

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 14 March 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Rikki A Lidderdale, Tom Rendall, Lorraine A Craigie, Christopher Gee, Moyra Gordon, Christine E H Marcus, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Maureen Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
 - Andy Tait, Chair, Orkney Youth Forum (for Item 2).
 - Councillor Steven B Heddle – attending in a private capacity.
 - Hazel Flett, Clerk.
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- One member of the local press.

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1. Apologies

The Democratic Services Manager 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, therefore Mr Steven Heddle was attending the meeting as a private individual.

2. Orkney Youth Forum

Following consideration of a presentation from Andy Tait, Chair, Orkney Youth Forum, regarding the provision of bins around Kirkwall, including dog litter bins, it was:

Resolved to support Orkney Youth Forum in an education awareness campaign on use of litter bins and clearing up and depositing dog litter.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of the Meeting held on 24 January 2022 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by Tom Rendall.

4. Matters Arising

A. Upgrading of Core Paths

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding upgrading core paths, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that further information was awaited from the Rural Planner regarding funding to upgrade the core path from Inganess to Scapa.
2. To note that, although some works had been undertaken at the Seatter bridleway, including the installation of boardwalks, this had prevented use of the bridleway by horse riders, therefore the boardwalk was reduced in width.
3. To note that, although drainage at the Berstane Road end of the Seatter bridleway had been improved four to five years ago, the Council would arrange for this area to be inspected again, once the frog spawn season had ended.
4. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council enquiring whether old fencing, which was creating a hazard, particularly for dogs, when out walking, could be removed.
5. That the Clerk should pass on to Orkney Islands Council information received from a member regarding improvement works to core paths using sheep wool, reported by the John Muir Trust.

B. Doorway in St Olaf's Wynd

The Chair advised that he had contacted the owner of property in the vicinity of the doorway and, although ownership had not yet been confirmed, he undertook to complete some minor joinery work on the doorway in May, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

C. Financial Assistance – Note of Thanks

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club thanking the Community Council for financial assistance awarded in respect of swimmers attending the North District Swimming Championships, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Correspondence

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. Scotland's Towns Partnership

Following consideration of correspondence from Scotland's Towns Partnership regarding a series of online events in relation to the Town Centre Action Plan Review taking place during March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. 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.

Councillor Steven B Heddle left the meeting at this point.

6. Financial Statements

A. General

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 23 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 23 February 2022 of £18,345.61.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/22 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 23 February 2022, projects to the value of £2,727.72 had been approved, of which £2,727.72 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,691.37.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 23 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,964.42.

7. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Pilgrimage

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Pilgrimage requesting assistance towards annual maintenance costs in respect of the St Magnus Way, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should ascertain whether other community councils had provided assistance, given that the St Magnus Way went through several community council areas.

B. Orkney Folk Festival 2022

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival requesting financial assistance towards events in the Picky Centre as part of the Orkney Folk Festival to be held from 26 to 29 May 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £300, to be met from the General Fund, be made.

C. U17 and U13 Netball

Following consideration of correspondence from L Kemp requesting financial assistance towards her daughters' participation in Under 17 and Under 13 Netball

competitions in Aberdeen on 5 and 6 March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be provided in respect of each competition, subject to confirmation of attendance.

D. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards participation in the Pentland Pentaqua Meet in Wick on 20 March 2022 and the North District Age Group Championships in Aberdeen on 26 and 27 March 2022, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £20 in respect of each of the swimmers participating in the Pentland Pentaqua Meet in Wick on 20 March 2022 be awarded, capped at £175, which would bring the total award to Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for 2021/2022 to £275.

2. That, as Orkney Amateur Swimming Club had reached the policy limit for assistance in 2021/2022, no assistance be provided towards participation in the North District Age Group Championships in Aberdeen on 26 and 27 March 2022.

8. Meetings Attended by Members

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 report on attendance by a member of the Community Council.

B. Draft National Planning Framework 4

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division advising of a series of consultation events in relation to the draft National Planning Framework 4, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Orkney 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 report on attendance by a member of the Community Council.

9. Publications

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

- Liam McArthur MSP – Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 25 January and 22 February 2022.
- Scottish Towns Partnership – Scotland’s Towns and Improvement District News – January 2022 bulletin.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 28 January, 4, 11 and 25 February and 4 and 11 March 2022.
- Paths for All – e-news – January and February 2022.
- Kirkwall BID – Newsletter.
- Scottish Rural Action –Newsletters – February and March 2022.
- SEPA Updates – 1 and 18 February and 4 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.
- OIC Marine Planning Update – Spring 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. 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.

B. Arcadia Park

The Clerk had received correspondence from B Mackenzie providing an update on works at Arcadia Park, including the purchase of fruit trees, plants and roses, for which the Community Council had provided financial assistance, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Disability Equality Scotland

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a consultation event to be hosted by Disability Equality Scotland at the Pickaquoy Centre on 30 March 2022 to discuss experiences of negative behaviour and hate crime in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Doorway in Broad Street

Following representations from a member regarding the condition of a wooden doorway on Broad Street, Kirkwall, between Virgin Money and Lows Orkney, it was:

Resolved that the member should ask at Virgin Money whether works would be undertaken to replace broken boards on the doorway.

E. Audience with Council Leader and Chief Executive

Community Councillors had been invited to an online meeting with the Council Leader and the Chief Executive on 7 March 2022 which reviewed the past five years of Orkney Islands Council and outlined matters which had happened, which were ongoing and what had not happened, and it was:

Resolved to note the report from a member who had attended the event.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 18 April 2022, commencing at 19:00.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:37.