

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall, Lerwick, at 7.00pm

Members

Mr G Robinson	Mr A Wenger
Mr E Knight	Mr A Irvine
Mr D Ristori	Mr S Hay
Mrs A Simpson	Mrs J Williamson
Mr J Fraser	Mr M Hall
Ms K Fraser	Mr A Johnston

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr P Campbell
Cllr S Flaws

Additional Co-opted Members

Mr J Dorratt, MSYP

In Attendance

Mrs P Christie, SIC
Mr N Beattie, SIC
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

03/20/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

03/20/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Leask, Cllr M Bell, Cllr C Smith, Cllr A Hawick, Mr S Hay.

03/20/03

Declarations of Interest

Mr Knight declared an interest in the item about the Merchant Navy Memorial.

03/20/04

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Mr Ristori and seconded by Mrs Williamson.

03/20/05 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

03/20/06 **Police Scotland Monthly Report**

Police Scotland was not in attendance for this item.

03/20/07 **Correspondence**

- a. Response from SRT re: festive opening hours – Shetland Recreational Trust replied to a letter asking whether consideration could be given to opening the facilities during the festive period. SRT replied that they would consider this for another year, however, the timetable and resources have already been set for this coming festive period.
- b. response from SIC Roads re: line marking – SIC Roads replied to a letter regarding road markings which had listed a number of roads that had been identified as requiring maintenance of the line markings by saying that the Roads Service will be continually working on road markings as money permits.

03/20/08 **Payment of School Meals**

Neil Beattie from SIC Schools Service attended the meeting to discuss concerns raised in previous meetings and in other public meetings that the current method of paying for school meals at the Anderson High School clearly identifies those pupils who are entitled to free school meals. This is understood to cause embarrassment for some pupils and there are reports that some children are inclined not to take up the free meals and are going without instead. Mr Beattie said that the Council is aware of the problem and has been looking into alternative methods of payment. One of the solutions might be to use the Young Scot Card that almost all children have as a way of paying for meals in the school canteen. It could be either topped up by parents or by the Council, but the use of the card would not identify individual circumstances. In response to a question about what would happen if someone had not brought their card into school the IT system could be used to identify the account with the supply of a PIN.

Mr Beattie explained that the cost of setting up a new payment system would be over £20,000 and as a result it would need to go through formal procurement channels. Cllr Campbell said that Shetland had the lowest uptake in free school meals in the whole of Scotland, so anything that can be done to improve this situation would be appreciated. Some government funding is ring-fenced for schemes that are based on levels of poverty and the take up of free school meals is used as an indicator of local wealth. This means that Shetland misses out on some funding because the figures do not reflect the reality.

Mr Robinson said he was disappointed that this scheme had not been in place for when the new school opened as this had been promised. Mr Beattie said that he anticipated that it would be ready for the start of the new school year, although he couldn't guarantee this.

03/20/09 **Financial report for February 2020**

There were no comments about the financial report.

03/20/10 **Community Payback Unpaid Work Team**

The Community Council had been asked for ideas for projects that the unpaid work team could do. In previous years the Bridges Project has undertaken to paint and repair some community park benches in Lerwick and as the Bridges Project Team have been unable to do this over the last year it was suggested that this project could be passed on to the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team. It was also suggested that they might be able to take on the painting of some of the old street signs in the town centre. The clerk was asked to reply with details of the benches in the Staney Hill area that were identified as needing repair and also to suggest liaising with the Bridges Project regarding the street signs, and to liaise with Living Lerwick regarding the telephone box that needs painting. The Welcome to Lerwick sign at the Esplanade was identified as requiring a refresh, however, that is maintained by Lerwick Port Authority.

03/20/11 **Merchant Navy Memorial**

The Shetland Seafarers Association has proposed to erect a memorial for the Merchant Navy in front of the Shetland Museum. The cost of the project would be around £10,000 and they have been seeking support for the project from other bodies. There are no other memorials to the work of the Merchant Navy anywhere else in Shetland and it was thought that given the vital importance that merchant seamen and women have played both during and after the wars it was clear that this situation should be addressed. The museum has a footfall of around 80,000 per year so the site would be a good place for the memorial. The Chairman suggested that the Community Council could apply for a Community Development Fund Project grant of £1,000 on behalf of the Shetland Seafarers Association as soon as the grants become available. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to make the application in due course.

03/20/12 **Planning Applications – 2020/031/PPF Extension to Fjara ; 2020/019/PPF Town Hall EV Charging Station and 2020/038/PPF Commercial St**

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

03/20/13 **Active Travel Plan**

There were some meetings in the following week to discuss the active travel plans for Shetland. Anyone who was interested in this issue was encouraged to attend. The Chairman asked if there was anything that anyone wanted to feed into the forum. Mr Ristori said that it was time that some of the obsolete bus shelters were removed as it was confusing for people to see a bus shelter when there were no buses using that route. He also raised the issue of getting CCTV onto local buses, particularly in view of the fact that many routes are used by children on their journeys to school.

Mr Robinson said that it was great that there was a cycle and footpath around the Clickimin Loch but it was a shame that there were no other routes leading to this island of paths, and that nothing appears to be happening to address this. Cllr Campbell said that some of the road crossings near the school should be looked at as they don't appear to be sited where the natural crossing point is and that it was probably time to look at the speed limit around the new school. Mr Dorratt was asked for his opinion on this and he agreed that many pupils were not crossing where they should. There would shortly be a meeting with the Active Travel team and Councillors to look at creating safer ways to

get to school. It was also important to make it clear what the bus route was and that it was difficult enough for locals to know which route the bus was taking and almost impossible for tourists. Better publicity for the travel App is needed. It works very well but hardly anyone knows about it.

03/20/14 **Parking Spaces for the Disabled – Arheim**

There was no objection to the proposed new disabled parking space in Arheim

03/20/15 **Surface Dressing for Roads**

SIC Roads had circulated a list of roads that would receive new surface dressings over the next few months. Mr Robinson pointed out that the list did not include the old North Road near the Decca station that is in a bad state of repair. Mr Anderson said the Knab Road should also be included in the list, although it was reasonable to think this might need to be arranged around future developments at the Knab. The clerk was asked to reply to Roads to ask if these roads could be included.

03/20/16 **Interpretation Board**

The draft of the interpretation board was discussed and a couple of suggestions for improvements were made, including changing the icon for the school and one correction for grammar. The clerk would arrange for the designer to make the changes before the board was printed.

03/20/17 **Closure of Stouts Court**

The office was being cleared of furniture and files with a view to closing on 31 March. There were still a few items for sale which would be donated to COPE if they were not wanted.

03/20/18 **A.O.B.**

- a. The Chairman had asked for a paper on the three new transmission lines that would support the wind farms to be circulated prior to the meeting, and asked for comments. There were no comments on this issue.
- b. Mr Carter asked whether anyone had any views on the proposal for a cruise ship to visit Lerwick for Up Helly Aa 2021, in particular, whether there were any safety concerns about the effect of increased numbers of tourists visiting the town. The Chairman replied that he thought it would be a positive opportunity and that the police and Lerwick Port Authority had the ability to control the situation.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....