

Lerwick Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2024
AT TOWN HALL/MS TEAMS AT 6.00PM

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dawn Ratter as the new Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence

Present

Jim Anderson (Chair)
Shayne McLeod (Vice Chair)
Brian Harris
Scott Nicolson
Andy Carter
Karen Fraser
Stewart Hay
Averil Simpson
Cllr Arwed Wenger

In attendance

Dawn Ratter (Clerk)
*Doug Wilson (Statkraft)
*John Thouless (Statkraft)
Andrew Campbell (Cycling UK)
Steve Mathieson (Living Lerwick)
*Shetland Times

Apologies

Jonathon Williamson
Amanda Hawick
Diana Winfield
Jonathan Duncan
Emma Williamson
Cllr John Fraser
Micheal Duncan
Joanne Fraser

Ex-Officio

Cllr Dennis Leask
Cllr Neil Pearson
Cllr Gary Robinson
Cllr Stephen Leask
*Cllr Cecil Smith

* On-line Via MS Teams

3. Declarations of Interest

12. Planning – Cllr A Wenger and Cllr C Smith

4. Minutes from meeting held for approval

4.1 4th November 2024

Apologies were omitted from Cllr G Robinson.

→ ACTION: Clerk to update the minutes.

Approved by: Karen Fraser

Seconded by: Stewart Hay

5. Actions from last meeting

5.1 Action tracker spreadsheet

Hillhead Railings: Work to complete the railings at the north ramp are in progress and should be completed by early December.

Sletts Sea Wall: Work on the repairs is due to commence in early 2025.

Leog Wall: Roads Service plan to undertake the works 'in-house' early next financial year.

North Loch Drive: Bryan Leask (HHA Chief Executive) will attend the next meeting to provide an update.

4G Signal in Lerwick: no update.

6. Attendance from Anderw Campbell, Cycling UK

Mr Andrew Campbell from Cycling UK attended the meeting to provide information on their project, Connecting Communities, currently running in Shetland. The project is funded by ZetTrans and aimed to encourage and support people to walk and cycle more often, for everyday short distance journeys, to work or for leisure. To facilitate the project, Mr Campbell can offer cycling lessons to all ages and abilities, from learning to ride to helping people feel more confident with bike control or riding in traffic. He can also offer led rides, family cycling sessions and health walks. All activities are free, available to all abilities and can be tailored to suit the needs of each individual or group.

Cycling UK currently have 39 bikes available in Shetland and 12 on loan in the community. They have a range of bikes in varying sizes, including e-bikes, standard bikes, tandems and adapted cycles. Cycling UK are also interested in working with businesses and have 3 cargo bikes available for hire.

AC noted one of the issues faced in the past is that transporting bikes on buses has been problematic. He suggested having a facility to book a bike on a bus might help to increase usage in Shetland. Andrew is aware of this issue and reported that there was a representative from DVSA who attended the Disability Access Forum meeting on Friday and informed the forum that there was no legal requirement to allow bikes on buses. Cllr A Wenger explained some difficulties faced when cycling longer distances and would like to see a facility available for bikes to be allowed on buses.

Outside of the project, Cycling UK are looking for people with an interest in cycling and addressing the barriers to active travel to form local cycle advocacy networks to try and push these issues forward.

Mr Campbell asked if Community Council members were aware of any parent/toddler or youth groups who might be interested in having him attend a session, to please pass on his contact information. He is based in Lerwick, but the project is available Shetland wide, and he will travel to attend groups, or deliver bikes.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to ZetTrans regarding the policy for provision of bicycles on buses and ask for feedback on the recent transport consultation.

7. Attendance from Doug Wilson, Statkraft

Mr Doug Wilson and Mr John Thouless attended the meeting on behalf of Statkraft to provide an update on the Mossy Hill Wind Farm and Substation proposals.

Mr Thouless explained that Statkraft have made initial enquiries in relation to community ownership. He noted this would be a first for them, but they are committed to exploring options following interest from the local community. The independent financial advisors have reported back to the Council and Statkraft await the outcome of that process.

In terms of an update on the wind farm redesign, Mr Thouless informed members that Statkraft took the decision to reduce the number of wind turbines from 12 to 8 and increase the tip height to 155m, on the remaining 8 turbines. The first round of public exhibitions were carried out in August with the second round planned for January 2025. They hope to be able to present more comparative information between the original consented project and the current proposal at the next exhibitions. In terms of timings, the aim is to have a decision on the windfarm in Summer 2025 and begin construction in Spring 2026.

When Statkraft acquired the project, it was consented with a couple of smaller substations which would connect into the 33kV local distribution network. However, they are in a fortunate position, in that the new SSEN 132kV cables will run through the site which they will be able to connect into. This means no new overhead lines will be required as all connections will be made underground. As these new cables run at a higher voltage of 132kV, a larger Substation is required. Statkraft are in the process of preparing an application which should be submitted to Shetland Islands Council in the next few weeks. Statkraft hope to have a decision on the Substation by Spring 2025, with construction to start in Summer 2025.

With regards to the Amenity, Recreation and Interpretative provisions, Statkraft hope to improve access tracks for walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users, horse riders, etc. by creating a public access route which will follow the turbine track from Ladies Drive to the Black Gaet road. They plan to install interpretation panels along the route as well as water refill stations, EV/wheelchair/bike charging points and a sheltered area at the north end of the track. They are also looking at options for possible office buildings and an indoor interpretative area.

Mr Thouless informed the members that they are in the process of putting together an online survey which will be shared with Community Councils.

JA thanked Mr Wilson and Mr Thouless for their presentation and asked members for any comments/questions.

AC asked who the main beneficiaries of this project would be. Mr Thouless noted that Statkraft would make a return on their investment, but they are also looking to put money back into the local community. As part of the construction, they have a minimum target to meet in terms of local supply chain. There is also a community benefit fund that will come as part of the project.

KF noted it is very welcome to see the number of turbines reduced but felt it would impact on the surroundings for Lerwick. The track access is also very welcome, but again she felt it a shame that it has taken a project with such an industrial scale to get some cycle paths installed.

JA asked if the access route would form part of the 'Shetland Way'. Mr Thouless confirmed this would not be on the same route. However, in terms of tourism and cycling, he felt it would be a good track and would hopefully remove some of the pressure faced with cruise ship cyclists. Mr Wilson advised they are also looking at the provision of toilets as part of the project

JA asked if the wind farm could produce enough energy to supply to local grid, should the interconnector go down, or the converter station be out of action due to maintenance. Mr Wilson advised that, in theory it should exceed the local demand, but it would be up to SSE to provide further clarification as they have responsibility for the management of the network.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to circulate the presentation slides following the meeting, and the online survey, when available.

8. Correspondence/ Discussion Points

8.1 Shetland's local place plans: capacity building programme
Noted.

8.2 Community Winter Pop Ins
KF shared posters on the LCC Facebook page to promote the Winter Pop Ins.

8.3 Sustainable Tourism (requested by Emma Williamson)
EW was not in attendance to talk on this item.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to contact EW for further information.

9. Disabled parking

9.1 Sandveien
No comments.

9.2 King Harald Street
No comments.

10. Shetland Islands Council Community Council Scheme Review

The recommendations from Phase 2 were approved as proposed. The consultation has opened for Phase 3 today, and will remain open for comments until 5pm, Friday 31st January 2025.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to circulate email regarding Phase 3 consultation to members and add to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

11. Finance

11.1 Financial Update

The Chair suggested putting the Clickimin Broch lights on a timer to reduce costs. There were no objections from the members present.

→ ACTION: The Chair to contact Robert Bremner to make initial enquiries to see if this would be feasible.

12. Planning (all plans can be viewed at: <https://pa.shetland.gov.uk/online-applications/>)

12.1 Application for consent, agreement or approval required by planning condition 4 (Biodiversity)

Judane (Shetland) Ltd Lower Blackhill Industrial Estate Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0DG
Ref. No: 2023/301/DCON1 | Received: Thu 21 Nov 2024 | Validated: Thu 21 Nov 2024 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.2 Erect retaining wall and external alterations to existing building

13 Harbour Street Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0LR
Ref. No: 2024/280/PPF | Received: Fri 15 Nov 2024 | Validated: Tue 19 Nov 2024 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.3 Application for consent, agreement or approval required by planning condition 5 (SUD's Details Pre-commencement)

Norhamlea 28 King Harald Street Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0DJ
Ref. No: 2024/276/TCA | Received: Wed 06 Nov 2024 | Validated: Wed 06 Nov 2024 | Status: Decided

[No comments.](#)

12.4 Application for consent, agreement or approval required by planning condition 5 (SUD's Details Pre-commencement)

Workshop Stoney Hill Industrial Estate Lerwick Shetland
Ref. No: 2024/105/DCON1 | Received: Mon 04 Nov 2024 | Validated: Mon 04 Nov 2024 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.5 Application for consent, agreement or approval required by planning condition 4 (Biodiversity Pre-commencement)

Workshop Stoney Hill Industrial Estate Lerwick Shetland
Ref. No: 2024/105/DCON2 | Received: Mon 04 Nov 2024 | Validated: Mon 04 Nov 2024 | Status: Pending Consideration

[No comments.](#)

12.6 Non-material variation – Changes to extension to dwellinghouse

15 St Sunniva Street Lerwick Shetland ZE1 0HL

Ref. No: 2022/071/NMV | Received: Thu 20 Jun 2024 | Validated: Mon 28 Oct 2024 | Status: Decided
No comments.

BH noted that application 2024/171/PPF (Erection of security fencing and gates) has been withdrawn by Huws Gray. This is a welcome development as LCC previously submitted objections to the planning application.

13. AOB

Christmas Parade

SM noted the success of the Living Lerwick Christmas Parade held on Saturday 30th November. He extended a note of thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers.

Mobile Phones in Schools

There was a discussion on the use of mobile phones in schools, following a recent petition created by Anderson High School Parent Council calling to limit the use of smartphones in the school.

Clerk

Members noted thanks to Martha Smith for her work and contributions during her time as Clerk.

14. Date of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th January 2025.

APPROVED