

# Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in the Birsay Community Hall and via Teams on Thursday, 2 February 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr R Delday, Ms D Clouston, Ms K Coghill, Mr M Leitch, Mrs V Sinclair and Mr S Spence.

## In Attendance:

- Mr T Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer.

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## **1. Presentation – Orkney Native Wildlife Project**

Members received a presentation from the Community Liaison Officer which provided details on how many traps had been set and numbers of stoats removed. So far, over 405 stoats had been removed in the parish of Birsay. Funding was still in place until the end of the project, despite Brexit, and tracker dogs had been used to provide better accuracy on where the stoats were living, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

## **2. Apologies**

Resolved to note that no apologies had been received.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr M Leitch and seconded by Ms D Clouston.

## **4. Matters Arising**

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

The Interim Clerk informed members that the Transport Department will cover the costs of erecting new “No Parking” signs on the site. Examples of two sizes of the signs to be used were shown to members. All agreed the larger size of the signs to be installed, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk, via business letter, will request that the larger sign be installed at the site.

### **B. Public Roads**

The Interim Clerk advised no update had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note that no update had been received.

### **C. Dog Waste Bins**

The Interim Clerk advised no update had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note that no update had been received.

### **D. Festive Lighting**

The members were informed that, at present, the lights are in temporary storage and that a permanent store was still being sought, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

## **E. Area of Speeding Concern**

The Interim Clerk advised no update had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note that no update had been received.

## **F. Overhanging Trees**

The Interim Clerk advised no update had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note that no update had been received.

## **G. Nisthill Windfarm**

Members had recently been sent the draft response, and it was confirmed by the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer that the response had now been sent, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

## **H. Dounby Plan**

Members were given a copy of the draft Dounby Community Plan. Councillor R King updated members, stating the Market Green project had secured 100% funding. For the remainder of the project to continue, and to secure funding, this must be led by Community Councils. It was advised that the West Mainland Link Officer would project manage this, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update:

# **5. Correspondence**

## **A. Invitation to meet Convenor of the NZET Committee**

Correspondence from the NZET Committee had previously been emailed to members, regarding a meeting on 28 November, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the meeting had taken place.

## **B. HITRANS - Scottish Islands Windracers Drone**

Correspondence was shared with member from HITRANS relating to the Windracers UAV technology, which has a capability of delivering critical cargo to remote areas within the UK, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **C. West of Orkney Windfarm – Community Panel**

Correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm, advising of the date and time of the Orkney Community panel, had previously been shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **D. EMEC Billia Croo – Section 36 Consent – Notice of Determination**

Correspondence from EMEC, regarding consent granted by the Scottish Ministers to construct and operate an offshore generating station had previously been shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow**

Correspondence from the SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow, informing members of the virtual event was shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Thank You Letters**

The Chair advised members that a thank you letter had been received from Harray Young Farmers Club, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **6. Consultation Document - Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Overprovision Assessment**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding whether there was overprovision of licensed premises or licensed premises of any particular description, in particular localities within its area, members agreed there was no overprovision, and it was:

Resolved that, via the business letter, the response from Birsay Community Council should be sent to the Licensing Board, Orkney Islands Council.

## **7. 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 £9,164.21 as at 20 January 2023.

### **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 £19,726.09 as at 20 January 2023.

## **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 £3,271.40 and the balance in the additional capping limit has been fully allocated as at 20 January 2023.

## **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 January 2023.

## **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 January 2023.

# **8. Financial Requests**

## **A. Dounby Centre Bowling Club**

Following consideration of a request from the Dounby Centre Bowling Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of hiring the hall, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation should be made, totalling £200.

## **B. Dounby Community School**

Following consideration of correspondence from Dounby Community School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the Primary 7 educational trip to Hoy, it was:

Resolved that a donation be made from the Birsay Energy Fund of £50 per student, totalling £450.

## **C. Orkney Folk Festival**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the festival as a whole, but also towards the cost of staging an event in the Birsay Hall during the Festival weekend, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be made, totalling £250.

## **D. Straw Class**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Straw Class, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of hall hire, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be made, totalling £200.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – August, November and December 2022.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – August, September, and October 2022.
- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind Community Newsletter – October and December 2022.
- Alistair Carmichael Correspondence – 28 November 2022.
- Scottish Water Autumn Newsletter 2022.
- Good to Share - NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland Update – November 2022.
- Scottish Government and CoSLA – National discussion for Education in Scotland “Let’s Talk Scottish Education”.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Monuments in Birsay Kirkyard**

Members suggested that the names of the unsafe gravestones were placed on the Birsay Community Council Facebook page. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that she thought that any known relatives had been contacted, and it was:

Resolved that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would enquire if relatives had been contacted about unsafe gravestones.

### **B. Grass Cutting Tenders - Birsay Kirkyards**

The Chair advised that the tenders for grass cutting at Birsay Kirkyards were ready to go out if members were in agreement to advertise. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise the kirkyard grass cutting tenders.
2. To set a closing date before the end of March, and for the Chair and West Mainland Link Officer to open tenders.

## **C. Marwick Road**

A member advised that the road at the shore to the beach was in a state of disrepair with severe potholes, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request for the road to be inspected, and report back findings.

## **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 Thursdays 4 May and 14 September 2023 at 19:30 in Birsay Community Centre and via Microsoft Teams.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.