

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2019

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

Members

Ms K Fraser
Mr M Hall
Mr E Knight
Mr G Robinson
Mr A Johnston
Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Wenger

Ex-Officio Councillors

Cllr M Bell

Additional Co-opted Members

Ms E Harvey, AHS

In Attendance

Ms E Miller, Living Lerwick
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

10/19/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new pupil representative from Anderson High School, Eli Harvey.

10/19/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Leask, Cllr A Hawick, Cllr C Smith, Mr S Hay, Mr A Irvine, Mr J Fraser and Mrs J Williamson.

10/19/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Bell declared an interest in the planning applications. Ms Fraser and Ms Valente declared interests in the Loot for Lerwick applications.

10/19/04

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Ms Fraser and seconded by Mr Robinson.

01/19/05

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr Wenger asked whether a response had been received regarding the broken street lamp at the corner of the carpark at Hillhead. Clerk advised that nothing had been received and that they would chase Roads Dept.

10/19/06

Police Scotland Monthly Report

Police Scotland was not present for this item. The Clerk reported that the Clickimin Broch lights had been vandalised over the weekend while the lighting had been changed to red for an anti-racism campaign and to raise awareness of dyslexia. This would be reported to Police Scotland. The lights would not be working for a few days until the electrician could repair them. The wires had been exposed so the power had been switched off. It was hoped that the lights could be repaired in time for a campaign for the SANDS charity.

10/19/07

Financial report for September 2019

Mr Robinson commented that the finances were looking fairly healthy for the mid-point in the year. Mr Anderson agreed, although he pointed that that most of the budget had been committed already.

10/19/08

Post Office Consultation

Mr Carter opened the debate on the proposals to relocate the post office counter service to Connochies. He raised concerns that the decision was fait accompli and that the concerns people had would not be listened to. Mr Bell said he had similar reservations and had already responded as a Councillor to the consultation. However, he said that we had an opportunity to make our points and to raise issues that might not have been considered.

There was concern about access to Connochies for disabled people. Ms Fraser said that there were no facilities for disabled people at the Freefield Post Office and therefore the main post office had to have suitable facilities. Whilst it was legally possible for disabled people to park outside Connochies there was no designated parking spaces which could be chaotic on a busy day, especially at the times of day when other road users are able to access the road for deliveries etc.

Mr Robinson pointed out that the new post office would have automated doors which would be helpful for all users. He also welcomed the extension to the opening hours and the proposed Sunday opening.

Mr Wenger said he was concerned about how the Royal Mail delivery drivers would access the new building as they would have to collect the mail in order to take it back to the old sorting office, as this part of the current post office building would not be changing. He was also concerned about what would happen to the employees as the Connochie's post office would be run by a private company. Mr Anderson suggested that the TUPE rules might apply to this.

Ms Miller said she was concerned about parking and access to the post office for business users, many of whom make regular visits to the post office to send off numerous bulky items, particularly around Christmas. Connochies was situated at a narrow point in the street and she envisaged a free for all during busy periods, particularly as it appeared that the proposals were for a reduced number of counters and staff. She wondered whether there was a suitable Goods Access from Harbison Square.

Mr Johnston asked whether there was any idea what might happen to the old post office building. Mr Hall suggested that the sorting office might simply expand into the vacated area, as he had witnessed in other parts of Scotland where similar situations had occurred. He was also concerned about how the new location would cope with the volume of people using the post office over Christmas and other busy periods.

The Clerk would respond to the consultation on behalf of Lerwick Community Council and to record all the concerns discussed.

10/19/09

National Transport Strategy Consultation

Mrs Simpson and Ms Fraser both commented on the length of the consultation paper. Ms Fraser said she had not been able to finish reading it, but had liked what she had seen so far, with the emphasis on reducing the carbon footprint, active travel ideas which were coupled with the need to tackle health and obesity issues in the population.

Mr Robinson said that the detail on the Road Equivalent Tariff was very generic and didn't tackle the problems experienced in Shetland for travel to the mainland. There was a disappointing lack of discussion on fixed links in the consultation paper. Mr Carter said the presumptions in the paper regarding car ownership and people on low incomes was misleading. Within Shetland, the poor public transport network meant that people on low incomes had no choice but to have a car in order to get to their work. This expenditure often resulted in pressure on other household essentials. He added that the proposals to double investment in cycle paths did not go nearly far enough if we were to catch up with places like Germany and the Netherlands which had a much more favourable cycling infrastructure.

Ms Harvey agreed with the need for the investment in cycle paths and commented that Shetland does not feel like a safe place to ride a bike. She said that cyclists are made to feel like they are a nuisance on the roads. Mr Wenger agreed and commented that when he used to ride a bike to work, in all weathers, he had been knocked off his bike.

Mr Robinson said that a transport strategy that would work for Shetland would enable people to be able to travel to the mainland and back and be able to do a whole day's business in the city. This would make a big difference to business people and for people travelling on behalf of public sector organisations. The timetables for trains and other onward travel does not take into consideration the timetable of ferries arriving in Aberdeen. He added that the current aircraft fleet is not suitable for the Northern Isles and compared the situation to the Faroe Islands which use larger aircraft which are actually more efficient in terms of fuel use. He would like to see the National Transport Strategy improved to take into account the needs of the communities in Shetland.

The Clerk would respond to the online consultation on behalf of Lerwick Community Council.

10/19/10

VE Day Planning

More information about the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2020 had been received. The Chairman asked whether anyone had any ideas about what the Community Council could do to mark the occasion. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to do something and it might better to make a combined effort between all the Community Councils. The Clerk was asked to contact ASCC to see if there was support for a joint effort, and also to contact Jon Sandison to get an update on what he was planning for the event to offer support.

10/19/11

Planning Applications

2019/245/PPF 155 Commercial St – there were no objections to the proposal for a change of use to the property. It was commented that it would be good to do something with the building that has been vacant for a while.

2019/212/PPF Demolition of building at Garthspool – there were no objections.

2019/244/PPF Sound Service Station - there was no objection to the proposal to install an additional fuel pump on the forecourt. It was observed, however, that the forecourt gets congested occasionally with cars parked beside the wall, with the effect that some drivers have been tempted to exit via the entrance. The Clerk should highlight this issue in the response.

10/19/12

Planning Training

The Chairman commented on the planning training that had been organised for Community Councillors by the Planning Advisory Service, that he had attended recently, along with Mrs Simpson, Mrs Williamson and Mr Wenger. The slides used at the training seminar had been circulated for information. Mr Wenger said he had been pleased to see that climate change issues had started to be incorporated into planning legislation in a more meaningful way.

Mr Robinson commented on how the new planning legislation would create some more powers for community councils. It had yet to be tested but in future it might be possible for community organisations to commandeer empty buildings and repurpose them for community use.

10/19/13

Loot for Lerwick

Ten application forms had been sent out to local community groups but only 6 had been returned. The groups applying for funding were: Lerwick Boating Club, Ability Shetland, Bressay Park Run, Shetland Sport for All, Stoney Hill Community Association, and Autism Friendly Shetland. £5000 had been set aside for the Loot for Lerwick event on 26 October at Islesburgh. A total of £5630 had been bid for.

10/19/14

A.O.B.

- a) Ms Miller reported street lights out of action in Union St. Mr Robinson said there was also faulty street lights near the pedestrian crossing at the Viking Bus Station. The Clerk would report the street lighting faults to SIC Roads.
- b) The Chairman said that he was very saddened to hear about the passing of Gussie Angus who had been a member of Lerwick Community Council as well as serving as a Councillor. He would be a huge miss to the Community and he wanted to acknowledge this on behalf of the Community Council.
- c) The Chairman said that someone had reported a hole in the grassy verge between the Sound School and the Blydoit shop. Apparently a child had injured themselves after catching their foot in the hole. The clerk would report this to SIC Roads.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....