

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 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

Mr J Fraser
Mr A Wenger
Mr A Johnston
Mr A Carter
Mr D Ristori

Ex Officio

Cllr C Smith
Cllr A Hawick
Cllr S Leask
Cllr M Bell

In Attendance

Mr M Duncan, SIC
Ms C Carroll, Living Lerwick
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

10/20/01

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.

10/20/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Flaws, Cllr P Campbell, Mr M Hall, Ms K Fraser and Mr A Carter

10/20/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Smith and Cllr Bell declared an interest in the planning item.

10/20/04

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2020

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

Mrs Simpson asked if there had been a response from SIC regarding the payment of school meals by card. The clerk confirmed that a reply had been received and that no

progress had been made due to the pressure of additional work caused by the pandemic. It was pointed out that ParentPay was used by every other school in Shetland and that this really needed to be addressed quickly. The clerk was asked to write to Neil Beattie and copy the email to Maggie Sandison and George Smith.

Further correspondence had been received from Mr Paton in relation to the planning issue he raised at the September meeting. The clerk was asked to circulate it for information after the meeting.

10/20/05

Correspondence

A resident had written to the Community Council about the Leog Lane planning application 2020/111/PPF as she was concerned about the impact of the development on the wall that divided her property from the proposed build. The wall which had been used to create an attractive area belonged to the owner that had submitted the planning application and therefore there was little that could be done to support her concerns, however, the clerk was asked to write to planning to raise this as an issue.

10/20/06

Finance – Core Funding Report 30 September 2020

There were no comments about the core funding report.

10/20/07

Grant application for a new community garden

An application for a grant for £280 to install an external tap for use by residents for a small community garden project had been received. It was proposed by Mr Ristori that this should be granted and was seconded by Mr Robinson. It was agreed that the grant would be made on condition that there was permission in place to carry out this work.

10/20/08

Covid 19 – Communities Recovery Fund

There was a discussion about the new tranche of funding that was available. The rules were a little different to the last fund in that LCC could not apply for the grant simply to allow LCC to offer grants to other organisations. It needed to be for a specific project. The clerk was asked to contact the Library to see if there was a need to purchase more iPad style tablets to loan out to library users.

10/20/09

Town Centre Fund Capital Grant

Mr Duncan introduced the subject of the town centre fund capital grant which was available for “shovel-ready” projects that are aimed at improving access or promoting the town. There was a discussion about the type of projects that might have an economic benefit to Lerwick. Cllr Hawick asked if this could include improving the children’s play facilities in the town, but Mr Duncan said that although this would be a worthy project it was outside the remit of the grant. Mrs Carroll, speaking on behalf of Living Lerwick, said that there was a project to bring the town centre shops to the rest of Shetland via a delivery service, and it was hoped that an electric vehicle could be purchased in order to bring environmental as well as economic benefits. This led to a discussion about electric vehicle and e-bike charging points and it was decided that additional charging facilities would be beneficial for the town centre. The clerk was asked to submit a draft application, along with an estimate of costs for this project. It was hoped that it would be possible to include a space for e-bike chargers as it was possible that in future e-bikes might be hired out to locals and tourists and they would need a

place to recharge. It was anticipated that people who made use of the charging facilities might be inclined to use the local shops while they waited.

Lerwick Port Authority had recently installed charging stations outside Albert Building and therefore would have an idea of estimated costs.

10/20/10 **Loot for Lerwick – ideas for CDF Grant**

The CDF grant which had been applied for to run a Loot for Lerwick event remained unspent. Members were asked to think about how this kind of event could be managed under the current restrictions. It was recognized that a purely online event might not reach all the community. The clerk pointed out that there was only £3000 available for the event and that maybe it would be worth reducing the maximum award and theming the grant as a “kick start after Covid” event. This subject would be carried forward to the December meeting.

10/20/11 **Pitt Lane Garden**

The Pitt Lane Community Garden and the possibility of an asset transfer to the community was discussed. However, the garden was subject to a retrospective planning application and therefore it was not thought appropriate to support this at the moment. It was pointed out that as LCC is not a legal entity it would not be possible for the community council to own land or buildings.

Mr Hay remarked that the subject of electric charging stations for the town centre had just been discussed and that the Pitt Lane garden site had used a car parking space that might have been perfect for a charging station. Cllr Bell pointed out that it had been unfortunate the way the discussion about the community garden had played out in public. The area was zoned for housing and there was still a need for more housing in the town centre.

Mrs Simpson proposed waiting until the planning issue had been resolved before discussing whether there was any possibility of an asset transfer to a community body.

10/20/12 **Any Other Business**

- a. Mr Ristori raised the issue of the state of the St Clements Hall building in St Olaf St. The listed building was in a poor state of repair with broken windows. It was just opposite the playpark and next door to a care home and it seemed a great shame that it had been left in a dilapidated condition for so long. The clerk was asked to contact Building Control to report this.
- b. Mr Hay said he had noticed that the grassed area between the new school and the hostel was very overgrown. Cllr Leask said he had already report this to the relevant department.
- c. Mr Wenger said he was disappointed in the response from SIC about the state of the docking weeds at the Knab and the Clickimin Loch, and could not see why there had not been any time or budget to address this during the summer. He asked whether there had been a response from SIC regarding the road over Staney Hill. The clerk was asked to chase a response.

- d. Mr Anderson raised that concern had been reported that it appeared as if some stones had been removed from the wall below the Health Centre, along the Sea Path. The retaining wall contained cables for the lighting which was already exposed. The clerk was asked to write to the health centre to report this issue. It was noted that although the SIC had repaired a couple of sections of the dyke along the Sea Path a further section below the Matchbox house was showing signs of damage and would benefit from repair before the winter. Members also noted that had been noticed that similar stones were disappearing from the drystone walls on Staney Hill. The clerk was asked to raise this with SIC.

- e. Mr Anderson also raised concern at the condition of the middle section of retaining wall below the old part of Lerwick New Cemetery The clerk was asked to raise this with SIC.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....