

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in Offices, Kiln Corner, Kirkwall, on Wednesday, 18 January 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Erland Drever, Bill Robertson and Robbie Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse.
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, Orkney Islands Council.
- David Sawkins, Depute Harbour Master (Strategy and Support), Orkney Islands Council (for Item 2).
- Naomi Bremner, Technical Adviser Team, Arch Henderson LLP (for Item 2).
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

Chair:

- Alan Scott in the Chair.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence were intimated.

2. Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 1 – Scapa Deep Water Quay

Following a presentation by the Depute Harbour Master (Strategy and Support) regarding the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay, one of the projects contained in the Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 1, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

3. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 26 October 2022 was approved, being proposed by Martin Lee and seconded by Erland Drever, subject to the following amendment:

Various Roads Matters

It was agreed that the possibility of upgrading road ends/junctions at Greenwall, Towerhill and the top of the Teeve, by up to 15 metres either side, be included in the discussions with the representative from the Council's roads service.

4. Matters Arising

A. Various Roads Matters

The Clerk had not received a response to the request for a representative of the Council's roads service to meet on site with members of the Community Council to discuss various roads matters, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities would escalate the matter to the Head of Neighbourhood Services, noting that the Community Council's top priority was now the first Barrier.

B. School Bus Route

The Clerk had not received a response to the request to consider widening corners where school buses were tearing up the verge by installing scalplings to provide a harder surface, and it was:

Resolved that this matter be raised with the representative from the roads service at the onsite meeting referred to at paragraph 4A above.

C. Gate in Old Kirkyard

Although there appeared to be confusion over which gate required maintenance, it was:

Resolved to note that the Burial Grounds Officer was now investigating what works were required to the gate with the War Graves Commission sign on it.

D. Financial Requests – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from the undernoted thanking the Community Council for financial assistance awarded:

- Holm Community Association – kids' Hallowe'en party
- Holm Kids' Christmas Party.
- M and N Ewing – Ross County football.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting

The Clerk had received correspondence from Holm Community Association supporting the idea of an outside Christmas tree, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would speak to E Mackenzie regarding the provision of a tree.
2. That M Lee would contact J Muir to ascertain whether the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association would agree to a Christmas tree being located near the car park where the public would be able to see it, rather than one at the car park at the Hall, which was not visible from the main road.
3. To note that Holm Community Association had thanked the Community Council for agreeing to meet the cost of the Christmas tree purchased for the indoor event held in November 2022.
4. That the Chair would speak to E Fraser Electrical to arrange for the new Christmas wraps to be turned off.

F. Street Light – Station Square

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding the provision of a new streetlight in Station Square, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Council's roads service was planning lighting improvements in Station Square in early 2023 which included the provision of a new streetlight in the area requested by the Community Council.
2. That the Clerk should advise W Berston who had made the initial request accordingly.

5. Correspondence

A. Holm Graffiti

Following consideration of correspondence from various individuals regarding graffiti on the sea front at St Mary's, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that R Thomson should speak to T Sinclair to find out what paint was used to cover over graffiti near the first barrier and the entrance to the Italian Chapel.

B. Avian Flu

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council regarding an outbreak of avian flu in Orkney in October 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-application Public Consultation Notice

Following consideration of correspondence from the Development Manager, West of Orkney Windfarm, regarding pre-application public consultation in relation to the submission of applications for marine licences from Marine Scotland for construction of the offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that M Lee had attended one of the consultation events held in Orkney in November 2022, with the next meeting of the Orkney Community Panel to be held on 23 January 2023.

D. SSEN – Powering on together this winter

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN regarding online stakeholder surgeries aimed at building resilience during the winter, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the North of Scotland stakeholder surgery was held on 24 November 2022.

E. HiTRANS – Scottish Islands – Windracers

Following consideration of correspondence from HiTRANS regarding the SATE (Sustainable Aviation Test Environment) project and Windracers, a company leading the effort for the use of uncrewed aircraft systems to deliver critical cargo to remote areas of the UK, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. West of Orkney Windfarm – Proposal of Application Notice

Following consideration of correspondence from the Development Manager, West of Orkney Windfarm, regarding the proposal to submit applications to Highland Council regarding construction of the offshore windfarm and associated onshore transmission infrastructure to connect the windfarm to the grid at, or near, the Spittal substation in Caithness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. EMEC – Billia Croo – Section 36 consent

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland advising of the granting of Section 36 consent in respect of the expansion of EMEC's Billia Croo wave energy test, site copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Following consideration of correspondence from M Brass regarding the kirkyard grass cutting contract, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should advertise for tenders for the kirkyard grass cutting for two years (2023 and 2024), for two weeks in the Orcadian, with tenders received to be considered at the next meeting.
2. That R Thomson should contact the Friends of St Nicholas to see if they would be willing to monitor the grass cutting over the season on behalf of the Community Council.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 January 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 10 January 2023 of £15,020.55.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/23 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 10 January 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 10 January 2023, projects to the value of £1,356.72 had been approved, of which £1,094.72 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £2,851.97.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 10 January 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 10 January 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

7. Financial Requests

A. Gymnastics

Following consideration of correspondence from T Drever requesting financial assistance towards attending gymnastics competitions held on 29 October and 13 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that a grant of £30 per competition had been awarded via email.

B. Holm Community Association – Senior Citizens Christmas Meal

The Clerk had received correspondence from Holm Community Association advising that, due to circumstances out with their control, they were unable to proceed with the Senior Citizens' Christmas meal, and it was:

Resolved to note that Holm Community Association was now planning an event around Easter 2023.

C. Scottish Youth Climbing Competitions

Following consideration of correspondence from K Moar thanking the Community Council for financial assistance towards attending Scottish youth climbing competitions, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note a further grant of £30 had been awarded towards K Moar attending the British finals, representing Scotland, in Swindon in November 2022, agreed via email.

D. Holm Ball Group

Following consideration of correspondence from C Spence, VAO, advising that VAO did not have financial assistance available to assist ball groups to purchase equipment, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council should meet the full cost of purchasing the equipment for Hall Ball Group, estimated at £320, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

8. Consultations

A. Revised Proposals for UK Parliament Constituencies

Following consideration of correspondence from the Boundary Commission for Scotland regarding revised proposals for UK Parliament constituencies, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub – Public Consultation Event

Following consideration of correspondence regarding a public consultation event in respect of the Scapa Deep Water Quay and the Orkney Logistics Hub held at the Kiln Corner, Kirkwall, on 1 December 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Holm Community Council was supportive of progressing with the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay.

9. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation for Social Care Support

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of an Engagement Event held in the Pickaquoy Centre on 1 November 2022 regarding a review of inspection, scrutiny and regulation of social care support, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Island Housing Group

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of a meeting of the Island Housing Group held virtually on 24 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Scottish Parliament’s Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO regarding a meeting with the Convener of the Scottish Parliament’s Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 28 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Scottish Islands Federation – Let’s Talk Scottish Education

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding a national discussion entitled “Let’s Talk Scottish Education”, held virtually on 29 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

10. Publications

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 28 October and 4 and 11 November 2022.
- VAO Newsletters – October, November and December 2022.
- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind Community Newsletters – The Airt o Wind – October and December 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November 2022.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Liaison Officer advising of the SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow to be held on Friday, 10 March 2023, together with a further Orkney and Shetland virtual meeting on 16 March 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Road past Netherton

Councillor James Moar advised that a constituent had requested a SLOW sign as well as “SLOW” painted on the road in the vicinity of Netherton, and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that this should be included in the onsite meeting with the representative from the Council’s roads service referred to at paragraphs 4A and 4B above.

C. Public Meeting

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that a public meeting could be held in March 2023 to fill the vacancies on the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should arrange for appropriate publicity on the Holm News Facebook page, including current Community Council members, agendas, and minutes.

12. 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 15 March 2023 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:47.