

Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th July 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

Shayne McLeod (Vice Chair)
Brian Harris
Averil Simpson
Karen Fraser
Diana Winfield
Emma Williamson

In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)
Steve Mathison
Police Scotland
Shetland Times
*Shetland News

Apologies

Jim Anderson
Andy Carter
Stewart Hay
Jonthan Williamson
Amanda Hawick
Scott Nicolson
Michael Duncan
Cllr Cecil Smith
Cllr Stephen Leask

Ex-Officio

Cllr Arwed Wenger
Cllr Gary Robinson

* On-line Via MS Teams

3. Declarations of Interest

10 – Cllr A Wenger

4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 2nd June 2025

Approved by: BH

Seconded by: KF

5. Police Report

5.1 February/March update

5.2 April/May update

Sgt Alexander Barry apologised for the lack of reports earlier in the year but confirmed that reporting is now back on track.

BH noted that the February/March report recorded six incidents of vandalism, while the April/May report showed a significant increase, with 63 incidents. One night in April saw a notable spike in car vandalism.

Cllr A Wenger expressed concern about the behaviour of some very young individuals in the lanes. He has concerns about what activities are taking place in the lanes. Sgt Alexander Barry advised there has been some reports regarding incidents in the lanes. He noted the importance of remaining vigilant as the summer months continue.

Concerns were raised about littering, particularly around the TSB and the lane behind it. Living Lerwick had received a complaint from a member earlier in the year, but no further reports have been made in the past four months.

Regarding cruise ship visitors, Living Lerwick has been working with the Port Authority to manage cyclist group sizes. Although it is early in the season, there has been less fog so far, which has helped with visibility of groups of cyclists.

Cllr G Robinson reported ongoing anti-social behaviour in the Bressay Ferry waiting room, particularly around the 8pm sailing.

6. Actions from last meeting

6.1 Action tracker spreadsheet

Noted.

6.2 Water Lane Carpark update

A reply was received from Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive.

'The Council is a part owner of the car park/private access but has received no requests from other landowners to contribute its share towards any repair cost because it does not appear to be an issue of concern. The Council have also received no requests from tenants of the garages in Council ownership. The Council will continue to monitor the condition of the car park/private access but at this time would not seek to initiate any action against other landowners to maintain/improve their share of the land as this is not considered a priority when the council must invest its resources in improving, maintaining and building homes to rent.'

Members expressed their thanks to Maggie for her response. It was noted that many of the garages are now privately owned, including the portion of the car park with individual parking spaces in front of each garage, which are also privately owned.

6.3 Cornerstone/WHP Telecoms Ltd update

Cllr G Robinson said it was disappointing that only O2 and EE masts will be supported.

6.4 Staney Hill Dust Suppression update

Cllr G Robinson contacted the Planning Department again on 27th June regarding reports of a dust cloud affecting the area near Voderview. Although there had been drizzle earlier in the day, the roads had dried out by the time the machinery was operating and aggregate was being dumped, creating a dusty environment. It was noted that the water bowser driver had been off that day, contributing to the issue.

Planning have acknowledged the situation and confirmed that they will continue to monitor it closely.

Members noted that some improvements have been observed since the initial complaints.

7. Correspondence/ Discussion Points

7.1 2025 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration

There was a discussion on possible community groups that could be nominated. Members were asked to submit any recommendations for discussion at the September meeting.

7.2 SIC Burial Grounds Grass Cutting FAQs

Noted.

7.3 Viking Genes – Shetland Community Screening Project

EW attended the recent Viking Genes talk at Mareel and found it fascinating. She recommended that other members attend similar events in future, given the valuable insights shared.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact the organisers to ask if a recorded copy of the talk is available for LCC to view.

7.4 Dissertation Research Project – Stakeholder Participation in the Viking Windfarm Project: Navigating Local, Environmental, and Economic Interests in Shetland

Details have been emailed to all members to see if anyone wishes to participate.

7.5 Scottish Government Consultation on Offshore Interests in Shetland

EW expressed an interest in attending the upcoming consultation event, noting concerns that there may soon be no windmill-free areas in Shetland.

7.6 Parking Concerns on Esplanade

LCC received an email from concerned business owners regarding a recurring obstruction issue outside The Thule Bar on Commercial Street. It was reported that larger commercial and long wheelbase vehicles frequently reverse park at the south corner of the premises, where the pavement narrows significantly. This creates a serious safety hazard, as the remaining space between the building and parked vehicles is often too narrow for pedestrians to pass safely – particularly for wheelchair users, those with mobility aids, and prams.

The business owners suggested that installing of robust bollards could help prevent vehicles from encroaching on the pedestrian area.

DW echoed these concerns, highlighting the difficulties faced by wheelchair users and visually impaired individuals. She noted that vehicles are not legally permitted to obstruct pavements and suggested that the police should be contact for enforcement.

SM advised that Living Lerwick had already been in contact with the Roads Department and that discussions are underway regarding the potential extension of the pavement in that area.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to SIC Roads Department to request potential solution.

7.7 Lerwick Garden Competition

KF advised that the garden competition has not been held annually, and due to the level of organisation required, a decision was made not to run the event this year. She proposed holding the competition every two years, with the next competition scheduled for Summer 2026.

Members discussed the possibility of setting a date early in the spring and using Facebook to promote the event in the lead-up.

→ ACTION: Clerk to respond to the community member and include this item on the March/April agenda.

8. Disabled Parking

8.1 Soldian Court

No objections.

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

Planning Aid Scotland have launched a Community Survey to help understand the diverse experiences, successes, and challenges faced by communities preparing Local Place Plans. The survey is open until 15th September 2025.

[Local Place Plans: A Survey of Community Experiences - Planning Aid Scotland](#)

Cllr G Robinson suggested members should complete the survey to highlight the significant lack of resources available to community groups in relation to Local Place Plans. While pilot areas received substantial support, other areas have not had access to similar assistance. It was agreed that individual members could complete the survey which was circulated to all members on 5th July.

DW shared details of a useful digital resource that allows groups to sign up, upload photographs, and add comments. The software functions as a virtual guide of Lerwick, enabling users to highlight issues such as problematic paths. DW suggested LCC could create an account and share the information with members.

→ ACTION: DW to share the details of the software for further exploration by LCC.

Cllr G Robinson noted that SIC can utilise the “What3Words” tool to accurately identify specific locations.

10.2 To demolish existing detached garage and reinstate boundary wall

Garage, Union Street, Lerwick

Ref. No: 2025/139/CAC | Received: Mon 26 May 2025 | Validated: Mon 26 May 2025

| Status: Pending Consideration

[No Comments.](#)

10.3 To erect a non-illuminated sign board

Gremista Brae, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0PX

Ref. No: 2025/135/ADV | Received: Thu 22 May 2025 | Validated: Tue 27 May 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No Comments.](#)

10.4 Prior Notification to carry out alterations on existing agricultural building; remove and replace roof

North Of 44 South Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0RD

Ref. No: 2025/114/PN | Received: Wed 30 Apr 2025 | Validated: Thu 29 May 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No Comments.](#)

10.5 Change of use from Class 4 (food and drink) to Class 9 (residential) to create single dwellinghouse; install new windows and relocate front entrance door; remove existing porch link; remove existing chimney

9 Charlotte Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0JL

Ref. No: 2025/156/PPF | Received: Wed 30 Apr 2025 | Validated: Thu 29 May 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No Comments.](#)

10.6 Installation of timber access ramp with handrails and concrete plat at base on north elevation of existing dwellinghouse

18 Breiwick Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0AT

Ref. No: 2025/172/PPF | Received: Fri 27 Jun 2025 | Validated: Fri 27 Jun 2025 |

Status: Pending Consideration

[No Comments.](#)

11. AOB

[Premises Licence – C’est la Vie](#)

[No objections.](#)

12. Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st September 2025.