

LERWICK OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held Monday 7th February 2011, Grantfield, Lerwick.

Present: Laurence Smith (Chairman), Douglas Sinclair (DS), Richard Gibson (RG), Campbell Smith (CS), James Wiseman (JW), Danus Skene (DSk) and Paul Wishart (Secretary).

Also in attendance: June Porter (JP).

ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION
1	Apologies Apologies from: Beatrice Wishart (BW), Damien Ristori (DR), Jim Anderson (JA), Clare Abernethy (CA) and Jon Molloy (JM).	
2	Previous Minutes Minutes of meeting of 25th October 2010 were proposed by JW, and seconded by CS.	
2a	Matters arising from previous minutes: None.	
3	Chairman and secretary updates/correspondence. Website comments. Nothing to report from Chairman. Nothing to report from Secretary. CS informed the group there were no further comments posted on website.	
4	Hangcliff Lane Site Although unable to attend JM had left notes for the group about the current status of Hangcliff Lane. RG was also able to let the group know that he had been discussing the matter with the site "owners". The current title holder is to transfer the site to his partner and if this is accepted by the Registers of Scotland it may then be possible for the Council to purchase it. Until such time as the title difficulty has been fully sorted out the Council cannot proceed with the plans to purchase and develop. In any event it seems that any funding available may have been lost. The Secretary will check with JM on this and either JM or the Secretary will let the group know at the next meeting. Effectively, this project has be put to one side for the time being.	SECRETARY
5	Harrison Square JM's note explained that the Council had produced some conceptual plans for the area but given that they were at a very early stage, only preliminary consultation had taken place and doubts about funding, he had not wished to leave the plans with the group to consider. The Chairman said that he had consulted with a number of businesses about Harrison Square. It was agreed that at the next meeting JM could come with the drawings and the Chairman could let the group know what the businesses were considering and what ideas they had.	JM CHAIRMAN
6	Church Road JM's note explained that communications were still ongoing with Architecture Design Scotland's Diarmid Lawlor. JM to provide an update for the next meeting.	JM
7	Action Plan: What to do from here? The Chairman introduced this item by considering that there was a considerable amount of work required to be done. RG said that one of the greatest dangers to the town centre in particular was the incremental changes that take place to the detriment of the appearance of the area. He gave examples of shop signs that altered the character of the street and also the change of use of the former CAB building. He felt that Shetland Islands Council should do	

	<p>something about this, possibly by having a single point of contact for information and advice.</p> <p>The Secretary suggested that if something was noticed by any member of the group then he or she could contact him and he would alert the rest of the group to see if they wanted to do something about it.</p> <p>RG said he didn't think it was appropriate for the group to act as some kind of policing body.</p> <p>Dsk asked if there was a particular person in the Council responsible for policies or if they were kept in a certain place that the group could access. If the policies stated what the Council should and should not do then it would be of some help to the group.</p> <p>There was some discussion about what the Council does, or doesn't do.</p> <p>RG would like to see a Council coordinator of all things so there is a one stop shop.</p> <p>DSk expressed a little frustration and said that really what was needed was for the group to think carefully about what it was that it wanted. Preparing a submission for a review of the Local Plan was something that he knew other groups had done and this might be a way ahead.</p> <p>There was much discussion. It was decided that the Secretary should ask the Council what the current status of the Local Development Plan was and the timescales for implementation. It was also decided that it might be beneficial to have a note of planning applications affecting the area to be forwarded on to the group by the Council. The Chairman said he would contact the Council to ask about that.</p> <p>Turning to the Action Plan and the projects on it, there was a great deal of discussion with little agreement or outcome. It was, however, agreed that each project should be properly detailed on a pro forma grid or sheet to allow for easy access to information about each. Currently, there is no structure or information reference point to allow any member of the group to find out at a glance where each project lay.</p> <p>JP is to make up a grid sheet.</p> <p>The Chairman is going to make up his own version.</p> <p>Both will present them at the next meeting.</p> <p>CS said that the website is lacking in information about projects and it could be improved quite a lot with that added.</p> <p>Everyone should consider what needs to be done to keep the Action Plan and the projects moving ahead.</p>	<p>SECRETARY</p> <p>CHAIRMAN</p> <p>JP CHAIRMAN</p> <p>ALL MEMBERS</p>
8	<p>Conservation Area Regeneration Sites ("CARS")</p> <p>The Chairman read out JM's note on this point which noted that CARS take a great deal of time and effort, particularly from architects and surveyors, and the costs of putting them together are significant. Currently there is no officer time or budget available in the Council to do this.</p> <p>RG is to find out more about CAR funding and present the results of his investigations to the next meeting.</p>	<p>RG</p>
9	<p>AOCB</p> <p>CS said that the website needed to be paid for. The Secretary said that there are funds available and asked him to contact the Treasurer to arrange payment.</p>	<p>CS TREASURER</p>
10	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Monday 7th March 2011, 7pm at Grantfield, Lerwick.</p>	
	Meeting ended 9pm.	
	<p>Note of items for next agenda:</p> <p>Harrison Square; Church Road update; Action Plan</p>	