

# Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> May 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)  
Brian Harris  
Amanda Hawick  
Robert Leask  
Jonathan Duncan  
Averil Simpson  
James Paton  
Stewart Hay  
Andy Carter  
Karen Fraser

### In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)  
Steve Mathison  
Billy Mycock  
Shetland Times  
\*Shetland News

### Apologies

Scott Nicolson  
Jonathan Williamson  
Michael Duncan

### Ex-Officio

Cllr Dennis Leask  
Cllr Stephen Leask  
Cllr Arwed Wenger  
Cllr Gary Robinson  
\*Cllr Cecil Smith

\* On-line Via MS Teams

## 3. Declarations of Interest

10 – Cllr A Wenger & Cllr C Smith

## 4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Approved by: SM

Seconded by: SH

### Voar Redd Up

The LCC Voar Redd Up will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon. The meeting point will be the ICT carpark.

## 5. SCBF Dog Fouling Funding

**Attendee:** Mr Billy Mycock, Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Shetland Islands Council

Mr Billy Mycock attended the meeting to discuss partnership working between Shetland Islands Council and Lerwick Community Council (LCC) on the SCBF Dog Fouling project. Funding has been approved to support a campaign targeting dog fouling in Lerwick.

As part of the project, a poster/logo design competition will be held with pupils from Bell's Brae and Sound Primary Schools. Mr Mycock has contacted both schools, who are supportive of the initiative. He plans to visit P5-P7 pupils to discuss the issue and encourage participation. Mr Mycock suggested that LCC members could judge the competition and select the winnings designs, which will be printed by Artmachine for us in the campaign.

Mr Mycock noted that Environmental Health is currently reviewing its dog fouling strategy and welcomed suggestions from members. He is exploring a pro-social model, which focuses on reinforcing the positive behaviour of the majority to influence the remaining minority. He would like the campaign's signage and messaging to reflect this approach.

He identified Clickimin, the Sletts and the area around Lerwick Health Centre as areas with particularly high levels of dog fouling. In one instance, he collected around 50 instances of fouling in a single hour. The issues appear to be more severe in the winter, when longer grass makes fouling less visible. In summer, grass cutting tends to clear the area before the extent can be assessed.

Some frustration was expressed at individuals who bag dog waste but then leave the bags behind.

Mr Mycock clarified that bagged dog waste can be disposed of in general waste bins. JD suggested adding signage to the bins to inform the public, which could be implemented by the Council regardless of campaign funding. Mr Mycock also invited suggestions for locations where additional waste bin may be beneficial.

JP volunteered to assist with the project.

SH commented that the key challenge is changing the attitudes of the small minority who do not act responsibly. He welcomed the involvement of pupils, who are often more open to environmental responsibility and can help influence change through their artwork and conversations.

CLlr S Leask echoed SH's comments, expressing hope that children and young people would encourage adults to adopt more responsible behaviours.

The project aims to be completed by December. Mr Mycock plans to visit schools at the start of the new academic year, with winning designs selected by October and printed in time for the campaign launch towards the end of the year.

## **6. Community Council Scheme of Establishment**

### **6.1 Constitution**

Proposed by: JA

Seconded by: SM

### **6.2 Standing Orders**

Proposed by: KF

Seconded by: SH

### **6.3 Code of Conduct**

Proposed by: AC

Seconded by: JD

The Community Council Scheme of Establishment was formally adopted by Lerwick Community Council.

JP expressed his objection to the scheme, stating that he felt it was a missed opportunity to strengthen the local tier of government. He questioned who had determined the scope of the review.

SH welcomed the adoption of the scheme. He found it helpful to have the constitution, standing orders and code of conduct clearly laid out. He reflected on how these documents prompted him to consider his role and responsibilities as a community councillor, including how meetings should be conducted. He acknowledged that he sometimes forgets to go through the Chair when speaking and appreciated the reminder to follow proper procedures. He found the documents useful and saw no reason why they should not be observed.

Cllr G Robinson said he understood some of JP's concerns and had also expected more radical changes. However, he noted that the process had been open to input and widely discussed. He emphasised that the only limitations were those imposed by legislation, and from the SIC's perspective, nothing was off the table.

SH added that while it initially seemed the review might lead to significant changes, it became clear that the focus was on enhancing existing processes. He felt it was valuable to review how the council operates and to have these expectations clearly set out.

Cllr S Leask acknowledged that some community councils were initially cynical, fearing the review might be used to make radical changes or reduce funding. However, he felt the process had been collaborative and welcomed the inclusion of clearer standing orders and codes of conduct, which had previously been lacking.

JA said the process had been lengthy and democratic, with the final scheme approved by Full Council in March.

JP reiterated his opposition and asked again who had determined the scope of the review. Cllr D Leask confirmed that there were no restrictions on what could be discussed during the review process.

KF raised the issue of displaying minutes and notices. All documents are available on the SIC website. JA added that with the SIC move to Microsoft 365 it may improve access and that a SharePoint/Teams page is being considered for document sharing among members.

Cllr D Leask mentioned seeing agendas and minutes displayed in the town centre and suggested exploring additional locations for public display, such as the library.

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

### **7.1 Action tracker spreadsheet**

JD updated members that the contract for the works at Sletts Sea Wall is now going out to tender.

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

### **8.1 Cornerstone/WHP Telecoms Ltd – Proposed upgrade to existing base station installation at NC Police Tower, Lerwick**

No comments or objections were raised in relation to the proposal.

JD suggested the proposed upgrade might help to improve 4G coverage and public access to mobile signals in Lerwick, addressing previous concerns regarding the lack of suitable masts in the area.

Cllr G Robinson added that the contract with emergency services suggested that in areas with sufficient broadband bandwidth, access would be made available to the public, whereas in areas with limited broadband, access would be restricted to emergency services only. He felt there would be no reason public access couldn't be granted.

KF proposed writing to Cornerstone/WHP Telecoms Ltd to request clarification on the intended use of the upgrade (e.g. commercial, emergency or domestic), whether it will enhance signal coverage and capacity for public access in Lerwick, and which network providers (e.g. O2, EE) will be supported.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to Cornerstone/WHP Telecoms Ltd.

### **8.2 Core Path Plan Review**

JA displayed copies of the Access Route and Core Plan maps on the screen for discussion. There is four access routes shown on the map for Lerwick at the Loch of Tresbister, Sands of Sound, the Grottie Buckie Beach and Clickimin. Six core paths are

currently identified: Clickimin Loch, Ness of Sound, Clickimin, the Coastal Walk around Lerwick, Cunningham Way and Staney Hill.

JD highlighted that the review specifically invites feedback on mapping errors. It was noted that the map still shows the old Anderson High School, which has since been demolished, and the area where the new Anderson High School is situated has not been updated.

JA suggested extending the starting point of the Coastal Walk around Lerwick to the Northlink Ferry Terminal to better accommodate tourists arriving in Lerwick, allowing them to follow a continuous route around Lerwick.

JD asked whether any provision is being made for the Staney Hill development. Cllr G Robinson said that the masterplan includes informal paths that reflect anticipated pedestrian routes.

JP raised the issue of the path from Leog Lane behind Greenrig towards Kveldsro and St Magnus Church, which is increasingly used by tourists but is not currently adopted or signposted. JP put forward a request for Leog Lane to be considered as a core path in the review.

JA queried whether core paths are currently signposted. JD recalled that route maps were previously available, but signage appears to be lacking. Members agreed that improved signage and marking of routes would be beneficial, particularly for visitors.

Cllr G Robinson also suggested including the path at Gilbertson Park with access from Burgh Road, Gilbertson Road and Bell's Road.

AH raised concerns about the impact of increased foot traffic in some areas might have on residents, particularly where paths pass close to homes. She asked whether residents have been consulted and noted that some are becoming uncomfortable with tourists inadvertently intruding on their privacy. She also asked whether the reviewed paths would be signposted and included in a public leaflet.

SH said Orkney provide a leaflet for visitors arriving via ferry, but there is not equivalent for Shetland. SM added that Living Lerwick has recently produced a town centre leaflet for distribution at the Northlink Ferry Terminal, but it does not include core paths.

It was suggested that once the core paths are confirmed, a dedicated leaflet should be produced.

Further suggestions included updating maps to reflect current infrastructure (e.g. new AHS), and reviewing routes such as Gilbertson Park, Leog Lane to St Magnus Church and Montfield. Leog Lane was highlighted as a route now being used differently due to increased tourist footfall.

→ ACTION: Clerk to feedback comments to the Core Path Plan Review.

### 8.3 Wall Armouring – Da Roost, Leog, Commercial Street (south)

The wall armouring at Da Roost, Leog which was installed as an emergency coastal protection measure is on the matrix for ongoing/outstanding works.

JP raised concerns about the possible removal of the wall armouring as he has observed otters feeding among the rocks, particularly during the months from May to September. While he is not aware of any evidence of nesting, the area appears to have become part of their natural feeding habitat.

JD advised that if otters are proven to be using the site, removal of the armouring would not be permitted under environmental regulations. However, as a former SIC coastal engineer most comments he had been that the structure was more likely to be a habitat for vermin than otters.

From an aesthetic perspective, the rock armouring is considered intrusive in what is otherwise a unique and well-photographed area. Previous proposals to build a structure in the area were objected due to concerns over visual impact.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to Roads and ask for an update on the status of the wall armouring works, share a report from a concerned community member regarding otter activity observed between May and September and ask for clarification whether an otter survey will be conducted before any works is planned.

## 9. Finance

### 9.1 Financial Update

Noted.

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

### 10.1 Local Place Plans

It was agreed that Local Place Plans will be added as a standing agenda item for future meetings.

JP expressed a strong interest in place planning, particularly in the context of Lerwick at a neighbourhood level. He informed members that he will be working with a group on developing a Local Place Plan for part of Lerwick, for consideration. Gosia is working with the group to develop a plan.

There was no expression of interest from other Community Council members at this time.

### 10.2 To erect single-storey cottage within garden grounds of Seafield House with shared parking/turning area. Seafield House, Seafield, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0RN

## 11. AOB

### Dust Suppression at Staney Hill site

RL reported that dust suppression measures are not being implemented at the Staney Hill development site, and this has led to significant concern among local residents. Residents have raised the issue with both Planning and Environment departments, but no action appears to have been taken.

There was also concern raised about ongoing rock breaking which should have been completed by April. Cllr G Robinson noted that a crushing plant is operating at the rear of the site, which may be contributing to the issue.

→ ACTION: Clerk to raise the issue with Connor Regan/Bryan Leask, Hjaltdland. Request an update on dust suppression measures in place or planned and timeline for completion of rock breaking.

### Railings in the Lanes

SH recalled a previous discussion regarding missing or defective railings in various lanes in Lerwick. A submission had been made following a survey conducted by Douglas Coutts, who inspected all the lanes and submitted findings.

He said that the railings in Reform Lane are less than adequate. KF also recalls the previous discussion and said that railing at Charlotte Street were also included, and the fence at the top of Charlotte Street.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to Neil Hutcheson, Roads for an update.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.