

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 10 November 2020 at 19:30

Present:

Mr D Alexander, Mrs L Anderson, Mrs G Barnby, Mrs L McAdie and Mr I Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor N Craigie.
- Councillor S Sankey.
- Sergeant S Hay, Police Scotland.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Acting Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Presentation by Police Scotland Representative	2
3. Election of Office Bearers	2
4. Adoption of Minute.....	2
5. Matters Arising.....	3
6. Consultation Documents.....	5
7. Correspondence	6
8. Financial Statements	9
9. Requests for Financial Assistance.....	10
10. Publications	11
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	11
12. Date of Next Meeting	12
13. Conclusion of Meeting	12

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillor A Drever and Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

2. Presentation by Police Scotland Representative

Members were provided with a report from the local Sergeant, who explained that he was not at liberty to provide specific statistics, and that he could discuss issues rather than individual crimes. He advised that anyone with a concern about a specific crime should phone 101 or speak to an officer. He reported that the force had recently moved from pen and notepad to using digital notebooks, which were handheld devices linked to a central system, and would make it easier to log incidents and information and to issue tickets etc. He also explained that staffing was healthy locally, and that the Orkney Scam Action group had been set up recently and that if the Community Council could think of any local groups that could benefit from a presentation, they should contact him. Covid-19 restrictions were also discussed, along with vandalism and street patrols and road/pedestrian safety and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to thank the representative for attending.

The Police Scotland representative left the meeting at this point.

3. Election of Office Bearers

A. Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mrs L McAdie be appointed Chairperson of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

B. Vice Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr D Alexander be appointed Vice Chairperson of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

C. Planning Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr D Alexander be appointed Planning Representative for St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

4. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 25 February 2020 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs G Barnby and seconded by Mr I Rendall.

5. Matters Arising

A. 2020 Grass Cutting Tenders

Following consideration of information regarding the successful tenders for the grass cutting contracts for 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stagecoach Buses – Response

Mrs L Anderson declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following discussion of the responses received from the Transport Manager and Stagecoach regarding the damage caused to the verges on some of the local bus routes, a copy of which had been previously circulated, members also reported that it had been a relief driver on the route when the damage had been caused, and that the regular driver had since returned, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

C. Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Online Presentation

Members discussed correspondence from Orkney Native Wildlife Project and the update, copies of which had been previously circulated. Councillor S Sankey provided additional information regarding the stoat trapping project, and explained that 70% of the East Mainland had been covered by the programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and correspondence.

D. Unsecure Gravestone Marking and Remediation Works

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding memorial remediation works in local cemeteries, two of which were in the St Andrews area, it was:

Resolved to note the update provided.

E. Planning Procedures and Covid-19

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government on actions to enable Scotland's planning system to continue to function during the ongoing pandemic, including Community Council engagement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. 2020/2021 Education Grant

Following consideration of the updated Ayrenergy Ltd – Education Grant Statement of Approval, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members had previously agreed via email to approve an education grant of £3,000 for 2020/2021, with the relevant criteria.

G. Toab/Holm Road Junction, Toab – Flooding

Members discussed correspondence regarding drainage, flooding and surface water at the junction below St Andrews Primary School and noted that there was still an issue with flooding at this location. Councillor N Craigie advised that this area was to be inspected the following week and that there may be a blockage somewhere, despite the offlets being cleared recently. Members agreed that the ditches required to be cleaned, and it was;

Resolved:

1. That Councillor N Craigie would contact the relevant department and feedback any information to members via email.
2. To monitor the situation and report any further issues.

H. 2020 Insurance Renewal Documents

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding renewal of the Community Council's Insurance Policy, it was:

Resolved to note that the policy had been renewed until 31 March 2021 and that the funding of £86 had been taken from Community Council Grant Scheme.

I. Refund of Grants Awarded

Members discussed correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding funding awards made which should be refunded due to the events not taking place, and it was:

Resolved to note that any funds not used should be credited back to the Community Council's account.

J. Travel Grant Review

Members discussed the current Travel Grant rates, as well as the information on how much had been paid out last financial year, and it was:

Resolved to make no change to the Travel Grant rates at this time.

K. Ayrenergy Ltd – Annual Funding and Annual Report

Following consideration of correspondence from Ayrenergy Ltd regarding community benefit payments, it was:

Resolved to note that a payment of £5,000 had been received from Ayrenergy Ltd.

L. Waste and Recycling Services

Members considered a briefing note issued by Infrastructure and Strategic Projects on the current status of waste collection services, and subsequent comments from one member, both of which had been previously circulated via email. The Chair provided an explanation of why it had not been possible to resume the normal collections as yet, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

M. Request for the Reopening of Bossack Civil Amenity Site, Tankerness

Members continued discussion regarding Bossack Civil Amenity Site and some dissatisfaction within the community that it remained closed. Councillor S Sankey explained the reasons why it was still not possible to reopen the site, and asked members for patience as he felt that the situation would improve over the next few weeks. He explained that, in the meantime, if any householders wished to obtain extra recycling bins, they could do so by contacting Orkney Islands Council, who would supply them, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

N. East Mainland Tourist Leaflet – Reprint and Progress of New Leaflet

Members discussed the East Mainland Tourist Leaflet and updates were provided on what the other two East Mainland Community Councils had agreed at recent meetings. Both Holm and South Ronaldsay and Burray would like to receive an update on progress with the leaflet so that they could discuss again with members early in 2021. Members agreed with the idea from Holm Community Council that letters could be sent to all businesses within the CC areas, offering a free entry in the tourist leaflet, generating some good will during what had been a difficult time. The Chair had a list of the businesses she had contacted and agreed to speak to the other two Community Councils to bring them up to speed before any final decision was made on how many reprints to do, and how to progress with any new leaflet, and it was:

Resolved to discuss again at the next meeting.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Consultative Draft Supplementary Guidance – Housing in the Countryside

Resolved that the deadline had passed at that no members had made comments.

B. Winter Service Plan

Resolved to note that a response had been sent by the Clerk to Democratic Services on 29 July 2020 on behalf of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan

Resolved to note that no comments had been submitted on the consultation.

D. Draft Dementia Strategy

Resolved to note that a response had been sent by the Clerk to Age Scotland on 29 July 2020 on behalf of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

E. HIAL Air Traffic Management Strategy – Impact Assessment: Local Consultation

Resolved to note that individual responses had been sent to this consultation.

F. Islands Communities Impact Assessments

Resolved to note that no comments had been submitted on this consultation.

7. Correspondence

A. Local Energy Scotland – Free Community Benefits Toolkit

Following consideration of correspondence from Local Energy Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding free and impartial support available to help with planning for, managing and evaluating community benefits, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Royal British Legion Scotland – Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2020

Following consideration of correspondence from Royal British Legion Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the competition had been cancelled this year.

C. Barrier Two – Churchill Barriers – Survey

Members considered correspondence regarding a survey, which opened on 11 March 2020, on options for Barrier Two, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Benbecula Community Council – Petition

Following consideration of correspondence from Benbecula Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a petition on HIAL's plans to change the ATMS, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. OIC's Community Resilience Fund

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services dated 22 April 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided information on the Community Resilience Fund which had recently been launched by Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Annual Grants 2020/2021

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the annual grant allocation for financial year 2020/2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the total grant awarded to St Andrews and Deerness CC for 2020/2021 was £4,047.70.

G. Scottish Rural Action - Surveys

Following consideration of two surveys, copies of which had previously been circulated, from Scottish Rural Action, on Covid-19 Experience and wider economic recovery, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed for both.

H. LEADER Evaluation Survey

Members considered copies of the LEADER evaluation survey, which had been circulated to members via email, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed.

I. To Absent Friends

Following consideration of correspondence sent on behalf of the Burial Grounds Officer, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an annual festival where local communities can arrange events and activities to remember those who have passed, it was:

Resolved to note that the festival had taken place.

J. Planning Aid Scotland – Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from Planning Aid Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the gathering of information on peoples' experience of the planning system during Covid-19, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed.

K. Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC Housing Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a mid-point review of the Local

Housing Strategy, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed.

L. Local Government and Communities Committee – Participation Requests and Asset Transfers

Members considered correspondence from the Local Government and Communities Committee, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding how well participation requests and asset transfers are working in practice, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed.

M. Scotland’s Climate Assembly

Following consideration of correspondence from Scotland’s Climate Assembly, copies of which had previously been circulated, asking for feedback and suggested solutions on how to address climate change, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed.

N. Virtual Island Summit

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Virtual Island Summit, it was:

Resolved to note that the events had taken place in September.

O. Conversation with the People of Scotland

Members considered correspondence from VAO, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, NHS Orkney and Orkney Health and Care on a series of events to capture people’s experience of health services during the pandemic. Copies had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the events had taken place at the start of November.

P. Final Marine Sectoral Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the final Sectoral Marine Plan and associated documents, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

Q. 5G Connectivity Workshop

Copies of an invite to a workshop to discuss the 5G New Thinking project had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the workshop was to take place the following day.

R. Christmas Lights for Toab

Correspondence had been circulated from a member regarding Christmas lights for Toab. Following discussion, members agreed that if they were to investigate the possibility of putting Christmas lights through Toab, they should also include Deerness in their plans, and it was:

Resolved to consider what lights would be suitable and to discuss at a future meeting.

S. Speed Limit Countdown Marker Signs for Toab

Following consideration of correspondence from a member regarding speed limit countdown signs on the approach to Toab, copies of which had previously been circulated, members agreed that this should be requested from OIC Roads Support. Councillor S Sankey advised that it would be worthwhile speaking to the Parent Council at St Andrews Primary School about this issue and how to progress it through the School Travel Plan, and in the meantime there would be no harm in having the request logged with OIC Roads Support. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would include information in the business letter to be passed on to OIC Roads Support regarding the Community Council's request for speed limit marker signs to be considered on the approach to Toab, and also around Deerness village.
2. That Mrs G Barnby would speak with the Parent Council at St Andrews Primary School regarding this issue.

T. Thank You Letters

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received for financial assistance provided.

8. Financial Statements

A. Certified Accounts – 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Following consideration of the annual accounts for St Andrews and Deerness Community Council for financial year end 2019/2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total balance carried forward at year end was £15,559.24.

B. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 22 October 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £9,688.98.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme Fund

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 October 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £1,700.53 remained in the main capping limit and £609 in the additional capping limit.

D. Ayrenergy Fund Ltd

Following consideration of the Ayrenergy Wind Fund statement as at 31 October 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £10,455.48.

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Badminton Competition – Perth – February 2020

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from one local mother, copies of which had previously been circulated, towards a badminton trip to Perth in February 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that £30 had been awarded, following agreement by members via email.

B. Orkneycommunities Website – Annual Membership Fee

Following consideration of the invoice from Orkneycommunities, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the annual membership fee, it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed via email to renew the membership at the cost of £45, which had been approved to be taken from CCGS funds.

C. Education Grant Applications

Following consideration of Education Grant Applications which had been received and circulated to members since the last meeting, it was:

Resolved to note that Education Grants had been agreed by members, via email, and awarded to Senga Tait, Finn McGill, Louise Anderson, Shawn Alexander, Kieran McKinney, Elsa Bain and Rhona Bain, to a total of £3,058.86.

D. Deerness Community Association – Grass Cutting

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance from Deerness Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members had previously agreed, via email, to award the sum of £364 towards cutting the grass at Deerness Hall and Play Park, to be taken from Community Council Grant Scheme.

E. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Coaching Courses

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance, copies of which had previously been circulated, from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, to help with the cost of putting a local person through coach education courses, it was:

Resolved to note that members had previously agreed, via email, to award the sum of £83.33 towards the cost of the coaching courses.

F. East Mainland Church – Wreaths

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from the Treasurer of the East Mainland Church, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £64 had been granted from CCGS by members, following agreement via email.

G. St Andrews Senior Citizens Club – Afternoon Tea Box

Mr D Alexander declared an interest in the following item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from St Andrews Senior Citizens Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to award the sum of £182 from general funds towards the afternoon tea boxes for local residents.

10. Publications

The following publications had been previously circulated, and were noted by members:

- Scottish Government – Planning and Building Newsletter.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter.
- Climate Challenge Fund – Newsletter.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Live List

Following consideration of the live list, it was agreed that item 20 (damage to verges by buses) could be removed, and that item 14 (flooded footpath and steps around Covenanters Memorial) needed to be chased up. The Chair advised that this had been logged, and Councillor S Sankey agreed to make enquiries in this regard, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

B. 2021 Meeting Dates

Following discussion of meeting dates for next year, it was:

Resolved that meetings during 2021 would take place on 23 February, 27 April, 15 June, 31 August and 9 November, all commencing at 20:00.

C. Closed off Track in Tankerness

Following consideration of correspondence from a local resident, copies of which had previously been circulated, Councillor S Sankey advised that this right of way does feature on Scotway's register, and agreed to take this issue to the next meeting of the Local Access Forum, however he had no indication of when the next meeting was likely to be. Further discussion followed, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this item at a future meeting of the community council.

D. Accessibility, Maintenance and Clarity over Core Paths

Members discussed the issues surrounding core paths, including accessibility and maintenance. Councillor S Sankey advised that the Local Access Forum also looked at Core Paths and reported that the Rural Planner was looking for volunteers to walk the core paths and local rights of way and report any issues. He agreed to pass on the details of two members who had shown an interest in doing so, and it was:

Resolved to note the detail of the discussion.

E. Grass Cutting in Kirkyards

It was reported that the contracts for grass cutting would be coming up for renewal in the new year and the current contractor was unlikely to reapply. Members were advised to spread the word and to think of individuals who may be interested in assisting with this, and it was:

Resolved to discuss again at the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council would be held at 20:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021, online, or in St Andrews Primary School, if restrictions allowed.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:15.