

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 20 May 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mr I Deyell, Mr P Donnelly, Ms A Duncan and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Ms H Galland, Incoming Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs H Scott and Councillor S Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 11 March 2021 was adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mr I Scott.

3. Matters Arising

A. Stiles

Members discussed the proposed list of works for the provision and repair of gates and stiles in the sheep dyke, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the proposed list.
2. To note that the North Isles Landscape Partnership had agreed funding towards the project.
3. To write to the Sheep Court with the following comments:
 - Members agreed to the repair or replacement of present gates.
 - Have all landowners been contacted regarding the project and in agreement with the proposals?
 - There may be a need for wider island consultation.
 - Members were of the opinion that there were adequate accesses already.
 - Members suggested building up the dyke where areas were open and now blocked with various items and no longer used as a gate.
 - As the dyke is Listed would new openings require consent?
 - Suggest that all gates should be sheep proof and user friendly.
 - That the provision of steps in any of the areas should be give careful consideration due to their use by the sheep.

B. Road Aggregates

After hearing a report from the Chair advising members that the aggregates had been received and distributed to the relevant applicants, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

C. Rabbits

After hearing a report from Mr P Donnelly advising members that the contractor was happy to visit the island to undertake a survey, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To note that £500 had been allocated from CCGS towards the cost.
2. That Mr P Donnelly would confirm the cost.
3. That should the cost remain within the current budget powers were delegated to the Chair and Mr P Donnelly to make the necessary arrangements

D. Cattle Grid

After hearing a report from the Chair advising members that the problem at the Cattle Grid and been repaired, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

E. Community Resilience

After hearing a report from the Democratic Services Manager advising members that the application submitted to the Community Resilience Fund for funding towards the cost of fuels tanks for the island had been successful, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that funding of £2,000 had been received from the Community Resilience Fund.
2. That two 900 litre tanks, like those in Papa Westray, should be purchased.
3. That the Interim Clerk should collate the necessary information and forward to members.
4. That an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance on any shortfall costs for the tanks and transportation.
5. That the tanks should be situated at the Car Park at the Pier.
6. That the tanks should be locked at all times.
7. That a padlock and keys should be purchased for both tanks.
8. That the Clerk would hold the keys.
9. That the Community Council would fund the cost of the first fill of fuel in the tanks.
10. That anyone requiring to use the fuel should contact the Clerk and that the user would be responsible for arranging the refill of the tank.

4. Correspondence

A. Islands of Orkney Brochure

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding amendments to the online version of the brochure for this season, it was:

Resolved to note that any amendments should be submitted as soon as possible.

B. E-Cargo Bikes

Members considered correspondence sent on behalf of the Transportation Manager, regarding E-Cargo bikes being made available for use through HITRANS, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Community Renewal Fund

Correspondence had been previously circulated to members which provided information on a Community Renewal Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Orkney Regional Marine Plan

Members discussed correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the regional marine plan, and asking for any input at the early stages, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Annual Grant 2021/2022

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, giving information on the grant amounts being awarded to Orkney Community Councils for financial year 2021/2022, it was:

Resolved to note that North Ronaldsay Community Council had received an annual grant of £3,785.01.

F. Adoption of Planning Guidance

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding documents that had recently been approved by Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. VAO Small Grants Scheme

Members considered correspondence from VAO, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a new funding opportunity, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Transition NR

The Chair had circulated an email from Transition North Ronaldsay, providing information on the progress of their Community Garden project, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Accounts Commission – Reporting on your Local Council

A copy of correspondence from the Accounts Commission had been previously circulated to members, regarding the performance of OIC, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Agri-Environment Climate Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rural Planner, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding improvements to public access, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That a new gate was required at the Cattle Grid and that a request should be submitted to Orkney Islands Council for a new gate and asking that the gate should be re-hung to open the opposite direction.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions on Islands

Following consideration of the Scottish Government consultation document previously circulated regarding the loosening of restrictions, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses had now passed.

B. Orkney Partnership – Community Priorities

Following consideration of the consultation document previously circulated, regarding community priorities, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses had now passed.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils

Following consideration of the document circulated previously by Democratic Services, regarding amendments to the Scheme for Community Councils, it was:

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

D. Winter Service Delivery - Policy and Plan

Following consideration of the consultation from Orkney Islands Council on the policy and plan for winter service delivery, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the Plan and that members had no comments to make.

E. Island Wellbeing Survey

Following consideration of the Island Wellbeing Survey, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. GO-HI Rural MaaS Project - Background Survey

Following consideration of the survey, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding transport options, 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 14 April 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,903.09.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the Turbine Fund statement as at 14 April 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £21,173.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 13 April 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £527.40 was left in the additional capping limit, and that the main and island capping limits were fully allocated for 2020/2021.
2. To note that a new statement would be circulated for the financial year 2021/2022.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 13 April 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £5,000.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 13 April 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that there was no more funding left for approval.

7. Financial Requests

A. CC Insurance 2021/2022

It had previously been agreed, via email, to fund the cost of insurance for the financial year 2021/2022 from Community Council Grant Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to note that £86 be paid from CCGS.

B. Grass Cutting at Memorial Hall – 2020

Members considered a request for financial assistance towards the cost of cutting the grass at the Memorial Hall for the 2020 season, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £240 would be awarded from General Funds.

C. Grass Cutting at Memorial Hall – 2021

Members considered a request for financial assistance towards the cost of cutting the grass at the Memorial Hall for the 2021 season, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £240 and that an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance.

D. Community Wind Fund

The Chair asked members to give consideration as to how the funds could be used to provide community benefit, and it was:

Resolved to resume consideration.

E. Grants for Septic Tank Emptying

Members asked if a notice could be displayed locally regarding emptying of septic tanks and possible funding, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would arrange for a poster to be displayed.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

After hearing a report from the Transport Representative advising members on recent meeting attended and the proposed winter timetable, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

After hearing a report regarding recent activities of the Trust, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

9. Publications

The following publications had been made available to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – March and April 2021.
- Orkney Ferries – Statistics – February 2021.
- Loganair – Statistics – April 2021.
- Letter from School Place – March and April 2021.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – March and April 2021.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. BT Scotland – R100 Scottish Isles Fibre Optic Cable Project

The Chair raised concerns regarding the installation of submarine cables to extend broadband coverage across Shetland and Orkney. He advised members that it appeared that the route for the cable would bypass North Ronaldsay en route to Shetland, with a branch going to Fair Isle. Councillor G Sinclair noted his comments and advised that possible provision to North Ronaldsay would be included in the present project with the rest of Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the discussion.

B. Skips

After hearing a report from the Chair advising members that there had been no transportation of skips recently by Orkney Ferries as the cradle for lifting the skips was not suitable, it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Ferries when skips would be transported from and to the island again.

C. Kirkyard Maintenance

After hearing a report from the Chair advising that tenders had been opened under delegated powers, it was:

Resolved to note that the contract had been awarded to Ms C Alexander.

D. Nurse Provision for the Island

Following consideration of correspondence from the Head of Primary Care Services, NHS Orkney, updating members on the progress of advertising the Nurse Practitioner post on the Island, it was:

Resolved that a letter be sent to NHS Orkney advising:

1. That members were happy with the advert.
2. That the Community Council had asked for a local representative to be included in the interview panel, however it had not been stipulated that the representative had to be a member of the Community Council.
3. That the Community Council wishes that Councillor H Woodbridge be included as the island representative on the interview panel.

E. Clerk

Members noted that Ms S Moore had resigned from the post of Clerk and asked that a letter be sent thanking her for her hard work and dedication to the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved that a letter of thanks be sent.

F. Incoming Clerk

The Chair welcomed Ms H Galland, as new Clerk for North Ronaldsay Community Council, to the meeting.

G. War Memorial

After hearing a report from I Scott advising members that the War Memorial required cleaning and re-lettering, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr I Scott contact James Dowell & Son to ascertain if they would be available to undertake the work and the cost.
2. That a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted meantime for the work up to a cost of £700 and should the cost be more application would be submitted for an increase in the grant.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 1 July 2021 via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:21.