

MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held via video conference at 7.00pm

Members

Mr G Robinson
Mr S Hay
Mrs J Williamson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Irvine

Ms K Fraser
Mr A Wenger
Mr A Johnston
Mr A Carter
Mr D Ristori

Ex Officio

Cllr C Smith

In Attendance

Mrs P Christie, SIC
Ms C Carroll, Living Lerwick
Mr J Paton – joined meeting for one item
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

09/20/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that Eddie Knight had resigned from the Community Council after over two decades of service. He proposed that Mr Knight should receive some token of appreciation for his long service and asked the Clerk to organise this.

09/20/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Hawick, Cllr P Campbell, Mr M Duncan.

09/20/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Smith declared an interest in the planning items. Ms Valente declared an interest in the Lerwick Boating Club item. Mr Johnston declared an interest in the Nordavatn planning item and Mr Anderson declared an interest in the Staney Hill planning application.

09/20/04

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 July 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Mr Johnston and seconded by Mr Robinson.

Mr Wenger commented on the discussion about the road over Staney Hill and referred to the new photographs he had taken following recent heavy rains. There was a

discussion about the state of the road and the vehicles that sometimes use the road. The Clerk was asked to send the new photos to SIC Roads to go with the comments that had been sent following the July meeting.

09/20/05 **Correspondence from James Paton**

Mr Paton had written to the Community Council to express his disappointment over the decision taken not to object to the planning application for a radio mast at the Telephone Exchange. Mr Paton explained that he had since written to SIC Planning to object to the planning application. He also raised the issue of the state of Water Lane and thanked the Chairman for engaging on this matter.

09/20/06 **Consultation on HIAL Air Traffic Control at Sumburgh Airport**

The impact of the proposed remote air traffic control system at Sumburgh Airport would result in the loss of a dozen jobs, worth around £600,000 to the local economy, which would have quite an impact locally. Mr Robinson said he was concerned that the system had not been tested in an area that was equivalent to Sumburgh, in terms of remote location and proximity to other air traffic control systems. He said he felt that Shetland was being experimented with and he had concerns about the safety of the system. Mrs Simpson and Mr Hay agreed, and Mr Hay added that it felt as if this consultation was pointless as it seemed as if the decision had been made already. The move towards centralisation was not a good thing for Shetland. The Clerk was asked to pass on these comments via the online consultation.

09/20/07 **Lerwick Community Garden**

Ms Fraser commented that the recent garden competition had been very successful, with quite a few entries. It had been obvious when visiting the gardens and speaking to people that garden had been a very important activity for them during the lockdown. She said that if the competition went ahead next year it might be good to advertise it much earlier and to have a new category for new transformations. Ms Fraser said she wanted to record her appreciation to the Clerk who organised the event.

The Chairman turned to the issue of the Lerwick Community Garden at Pitt Lane which was looking really good after a tremendous amount of time had been put in by volunteers. He asked if anyone had any comments about the correspondence that had been received from Mr Johnston who was one of the main organisers of the community garden. Mr Hay said the community garden was a major improvement to what was there before. He added that he was a strong supporter of building new housing but accepted that the garden had really enhanced the area for the remaining residents and visitors. Mr Robinson said that the garden was a great achievement. Mr Carter asked about the state of some of the derelict social housing in the Lanes which was in a poor state. The clerk was asked to write to SIC Housing to ask what was planned for the housing.

With regard to the community garden and how to protect it, Mr Anderson said that some community groups were taking over some public assets into community ownership. This might be possible for the community garden. Mrs Christie agreed and said this was worth pursuing and suggested that Mr Johnston should get in contact with her.

Mr Wenger commented on the amount of docking weeds that were growing around the Knab and the Clickimin loch. The Clerk was asked to raise this with SIC.

09/20/08 **Finance – Core Funding Report 1st September 2020 and Crisis Fund Expenditure**

There was a discussion about the grant funding with a view to how a Loot for Lerwick event might take place. It looks unlikely to be possible during this year and it was agreed that any suggestions for what might be done with the funds that would normally be set aside for this project to be discussed at the October meeting. Mr Hay said he thought that the community council should be considering ways to help with the next phase of recovery from the crisis.

09/20/09 **Funding Opportunities – Crown Estate Scotland**

There was a discussion about new sources of funding that might be available, of which there would be opportunities to apply for over the next few months. The Chairman suggested that the rock armour at the Sletts could be replaced and the area tidied up and made safe for swimmers and for other water sports, perhaps with the reinforcing of the sea wall, some decking, lifebuoys and a safety line. This would be investigated as a potential project should funding be available.

Mrs Carroll commented that a similar thing could be done for the Sands of Sound beach. The path to the sea and around the Ness of Sound, and lack of safety equipment and bins could all be improved.

The crisis funds had been spent in full and a report was being prepared for the Scottish Government.

09/20/10 **Grant Applications**

A grant application had been received from Living Lerwick for £954 towards the cost of a town mascot, called Maunsie, which would be used for events that would encourage more people to shop locally. The mascot costume design was based on the market cross. Mr Ristori approved the grant, which was seconded by Mr Irvine. There were no objections.

09/20/11 **Community Benefits Fund**

Mr Wenger had resigned from the Community Benefits Fund committee. Nobody had agreed to be nominated to take his place so the Chairman volunteered to take on this role until Easter 2021 when he hoped that someone else could be encouraged to. Ms Fraser and Mr Hay agreed that Mr Anderson would be a splendid representative for the Community Council.

Mr Wenger said that the SCBF was in the process of recruiting a Business Manager £50,000 for the administration costs, and had recently held an AGM, on 12 August.

09/20/12 **Defibrillator at Lerwick Boating Club**

Lerwick Boating Club had written to the Community Council requesting support to re-site the club's defibrillator outside the building where it could be made more available to the public who might need it, particularly for anyone uses the nearby beaches. It was currently located inside the building. The club would continue to pay for the power source for the defibrillator but asked for help with paying for new batteries and

replacement pads when they are needed. Mr Robinson agreed to support this which was seconded by Mr Wenger.

09/20/13 **Broadband Network for Shetland**

An email had been received from Karl Johnson about the poor state of broadband provision throughout Shetland. It was agreed that this discussion was more suitable for the ASCC.

06/20/14 **Planning Applications – 2020/152/PPF Garage, Holmsgarth Road; 2020/145/PPF Quendale House; 2020/111/PPF Leog House; 2020/125/PPF North Staneyhill; 2020/109/Nordavatn**

There were no valid objections to any of the planning applications that were discussed at the meeting.

06/20/15 **2019/278/PPF – Local Review – Antenna monopole, Quendale Lane**

It was agreed that the Community Council was comfortable with the original objections.

06/20/16 **Disabled Parking Space – North Road**

There were no objections to the revocation of a disabled parking space at North Road.

06/20/17 **Any Other Business**

Mrs Simpson wanted to know the progress of the card payments for school meals at the Anderson High School. It appeared that every other school had managed to tackle this. Mr Anderson said he would raise this at the Parent Council meeting later in the week. The Clerk was asked to find out if there was any news on this issue from Mr Beatty at SIC. Mr Hay added that he had heard that face masks were being handed out free of charge to pupils who received free school meals. He said that it would be appropriate for any child that needed one to be given one free of charge. Ms Fraser agreed, but asked that more was done to discourage the use of disposable masks.

Mr Carter asked whether it would be possible to get an update on the old Anderson High School site. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Sinclair at AHS to get an update in time for the next meeting.

Mr Ristori said he had noticed that the metal railings around Mareel were in a very poor state, having become quite rusty, with sharp edges in places. The Clerk was asked to write to the Arts Trust to enquire if anything was going to be done to repair them.

Mr Anderson said he had noticed that some areas of the wall along the seaward side of Sletts path were in a poor state, particularly below the Lerwick Hotel. The Clerk was asked to write to SIC to report this.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....