

Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2026
AT LERWICK TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM/MS TEAMS AT 6.00PM

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Apologies for Absence

Present

Jim Anderson (Chair)
Brian Harris
Scott Nicolson
Andy Carter
Karen Fraser
Amanda Hawick
Diana Winfield
Brian Smith
Duncan Swainston (*arrived 18.50*)
Graham Nicolson
Ian Walterson
Talitha Lee
Panda Anderson (*left 18:40*)

In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)
Steve Mathieson
*Shetland News
Shetland Times
Police Scotland
*Sonny Thomason
Martin Summers
Billy Mycock
Ingrid Webb
Wayne Leask

Apologies

Shayne McLeod
Robert Leask
Michael Duncan
Cllr. John Fraser
Cllr. Cecil Smith

Ex-Officio

Cllr. Dennis Leask
Cllr. Stephen Leask
Cllr. Gary Robinson
Cllr. A. Wenger

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 8.2 - SM

Item 12 – Cllr. A. Wenger

4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 2 March 2026

The minutes were approved.

Approved by: IW

Seconded by: KF

5. Police Report

5.1 December 2025 and January 2026

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the May 2026 meeting

Sgt Russell Minty attended his first meeting, noting that he has newly arrived on the island and is adapting to local circumstances. A total of 134 incidents were recorded across the two-month reporting period, with varying levels of criminality, non-criminality and advice-only callouts. Sgt Minty advised that the most recent period had been slightly quieter.

KF queried the 13 speeding offences, observing this seemed higher than normal. Sgt Minty explained that a dedicated Roads Policing team had been present at the end of January, which likely contributed to the spike. When asked whether the increase related to the introduction of the new 20mph limit, he was unable to confirm.

BH asked about the five incidents of assaulting a police officer, querying if this number was unusually high. Sgt Minty confirmed that the vast majority related to a single incident.

6. Anti-social behaviour (Attendance from Billy Mycock, Martin Summers and Ingrid Webb)

Following previous discussions on anti-social behaviour, Billy Mycock, Marting Summers and Ingrid Webb attended the meeting to discuss ongoing concerns, particularly at the Bressay Ferry Terminal. Martin Summers, Team Leader for the Youth & Employability Service, stated that such behaviour is not condoned. However, he emphasised that gatherings of young people are not inherently problematic when spaces are used appropriately, and that reported incidents involve a very small proportion of young people.

Mr Summers highlighted the many positive contributions made by young people across Shetland, noting that 185 young people received volunteering certificates last year across approximately 70 organisations. The Youth & Employability Service works on a multi-agency basis, including Police Scotland, Relationships Scotland and local partners, to support young people and address behaviour when thresholds are crossed, in the same manner as with adults.

A range of youth provision was outlined, including 23 youth clubs across the islands and a budget to employ approximately 50 part-time youth workers. However, the service is currently experiencing significant staffing pressures, with 22 vacancies. As a result, 12 youth clubs are not operating this year.

For older young people, provision includes senior youth clubs offering warm, safe spaces with free Wi-Fi and opportunities to influence how spaces are used. Mr Summers noted a drop-off in attendance from those aged 16+, with feedback indicating that some spaces are not perceived as places where they wish to spend time. In response to this, and following research undertaken by OPEN, the Hub on Commercial Road was established. While attendance is currently low, the space is used by partners and has been deliberately designed to be adaptable and welcoming, including comfortable seating, free snacks (supported through cost-of-living funding), and a digital/gaming room. OPEN cafés were also highlighted as warm, free-access spaces with Wi-Fi.

Mr Summers further explained that, following partnership working with Shetland Youth Voice, the service has approval from the Director of Children's Services to open Islesburgh Community Centre as a youth space on Friday afternoons and evenings, as a 12-month pilot project. However, the associated 10-hour youth worker posts have been advertised twice with no applicants, and a further round of recruitment will be progressed.

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Mr Mycock advised that although specific incidents of inappropriate behaviour have been addressed, there remains public concern and fear of recurrence. The discussion focused on how to reassure the public that the ferry terminal and other shared spaces are safe and welcoming for intergenerational use. It was noted that the ferry terminal's warmth, shelter and lack of supervision likely contribute to its attractiveness to young people, and that consideration should be given to making nearby alternative spaces more appealing.

Members noted that CCTV coverage exists, although the space may not feel conducive to safety. Suggestions included low-level environmental deterrents, while proposals to restrict access (e.g. locking the waiting room) were not supported, given the terminal's wider community use.

Ingrid Webb (Relationships Scotland) outlined the organisation's mediation service, which supports facilitated conversations between affected residents and young people. The service has worked successfully with Police Scotland and others in similar situations and could be offered locally if there is community appetite, potentially via Bressay Community Council.

It was widely acknowledged that the issue relates to a small number of individuals and does not reflect young people generally. Broader discussion highlighted the limited availability of attractive, non-sport-focused spaces for young people, ongoing workforce challenges, and the importance of consistent, welcoming environments where young people feel a sense of belonging.

Martin Summers, Wayne Leask and Ingrid Webb left the meeting after the item at 18.55.

7. Actions from last meeting

7.1 Action tracker spreadsheet

Work is progressing with the Sletts Sea Wall.

7.2 Staney Hill Development Update

A response is still awaited from Planning. A holding email has been received, with an initial expectation of an update by last Friday. A further email was received today which confirmed that a draft response is now ready and will be shared shortly.

Cllr. G. Robinson highlighted issues relating to the mountain of stockpiled material at the back of Norstane, ranging from hardcore to dust. He expressed concern about how the spread of dust could be prevented given the way the material is being stored.

Local residents have reported dust building up on their car windows, causing scratches due to the amount of grit and dust being blown about.

Cllr. S. Leask echoed the concerns raised by Cllr. G. Robinson.

JA noted that it is a common planning condition for aggregate and other materials to be kept on site for use in later stages of development, to minimise transportation in and out of the area.

8. Correspondence/ Discussion Points

8.1 Voar Redd Up 2026

Members discussed various possible locations for this year's Voar Redd Up. DW asked that accessibility be considered when selecting the final location so that she can participate. Areas

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considered included North Road (from the old North Road junction to Leask's), Bod of Gremista to UHI Shetland, and the area around the harbour and the road around the Co-op.

→ ACTION: Clerk will circulate an email to all members with a choice of locations and availability options during the Voar Redd Up week, Saturday 18 April to Friday 24 April.

8.2 Living Lerwick Renewal Ballot 2026

Living Lerwick are seeking to renew their Business Improvement District (BID) for a further five-year term. A letter was presented requesting a note of support from LCC for the renewal.

AH noted that many small businesses on Commercial Street are unhappy, having heard that BID fees may increase. She highlighted rising operating costs such as insurance and electricity, and the additional pressure from BID levies place on small businesses. She referenced recent negative comments on social media and raised concerns that the BID may discourage new businesses from opening on the street. AH queried how the ballot works and whether the vote is weighted.

BS explained that the SIC holds votes for its properties on the street, which can significantly influence the outcome. He suggested that only the small businesses on the street should vote, removing the SIC vote. He noted that when he previously ran a business in the area, BID-related demands contributed to his decision to close.

It was confirmed that there are 147 businesses in the BID area. For the ballot to be valid, at least 25% of eligible businesses (by number and rateable value) must vote, with a simple majority then determining the outcome. SIC-owned properties also receive votes. SM advised that proxy votes are not permitted; each business must vote directly.

AH commented that the economic landscape has changed considerably since the BID was first introduced and that many businesses are struggling. SM emphasised that every vote counts and that the system is democratic.

Members discussed how the levy is calculated and whether SIC charges itself the same rates. GN noted that levy amounts vary depending on rateable value. SM confirmed that all details are available in the BID business plan.

KF recalled that one of the core purposes of having a BID was the ability to seek external funding to support improvements. SM explained that accessing external funding has become more challenging in recent years, though previous projects such as sculpture trails and art trails had benefited from such funds. SM highlighted other BID-supported initiatives including summer and Christmas events, planting, Tall Ships promotion, Spend at the Street initiatives, trails and social media marketing. He also confirmed that the levy has not increased for 14 years and that a 20% uplift is anticipated.

AH asked what would happen if the BID was voted out. Members discussed that many BID-supported activities, such as Christmas lights and street decorations, were previously provided by a voluntary town centre association, which had ceased due to a lack of sustaining capacity. Misinformation surrounding the BID was also noted, and members acknowledged that BID directors are volunteers.

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BS suggested that if LCC were to issue a supportive letter, it should state that SIC abstain from voting so that the decision is left to businesses. SM was unsure whether such an approach would be legally possible.

SM reported that a pre-ballot survey indicated around 70% support for renewal, which is why the ballot is going ahead. DS commented that the BID provides continuity for events such as Christmas preparations and that he could not identify a better system.

AH emphasised that while events like flowers, lights and parades benefit the street, the priority for many businesses is their financial survival. DS raised the point that an alternative to increasing the levy would be reducing BID services, noting that maintaining current service levels requires additional income.

Cllr. G. Robinson was unsure whether SIC could legally abstain. With fewer than 30 SIC-owned properties, this represents roughly 20% of the vote.

JA asked whether members were minded to provide a letter of support.

Two motions were put forward:

- **GR's motion:** Support the BID renewal process while noting the concerns raised. Proposed by GN, seconded by AC.
- **AH's motion:** Do not issue a letter of support and leave the decision to businesses. Proposed by AH, seconded by BS.

Vote:

- AH's motion – 2 votes
- GN's motion – 7 votes

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to submit letter of support and raise concerns discussed.

8.3 Mossy Hill Wind Farm – Community Liaison Group

A Community Liaison Group is being established for the Mossy Hill Wind Farm project, with a request for one or two representatives from Lerwick Community Council. JA invited volunteers to participate in the quarterly meetings. GN and SN volunteered. GN and SN agreed that their contact details may be shared with the organisers.

8.4 Shetland Standby Project – Quarterly Update

An update was provided from Zenobe regarding the battery element of the Shetland Standby Project.

TL queried whether the battery is designed to start up the power station, and, if not, what its capacity is. JA recalled that the battery is sized to provide approximately 45 minutes of supply, acting as a buffer to allow the power station sufficient time to fuel up and bring generators online.

8.5 Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation – Director Nominations

SM was unable to attend the meeting tonight but had indicated he would be willing to be nominated. TL also put herself forward. TL was proposed by AH and seconded by BH.

8.6 Shetland Partnership Plan

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Members considered an invitation from the Shetland Partnership to nominate a representative to participate in the development of the next Shetland Partnership Plan (2028 onwards).

It was agreed that DW be nominated as the representative. The nomination was proposed by IW and seconded by BS.

8.7 Shetland Hyperbaric Centre

Members considered correspondence from Amanda Pottinger regarding plans to re-establish the Shetland Hyperbaric Centre in Lerwick, including a request for the Community Council to submit a planning application on behalf of the project in order to access a reduced planning fee.

All members present agreed to support the request and approved that Lerwick Community Council submit the planning application on behalf of the group, subject to receipt of the completed application form and supporting documentation.

9. ASCC

9.1 ASCC – 10 March 2026 – Update

The update from the ASCC meeting held on 10 March 2026 was noted.

It was reported that an up-to-date list of currently registered defibrillators is still awaited.

→ ACTION: Clerk to follow this up.

9.2 Proposed LCC submission as Agenda Item to ASCC – June 2026 Meeting

A redrafted letter, titled 'SIC Strategy Review Proposal', prepared by the small working group following the March meeting, was presented to members for consideration and submission to ASCC.

Members agreed that the revised letter appropriately reflected LCC's concerns and supported its submission to ASCC.

The submission was proposed by DS and seconded by BS.

9.3 ASCC Questionnaire – What can the ASCC do better?

JA asked whether any members had specific comments to contribute to the ASCC questionnaire. It was agreed that JA would complete the questionnaire on behalf of LCC.

→ ACTION: Chair to complete the questionnaire.

9.4 Pre-Election Guidance

Noted.

10. Finance

10.1 Financial Statement.

Noted.

10.2 Clickimin Sign – Approval of Budget Commitment

Members considered a proposal relating to the Clickimin Information Board. It was noted that no firm price had yet been received and that two contractors may be required. Members agreed that £1,500 should be ring-fenced for the project.

During discussion, KF expressed the view that providing a cover for the board would be a good idea, noting that some heritage boards are showing signs of wear. JA hoped that ArtMachine may be able to provide a suitable solution for a cover. Cllr. A. Wenger suggested contacting Shetland Amenity Trust regarding options for a suitable cover.

→ ACTION: Chair to contact ArtMachine/SAT to explore possible options.

10.3 SIC Core Grant Funding 2026/27

The SIC Core Grant for 2026/27 is £21,426.95. The Clerk will complete the grant application.

10.4 Viking Community Fund

DS advised that he had not been aware of any Viking Community Fund applications being submitted.

JA advised that the Fund remains open on an ongoing basis, but that application levels have been low. The most recent awards were made in October 2025, with £1,000 awarded to Lerwick Community Council for a dog fouling awareness campaign and £500 awarded to St Magnus' Episcopal Church towards upgrading tourist information boards.

Members agreed on the need to actively promote the funding to encourage applications. It was agreed that information on the Viking Community Fund would be included in the forthcoming dog fouling press release. The Fund remains open, with available funding continuing to roll forward.

10.5 LCC – Living Lerwick Ltd – Grant Application

Members considered a grant application from Living Lerwick Ltd for £1,000.

SN queried why grant funding was being sought given that Living Lerwick is a business-led organisation with approximately 147 member businesses, and whether costs could be met directly by those businesses.

BS, speaking as a business owner outwith the BID area, asked whether approving the application could set a precedent for funding similar initiatives elsewhere. JA noted that the Fund is open to applications from any eligible group or organisation and that applications are considered on their individual merits.

KF commented that the proposed use of the funding, for flowers and street presentation, should be viewed as providing wider community benefit, contributing to a more welcoming and attractive town centre for residents and visitors, and not solely for the benefit of businesses.

AC moved approval of the application. This was seconded by KF.

11. Traffic Regulation Order, Ladies Drive 30 and 40 mph speed limits

Noted.

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

- 12.1 Local Place Plans – update from LPP Group
Item not taken.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the May 2026 meeting

12.2 Large sycamore tree – Cut back tree which is blocking light and threatening damage to house, garden and phone wire

74 St Olaf Street Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0EN

Ref. No: 2026/055/TCA | Received: Tue 10 Mar 2026 | Validated: Sat 14 Mar 2026 | Status: Approved

[No comments.](#)

12.3 Proposed change of existing hardwood windows with like for like Upvc windows

10 Chromate Lane Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0AL

Ref. No: 2026/048/PN | Received: Mon 02 Mar 2026 | Validated: Sun 15 Mar 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.4 Marine Works Licence

SCOP-0074 – Statkraft Hydrogen UK Holding Ltd (Per Xodus Group Ltd) – Tagdale Green Ammonia Project – Dales Voe – Consultation on Request for Scoping Opinion – 24 March 2026

[Members noted the consultation for information only, as the proposed works are outwith the Lerwick Community Council boundary and LCC jurisdiction.](#)

[AC commented that the wider planning context appeared to assume the development of an industrial facility, querying the purpose of the jetty otherwise. JA clarified that the current submission relates specifically to a marine works licence.](#)

[GR advised that consultees are being asked to comment on what should be included within the scope of the works. DW suggested that LCC could respond by indicating that it is awaiting further information from Statkraft. JA confirmed that Statkraft is expected to attend the meeting in June.](#)

[Members discussed whether any specific matters should be raised in response to the scoping consultation. Points identified for consideration included:](#)

- [• The need for a full assessment of tidal impacts, including the potential long-term effects on sandbars and tidal flows arising from the proposed pier structure.](#)
- [• Whether a hydrographic survey has been undertaken or is planned, noting comparable assessments required for previous harbour and pier works.](#)
- [• Water quality impacts, particularly in relation to existing shellfish classification areas, aquaculture activity and mussel farms around the isles, with confirmation that water quality must not be adversely affected.](#)
- [• Consideration of marine ecology and biodiversity, including habitats, seabirds, and confirmation that there are no impacts on rare or protected species such as native shellfish.](#)

[It was noted that statutory consultees will receive the same consultation and submit comments relevant to their specific responsibilities.](#)

[→ ACTION: Clerk to submit a response.](#)

13. Co-option – Associate Member

13.1 To consider the co-option of James Paton for a fixed 7-month period (March – September) to provide support for the Local Place Plan (LPP).

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It was reported that the LPP Steering Group does not consider additional support to be required at this time, as the work has progressed well, key dates have been established, and the group is currently on track. Members noted that introducing a new associate member at this stage would require additional capacity to bring them fully up to date, which the group does not have.

DW advised that while support would likely have been welcomed earlier in the process, the Steering Group now feels able to continue without further assistance. It was acknowledged that Mr Paton had attended LPP training last year and remains interested in contributing.

Members noted that declining the co-option does not preclude the Steering Group from inviting Mr Paton to be involved in another capacity, should they wish to do so in future, including as a member of the public.

→ ACTION: Clerk to respond to Mr Paton.

14. AOB

Gremista Battery Plant

AH raised a question on behalf of a third party regarding the safety strategy for the Gremista Battery Plant. Questions were asked about what arrangements are in place in the event of a battery incident, including potential explosion, and whether there would be a clear evacuation process if toxic fumes were released.

It was noted that an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) should be in place for the battery facility.

Members noted that safety information is generally provided by the battery manufacturer and site operator, and that the Fire and Rescue Service should hold relevant information. It was also suggested that the original planning application documentation may contain further details on safety measures and emergency procedures, which will be reviewed where possible.

Plastic Recycling and Waste Operations

Brydon Gray, Team Leader – Waste Operations has been invited to attend the May meeting. The Clerk will follow up on the invite.

→ ACTION: Clerk to follow up on invite.

King Harald Street

CLr. S. Leask welcomed the installation of the smiley face speed indicator on King Harald Street and noted that residents have been pleased to see it in place. It was observed that vehicle speeds appear to be at the lower end of the 20mph limit; however, it is unclear whether this is directly attributed to the smiley face or reflective of normal driving behaviour in the area. Overall, it was positive to see vehicles driving more slowly. Members noted that this is currently a temporary measure.

Elections

DW asked whether a message could be shared advising voters with a disability that, if they require any adjustments to support them voting, they can contact the Returning Officer in advance. It was noted that where needs are identified, appropriate measures can be put in place to ensure accessibility.

Payphone Kiosks

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the May 2026 meeting

Members commented on previous proposals to remove a number of payphone kiosks and asked whether BT could be contacted to confirm when the kiosks will be removed. Particular concern was noted regarding the kiosk located outside the Town Hall, which is considered an eyesore, as well as the kiosk at Freefield.

It was noted that, once relevant works have been completed, a contract will be proposed to allow for the removal of the kiosks.

Dog Fouling

IW raised concerns about a significant amount of dog fouling in a number of areas, particularly Commercial Street and the Knab. Mr Mycock noted that dog fouling on Commercial Street can be difficult to detect as the area is regularly cleaned. It was advised that where specific problem areas are identified, Environmental Health should be contacted.

AH asked if additional dog fouling bins could be provided. Mr Mycock advised that dog waste bags can be placed in any litter bin.

GN highlighted the need for a bin on Kantersted Road, near the chemist and the wall by the youth centre. Upper St. Sunniva Street was also identified as an area of concern.

15. Date of Next Meeting

15.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 May 2026.