

# LERWICK OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of meeting held Monday 27th September 2010, Grantfield, Lerwick.

**Present:** Laurence Smith (Chairman), Richard Gibson (RG), Douglas Sinclair (DS), Damien Ristori (DR), Jim Anderson (JA), James Wiseman (JW), Paul Wishart (Secretary).

Also in attendance: Jon Molloy (JM) and June Porter (JP).

ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION
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1	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies from: Campbell Smith (CS), Leslie Irvine (LI), Beatrice Wishart (BW), Clare Abernethy (CA) and Andrew Anderson (AA).	
2	<b>Previous Minutes</b> Minutes of meeting of 26th July 2010 were proposed by JA, and seconded by DS.	
2a	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes:</b> Benches. Discussion on whether or not to place one of the benches in front of the flats at Water Lane, near Bains Beach. Agreed that it should. Also agreed that one of the benches should go adjacent to Don Leslie's shop and Chairman said he'd speak to Mr Ian Cunningham about that to see if he had any concerns. Outside Harry's shop on the street is to be the location for the other two. LOTDA logos on information boards. Lucy Wheeler at Planning is meeting with DS and JM on 30th September to address this. LPA meeting. Chairman said that 11th October has been proposed and Victor Sandison at LPA was going to check his diary. Chairman asked Group if that was acceptable but the 25th October seemed to fit better with most. Chairman to contact Victor to ask if that, or alternative of 27th October, would be suitable.	Chairman
3	<b>Chairman and secretary updates/correspondence</b> Secretary informed the Group that a letter had arrived from SIC together with information about a Heritage Tourism Development pilot grant scheme and invitation to go on a trip to Unst. Nobody in the group felt able to accept the invitation. Secretary to let them know. RG said that comments received on the website were very encouraging. People are taking an interest in the town and in the Group's activities. He thought, and the Group agreed, that it was important to respond quickly to these comments. As agreed at the last meeting, website comments and responses are to be a permanent slot on the agenda. Unfortunately CS was not in attendance to assist with the technology.	Secretary  Website team, All
4	<b>Shared Space</b> RG explained that most of Commercial Street was in fact shared space but the idea behind the term was that in shared space areas it should encourage more considerate driving. Discussion took place as to where this could be implemented. It could, for example, be introduced along the whole of the Esplanade. JA said this might tie in with proposals for improvement of the Church Road crossing. JA was more in favour of a complete pedestrianisation of the Street. RG said that he'd noticed a comment on the website about widening the pavement at Leasks and that could also tie in to any proposals for shared space. Given the overlap of this item and item 8 it was decided to discuss that part of it next.	
8	<b>Church Road update</b> JM is to get back to Dermot Lawler of ADS with a date to meet to discuss. In the meantime he was able to show the group some slides on the shared space scheme that was	

	currently in operation in the town of Delft in Holland. One of the points mentioned by him was that the whole area becomes as one surface rather than having road and separate pavement. There was also a much reduced need for sign posting. A great deal of discussion followed on the benefits and drawbacks of such a scheme, where it might be appropriate or could be implemented in the town centre, whether pedestrianisation would be better and access to the street generally. No outcome or action.	
5	<p><b>Harrison Square</b></p> <p>Chairman said that he had spoken to Colin Gair at SIC Roads. They are going to tarmac the area so as to tidy it up in preparation for the Tall Ships event next year. He also said that the SIC were going to review the whole area.</p> <p>The Group were unanimous in agreeing that making the square all black top was really not acceptable and were very disappointed to hear this. Once carried out, it was considered that it would be unlikely to change to anything else afterwards. JM said that perhaps a meeting could be set up with Gordon Greenhill to discuss the matter. RG said that given that the funding for the street paving had been partly from Heritage Lottery Fund and that there was a condition that the area be paved, he thought this should be drawn to the Council's attention. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Mr Greenhill to express the Group's concerns, requesting a meeting with him and copying in LCC and LTCA with a view to their also taking part.</p>	Secretary
6	<p><b>BIDS Update</b></p> <p>Chairman updated. He said that funds had been forthcoming from the Scottish Executive and had been matched by SIC Development; it is a significant amount of work; he has been given the task of Project Manager; Christina Irvine is Project Assistant; Allan Wishart and Alistair Cooper are the two SIC councillors on the steering group; there are a number of other persons on the steering group from a variety of backgrounds; they are now trying to establish the BID area; newsletter is going out shortly as are questionnaires to businesses, staff, customers and tourists; AB Associates may be assisting with questionnaires as could some 6th Year Students, if agreeable; some questionnaires were taking some time to complete and the Group made some suggestions including making them shorter.</p>	
7	<p><b>Action Plan Strategy Report from Chairman</b></p> <p>To be held over.</p>	Chairman
8	<p>Continued from earlier discussion.</p> <p>JM updated the Group on a number of items. Derelict Site at Hangcliff Lane and Pirate Lane. The Council cannot get title to the site because of a difficulty establishing the true ownership. It has been passed back to the current "owner's" solicitors for further consideration but as a result of this delay the funding opportunity is well and truly past. The Council's Legal Service have said that the Council cannot risk purchasing the site. The Group were disappointed to hear this but accepted that if that was the state of affairs it really put an end to the proposals to rejuvenate the area.</p> <p>Bank Lane resurfacing works are about to begin.</p> <p>Bins are now in place.</p> <p>Benches require to be powder coated because they have unsightly marks on them that couldn't be removed in the manufacturing process. The coating covers this and improves the look.</p>	
9	<p><b>Tesco</b></p> <p>Chairman explained to the Group what he understood to have happened with regard to the planning permission granted for their extension and the detrimental effect this was going to have on town business. He felt this was a serious problem. A great deal of discussion took place but the general feeling was that Tesco were here and there wasn't a lot, if anything, that could be done about it whether one liked it or not.</p>	
10	<b>AGM</b>	

	<p>The last AGM was on 23rd November 2009 and the Group considered that November was a reasonably good time to have it. Monday 22nd was suggested and the Secretary was asked to check if either Islesburgh or Market House were available for the venue. JP said she could check if the Old Library Building was available.</p> <p>Advert requires to go in paper two weeks before meeting.</p> <p>It should also go on the website and BBC informed.</p>	<p><b>JP then Secretary</b></p> <p><b>Secretary Website team</b></p>
11	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
12	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 25th October 2010, 6.30pm at Grantfield.</p> <p>Meeting ended 8.30pm.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
	Note of items for next agenda:	