

## LERWICK OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of meeting held Monday 25th October 2010, Grantfield, Lerwick.

**Present:** Laurence Smith (Chairman), Leslie Irvine (LI), Beatrice Wishart (BW), Damien Ristori (DR), Jim Anderson (JA), Campbell Smith (CS), James Wiseman (JW), Paul Wishart (Secretary).

Also in attendance: Victor Sandison of Lerwick Port Authority, Jon Molloy (JM) and June Porter (JP).

ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION
1	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies from: Douglas Sinclair (DS), Richard Gibson (RG), Clare Abernethy (CA) and Andrew Anderson (AA).	
1a	<b>Presentation from Lerwick Port Authority</b> The Chairman welcomed Victor Sandison (VS), Deputy Chief Executive of Lerwick Port authority to the meeting and introduced him to the group. VS gave the group a presentation with the benefit of a slide show about the port's activities beginning with a brief history of LPA, formerly LHT and how it was brought into existence by an Act of Parliament in 1877. The constitution of the organisation hasn't really changed a great deal over the years. It is still a trust port with members made up as follows: three shipowners, three ratepayers, three Shetland Islands Council and two nominated. LPA operates on a commercial basis, it borrows from the bank and is taxed, but all profits are reinvested in the port. The business is mainly in four categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oil and decommissioning. Currently there is a lot of work in connection with the Laggan Tormore project.</li><li>• Fishing. The fish market has seen a recent resurgence of whitefish landings. An electronic auction was system was introduced in 2003 and is fully operational. In 2009 pelagic landings were valued at £42 million equating to approximately 52,000 tonnes. In 2008 Shetland Catch was dredged to 9.5m which allows most pursers to access the factory at all states of the tide.</li><li>• Ferries and freight. Northlink took over in 2002 from P&amp;O and new linkspans and terminal were made at that time. Passenger numbers have increased from 72,000 in 2002 to 120,000 in 2010. There is also containerised freight unloaded twice weekly.</li><li>• Cruise ships and yachts. This activity goes on mainly from May to September. The 145m Victoria Pier quay face caters for the vessels apart from the larger ones. They lie off and ferry their passengers ashore. This year 48 cruise ships arrived, the last one being the largest in terms of tonnage to visit Lerwick. She had 2300 passengers and 1000 crew. This year saw about 31,000 cruise ship passengers, approximately one third of them German, and 1.2 million tonnes of shipping. The berthing pontoons have been moved to the north face of Victoria Pier because there is more space. Safety is of primary importance. LPA are still considering whether the location of the pavilion building on the footprint of the former toilet block is the best place for it. Discussion is ongoing with the Council about both this and the layby extension. At the moment a temporary building is being considered. Yachts: 530 yacht visits this year, as per previous years these were mainly from Scandanavia.</li></ul>	

	<p>Recent developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dredging and land reclamation in 2008. There was a dog leg in the existing channel and bigger vessels in particular found this difficult. It was therefore decided to invest the biggest amount the port had done to date, to tackle the difficulties and dredge the harbour. £12 million was the total amount spent and this was financed partly by the bank and partly from own funds. Reclamation of land formed part of that overall project.</li> <li>• There is a plan for a new fish market at a later date.</li> <li>• New toilets was a collaboration between LPA and the Council and has attracted very favourable comments from cruise ship passengers and other visitors.</li> <li>• Sea wall at Small Boat Harbour. This was over 100 years old and when it was inspected was found to have a number of voids. LPA decided to improve the whole thing. The new boat deck is a project being driven ahead by Lerwick Boating Club with LPA assistance. The new boat deck will be much larger and will not have such a steep ramp.</li> <li>• The new pavilion is a lift on/lift off version and the meet and greet team operate from there. So there is provision for them to assist visitors at the pier as they come off the boats. There is also a leaflet available, printed in German as well as English. The temporary pavilion is a bit of a trial and error affair at the moment but it has worked well so far.</li> </ul> <p>Capital Projects Planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhead: two new deepwater quays up to 90m in length.</li> <li>• Lerwick Fish Traders: a tidy up of the area.</li> <li>• Mairs Yard: this is the preferred site for the relocation of the fish market.</li> <li>• Fishing fleet harbour: proposal for berthing for pelagic boats.</li> </ul> <p>Consents and other formalities are under way for the first three noted above which are likely to be in the region of £7-8million capital cost. Harbour Revision Orders have also been applied for.</p> <p>There is also consideration being given to a future deep water berth 10m deep, 240m long to accommodate cruise ships. This sector accounts for only 2-3% of LPA's income so purely on cruise ship income this project could not be justified. It is a project on the horizon and would perhaps hinge on the relocation of the fish market which would free up a lot of space.</p> <p>Rent:</p> <p>This is an important income stream for the authority and there are plans, concept drawings at this stage, for connecting up Blackhill Industrial Estate with the Port Business Park for future business development. Gremista Marina and Shetland Catch are also long term plans and could see major improvements. Arlanda likewise. Again, these are stressed as being long range plans and aspirations and their development really depends on how much money is available.</p> <p>Victor concluded his presentation and a question and answer session took place. A number of issues were raised by members of the Association including the difficulties associated with closing Victoria Pier when cruise ships visited. It was explained that safety concerns dictated that there was enough open space for the number of visitors. Not only that but lack of space could be a factor in the decision for the cruise liners to visit in the first place. Although it was seen by some as a hindrance to trade on the street, it was noted that some shops have recorded record days when the cruise ships are in, even if pier closed.</p> <p>Other points raised were the improvements at the small boat harbour including the new railings and the variety of opinions on these. Members were impressed with the number of projects on the drawing board and the business the port was attracting.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Sandison for taking the time to come along to the meeting and for the very informative and interesting talk and presentation.</p>
2	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes of meeting of 27th September 2010 were proposed by JA, and seconded by the Chairman.</p>

2a	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes:</b> Benches. These have arrived and have been installed. Opinions amongst the group varied from "OK" to "hideous". Church Road. Mr Lawlor still to confirm date of visit so no further update. Harrison Square. Chairman asked members to email him with issues so he could contact Mr Greenhill at the Council about them.	<b>ALL</b>
3	<b>Chairman and secretary updates/correspondence</b> Secretary informed the Group that the Treasurer has prepared accounts and he handed these over. They being hand written, BW agreed to type them up so they are ready for presentation to the AGM. Website comments and replies. The Group went through a number of these and sent replies. There is a good deal of interest in the group's activities.	<b>BW</b>
4	<b>AGM</b> The Secretary confirmed the time and venue of the AGM namely 6.30pm on Monday 22nd November 2010 at Market House, Market Street, Lerwick. The room is booked. Advert requires to go in paper two weeks before meeting. There is no money in the account to pay for anything. Chairman said he would speak to Radio Shetland and the Shetland Times to see if he could get assistance from them. JM suggested that the AGM advert could be paid for by his Service. Chairman asked the Secretary to forward the last AGM minutes to him. Advert to go on SIC intranet and LOTDA website.	<b>Chairman</b>  <b>Secretary</b> <b>Secretary and website team</b>
5	<b>AOCB</b> None.	
6	<b>Next meeting</b> AGM, Monday 22nd November 2010, 6.30pm at Market House, Market Street, Lerwick.  Meeting ended 9pm.	<b>ALL</b>
	Note of items for next agenda:	