pedestrian ramp with steps, and a wider entrance door to the lobby.**

Block 2 Montfield Lane Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0LF

Ref. No: [2025/032/PPF](#) | Received: Tue 18 Feb 2025 | Validated: Tue 18 Feb 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

- 12.8 **To retain container for confined space training (Retrospective Application)**

Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service, Lerwick Fire Station, Sea Road, Lerwick, Shetland

Ref. No: [2025/036/PPF](#) | Received: Fri 21 Feb 2025 | Validated: Mon 24 Feb 2025 | Status: Unknown

[No comments.](#)

### 13. AOB

### **PTSN Switch-off**

Cllr A Wenger raised concerns regarding the switch over from an analogue to a digital connection. He has experienced difficulties during the process and feels some awareness needs to be raised to warn the Shetland community before they begin the process.

Due to ongoing issues, BT have confirmed that the switch-off of the legacy PSTN has been delayed to January 2027.

### **Clickimin Loch Sign**

AC asked what happened to the sign at the back of the Clickimin loch. JA has the sign as the base ended up in the loch. JA hopes the sign can be put back in place when there are funds available to make a new base.

### **Local Place Plans**

Members of LCC met with David Wood, Planning and Policy Manager – Planning Aid Scotland on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom. The Planning Aid Local Place Plan Project Management Tool and the Council's Local Place Plan Template documents have been shared with all members following the meeting.

There will be a Shetland's Local Place Plans 2025 Spring Workshop on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at Islesburgh Community Centre from 10am to 4pm. The workshop is designed for community bodies who have registered an interest in creating a Local Place Plan. The interactive session will provide essential guidance, practical training, and personalised support to help progress plans. You can register [here](#) for the workshop.

### **Community Resilience**

Joanne Fraser and Ian Taylor tendered apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting. As they had been unable to attend the last couple of meetings, they asked for a meeting with JA at another time. JA will meet with them on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. JP would like to raise concern from the Police Report with regards to the number of incidents under the 'protecting vulnerable people' category.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

14.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.