

MONDAY 4 MAY 2020

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

Members

Mr A Irvine
Mr S Hay
Mrs J Williamson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr J Fraser
Ms K Fraser
Mr A Carter

In Attendance

Mr M Duncan, SIC
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

05/20/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation for Members joining the meeting via Skype. He said that various options had been considered for how to hold the meeting but this seemed the simplest as people could decide whether to use their phones or their computers and did not need to use video.

05/20/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Wenger who was unable to connect to the call. Mr Johnston had connected to the meeting at the start but was unable to stay connected.

05/20/03

Declarations of Interest

None.

05/20/04

Decisions recorded from online discussions in lieu of April Meeting

The decisions that were recorded from the email conversations that had been had in lieu of a meeting on 6 April were discussed. The discussion about whether to sign a petition that had been started by Benbecula Community Council against the remote air traffic control proposals at HIAL airports was raised again as a conclusive decision had not been recorded, however, there were more Members in favour of supporting the petition than opposed it. Mrs Williamson formally proposed signing the petition and this was seconded by Mr Irvine. The Clerk would arrange for the petition to be signed on behalf of LCC before the closing date on 6 May 2020.

05/20/05 **Correspondence from Shetland Charitable Trust**

There was a discussion about the response from Shetland Charitable Trust in response to the request for information about what the Trust proposes to do to help the Shetland community during the crisis. There was disappointment in the lack of personalised response from the Trust as there was no indication as to who had written the letter.

Since the correspondence had been sent SCT had announced that its grant scheme had been reopened, which was welcomed, although it was not entirely sure whether this was just for the normal business or whether there was anything additional for the crisis. It was commented that the Trust only provides support to charities, however, the unprecedented level of change throughout Shetland means that many more people are vulnerable and the Trust will need to find new ways to help people who are not receiving support from charities.

Mr Hay said that in the light of the special circumstances he would like SCT to outline what notion they have to ameliorate the future problems that the crisis will bring to bear. Have they a structure in place to help the community.

05/20/06 **Financial report for April 2020**

There were no comments about the financial report. Mr Duncan said that the CDF grants would be reopened soon for consideration.

05/20/07 **Planning Applications – 2020/062/PPF Change of Use, Lochside Stores**

There was a discussion about the planning application to change a shop to a takeaway. It was pointed out that in England at least new takeaways are not permitted within 400 metres of schools. The Scottish Government is trying to promote the health food/ healthy living message to school pupils and if the proposed takeaway is a “fast-food” outlet it might not be appropriate to have this close to the school. However, it was not certain whether the same regulations applied in Scotland. The clerk was asked to raise these concerns in the response to Planning.

05/20/08 **Covid 19 Crisis Grant**

There was a discussion about the grant that had just been received from the Scottish Government via HIE. It was explained that the grant had been applied for to help with the community response to the crisis. There had been a range of ideas from technological solutions to isolation; financial contributions for expenses incurred by volunteers; help with expenses for delivery of prescriptions; and purchase of some medical devices for people who are self-isolating who need regular BP tests; purchase of games/puzzles for children/and or older people who are self isolating.

Ms Fraser said the Library was aiming to lend tablets out to some of their clients who are missing being able to get to the library. The library and Adult Learning service was looking at the logistics of setting up a loan system.

Some of the problems of finding out who needs what were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Schools Service, the Foodbank, Citizen’s Advice Bureau and other anchor organizations. Mr Duncan said that an email would be going out to many of these organizations to inform them of what funding was available and how to obtain it.

The mechanism for deciding time-critical grant applications would be the circulation of an email with the details of the application with Members being asked to quickly respond with their support or objections. This was so that decisions could be taken between meetings.

05/20/09 **Gardening Competition**

It was suggested that the Gardening Competition, that used to be an annual event, is resurrected this year. The old trophy had been found in Stouts Court while the office was being cleared. There was unanimous support for this. The details of judging would be decided later but would take place towards the end of July.

05/20/10 **A.O.B.**

- a. Mr Irvine asked whether it would be appropriate for blue filters to be applied to the Clickimin Broch lights as part of the acknowledgement of the work of the NHS during this time. The clerk was already in possession of the filters from previous events. It was agreed that this would be appropriate, although it was commented that the light nights mean that not many people would see them.
- b. Mr Fraser raised concerns about students who are either in full time education or just finishing this summer, and the lack of jobs that will be available to them due to the virus. He was concerned that this might mean that some students will be struggling which might impact on whether they return to their studies. It was suggested that a letter should be written to the Shetland Times encouraging local businesses to try and consider short term opportunities for students.
- c. Mr Fraser said he was concerned about the impact of the crisis on people who have recently been discharged from addiction support services or mental health counseling, who might still be vulnerable to relapse. He said the support agencies should take a proactive approach to reaching out to people in this situation. He was agreed that this issue would be raised at the Weekly Resilience Meeting by Mr Duncan. An email would also be sent to the NHS regarding this.
- d. On behalf of Mr Ristori, the Chairman suggested installing an information board in the area around the old Sound Kirkyard with information about the crafting activities in that area as well as other places of interest such as the Grottie Buckie.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....