

Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th January 2026
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
Scott Nicolson
Andy Carter
Karen Fraser
Amanda Hawick
Robert Leask
Cheryl Palmer-Johnson
Brian Smith
Duncan Swainston
Graham Nicolson
Talitha Lee

In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)
Steve Mathieson
Shetland Times
*Shetland News
Paul Moar

Apologies

Ian Walterson
Michael Duncan
Cllr Neil Pearson
Cllr Cecil Smith
Magnus Hutchison

Ex-Officio

Cllr Dennis Leask
*Cllr Stephen Leask
Cllr Gary Robinson
Cllr Arwed Wenger

* On-line Via MS Teams

3. Declarations of Interest

12 - Cllr A Wenger
12.6 – Brian Smith

4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 1st December 2025

Approved by: AC
Secoded by: SM

5. Attendance from Magnus Hutchison – Proposal to place a Runestone in Lerwick

Mr Paul Moar attended in place of Magnus Hutchison to outline the proposal. Both he and Magnus have a strong interest in Shetland heritage and the historic Shetland runic alphabet. Magnus has been engraving stones using the Shetland runic characters. He hopes to donate stones to various locations in Shetland and would like to offer one to Lerwick Community Council for public display in a

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prominent location. As part of the donation, he would also provide a small accompanying information display board.

Members expressed support for the idea, noting the cultural value and interest such a display could generate. BS felt this was an interesting proposal that celebrates Shetland's heritage in a new way and suggested the possibility of displaying several runestones around the town as part of a tourist trail.

Potential locations were discussed, including Hay's Dock/Museum area, the Town Hall, the Flower Park, and other prominent public spaces. It was noted that the inscriptions, size, and design would need to suit the chosen site, and appropriate planning considerations would apply.

Members suggested possible liaison with Shetland Amenity Trust, the Tourism Board, and the Library to support wider public engagement with Shetland's runic history. It was agreed that an LCC representative should make contact with Mr Hutchison to progress discussions. AH described the offer as fantastic and volunteered to discuss the proposal further with him.

Members further agreed to write to Shetland Islands Council to ask whether they would be supportive in helping LCC identify an appropriate location for a runestone.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to SIC.

6. Police Report

6.1 October/November
Noted.

7. Actions from last meeting

7.1 Action tracker spreadsheet
Reply received from SIC Roads regarding Leog Sea Wall and Sletts Sea Wall.

8. Correspondence/ Discussion Points

8.1 Cruise Ship Visit - UHA

Members discussed arrangements for the forthcoming cruise ship visit during Up Helly Aa. Clarification is required from LPA regarding the risk assessment and whether the Victoria Pier car park will be open, noting that the vessel usually berths at Mayer's Yard.

Approximately 1,100 visitors are expected, with the Balmoral having capacity for around 1,300 passengers. BS queried whether additional standing areas would be needed for spectators; however, it was noted that the Park is a controlled area and all other viewing points are public roads, meaning no alternative designated viewings areas are available.

Concerns were raised over managing visitor movement, crowd control, and road safety during the procession. AH emphasised the need for a sustainable tourism strategy for Shetland, including clear communication, maps and visitor information.

DS sought clarity on which body is responsible for communicating with cruise ships and visitors. He highlighted the importance of balancing tourism with local impact, particularly given increasing industrialisation. It was noted that LPA provide excursion lists. Members acknowledged that, should

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cruise ship visits during Up Helly Aa continue to grow, proactive planning will be required; a strategy group exists but funding is needed to progress work.

JA reported concerns regarding bus availability for squads on Up Helly Aa night. Cllr A Wenger advised that shortages relate both to bus numbers and to driver availability due to working-time constraints. GN added that there is also a national shortage of bus drivers.

→ ACTION: Clerk to follow up with LPA.

8.2 Community Garden Competition – promotional discussion

Members discussed arrangements for the Community Garden Competition, last held in 2024. KF, who organised the previous competition, kindly volunteered to coordinate the event again in 2026. She has spoken with the judges from the last competition, whom have expressed interest in taking part again. KF hopes to encourage local residents with new gardens to enter and suggested setting a date to work towards, with judging expected to take place in early July.

JA will pass on contact details for the previous trophy winner to KF to enable collection of the trophy.

Members agreed to continue offering £100 in prize money.

Proposed by: KF

Seconded by: AH

An emphasis on 'Species on the Edge' was supported, encouraging bee-friendly and wildlife-friendly planting.

KF will prepare a promotional poster, and anyone interested in assisting with the event can contact her directly.

8.3 Clickimin Sign

The sign located at the south end of the path at the back of Clickimin Loch has been damaged and removed from its frame and now requires repair and replacement frame. JA will arrange a quote for the necessary repair works.

AC suggested installing a Perspex cover to help prevent future damage.

→ ACTION: Chair to arrange a quote.

8.4 Public Consultation – Safeguarding Scotland's Water Environment

JA asked members if they were aware of any areas in Lerwick that are prone to flooding but had not been identified within the consultation plans.

Cllr A Wenger noted that the Skipidock area experiences flooding at times.

JA highlighted that Gremista is one such area of concern.

AH also noted natural flooding occurring at Seafield.

8.5 Free Training from Planning Aid Scotland

[Planning Aid Scotland Events - 12 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

Planning Aid Scotland have shared details of upcoming training opportunities.

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JA suggested contacting Planning Aid Scotland to explore whether they would be willing to provide in-person training for new members.

Cllr D Leask and Cllr G Robinson have tried to access sessions but noted the majority are already fully booked.

It was agreed that anyone attempting to register for a session but unable to secure a place should inform the Clerk so this feedback can be passed on.

→ ACTION: Clerk to circulate training details to new members and contact Planning to enquire about the possibility of delivering local training sessions.

9. Co-option

The following members have been co-opted to Lerwick Community Council:

- Ian Walterson
- Graham Nicolson
- Duncan Swainston
- Talitha Lee
- Brian Smith

Members discussed co-option for the final vacancy. Two expressions of interest have been received. To ensure a fair and transparent process, members agreed that the decision would be based on the date on which each enquiry was submitted.

10. Finance

10.1 Financial Statement

Members discussed the ongoing costs associated with the floor lights at Clickimin Broch, noting that LCC currently covers both the maintenance and electricity charges. DS raised concerns regarding the continued use of public funds for this purpose.

GN queried whether the lights could be connected to the street lighting network, allowing LCC to pay a nominal contribution instead, and asked whether alternative approaches to operating the lighting might be available. BS agreed that this option would be worth exploring.

It was proposed that the Clerk write to the Street Lighting Department to ask whether they would be willing in principle to consider such an arrangement. Cllr G Robinson suggested that Historic Scotland should be approached first to determine whether they would support any change to the current set up.

JA confirmed that LCC would put the question forward to the SIC and investigate costs from there. AH supported the discussion, noting the importance of ensuring LCC's funds remain available for wider community grants. GN reiterated that the aim was to find potential cost-saving measures. Cllr D Leask advised that it may be difficult for the Street Lighting Department to take on responsibility for lighting that is not their asset.

JA also noted that the option of switching the lights off overnight had been considered previously but discounted due to concerns about vandalism.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact SIC.

10.2 Loot for Lerwick

A provisional date for the next Loot for Lerwick participatory budgeting event was set for 21st March. This event provides an opportunity for local groups to present ideas or projects for funding from Lerwick Community Council. Rather than assessing grant applications individually as they are submitted, the event brings applicants together on a single day. Groups will be invited to set up their own stall, enabling members of the public to view the proposals, speak with applicants, and take part in a public voting process to award funding (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). Approximately four or five such events have been held previously.

Members discussed the Viking Community Fund (VCF) and how it operates and agreed that a link to the relevant website will be included in the minutes. It was suggested that LCC invite a speaker from VCF to attending a future meeting and provide an overview of the scheme.

It was also agreed that an application should be submitted to SCBF in relation to the event.

→ ACTION: Clerk to invite a representative from VCF to attend a meeting and enquire about an application to support the event.

11. Disabled Parking

11.1 Nederdale

No objections.

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

12.1 Local Place Plans

For the benefit of new members in attendance, JA explained that Local Place Plans (LPPs) are a new community-led element of the Scottish planning system. LPPs allow communities to set out their own proposals for how land and spaces in their area should be used or developed, covering areas such as housing, industrial land, recreation, and community facilities.

JA advised that there is no obligation for Lerwick Community Council to prepare and LPP, however, if the Council wished to do so, it could choose to develop a plan in the future.

Members discussed what is involved in producing an LPP, noting that the process requires public engagement and consultation, including holding events to gather community views. Representatives from Planning Aid Scotland, including David Wood and Peter Mondgridge, are available to support community bodies undertaking this work.

It was highlighted that Local Place Plans feed into the Local Development Plan and can help strengthen funding applications, as they demonstrate clearly evidenced community priorities.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to set up a meeting with representatives from Planning Aid Scotland to explain the process in more detail. Several members expressed interest in learning more.

JA advised members to have a look at the Planning Aid Scotland website for further information.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact Planning Aid Scotland to arrange a date.

12.2 New dwelling house

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Plot Hillcrest Lerwick Shetland

Ref. No: [2025/302/PPP](#) | Received: Thu 04 Dec 2025 | Validated: Thu 04 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.3 Non-Material Variation to vary planning permission 2024/250/PPF – to install additional roof window

Hjogaberg 3 Quoys Road Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0WH

Ref. No: [2024/250/NMV](#) | Received: Thu 13 Nov 2025 | Validated: Thu 11 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.4 Demolition of existing entrance porch; erection of new garage and vestibule; erection of new external balcony from dining room; conversion of former ground floor garage and store to granny flat

4 Hillcrest Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0ST

Ref. No: [2025/306/PPP](#) | Received: Wed 10 Dec 2025 | Validated: Thu 11 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.5 To extend the existing workshop and office

Nodri Ltd Staney Hill Industrial Estate Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0NA

Ref. No: [2025/307/PPP](#) | Received: Fri 12 Dec 2025 | Validated: Fri 12 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.6 Non-Material Variation to vary planning permission 2024/130/PPF to process site-won excavated rock for reuse within the permanent works by using mobile rock crushing plant

Shetland Islands Council Old Anderson High School TWAGEOS ROAD Lerwick Shetland

Ref. No: [2023/249/NMV](#) | Received: Wed 17 Dec 2025 | Validated: Wed 17 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[GN raised concerns regarding dust suppression, noting the associated health risks such as silicosis. It was noted that suitable dust-control measures should be addressed through planning conditions, and that any concern should be monitored and reported as necessary.](#)

[DS queried whether it was the responsibility of LCC members to investigate planning applications or raise concerns from the public. Cllr G Robinson advised that it is ultimately the role of Planning Officers to ensure applications meet the relevant legislative requirements.](#)

[Members felt it would be appropriate to make a comment requesting that adequate dust-suppression measures are in place and that activities are undertaken in line with the Environmental Statement. This followed previous concerns raised regarding insufficient dust suppression at Staney Hill.](#)

[It was noted that no conditions can be imposed until the planning application has been determined, and that the planning report is not written until the consultation period has ended. The Environmental Impact Assessment should address dust-suppression requirements, and members highlighted the importance of robust policing and enforcement of any conditions once in place.](#)

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12.7 Proposed external alterations and PV installation

Malakoff Limited North Ness Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0LZ

Ref. No: [2025/314/PPF](#) | Received: Thu 18 Dec 2025 | Validated: Fri 19 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.8 Proposed retention of SSEN cable track for future access to their infrastructure and for landowner's agricultural use

Section 3 – A2 – New Access Track, Frakkafield

Ref. No: [2025/284/PPF](#) | Received: Thu 06 Nov 2025 | Validated: Thu 11 Dec 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

[This application is not within LCC boundary.](#)

13. AOB

Raising a Community Concern

Members are welcome to raise concerns or issues for consideration by Lerwick Community Council. These can be submitted in either of the following ways:

1. [By Email in Advance](#)

Members may email concerns to the Clerk, who will arrange for the item to be included on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

2. [At the Meeting – Under AOB](#)

Concerns may also be raised during the meeting under Any Other Business (AOB). Items raised under AOB may be discussed briefly or noted for inclusion on the agenda of a future meeting if further consideration is required.

Caravan Site

GN raised the suggestion of developing a caravan site in Lerwick, noting that the former Eric Gray Centre site could be a reasonable potential location. It was highlighted that, within a Local Place Plan (LPP), it is not necessary to identify a specific site, rather, the LPP can simply note that Lerwick would benefit from a caravan site. Including this in an LPP could also support future applications for grant funding by demonstrating an evidenced community need.

AC commended GN for raising the issue of a new camping or caravan facility and expressed support for exploring this further.

Community Council Minutes

Previous copies of Community Council minutes can be viewed on the SIC website:

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/community/community-councils/7>

Lerwick Webcams

AH advised that a resident had raised concerns regarding the webcams operating in Lerwick, which film public areas. The resident wished to know whether the cameras are licenced, whether the operators have permission to pass on footage relating to potential criminal activity to the police, and whether members of the public need to be made aware that these cameras are recording at all times.

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The webcams in Lerwick are positioned at Lerwick Town Hall, King Harald St, Victoria Pier, Lerwick Boating Club, Lerwick Harbour, Tourist Office and the Esplanade. All are operated privately by Shetland Webcams. A privacy policy is available on the website:

<https://www.shetlandwebcams.com/privacy-policy/>

Traffic Lights

BH raised a query regarding the traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing outside Sound Service Station, noting that they have been out of operation since the beginning of December. He asked when these lights are expected to be reinstated.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to Roads enquiring when the expected to be returned to service.

Snow Clearing

JA invited any comments or thoughts regarding snow clearing in Lerwick. BS noted that main roads receive priority treatment, with the gritter covering these routes but not ploughing. Side roads were reported to be uncleared and, at times, impassable, even within Lerwick.

It was highlighted that parent drop-off areas at schools had become unusable due to piled snow, and several driveways were blocked where pavements had been cleared up onto access points.

Cllr S Leask advised that he had received an email from a resident expressing concern that pavements and paths in Lerwick had been dangerous during the recent weather, with very little treatment. Lanes were described as consistently hazardous, and the resident questioned whether priorities should be reviewed. Cllr S Leask confirmed he had forwarded this concern to SIC Roads.

KF noted that heavy snowfall had occurred all at once, and, given the circumstances, felt the service provided had been reasonably good. JA commented that SIC do not have the number of vehicles they once had.

Members reiterated that lanes remain a particular danger. GN raised concerns about grit bins, stating that some older bins appear not to have been replaced.

Cllr D Leask acknowledged the issues affecting lanes but noted that, overall, the standard winter maintenance policy across Shetland prioritises main roads first, followed by A roads and then B roads.

14. Date of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd February 2026.

Please note this meeting will be held in Islesburgh Community Centre, Room 11.