

MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2021

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

Members

Mr J Fraser	Ms K Fraser
Mr S Hay	Mr A Wenger
Mrs J Williamson	Mr A Johnston
Mrs A Simpson	Mr A Carter
Mr A Irvine	Mr D Ristori
Mr G Robinson	

Ex Officio

Cllr M Bell
Cllr C Smith
Cllr S Flaws
Cllr S Leask
Cllr P Campbell

In Attendance

Mrs C Carroll, Living Lerwick
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

01/21/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy New Year.

01/21/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A Hawick and Mr M Duncan.

01/21/03

Declarations of Interest

There were declarations of interest in the planning items from Cllrs Bell and Smith

01/21/04

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Mr Ristori and seconded by Mrs Simpson after a correction from Mr Wenger by email was noted.

Mrs Simpson referred to the item discussed at the last meeting regarding the payment system for school meals at the Anderson High School and asked why SIC was not willing to extend ParentPay to the AHS for this purpose. Mr Anderson explained that ParentPay

was used in the AHS for other purposes, but not school meals, and SIC had said that this was not a suitable system for the AHS. A new system was reportedly being procured which would be ready for August 2021. He said he was disappointed that SIC had not been willing to find an interim solution. Mrs Simpson replied that it was disgraceful that it has taken so long.

01/21/05

Correspondence

The Chairman referred to the correspondence to SIC (Anne Cogle) regarding the Constitution and whether online meetings could continue after the pandemic. SIC had replied that emergency rules had been introduced to allow for online meetings during the crisis and that it will look at how the constitution could be amended to allow this to continue indefinitely to allow greater access to meetings in future.

01/21/06

Core Funding Report – 4 January 2021

There were no comments on the core funding report.

01/21/07

Plan for Open Spaces around new AHS and Hostel

Since the December meeting LCC had written to Robert Sinclair at SIC to find out if there were any plans for the open spaces around the AHS and Hostel, and specifically to the area north of the rugby pitches. SIC confirmed that there were no current plans for this area and invited LCC to submit a proposal.

There was a discussion about what the area could be used for. Mr Ristori's suggestion for a community garden might not be the only solution and Mr Fraser said that the public would need to be consulted on any proposals and asked to submit ideas as well. Mr Carter said that the Asta Campsite had just received government funding and added that there is still a need for a campsite in Lerwick. He said that one of the vacant plots could make a good parking site for self-contained motorhomes He added that this would mean that additional facilities such as toilets and showers would not be needed. Cllr Leask said that a project could be combined with the SIC school garden and that LCC should contact Emma Perrin at SIC for information about the eco-garden projects. Mr Ristori said that as there were three plots of land perhaps there could be three separate ideas incorporating all the ideas. It was agreed that this issue should be brought back for discussion at another meeting and that LCC would collate all the ideas for the discussion and would also seek public opinion.

01/21/08

Concerns over pollution at Clickimin Loch

Mr R Johnston had copied LCC into correspondence to SEPA regarding the dramatic reduction in wildlife around Clickimin Loch, particularly the loss of the various species of duck that used to be seen there until recently. The numbers of ducks had been monitored by SNH for the last 20 years has shown that numbers have steadily declined to zero. Mr R Johnston suggested in his emails that this is linked to the opening of the school, and reported that fishermen have also stopped using the loch because of the lack of fish. However, SEPA reported that there are no sources of pollution due to the presence of the school. The water quality had changed but it was thought to be ingress of sea water that has added higher concentrations of chloride and sulphate. Members discussed this and there was general agreement that there had been a reduction in some types of birds, but it was suggested by Mrs Carroll that this could be because of the increase in other breeds, such as seagulls and hooded crows that have been seen picking

off the ducklings when they emerge from the loch. Failed breeding cycles could mean that the ducks find somewhere safer to stay. The Chairman noted that the new pathways around the loch had led to a significant increase in walkers, often with dogs or children., However there was no evidence of this being a factor in the diminished population of wildfowl. Mr Fraser offered to pursue this issue with SEPA and would report back.

01/21/09

Shetland Community Benefit Fund update to funding proposals

SCBF had circulated an update to community councils regarding their new Advance Grant Scheme with two tier funding that would be available in due course. Lerwick CC would receive £10,000 per annum for grant funding, of which 5% could be used for the administration of the grant. Applicants could apply within tier one for projects up to £500 and in tier two for projects requiring more than £500. The tier one funding would be agreed by LCC in the normal way that grants are approved and anything over £500 would have to be approved by SCBF. It was agreed that this type of funding could make a useful contribution to the Loot for Lerwick project for when it could be run again. The Chairman said that these events had been very successful and that this could be a good starting point for the funding scheme.

01/21/10

Crown Estate Fund – Grant Aid Scheme

The Crown Estate fund had begun approving grants between £10,000 and £100,000. Mr Carter suggested that the development of the shoreline at the Sletts would be a good project to fund from this scheme. Mrs Simpson agreed. Mr Irvine said that previous quotes for rock armour had been around £5000, although this was in 2015 and prices would have increased. It was agreed that this area should be tidied up and it had potential to be a good place for wild swimming which was becoming increasingly popular. The Chairman added that a handrail at Bains Beach would also be a useful safety addition. Mr Robinson suggested that the caravan park that had been discussed earlier might also be a suitable project for funding. Mrs Carrol asked whether the area near the duck pond along the Sea Road would make a good site for a caravan. However, it was thought that the road would need to be upgraded first and the land was privately owned. The Chairman said it was worth asking the question whether SIC had any plans to develop the Sea Road. He added that the Local Plan should be published this year, after a delay due to the crisis, and that perhaps areas for camping at Ness of Sound or Seafield and the areas around the AHS and h#Hostel should be identified in it. In the meantime it would be useful to know if SIC Roads had any plans to upgrade the Sea Road.

Mr Wenger asked whether the fund could be used for cycle paths. The Chairman thought it could be, however, a tangible plan would be required first, detailing the stretch of road and estimates for the work.

01/21/11

Planning Applications:

2020/288/PPF – 29 Market St. There were no objections to the proposal to convert a commercial property into a dwelling.

2020/279/PPF – 1 Montfield. There were no objections to the proposal to demolish an existing and build a new dwelling.

01/21/12

Local Review – Antenna at Quendale

The planning decision on the antenna proposal at Quendale was up for a local review on 22 January. Lerwick Community Council had been notified as it had objected to the proposal. No further input was required at this time.

01/21/13 **Update on Clerk recruitment**

The Chairman said there had been a lot of interest in the post and that the Vice Chair and himself would be interviewing candidates for the Clerk’s post, hoping the new person to be available in time for the February meeting. Mrs Simpson said that it would be a shame to lose Ms Valente’s experience and proposed that she could join the Community Council as a co-opted member. Mr Ristori seconded this. The Chairman said that as Frankie had agreed to stay on as Clerk until the new Clerk was in post we would need to check with Anne Cogle that there wouldn’t be an issue if this was the case.

01/21/14 **Any other business**

- a. Mr Wenger asked for an update on the Stoney Hill road situation which had been ongoing for a few months. The Clerk replied that SIC had not replied since the email to them clarifying ownership of the solum of the road. The Clerk was asked to chase a reply. Mr Wenger said he had observed a number of vehicles using the Cunningham Way which was barred with a locked gate, however, vehicles had been driving around the gates to gain access. Mr Johnston said he would investigate this.
- b. Mr Ristori reported that the external white walls to the public toilets at the Esplanade were looking really dirty and shabby. He commented that as this was the area where the tourist information signs were it didn’t look very welcoming. The Clerk was asked to write to Environmental Services to ask if there were plans to clean the walls or repaint them. Mr Ristori said that there had been a recent vandalism incident in the toilets at the Knab and the doors needed to be repaired.
- c. The Chairman commented that it had been a good day today inasmuch as there were no more positive Covid 19 cases reported and hopefully that meant there was light at the end of the tunnel. Mr Robinson replied that there were more positive cases expected but the roll out of the vaccine was indeed some good news at last.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....