

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in Birsay Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mr R Delday, Ms K Coghill, Mr M Leitch, Mr D Scarth, Mr A Spence and Mr S Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Interim Clerk.
- 1 member of the public.

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1. Election of New Members

Resolved to note that Mr M Leitch and Mrs V Sinclair had been elected as members of Birsay Community Council.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillor O Tierney.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 26 August 2021 was approved, being proposed by Ms K Coghill and seconded by Mr D Scarth.

4. Matters Arising

A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

The Chair advised members that the landowners had agreed to the use of the area of land at the foreshore for a parking area and that quotes had been requested for the work, and it was:

Resolved that, once quotes had been received, applications would be submitted for possible funding.

B. Slip at Buckquoy

The Chair advised members that he had not been able to make further progress on this item meantime, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would endeavour to make contact Mr D Moar and Mrs B Moar regarding the future of the slip.

C. Benches and Picnic Table

Members were advised that the benches were in place, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Water Fountain

Members were advised by the Interim Clerk that a response had not been received, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

E. Road Safety and Speed Limits

Councillor D Tullock advised members that new signage had been put up and that speed limits were to be moved in Dounby. Members discussed the provision of a pavement and lighting at Marwick Brae, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report and that and update on the provision of a pavement and lighting at Marwick Brae should be requested.

F. Twatt Post Box

Members were advised that the post box was now operational, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

G. Memorial Bench

Members were advised that arrangements had been made for the memorial bench to be taken in and stored along with the Community Council benches, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

H. Facebook Page

Members were advised that no further progress had been made, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would find out additional information regarding administration of the page.

5. Correspondence

A. New Bus Fleet for Orkney

Members considered correspondence received from Stagecoach advising that new buses would be arriving in Orkney, the first of which would arrive in October and, it

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Connecting Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence advising of Phase 2 of the Connecting Scotland Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for applications had passed.

C. Orkney Drug Dog Charity

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Drug Dog Charity advising that the Dog Handler was keen to meet with Community Councils, it was:

Resolved to invite the Dog Handler to the next meeting.

D. Hoolanenergy

Following consideration of correspondence from Hoolanenergy providing members with an update on the Costa Head Wind Farm and Hesta Head Wind Farm projects, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. Scottish Flood Forum

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council advising members of feedback from the Scottish Flood Forum visit to Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

F. Winter Service Plan and Policy

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan and Policy, it was:

Resolved to note the Winter Services Plan and Policy and that members had no comments to make.

G. Broadening our Coverage

Following consideration of correspondence from The Orcadian advising members that they wished to broaden their coverage on local news, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

H. Note of Thanks

The Chair advised members of a note of thanks regarding the repair of noticeboard at the Kirk, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund Statement

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £5,951.09 as at 11 November 2021.

B. Birsay Energy Fund

Following consideration of the Birsay Energy Fund, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £17,610.42 as at 11 November 2021.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £1,103.03 and the balance in the additional capping limit was £676 as at 11 November 2021.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for allocation was £8,183.37 as at 11 November 2021.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval was £21.64 as at 11 November 2021.

7. Financial Request - Christmas Tree Lighting

The Chair advised members that the Christmas tree was to be situated on the Market Green this year and that there would be costs for the event, and it was:

Resolved to agree funding for one third of the total costs and that an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme funding on the costs.

8. Consultation Documents

A. NHS Orkney Clinical Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the NHS Orkney Clinical Strategy, having previously been emailed by Democratic Services, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments had been received and the deadline had now passed.

B. Local Transport Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence received regarding a questionnaire on Orkney Local Transport Strategy, it was:

Resolved that members were of the opinion that consideration should be given to the provision of electric vehicle charging points at local community halls such as Birsay Community Centre.

C. Aviation Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence advising on the Scottish Government consultation on the draft Aviation Strategy, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that members had no comments to forward.

D. Introduction of Memorial Permit

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the proposed introduction of a Memorial Permit along with a fee of £50, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.

2. That, going forward, the concrete plinths in the kirkyards should prevent toppling of headstones.

3. That members were not in favour of another charge being made which would require to be met by bereaved families, at an already stressful time.

E. Barriers to Participation in Local Politics

Following consideration of correspondence, previously circulated, regarding barriers to participation in local politics, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for comments had passed and that members had no comments.

F. Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising on developing a strategic tourism infrastructure development plan, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that members had no comments to make.

9. Publications

The following publications had been received and made available to members via email:

- VAO Newsletter – August and September 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – September and October 2021.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland Community Engagement Orkney Team.
- Police Scotland Orkney Area Newsletter – October 2021.
- Scottish Water Newsletter – Autumn 2021.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Police Attendance at Meetings

Members noted that the Police Scotland Orkney Area Newsletter was a good means of information however they were of the opinion that a visit at meetings occasionally would be more beneficial, and it was:

Resolved to ask for police attendance at meetings occasionally.

B. Kirkyard – Grass Cutting

Members were advised that comments had been received noting that some of the new graves in the kirkyard has been cut very close to the ground. Members further discussed the excellent care and attention that had been taken by the contractor when undertaking the work, and it was:

Resolved to note the comments.

C. Phone Box, Dounby

Members were advised that the door required repair on the phone box at Dounby, and it was:

Resolved to report that the door of the phone box required to be repaired.

D. Side Road Ditches

Members discussed the lack of cleaning of side road ditches and Councillor D Tullock advised that members could report road issues direct to Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the comments from Councillor D Tullock.

E. LGC Award

Councillor D Tullock advised members of the LGC Award presented to Orkney Islands Council for the combined work between Community Councils and Democratic Services during the Covid-19 pandemic, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following a discussion regarding a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 3 February 2022 at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.