

# Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held via Teams on Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr R Delday, Ms K Coghill, Mr A Spence and Mr S Spence.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mr M Hay and Mr D Scarth and Councillor O Tierney.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 18 February 2021 was approved, being proposed by Ms K Coghill and seconded by Mr S Spence.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar**

Following an update from the Chair advising members that he not been able to find out additional information as yet, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would endeavour to find information on ownership of land.

### **B. Slip at Buckquoy**

Following an update from the Chair advising members that he was unable to provide an update meantime, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact D Moar for further information.

### **C. Recognition Plaque at the Old Manse**

After hearing a report from the Interim Clerk advising members that the plaque had been purchased and that the group had been advised on how to claim the grant, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **D. Benches and Picnic Table**

In the absence of Mr M Hay, the Chair advised that benches had been ordered from Birsay Farmers, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **E. Water Fountain**

Members were advised that correspondence had been forwarded to Scottish Water, but no response had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **F. Grit Bins**

Members heard that the grit bins had been put out since the last meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Update**

Members considered correspondence from the ONWP, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided information on recent trapping figures and an update on the arrival of conservation detection dogs, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. HITRANS – E-Cargo Bikes**

Members discussed correspondence, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding interest in an E-Cargo bike for use in the community, and it was:

Resolved to ask for further information.

### **C. Community Renewal Fund**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Community Renewal Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the deadline has already passed.

### **D. Orkney Regional Marine Plan**

Members had been forwarded an email regarding the preparation of a statutory Regional Marine Plan for Orkney, which provided information on future updates and how to find details. Members also discussed the possibility of securing funding to create a slipway, similar to the one in Deerness, at the Point of Buckquoy, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided on the Orkney Regional Marine Plan.
2. That members would make queries with the public as to what requirements would need to be addressed for a slip at the Point of Buckquoy.
3. That Orkney Islands Council should be asked about the possibility of providing a slip at the Point of Buckquoy be included in either or both of the Orkney Marine Regional Plan and the Orkney Harbours Master Plan.

### **E. Road Safety and Speed Limits**

Following consideration of correspondence from a member of the public regarding the speed of vehicles passing the 40mph sign heading to Twatt Manse, and after hearing a verbal report from Councillor D Tullock advising that he was dealing with the request, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence and report from Councillor Tullock.
2. To ask Orkney Islands Council if any additional warning signage could be placed in the area.
3. To advise the member of the public that contact could be made with the British Horse Society to report any incident.

## **F. Annual Grant 2021/2022**

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising members that the annual grant for Birsay Community Council was £3,930.74, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **G. Adoption of Planning Guidance**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding three planning guidance documents that had recently been approved by Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **H. Reporting on your Local Council**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Accounts Commission regarding the performance of OIC, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **I. 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 to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **J. Tesco Community Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence advising members of the reopening of the Tesco Community Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **K. Surface Dressing Programme**

Following consideration of the surface dressing programme, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the programme and that the Birsay area was not included.
2. That various roads required attention in Birsay including Durkadale Road, Howley and Old School along with potholes in various areas and that Councillor D Tullock would take this forward.
3. That concerns had been raised by the public regarding some of the repair procedures and the demoralisation of road operatives and to note that Councillor R King would take this forward with the appropriate officers.

## **L. Letters of Thanks**

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr R Barr thanking members for the funding awarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the Interim Clerk had advised the applicant on how to claim the funds.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

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

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £3,888.85 as at 20 May 2021.

### **B. Birsay Energy Fund**

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

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £17,610.42 as at 20 May 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 £2,966.43, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £669.00 as at 20 May 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 20 May 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 20 May 2021.

## **6. Financial Request - Insurance for 2021/2022**

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the funding of annual insurance costs, it was:

Resolved that £86 should be paid for insurance costs and that application for Community Council Grant Scheme funding should be applied for on the cost.

## **7. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions on Islands**

Following consideration of the Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions on Islands document, it was:

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

### **B. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021**

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.

### **C. Winter Service Plan and Policy**

Following consideration of the consultation from Orkney Islands Council on the policy and plan for winter service delivery, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the Winter Service Plan.
2. That members wished to note that local farmers over Orkney had “saved the day” in many areas during the recent snowfalls.

### **D. GO-HI Rural MaaS project**

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

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **8. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – February, March and April 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – March and April 2021.

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

### **A. Twatt Post Box**

Members discussed concerns raised by a member of the public regarding the replacement of the post box for the Twatt area, which was removed when the door fell off because of rust and was never replaced. The member of the public had contacted the Kirkwall Post Office twice to no avail and had asked if the Community Council could assist. Councillor Tullock advised that he had raised this with the Post Office Manager however the Post Box had not been replaced to date, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a letter be sent to the Post Office Manager requesting that the Post Box be re-instated.
2. That a letter be sent to the member of the public advising on the decision.

### **B. Memorial Bench**

After hearing a report advising that a member of the public had asked advice on where best in Birsay a memorial bench could be placed, it was:

Resolved that Ms K Coghill would make contact offering to discuss where best to place a bench.

### **C. Birsay Community Council – Facebook Page**

Consideration was given to setting up a Facebook Page for Birsay Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to defer discussion to the next meeting.

## **10. 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 26 August 2021 at 19:30 and that a Public Meeting should be arranged to elect a new member prior to the meeting.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:58.