

# Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 11 November 2021 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr A Dundas, Mr A Marwick, Mr D Marwick and Mr N Sclater.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor B Foulkes.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor J Richards.
- Mr T Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Ms H Green, Interim Executive Director, Environment, Property and IT Services.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs P Damvelt, Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr A Marwick.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 19 August 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr A Dundas and seconded by Mr M Clouston.

## **3. Interim Executive Director**

The Interim Executive Director, Environment, Property and IT Services, introduced herself and explained what her remit was. She advised that she had been attending community council meetings this cycle to familiarise herself with the process and to find out what the issues were across the county, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and welcome her to the meeting.

## **4. Orkney Native Wildlife Project Presentation**

The Community Liaison Officer gave members an update on the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, explaining that it was currently in its knockdown phase, and that final monitoring was taking place in Orphir. With 708 active traps in the area, so far 191 stoats had been removed from traps. Members of the community were encouraged to help members of staff by reporting any sightings in the area. He also explained that the project would not be possible without the members of the community and reported that their assistance was highly appreciated.

Following questions, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **A. Bus Shelter - Germiston Road**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there had been a miscommunication between the Community Council and Democratic Services, and that the Transport section had not been made aware that the Community Council had approached the Men's Shed regarding the fabrication of a bus shelter. It was also advised that there were concerns regarding engineering standards and that planning permission might be needed for any new shed in this location, as well as a concrete foundation.

Members had previously tried to contact HiTrans regarding the new bike shelter, which was still locked, and had not heard back. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that it should have been unlocked by now.

Members explained that they had demonstrated their dissatisfaction when the bus shelter was removed and agreed that they felt let down by the Council for not

communicating effectively about the possibility of another shelter becoming available. The Community Council Liaison Officer explained that an email had gone to members in June.

It was suggested that a possible alternative site for the new shed could be at Smoogro Road end or on Scorrabrae Road. Land access and permission would need to be discussed, and ownership needed to be confirmed at the end of Smoogro Road. It was also agreed that the landowner at Germiston should be advised what was planned, as this had previously been discussed with them.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would research land ownership at these locations.
2. That Democratic Services would investigate the locked bike shelter.
3. To discuss again at the next meeting.

## **B. Community Council Vacancy**

The Chair reported that he had added a notice on the Orphir Community News to advertise the vacancy on Orphir Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **C. Footpaths/community planning link to survey**

The Chair reported that at the last Community Resilience Group meeting, which he had attended, the Planning Manager had brought up the issues with the footpaths and how previous residents had been at risk when walking along the road to school. The Chair mentioned that school paths should have been included as part of the provision for road planning by developers.

Members agreed that footpaths should be provided within a village and give enough verge for the protection and safety of members in the community. Councillor Foulkes discussed the complexity of the issue, having walked the area, and explained that there is not much room for pavement on one side, and that it seemed complicated. Members agreed that these are very dangerous roads for children to walk on. After discussing this issue, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would give feedback from the Community Council to the relevant sections in the Council and ask for a response.
2. That the Clerk was to contact Roads and ask for an action report to see viability of roads.
3. That members would explore funding opportunities.

## **6. Orkneyinga Saga Centre**

### **A. Survey Report**

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was discussed in private.

Following discussion, members agreed to sign the lease contract, on the condition that a number of issues were addressed first, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That another meeting was to be set up between the Chair, the Interim Executive Director (Environment, Property and IT Services) and other OIC officers.
2. That the Interim Executive Director (Environment, Property and IT Services) would provide the Chair with another copy of the contract.

### **B. Lease Agreement Contract update**

Resolved that this had been discussed at the previous item.

### **C. Upgrade of Video and Audio Equipment**

It was noted that this project was dependent on the outcome of the lease discussions.

It was reported that a meeting had been held at the start of November between some members, the Chair and David Griffiths, and following this some changes to the initial plan had been made. The idea was to round up the plan and come up with a quote with the possibility of opening for the next tourist season. Among some of the ideas were kiosks with movable tablets. Orkney College was very keen to get involved in the project with audio visuals and help with the refurbishment of the centre. After some discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a more concrete plan and quote would be ready before the next meeting.
2. That the Chair would look into getting the Longship back securely to the Orkneyinga Saga Centre that was currently in Lyness.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **A. New Busses - Stagecoach**

Following consideration of an email which had previously been circulated to members, regarding the arrival of a new fleet of busses for Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. HiTrans Rural Spaces**

Following consideration of an email from HiTrans which had been previously circulated by the Clerk, members discussed the possibility of funding for roads.

However, it was agreed that time constraints made this not viable at the time, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Guidance for Community Council Meetings**

Members discussed correspondence regarding Covid restrictions and rules for in person meetings, an email on which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Tommy for Remembrance Day**

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding Tommy availability and remembrance wreaths, as previously requested, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that a wreath had been arranged.

### **E. Scottish Land Commission - Orkney Virtual Public Meeting**

An invitation from the Scottish Land Commission had been circulated previously, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **F. Worrying about money? Leaflet**

Members were provided with a leaflet from VAO about money worries, which had been emailed previously, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **G. Orphir Badminton Club**

Members were informed that the Orphir Badminton Club had started up again, as advised in an email which had been circulated previously, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **H. Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Survey**

Members had been forwarded the survey from the Scottish Government on the forthcoming changes to short-term let regulations, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **I. HES Communication**

Updated information regarding the plans for the Orkneyinga Saga Centre had been provide to HES by the Clerk, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **J. Festive Lights**

Information had previously been circulated to members advising that the initial Christmas lights order was not going to be delivered on time by the supplier due to logistical issues. After a brief discussion about the compatibility of road lights, it was:

Resolved to note that members would have until February to amend their order if necessary.

## **K. Briefing Note - Scottish Flood Forum**

Information regarding the Scottish Flood Forum had previously been circulated to members via email, and it was

Resolved that to note the information provided.

## **L. Amended Winter Service Policy and Plan 2021/2022**

The amended Winter Service Plan and Policy had previously been circulated via email. The Chair mentioned that the comments by OCC members had not been taken into consideration, and that there were no gritting services in the roads mentioned where keyworkers live. It was agreed that, with this winter expected to be harsher than the previous one, members deem that the council had a responsibility to keep residents safe and roads usable for keyworkers at all times, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would feed these comments back to the Roads Support Manager.

## **M. Road Works Programme 2022**

The surfacing dressing programme for 2022 had previously been circulated to members of the community council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **N. Orkney Drugs Dog - Community Council Engagement**

An email from the Orkney Drugs Dog Handler had been circulated previously to members, regarding awareness talks, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **O. Briefing Note - Double Interments**

Members noted a briefing note from the Burial Grounds Officer that had previously been circulated regarding double interments, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **P. 16 Days of Activism**

A campaign Poster from ORSAS had been circulated previously to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **Q. Local Government Housing and Planning Committee**

A survey on understanding barriers to participation in local politics had been emailed to members previously, and it was:

Resolved that to note the information provided.

## **R. Scottish Sea Farms**

Members had been forwarded information from SSF regarding an open day on 23 November, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **8. Consultations**

### **A. Local Transport Strategy**

Members had been notified that Orkney Islands Council was consulting with the public developing a new Local Transport Strategy that would help direct the future of transport and travel in the county. A survey was provided to see people's views on what they think of transport and travel, and what, if anything, could be improved, and it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded at this time.

### **B. HES Covid 19 Survey**

Members had been previously sent a consultation from HES regarding Covid, and it was:

Resolved that no comments would be forwarded.

### **C. SSE - Orkney to Hoy North and Central**

A consultation had been circulated on a marine licence involving the Orkney to Hoy North and Central cables at a location below the level of Mean High-Water Springs, and it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded.

### **D. Introduction of Memorial Permit**

Information had previously been forwarded to members regarding the proposal to introduce a charge of £50 to support memorials and keep them in good condition, and it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded.

### **E. Scottish Sea Farm Expansion**

Members had received correspondence from Scottish Sea Farms regarding proposals to expand two salmon farms in Scapa Flow, namely Bring Head and Toyne. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded.

## **F. Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan**

Members had been given a short opportunity to comment on a Strategic Tourism Development Infrastructure Plan to guide the long-term sustainable development of tourism in the islands, and it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded.

## **G. Draft National Planning Framework 4**

A consultation had been forwarded to members in relation to the draft National Planning Framework 4, and it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded.

## **9. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance and Saga Centre 2020/2021**

Following consideration of the financial statements as at 26 October 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of £21,861.79 in the general account and £33,623.40 in the Saga Centre account.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 October 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,670.40.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 26 October 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,755.42.

### **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 26 October 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,518.00.

## **10. Requests for Financial Assistance**

### **A. Orphir Community School – Halloween Party**

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Community School for financial assistance towards their Halloween party, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £50.

## **B. OASC – North District Competition 1 and 2**

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club towards five swimmers from the Orphir area competing in the North District competitions in October, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £250.

## **C. Orkney Climbing Squad**

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance towards a competitor's travel to Glasgow in October 2021, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

## **D. Orphir Community Association - Christmas Tree**

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Community Association for financial assistance towards Orphir's Christmas tree, it was:

Resolved to award £100.00 towards the tree from Community Council Grant Scheme.

## **E. Orphir Community School - Library Books**

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance towards the school's new library books, it was:

Resolved to ask for further information in order to make a final decision.

## **11. Publications**

The following publications, which had been previously emailed to members, were noted:

- VAO – Newsletter – September 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Updates – September and October 2021.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – October 2021.
- It's Good to Share - an information update from Healthcare Improvement Scotland Community Engagement Orkney Team – November 2021.
- Scottish Water Newsletter – Autumn 2021.

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

Resolved to note that there were no further items to discuss.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Orphir Community Council would be held on Thursdays 20 January and 10 February 2022, in person or via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

## **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:25.