

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held via Microsoft Teams, on Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 19:30

Present:

Jacqui Hirst, Martin Lee, Kenny Rendall, Bill Robertson, Sheelagh Sneesby and Robbie Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Michelle Ward, Service Manager, Women’s Aid Orkney (for Item 2).
- One member of the local press.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

Chair:

- Jacqui Hirst in the Chair.

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1. Apologies

Although apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Andrew Drever and Stephen Sankey, the Chair advised that, following advice received from Orkney Islands Council, as the pre-election period commenced on 14 March 2022, current OIC Elected Members had been advised not to attend Community Council meetings after that date.

2. Women's Aid Orkney

After hearing a presentation from the Service Manager regarding the work of Women's Aid Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation.

The Service Manager, Women's Aid Orkney, left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 19 January 2022 was approved, being proposed by Martin Lee and seconded by Bill Robertson.

4. Matters Arising

A. Tourist Brochure

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that a price for the proposed reprint of the tourist brochure was not yet available, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

B. Planters

The Clerk had received a quotation from The Yard Plant Nursery for supplying summer bedding plants and planting up the six planters, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should arrange for The Yard Plant Nursery to supply summer bedding plants and plant up the six planters, at a cost of £162, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

C. Roads Matters – Barrier Number 1 and Brae of Vigga

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding Barrier Number 1 and the Brae of Vigga, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Brae of Vigga was on the Council's patching programme with works planned for March.

2. To note that a consultant was to be appointed to assess the findings of previous investigations and decide whether they required to conduct their own on-site

assessment of Barrier Number 1, which was likely to commence within the next three months and take two to three months to complete.

3. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council again expressing concern at the delay regarding any work being undertaken on Barrier Number 1 and that the condition of the surface appeared to be deteriorating further.

D. School Bus Route

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding damage to the roads in the east end of Holm, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Roads service was aware of damage, particularly the fact that the verge was damaged the day after the repair was carried out and believed this was an issue that needed to be addressed by School Transport as it was happening more and more in the East Mainland.

E. New Kirkyard Extension

After consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding the request to erect a sign on the gates at the new kirkyard extension, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Burial Grounds Officer was to investigate the possibility of having a sign erected.
2. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that a representative from the Roads service attend the next meeting to discuss a number of issues, including an area adjacent to the new kirkyard extension which would benefit from tarmac/chips and the newly surfaced road past Netherton which had been narrowed, resulting in large vehicles having to go on the verge to pass, dragging mud back on to the road.

5. Correspondence

A. North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub

Following consideration of correspondence from the North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub regarding an Online Event held on 3 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Scottish Islands Federation

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding recruitment to a new post of Island Marine Litter Network Development Officer, together with details of the AGM held on 10 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager regarding Bag the Bruck, to be organised by the Outdoor Orkney Group to take place between 16 and 24 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should apply to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £300 and to split the grant evenly between applicants.

D. Scotland's Census 2022

Following consideration of correspondence from the Regional Manager, Highlands and Islands, advising of online sessions regarding the 2022 Census, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Orkney's Digital Forum

Following consideration of correspondence from Alistair Carmichael MP and Liam McArthur MSP regarding a meeting of Orkney's Digital Forum held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 25 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. SSEN Resilient Communities Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising of SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. West of Orkney Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence from Jack Farnham, Development Director for the West of Orkney Windfarm, advising of a virtual exhibition and online events to enable stakeholders to hear directly from the project team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 24 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 24 February 2022 of £12,947.33.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/22 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 24 February 2022, projects to the value of £2,758.41 had been approved, of which £2,158.41 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,732.95.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £676.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 24 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.

D. Seed Corn Funding

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Funding statement as at 24 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

7. Financial Requests

A. Loch of Ayre Walkway Association – Parking Area

Following consideration of correspondence from the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association requesting further financial assistance towards upgrading works at the parking area in front of The Inn, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a grant of £300 had previously been offered, to be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme.
2. That the offer of grant be increased to £1,000, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

B. Under 17 Athletics

Following consideration of correspondence from K Swan requesting financial assistance towards her son's participation in Under 17 athletics competitions from April to August 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 per competition be awarded, up to a maximum of £180 in financial year 2022/2023.

C. Orkney Folk Festival 2002

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival requesting assistance towards an event in Holm as part of the Folk Festival to be held between 26 and 29 May 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £250 be awarded towards internal travel costs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being awarded.

D. St Andrews Primary School

Following consideration of correspondence from St Andrews Primary School requesting financial assistance towards the P7 Residential Outdoor Activities trip to Hoy, between 7 and 10 June 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 per pupil be awarded, to be split as follows:

- £10 per pupil towards internal travel costs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
- £20 per pupil, to be met from the General Fund allocation.

8. Consultation - Draft National Planning Framework 4

Following consideration of correspondence from the Planning and Architecture division of the Scottish Government advising of various online consultation events in respect of the draft National Planning Framework 4, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

9. Publications

The Clerk had received the following publications which had been forwarded to members via email:

- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 21 and 28 January, 4, 11 and 25 February and 4 and 11 March 2022.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Coronavirus/Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 25 January, 22 February and 15 March 2022.
- VAO Newsletters – January and February 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – February 2022.
- Scottish Water – Nature Calls – Introducing Scottish Water’s new customer engagement campaign.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Ukraine – Latest Information and Advice – 16 March 2022.
- OIC Marine Planning Update – Spring 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Scapa Deepwater Quay

As the leases for the West of Orkney windfarm had now been awarded, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request that an invite to the next meeting be extended to a representative from Orkney Islands Council to provide an update on the Scapa Deepwater Quay project.

B. Graemeshall Road

It was noted that, following high tides when the Graemeshall Road was impassable due to stones being washed up, Orkney Islands Council had arranged for these to be removed, however, when the road was not blocked but smaller stones were still washed up, these were not moved and caused a hazard, particularly for those on bicycles, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that the Graemeshall Road be cleared of stones regularly.

C. Sign at Woodstock Road

Following a request for the sign at the Woodstock Road to be relocated to the other side of the road to make it more visible, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that this be done.

D. Holm Pier

When the representative from Orkney Islands Council attended the meeting to provide an update on the Scapa Deepwater Quay, it was suggested that an update also be provided on Phase 2 of the Orkney Harbour Masterplan and whether it included any proposals to upgrade the Holm pier so that it was usable at all states of the tide, and it was:

Resolved to include this information in the invite as per item 10A above.

E. Gate in Old Kirkyard

As the wooden gate into the old kirkyard appeared to be swollen, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that the gate be assessed and, if required, repaired or replaced.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on 20 April 2022, commencing at 19:30.

The press representative left the meeting at this point.

12. Kirkyard Maintenance

Following consideration of tenders received in respect of kirkyard maintenance for 2022, 2023 and 2024, it was:

Resolved:

A. To award the tender to Michael Brass.

B. That the Clerk should send the relevant paperwork to Michael Brass and letters to the unsuccessful tenderers.

13. Orkney Islands Councillors

As all three Elected Members had indicated they would not be standing for re-election in the forthcoming Local Government Election in May 2022, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should arrange for a voucher and thank you card to be sent to Councillor Andrew Drever, for his long association with the Holm ward, and for thank you cards to be sent to Councillors Norman Craigie and Stephen Sankey for their contribution over the last five years.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:46.