

Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th April 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
Andy Carter
Diana Winfield
Stewart Hay
Robert Leask
James Paton
Jonathon Williamson

In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)
*Shetland Times
*Shetland News
Steve Mathieson
Colin Gair
Police Scotland

Apologies

Brian Harris
Amanda Hawick
Jonathan Duncan
Michael Duncan
Joanne Fraser
Cllr C Smith

Ex-Officio

*Cllr Stephen Leask
Cllr John Fraser
Cllr Gary Robinson
Cllr Arwed Wenger

* On-line Via MS Teams

3. Declarations of Interest

12 – Cllr A Wenger
9.4 – DW & Cllr S Leask

4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 3rd March 2025

Approved by: James Paton
Seconded by: Karen Fraser

5. SIC Roads (Colin Gair)

Mr Colin Gair, Team Leader – Assets & Network Management attended the meeting to provide an update on the implementation of the 20mph zones in Lerwick and to discuss possible extension of the zones.

The majority of the 20mph signs have been put up around the residential streets in Lerwick. Once the road markings have been completed, signs will be uncovered.

Mr Gair explained they are currently looking into possible new traffic calming measures in parts of Lerwick that were not originally included in the wider role out. These areas will cover Gilbertson Road, King Harald Street, North Road, South Road and Lochside.

Prior to COVID, a petition was submitted regarding Gilbertson Road with concerns raised by parents, residents, Bell's Brae Primary School and Parent Council. A public consultation was held, and plans were prepared to introduce some traffic calming measures in the area. However, COVID and then the new guidance on 20mph limits from the Scottish Government put pause to the plans. Mr Gair explained they now know what is expected from the Scottish Government and are ready to move forward with new proposals for Gilbertson Road.

Mr Gair shared a handout with members, presenting initial ideas for some physical traffic calming features, including a possible zebra crossing. Another suggestion is to have a flat-topped hump with zebra crossing lines on top (similar to those at the Esplanade) at the lower entrance to Bell's Brae Primary School on Gilbertson Road, with the road narrowing to single track in a chicane style. This type of narrowing should also help with visibility for the crossing patrol attendants.

Other proposals for the area include some speed cushions, road markings and a raised junction area at the corner of Bell's Road.

Mr Gair acknowledged that speed cushions are an unpopular choice, however, they do slow down traffic and can allow larger vehicles, including emergency services, to pass more easily than other traffic calming measures. The flat-topped humps can have an impact on ambulances when carrying patients and there is a limit on the number of them that can be installed on a route.

Cllr J Fraser asked if LCC would be a statutory consultee and what part Bell's Brae Primary School would play in the consultation process, particularly the Parent Council. Mr Gair explained that they have an obligation to notify any appropriate stakeholders. He intends to gather feedback from LCC and from Bell's Brae Primary School Parent Council before moving forward to public consultation.

Cllr A Wenger asked about the possibility of road markings for designated cycle paths. Mr Gair advised that there is limited road space available, especially with residential parking on the street. Mr Gair hoped the whole ethos of reducing vehicle speeds would help people feel safer cycling.

JW asked what the timescales were for the public consultation. Mr Gair said they were aiming for late Summer.

KF asked if there had been any consideration given to more one-way roads in Lerwick. Mr Gair advised one-way streets would create more trip distance which could have implications for emergency services response times. He also advised, if vehicles are

never meeting oncoming traffic, that tends to increase speeds. It has been investigated, more recently with parts of Burgh Road but it was felt there wasn't enough benefit in terms of justifying it.

In terms of the extension of the 20mph zones in Lerwick, when this was looked at initially it was split into 3 orders. This was intentional in order to move things along quickly if objections were received. In doing this, the decision was taken to not include some controversial roads, including King Harald Street, South Road and North Road.

King Harald Street being one of the more controversial roads as it will require traffic calming measures to be installed in order to meet the requirements if reducing road traffic to 20mph. It was anticipated that the installation of traffic calming measures could be subject to objections.

King Harald Street has a high footfall, and being a wide stretch of road, vehicle speeds are quite high. Mr Gair presented some indicative ideas on traffic calming measures that could be implemented, including a raised junction area at the junction with King Erik Street, leading towards the play park. The proposals also included one or more zebra crossings, on King Harald Street and King Erik Street and a couple of flat-topped humps with zebra crossing lines near the junctions to Union Street and Harbour Street.

Mr Gair asked for feedback on the proposals for King Harald Street.

DW asked if they would consider looking at increasing the number of dropped kerbs for wheelchair users. Mr Gair is keen to look at this throughout the town but explained it would be a separate project as it would come under a different funding stream for Active Travel.

Cllr J Fraser said he had received representations from constituents who felt they didn't get the opportunity to comment on the previous rounds of consultation for the 20mph zones in Lerwick. Cllr J Fraser added he is aware that there was a public consultation, and that it was advertised. He went on to ask if there would be the same opportunity for the public to comment on these proposals.

Cllr S Leask felt that one of the best participations was through Facebook, with a post receiving well over 100 comments. He said he had spoken to many families in the area who have expressed concerns regarding vehicle speeds on King Harald Street, especially in relation to the play park and the area around Lerwick ELC. Mr Gair informed members that they have also had representations from the community regarding the area at Lerwick ELC.

Mr Gair went on to say that the junctions at both ends of King Harald Street will need to be looked at in the future. He said there is an aspiration to improve the layout of the junction at the north end of King Harald Street but this will need to be a separate project. However, the 20mph speeds in place in the area will help drive that change.

Moving onto a discussion about North Road, Mr Gair said this one was quite complicated. If there was an aspiration from LCC to extend the 20mph zone up to around the Station Garage, it will require additional traffic calming features to be installed. It is a road that meets the criteria but one that they felt already had a few features installed.

DW said she wasn't aware of any issues regarding speed in that area and felt there was already enough traffic calming measures in place. Most members agreed.

KF said that one view of LCC during previous conversations had been around consistency through Lerwick. She didn't feel it was true to say there was no need for a reduction and should be considered.

Regarding South Road, members felt there was a lack of crossing points along Scalloway Road and South Road, with none between the Gilbertson Road and Church Road. KF felt this was something that should be looked at.

There is a crossing near Gilbertson Road which is well used but members felt cars tend to speed up down the brae towards Burgh Road. This is an area the police find difficult to enforce as there is no available space for them to park to monitor vehicle speeds.

The consensus was that members would be interested to see some consultation on extending the 20mph zone along South Road but possibly not so much for North Road.

Finally, there was a discussion on Lochside. There is currently a part time 20mph limit in place from the junction at Bruce Crescent to just south of Hayfield Lane and a controlled crossing at the north side of Hayfield Lane. This stretch of road also meets the criteria for traffic calming measures. Mr Gair asked for thoughts on including Lochside in the consultations.

CLlr J Fraser said he had been approached by residents at the south end of Lochside regarding a number of potential hazards. With a school, supermarket and sports pitches which are extensively used, especially in the evenings and at weekends, in the vicinity, he felt the stretch of road should be included.

Mr Gair agreed, there is a lot of activity in the area and there have been concerns raised from the public.

JA suggested, if they are going to consultation, it would be good to try and include Lochside too. Mr Gair will draw up some proposals and share back to LCC.

6. Actions from last meeting

- 6.1 Action tracker spreadsheet
See attached.

7. Correspondence/ Discussion Points

7.1 Community Council Scheme of Establishment

The new Community Council Scheme of Establishment was approved at a meeting of Shetland Islands Council on 25th March 2025. This means that Arwed Wenger was required to stand down as a Community Council member. He will still attend meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

7.2 Greenfield Place Car Park

JP raised the ongoing issues regarding Greenfield Place Car Park. A reply was received from Mrs Anita Jamieson, Executive Manager – Housing where she referred to previous correspondence from Mr Neil Hutcheson, Executive Manager – Roads back in April 2023 and from Mr Neil Grant, Director – Development in November 2022.

JP requested that a further be sent to ascertain clarification on which Council department has responsibility for the car park.

→ ACTION: Letter to be sent to Chief Executive.

7.3 Da Voar Redd Up 2025

Members agreed to participate in Da Voar Redd Up 2025. Areas to be considered are Skipidock and North Road.

→ ACTION: Clerk to register areas with Shetland Amenity Trust & share date options with members.

7.4 Conservation Area Appraisals Review

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/planning-building/conservation-area-reviews/1>

Marianna Porter, Planning Officer was invited to attend the meeting but due to constraints on time and resources was unfortunately unable to attend. She advised that members of the community council were more than welcome to attend the planned in-person events, or to submit a response via the survey or by email.

JP asked if the review could specifically look at the use of buildings, including the repeater station, analogue sub-station, the new telephone exchange and digital exchange, in terms of long-term strategic use in a conservation area.

→ ACTION: Clerk to email comments to Planning.

7.5 Sustainable Aviation Test Environment

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3XPBGF6>

Noted.

7.6 Community Research Project – Dementia Services in remote and rural Scotland

Members are happy to assist with the research project.

→ ACTION: Clerk to respond.

7.7 Battery Energy Storage System, Gremista Road

A pre-construction community engagement event has been scheduled for Wednesday 7th May in the Staney Hill Hall. This event will inform the community of what to expect once construction starts, how long it will last, key dates and activities and to showcase what the eventual site would look like.

7.8 ASCC Meeting – 10th June 2025

DW asked if an update on the electric meters could be included in the agenda.

8. Local Place Plans

JP and DW attended the Local Place Plan Spring Workshop on Friday 4th April at Islesburgh Community Centre.

JA asked if members were interested in creating a Local Place Plan for Lerwick. It will take time and commitment from members to create a plan. JP expressed an interest.

JA suggested trying an advert in the press to gauge interest from members of the community in contributing to a plan.

9. Finance

9.1 Financial Update

Noted.

9.2 Community Council Core Funding Application

Noted.

9.3 LCC Grant Application – Open Door Drama Group

The application was rejected due to lack of available funds.

9.4 SCBF AGS Grant Funding Application – St Magnus' Episcopal Church

Members were in favour of the upgrade to the tourist information board, however, some felt that the production and printing of leaflets could be replaced with a QR code or website link. KF raised concerns with a QR code suggestion in relation to the signal issues in Lerwick.

KF proposed awarding £500, seconded by AC.

10. Licence Variation

10.1 Lerwick Distillery Limited

No objections.

Proposed by JP

Seconded by DW

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

11.1 Change of use of existing hostel building from Class 8 (Residential institutions) to class 7 (Hotels and hostels). The building is proposed to be used out with school

term as a hostel, for individuals and groups. No external changes are proposed to the existing building.

Anderson High School Halls North Loch Drive Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0GR

Ref. No: 2025/065/PPF | Received: Thu 20 Mar 2025 | Validated: Mon 24 Mar 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

11.2 To install 6 air source heat pumps to north-east and south-east elevations of residential development.

Northern Junction Of North Road And Staney Hill Lerwick Ref. No: 2025/064/PPF |

Received: Wed 19 Mar 2025 | Validated: Mon 24 Mar 2025 | Status: Pending

Consideration

[No comments.](#)

11.3 Trim back 3 Sycamore tree branches in rear garden

2 Greenfield Place Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0AQ

Ref. No: 2025/055/TCA | Received: Tue 18 Mar 2025 | Validated: Tue 18 Mar 2025 |

Status: Decided

[No comments.](#)

11.4 Installation of timber access ramp with timber handrails and concrete plat to entrance door of property.

1 Helendale Drive Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0RZ

Ref. No: 2025/048/PPF | Received: Fri 07 Mar 2025 | Validated: Fri 07 Mar 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

11.5 To erect storage warehouse; create connection to existing surface water attenuation system; relocate entrance lobby and adjust existing parking.

5B South Gremista Industrial Estate Lerwick Shetland ZE1 OPX

Ref. No: 2025/046/PPF | Received: Thu 06 Mar 2025 | Validated: Fri 07 Mar 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12. AOB

[None.](#)

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th May 2025.