

Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2026

AT ISLESBURGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOM 12, MEETING ROOM 12/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
Diana Winfield
Cheryl Palmer-Johnson
Brian Smith
Duncan Swainston
Graham Nicolson (arrived 19:25)
Ian Walterson
Panda Anderson

In attendance

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

Apologies

Shyane McLeod
Amanda Hawick
Robert Leask
Talitha Lee
Cllr. Neil Pearson
Cllr. Cecil Smith
Michael Duncan
Sonny Thomason
Steve Mathieson

Ex-Officio

Cllr. Stephen Leask
Cllr. Dennis Leask
Cllr. Arwed Wenger
Cllr. Gary Robinson (arrived 18:30)

**Attendance online via MS Teams*

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 11 – Cllr. A. Wenger & Cllr. C. Smith
Item 9.3 – JA

4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 Monday 06 July 2026

The minutes were approved.

Approved by: BS

Seconded by: DS

Item 6 – SIC Waste Management

AC referred to recent media reports regarding potential future charges for the use of waste disposal facilities and raised concerns that the introduction of charges could increase the risk of fly-tipping.

DS asked whether LCC would have the opportunity to comment on any proposals before a formal decision is made.

BS advised that the matter had arisen from a recent news report concerning potential budget-saving proposals being considered by SIC. He noted that no formal decision had been made and that the proposal related to a possible subscription scheme for use of the household waste recycling facility rather than charges for normal domestic waste collections.

Cllr. D. Leask advised that the Council considers a large schedule of charges annually and that the reported proposals were not included in the current schedule.

DW noted that any additional charges could have an adverse impact on households already experiencing fuel poverty and may further increase the likelihood of fly-tipping if residents are required to pay to dispose of or have items collected.

Members agreed that correspondence should be sent to SIC Waste Management seeking further information on any proposed changes to waste disposal charges and to establish whether the LCC would have an opportunity to comment on any future proposals.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Waste Management.

Item 8.1 – Defibrillator List

BS advised that Lerwick Bowling Club may submit an application for funding in relation to a defibrillator.

Item 8.2 – Staney Hill Site Visit

BS provided an update on the recent Staney Hill site visit, which had been attended by BS, IW and JA. Members noted that the visit had been informative and provided a useful opportunity to observe the mitigation measures that had been put in place on site.

It was noted that the remediation works were nearing completion and that the development was expected to move into the construction phase shortly. While it was understood that measures beyond those legally required by SEPA had been implemented, members noted that the works had nevertheless had an impact on nearby residents.

5. Police Report

5.1 June and July 2026

In Attendance: PC Dan (Police Scotland)

PC Dan advised that officers continue to patrol the lanes and town centre regularly and engage with young people where necessary. He noted that the Shetland Street Pastors were expected to commence patrols in the near future.

PC Dan also advised that the Inspector had met with Billy Mycock, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator, earlier that day. Officers continue to patrol the lanes where possible, including during late shifts, and engage with young people in these areas.

JA noted that there will inevitably be some level of antisocial behaviour within the town. PC Dan advised that the situation appears to be improving, with fewer young people congregating in the lanes. Police continue to encourage young people to gather in more suitable open spaces and are seeking to address issues relating to underage drinking.

BH asked whether incidents were centred around the Community Garden or other locations. PC Dan advised that calls are regularly received regarding the Community Garden area; however, young people often disperse before officers arrive.

Cllr. S. Leask noted that the area at the bottom of Hangcliff Lane, including the area around The Lounge, had previously been a location where young people congregated.

KF asked whether reports of public nuisance and noise related primarily to young people or involved mixed age groups. PC Dan advised that incidents involve a range of age groups.

DW asked for further information regarding the number of recorded Intent to Supply offences and whether these involved teenagers or adults. PC Dan agreed to raise the matter with the Sergeant and provide feedback.

Cllr. D. Leask reported having received comments from members of the public regarding difficulties contacting Police Scotland through the call centre and occasions when no staff appeared to be present at the police station. PC Dan advised that calls are handled by a mainland call centre and that, while the Lerwick station is staffed, the public reception is not always manned if officers are attending incidents. He agreed to raise these concerns with the Inspector.

JA asked whether there was a general move towards reporting matters online rather than by telephone. PC Dan advised that incidents can be reported through the Police Scotland website and email service and recommended this option where callers are unable to get through by telephone. He further explained that if a member of the public attends the station and calls 101, officers are made aware that someone is waiting. It was noted that reception staff are not on duty during night shifts.

CPJ referred to concerns raised at a previous meeting regarding the Bressay Ferry Terminal on the Lerwick side. PC Dan confirmed that the area is included within routine patrols. DW noted that teenagers using the terminal area recently had been very polite and respectful.

→ ACTION: Police Scotland to provide feedback regarding Intent to Supply statistics and concerns regarding public access to police services.

[PC Dan left the meeting at 18:30.]

6. Actions from last meeting

6.1 Action tracker spreadsheet Noted.

6.2 Telecommunications Resilience in Shetland

Members considered the response received from Ofcom following concerns raised by the Community Council regarding telecommunications resilience during the recent widespread power outage in Shetland.

DS noted that, in addition to resilience during power outages, there continue to be significant issues with 4G connectivity within Lerwick. He advised that mobile devices frequently indicate a 4G connection despite data services being unavailable and questioned whether these concerns could be escalated, particularly given references in the response to mobile coverage improvements.

BS noted that he had had many discussions on the topic over recent months. While improving mobile coverage has been a focus for a number of years, concerns remain regarding broadband and mobile connectivity in Shetland. He further commented that resilience remains an issue and understood that battery backup provision is limited across mobile networks.

PA advised that, despite displaying a 5G signal in parts of the town, mobile data services can remain unavailable. PA commented that network performance appears to deteriorate during periods of high demand, such as when cruise ships are in port, and noted the impact this can have on local businesses where card payment system rely on mobile connectivity.

SN asked whether any further information had been received from SSE regarding the recent power outage. Members noted that the cause of the outage, the likelihood of a recurrence, and any safeguarding measures implemented since the incident remained unclear. It was agreed that correspondence should be sent to SSE seeking further information.

JA noted that the response referred to resilience measures aimed at covering 96% of the UK population. He expressed concern that, given Shetland's small population relative to the UK as a whole, this approach may not necessarily guarantee resilience improvements withing Shetland.

Forward response to Emergency Planning, SIC to see their views on the response.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to write to SSE.

7. Correspondence/ Discussion Points

7.1 Island Communities Place Programme

JA encouraged members to sign up to the Island Communities Place Programme if it was of interest to them.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate link.

7.2 Shetland Cruise Impact Study

Noted.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate survey link.

7.3 SSEN Preparing for Future Storms and Power Cuts: Community Resilience Survey

Noted.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate survey link.

7.4 Crofting Commission Elections – March 2027

Noted.

7.5 LCC Garden

KF noted that the competition had attracted a good quality of entries, although the number of entries received was lower than hoped.

JA recorded thanks to KF and all those involved in organising and judging the competition, noting that their time and efforts were greatly appreciated.

KF expressed thanks to the competition sponsors, Harbro Ltd and Species on the Edge, and to fellow judges Frankie Valente, Chris Horrix and Talitha Lee for their support and contribution to the competition.

7.6 Lerwick 28 – Invitation to nominate a representative to the Programme Board

Members considered an invitation to nominate a representative to the Lerwick 28 Programme Board.

KF expressed an interest in the role and was nominated as the Community Council's representative, proposed by SN and seconded by DW.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to confirm nomination to Shetland Arts.

7.7 ASCC – Request for Agenda Items

JA advised that the next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) is scheduled for 23 November 2026 and invited members to suggest agenda items.

DS requested an update on Shetland Islands Council Strategy Review Proposal previously submitted to ASCC. JA suggested inviting Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive to attend a meeting to provide an update and also an update on the SIC restructure.

JA referred to the principles established when the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) was created and subsequently reaffirmed by ASCC. It was noted that Community Councils had previously agreed that community benefit arising from commercial renewable energy developments should be administered through SCBF for the benefit of Shetland as a whole.

JA expressed concern that there had been some notable departures from this approach and suggested that ASCC should revisit the matter to establish whether Community Councils continue to support the original pan-Shetland model or whether a different approach is now being taken. JA commented that it was important for Community Councils to adopt a consistent position and questioned whether individual Community Councils should be able to negotiate separate community benefit arrangements.

DW advised that revised wording relating to the moratorium discussion had been considered previously but had not yet been re-circulated.

Members also referred to the recent moratorium meeting. It was noted that there had been no formal position presented on behalf of Lerwick Community Council. JA advised that an email consultation of members had indicated support for a moratorium by a margin of 8:1. It was further noted that, while no formal vote had been taken at the meeting, there appeared to be strong support for a moratorium amongst those in attendance.

Members agreed that an agenda item should be submitted to ASCC regarding the future application of the original SCBF principles and whether Community Councils remain committed to a pan-Shetland approach to community benefit funding.

→ **ACTION:** JA to provide proposed wording for the ASCC agenda item. Clerk to contact Michael regarding access to ASCC minutes and papers from before 2020.

8. Statkraft – Mossy Hill Wind Farm CLG

Members received an update from the Mossy Hill Wind Farm Community Liaison Group. It was noted that RJ McLeod had commenced works and that the final installed generating capacity had not yet been confirmed. Based on the proposed rate of £5,000 per installed MW, community benefit funding was estimated to be in the region of £180,000 to £190,000 per annum.

It was noted that the Community Liaison Group had reached the stage where arrangements for community benefit funding require to be agreed.

JA referred to the original principles agreed by ASCC when the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) was established, whereby community benefit arising from commercial renewable energy developments would be administered centrally through SCBF for the benefit of communities across Shetland.

Members discussed a range of potential approaches, including allocations based on directly affected communities, equal distribution between Community Councils, and administration through a Shetland-wide fund.

BS outlined a number of possible options, including a model similar to Viking Wind Farm, an equal split between Community Councils, or a single fund open to applications from communities throughout Shetland.

JA noted that administration of community benefit funds at Community Council level could place additional demands on clerks and community council resources.

Reference was made to examples of existing SCBF-funded projects which provide benefits across Shetland. Members discussed the principle that community benefit funding should, where possible, support communities throughout Shetland.

DW stated that a Shetland-wide approach would ensure all communities had the opportunity to benefit, including those not located close to renewable energy developments. PA agreed, commenting that communities should continue to work together and avoid arrangements which could create divisions between Community Councils.

Cllr. S. Leask noted that the views expressed by members had been inclusive and focused on achieving wider community benefit.

IW advised that, while he could understand the arguments for providing additional benefits to directly affected communities, he would support a larger Shetland-wide funding pot.

CPI commented that any arrangements should be fair and allow communities throughout Shetland to benefit.

PA proposed that Lerwick Community Council support Option 4, namely that community benefit funding be paid into a single Shetland-wide fund administered by the Shetland Community Benefit Fund and open to applications from communities throughout Shetland. The proposal was seconded by DW.

Decision: Members agreed to support a Shetland-wide community benefit fund administered through the Shetland Community Benefit Fund.

Members also discussed the possibility of a future community ownership or buy-in opportunity associated with the development. It was noted that details remained limited at this stage.

DW advised that she would be interested in receiving further information but noted that community buy-ins can carry risks and would require careful consideration.

Cllr. G. Robinson advised that further information would be required regarding the project, including how it may interact with other proposed energy developments in Shetland.

JA commented that there were currently more questions than answers regarding any potential buy-in arrangements.

Decision: Members expressed an interest in exploring a potential community buy-in opportunity further, subject to additional information becoming available. No commitment was made at this stage.

GN advised that any community buy-in option remains under consideration and has yet to be determined.

9. Finance

9.1 Financial Update

Noted.

9.2 VCF – CGS – Projects Supported – CGS Application Summary

Lerwick Community Council allocated £660 through the Viking Community Fund Community Grant Scheme during 2025/26.

There is £11,891 in unspent funds carried forward into the 2026/27 allocation of £6,757 providing a total available balance of £18,648 as at 1 September 2026.

Viking Community Fund advised that the CPI figure had not yet been confirmed.

[GN arrived at 19:25.]

9.3 VCF – Sound School Parent Council – Grant Application

Members considered an application from Sound Primary School Parent Council for £655 from the VCF towards outdoor wear for Sound Primary School Nursery.

Decision: The application of £655 was approved.

Proposed by: DW

Seconded by: AC

9.4 VCF – Anderson High School Parent Council – Grant Application

Members considered an application from Anderson High School Parent Council for £1,000 from the VCF towards costs for AHS pupils to travel to Scottish Schools Netball Cup.

DS queried whether approving the application could create a precedent for future applications from sporting groups. PA suggested that consideration could be given to establishing a funding allocation or boundary for sporting-related applications, and BS agreed.

KF noted that there was currently no evidence of significant pressure on the fund and suggested that formal restrictions or regulations were not required at present.

PA noted that the application was seeking only one-fifth of the total cost of the project.

Decision: The application for £1,000 was approved.

Proposed by: KS

Seconded by: AC

9.5 Loot for Lerwick

Members considered arrangements for the proposed Loot for Lerwick event, which had been deferred from the July meeting.

Members agreed that the event should proceed; however, it was felt that a Spring 2027 event would be preferable to November 2026.

Decision: To proceed with a Loot for Lerwick event in Spring 2027.

Proposed by: GN

Seconded by: KF

Members discussed funding arrangements and agreed that an application should be submitted to the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) to support the event.

Decision: To submit an application to SCBF for funding.

Proposed by: GN

Seconded by: KF

GN suggested “Summertime for Shetland” as a possible theme for the event.

→ **ACTION:** Add to Agenda for October to confirm date, theme & funding application.

[Cllr. D. Leask left the meeting at 19:43].

10. Disabled Parking

10.1 Leslie Road

No comments.

10.2 Hill-Grind

No comments.

During discussion, BS asked what happens to a disabled parking space when the individual who prompted the request moves away. JA advised that disabled parking spaces are not allocated to specific individuals. Roads Services assesses the needs of an area as a whole when considering requests and may remove spaces where a review identifies that there is no longer a requirement. Any proposed revocations are also referred to Community Councils for comment.

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

11.1 Local Place Plans – update from LPP Group

No meetings of the Local Place Plan (LPP) Group had taken place over the summer period.

JA advised that efforts would be made to re-establish momentum and convene a meeting of the group. JA also expressed the view that the Local Place Plan documents should be condensed to improve its usability.

Members were advised that anyone wishing to join the LPP Group would be welcome to do so. It was agreed that an email would be circulated to arrange a future meeting.

→ ACTION: JA to convene a meeting of the LPP Group.

11.2 Gable garage extension with alterations to a vehicular access

8 Fogralea, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0SE

Ref. No: [2026/183/PPF](#) | Received: Mon 31 Aug 2026 | Validated: Mon 31 Aug 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

11.3 To erect single storey extension to south elevation, install SUDS device and relocate oil tank

23 Gressy Loan, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0YB

Ref. No: [2026/184/PPF](#) | Received: Mon 31 Aug 2026 | Validated: Tue 01 Sep 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

11.4 Demolition of Existing House and erection of a new dwellinghouse

13 Cheyne Crescent, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0NS

Ref. No: [2026/170/PPF](#) | Received: Thu 20 Aug 2026 | Validated: Thu 20 Aug 2026 | Status: Unknown

No comments.

11.5 Erection of a replacement 28m high galvanised steel lattice radio mast upon which 7 folded dipole antennas and a sloping long wire antenna will be mounted

Coastguard Station, Knab Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0AX

Ref. No: [2026/164/PPF](#) | Received: Wed 12 Aug 2026 | Validated: Wed 12 Aug 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

No comments.

11.6 To demolish existing two storey hotel bedroom wing and build new 3 storey bedroom wing in its place with SUDS and landscaping

Lerwick Hotel, 15 South Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE2 0RB

Ref. No: [2026/154/PPF](#) | Received: Tue 21 Jul 2026 | Validated: Thu 23 Jul 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

Concerns were raised regarding the inclusion of the proposed Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) pond. Members noted that the principal flooding risk in the area originates from Breiwick and questioned whether the proposed SUDS feature was necessary, expressing concern over potential unnecessary loss of green space and environmental impact.

The proposed increase in height from two to three storeys was also discussed. While some members considered the additional accommodation to be beneficial for tourism and welcomed the increase in hotel capacity, concerns were expressed about the impact of a larger structure on views from the surrounding area and the character of this relatively unspoilt coastal part of Lerwick.

Parking provision associated with the increased number of bedrooms was noted as a consideration. Members also discussed potential impacts on the night sky from external lighting, referencing existing issues with bright lighting in the vicinity.

Concerns were raised regarding the extent of green space that may be lost as a result of the development, and whether adequate consideration had been given to environmental impacts. Members also highlighted ongoing issues with the nearby pumping station and questioned whether sufficient wastewater capacity exists to accommodate the enlarged development. Disappointment was expressed that no apparent improvements to the pumping station form part of the proposal.

Members further agreed that any construction site fencing should be positioned as far up the site as practicable in order to protect the adjacent coastal path and retain public access during construction where possible.

It was suggested that the development represents a missed opportunity to improve pedestrian connections between the hotel and the coastal path and that consideration should be given to incorporating such improvements.

Members agreed to submit an objection/comment on the application highlighting concerns regarding:

- The requirement for the proposed SUDS provision.
- The adequacy of pumping station capacity and the absence of any apparent refurbishment or upgrade works.
- The lack of any new pedestrian path linking the development to the coastal path.
- The positioning of the construction site fencing to minimise impacts on the coastal path and surrounding area.

→ **ACTION:** Clerk to submit objection/comments as discussed.

11.7 Erection of a shunt reactor, 2.4-metre-high fence with vehicular access gates; erect 2 no. CCTV columns and 1 no. lighting column; install 1 no. oil interceptor and sump

Plot adjacent Port Business Park, Lerwick, Shetland

Ref. No: [2026/148/PPF](#) | Received: Fri 17 Jul 2026 | Validated: Wed 22 Jul 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

Members raised concerns regarding the potential for light pollution associated with the proposed lighting and requested that any lighting be designed and operated so as to minimise impacts on surrounding properties and the wider area.

Members also noted the proposed CCTV installation and requested that appropriate measures be in place to ensure that camera coverage does not unnecessarily intrude on the privacy of neighbouring properties or members of the public.

11.8 Installation of 6 no. external CCTV cameras, 1 no. external air conditioning unit and 4 no. external refrigeration units

Victoria Bldgs, Esplanade, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0LL

Ref. No: [2026/141/PPF](#) | Received: Wed 01 Jul 2026 | Validated: Tue 21 Jul 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

JA queried the extent of coverage proposed by the CCTV system, noting that the site is located in a prominent public area.

Members also questioned whether the installation of six CCTV cameras on a single building was proportionate to the operational requirements of the site.

It was further noted that any CCTV system should be installed and operated in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance, with due regard to the privacy of members of the public and neighbouring properties.

12. AOB

New Astro Pitch

IW advised that a number of bins in the vicinity of the new Astro Pitch were overflowing and asked if this could be brought to the attention of Waste Management/Roads Service.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to SIC.

Swimming Pool Car Park

A member noted that the number of Social Care Services staff vehicles using the former swimming pool car park appears to have reduced, with vehicles now parking at the old Anderson High School site.

It was further noted that, on a day when two cruise ships were in port and sections of Victoria Pier were closed, there were still 32 vacant spaces at the swimming pool car park at midday.

Weed Control

A member queried what method and products SIC are currently using for weed control in areas including Ladies Drive, Hoofields and Staney Hill.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to SIC.

Tagdale Ammonia Project

DW requested an update on proposals for the ammonia plant at Dales Voe.

→ ACTION: Clerk to contact Statkraft.

Lanes / Communal Area

DS raised concerns regarding the communal area at Gardie Lane, noting that the area is becoming increasingly untidy. Concerns were raised regarding a bench in poor condition, the base unit of a street light being used as a makeshift bin, and limited lighting in the area.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to SIC.

Holmsgarth Road / Northlink Junction

Cllr. S. Leask advised that he had raised the issue regarding congestion at the junction near the Northlink Terminal and the impact this can have on traffic flow and access for emergency vehicles with Executive Manager – Roads.

Bins – Hill Lane / Greenhead Viewpoint

Members considered concerns raised by local residents regarding the large litter bin located in the former swimming pool car park adjacent to Hill Lane. It was noted that the bin is often full by the end of the weekend, resulting in overflow issues. Members agreed that an additional bin should be requested.

Members also requested that consideration be given to the installation of a litter bin at the viewpoint on the Greenhead / Dales Voe Road.

Members recorded positive feedback regarding the new litter bins recently installed at the Knab, noting that they appear to be effective at preventing access by seagulls.

→ ACTION: Clerk to write to SIC.

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 06 October 2026.

Please note this meeting will be held in Islesburgh Community Centre, Room 16.