

# Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in the Orphir Community School and via Teams on Tuesday, 16 May 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mrs B Clubley, Mr A Marwick, Mr S Pyke and Mr N Sclater.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor K Leask.
- Councillor I Taylor.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms C Waters, Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Cowie and L Manson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 28 February 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Pyke and seconded by Mr M Clouston.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Bus Shelter, Smoogro Road**

The Chair provided an update, advising that the project was still awaiting planning permission and no further quotes from contractors had been received. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Development Management would be asked for an update on what stage the planning approval was at.
2. That, once approval had been gained, the construction should be carried out by Alan Craigie.

### **B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre**

The Chair provided an update on the refurbishment of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre, advising that the building warrant had been received so now work could commence. However, due to it now being peak tourist season, many enquiries had been received about when the centre would be re-opening. Also, due to the delay in starting work, the existing quotes would need revision. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Saga Centre would reopen for this season and refurbishment activity would take place when the centre closed at the end of the season, with the centre being ready for 2024.
2. That the Clerk would contact the caretaker to confirm that she was willing to carry out duties and agree a date for re-opening.
3. That Democratic Services would provide a digital copy of the plans to the Chair which can be forwarded to contractors when requesting revised quotes.
4. That the Clerk would produce a notice to be displayed in the centre regarding no overnight camping.
5. That the Clerk would provide a notice to be displayed in the centre with opening dates and times.

## **C. Dog Bins**

The Chair confirmed that a larger dog bin had been requested but had been turned down by the council. The Community Council Liaison Officer clarified that a bin from another location around Orphir which was being under-utilised could be relocated but the council felt it was not just the size of the bin but the regularity with which it was being emptied which was the issue. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Council should be requested to empty the existing bin more frequently.
2. To repeat the request for a larger bin in the vicinity of Orphir Kirk.

## **D. Orphir Football Club**

The Chair updated the community council that Orphir Football Club was now established and had played their first games. The pitch was being cut on a Saturday and as Orphir currently play on a Monday evening this was satisfactory, however arrangements for the routine lining of the pitch remained to be established. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved that this item should be parked meantime.

## **E. Houton Small Boat Provision**

An update was provided by the Clerk, who had written to OIC Harbour Authority regarding the suggestion and received a supportive response with offer to meet with interested parties. The information had been passed back to George Flett who had responded that he will take them up on the offer when he had discussed with more boat users, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Community Council Member Vacancies**

Community Council members had reached out to members of the community to encourage involvement in the community council. It was agreed that council members would continue to approach potential new council members.

## **G. Road Speed Limits**

The Chair requested that Road Speed Limit information be forwarded to council members as requested at the previous meeting. Clerk to forward email received with data.

## **H. Grass Cutting Tender**

The Chair confirmed that the tender to cut the grass at Orphir Kirkyard had been given to Michael Brass for the next 3 years, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Orphir Kirkyard**

A complaint email regarding a fall a person had experienced in the Orphir Kirkyard, resulting in a broken wrist, had been previously circulated to members. After discussion, it was:

Resolved that a response expressing sympathy be sent.

### **B. Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance**

An email and a presentation regarding Finfish Farming had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Annual Grants 2023/2024**

Correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Annual Grants to community councils had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that Orphir CC would receive an annual grant of £3,728.25 for the financial year 2023/2024.

### **D. Health and Care Representative**

An email regarding electing a Health and Care Representative from the Community Council had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs B Clubley would be the Health and Care representative for Orphir Community Council.

### **E. White Ribbon Orkney**

An email from White Ribbon Orkney had been previously circulated to members, offering a presentation, and it was:

Resolved to invite a member of White Ribbon Orkney to speak at a future meeting.

### **F. Scottish Sea Farms**

An email from Scottish Sea Farms offering a channel for discussion or attendance at community councils had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **G. Viking Week**

An email from Ragnhild Ljolsland requesting use of the Saga Centre for Viking Family Day on 10 September 2023 had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to permit access to the Saga Centre.

## **5. Consultation - Winter Service Plan**

Members had been previously forwarded the OIC Winter Service Plan for comment. Members discussed the service delivered by ploughs and gritters for Winter 2022-2023 and expressed disappointment in the level of service provided, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the OIC, via the business letter, to provide information of where the service was lacking with a view to improvements being made to provision in Winter 2023-2024.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance and Saga Centre**

Following consideration of the general account statement and the Saga Centre account statement as at 9 May 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of £19,023.58 in the General account and £35,883.19 in the Saga Centre account.

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 May 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £985.

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

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 9 May 2023, 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 9 May 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,518.

## **7. Requests for Financial Assistance**

### **A. OASC – Inverness Graded Meet**

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for attendance at the Inverness Graded Meet for four competitors, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £100 from the General Fund.

### **B. OASC – University of Aberdeen Open Age Group**

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for attendance at the University of Aberdeen Open Age Group for two competitors, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £50 from the General Fund.

### **C. Highland Dancing Competition**

Following consideration of a request from Freyja Seater for attendance at a Highland Dancing competition in Wick, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £10 from the General Fund.

### **D. Track Upkeep**

Following consideration of a request from a local resident for financial assistance towards materials to repair tracks, it was:

Resolved that the road scheme would be advertised for applicants and Democratic Services would provide the Clerk with the information and process for last time.

### **E. Dance World Cup**

Following consideration of a request from Josie Gibbon for financial assistance towards attendance at the Dance World Cup competition in Portugal, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £100 from the General Fund.

### **F. OASC – Thurso Mini Meet**

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for attendance at the Thurso Mini Meet, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £25 from the General Fund.

### **G. Community Association – Coronation Lunch**

Following consideration of a request from the Community Association regarding financial assistance towards their Coronation Lunch event, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £150 from the General Fund.

## **8. Publications**

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

- SRA Newsletter - March 2023.
- VAO Newsletter - March and April 2023.
- VAO Training and Funding Update - April 2023.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Orkney Renewable Energy**

Mr S Pyke raised that he had been informed by Orkney Renewable Energy that planning permission for wind turbines on land in Orphir was to be submitted to OIC

and that the community council was encouraged to approach them with any questions they wish to be addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. Communication Channels**

Mrs B Clubley raised a question regarding methods of communicating and listening to the community which sparked further discussion. Councillor K Leask commented that there was an upcoming initiative called the “Local Place Plan” which was to allow more localised decision making and suggested community council involvement in that initiative when it is launched, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 22 August 2023 in person at the Orphir Community School, and via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:52.