

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in Orphir School and via Teams on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr N Sclater, Mrs B Clubley, Mr J Mackay, Mr A Marwick and Mr S Pyke.

In Attendance:

- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Miss R Black and Councillors S Cowie, K Leask, L Manson and I Taylor.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Orphir Community Council held on 14 November 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mrs B Clubley and seconded by Mr J Mackay.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter – Smoogro Road End

The Chair advised that planning permission had been granted and that he had spoken to the contractor about fitting in the job. He had also spoken to the Men's Shed about scheduling the shed build, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Chair would circulate the plans round members for their information.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre Refurbishment

The Chair reported that the contractor was hoping to start the job and that he would need to get the electricians in prior to his work starting. It was suggested that an April opening may be optimistic and that the centre would remain closed until the work had been completed. The Community Council Liaison Officer suggested getting in touch with the local tour guide groups to advise that the opening would be delayed, and that a poster should be placed on the door to make visitors aware. Members also discussed arrangements for a caretaker over the summer period, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the update.
2. That the Chair would take a meter reading and speak to Mrs C Stevenson regarding caretaking duties for the 2024 season.
3. That the Interim Clerk would contact the tour guide group to advise that the centre would be open later than usual and organise a poster for the door with this information.

C. Dog Bins

Mrs B Clubley advised that there was still just one small bin at the area near the Kirk, and it was:

Resolved to ask again if a larger bin would be in place soon.

D. Road Speed Limits

An update was not available regarding the cost of purchasing speed indication devices, including installation, permissions and permits. Correspondence from a resident regarding speeding through the village was read out, which suggested that the speed of traffic was causing structural stress and movement within the brig at Swanbister Burn, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To await an update on the price of speed indication devices and the associated costs.
2. That the correspondence from the local resident would be passed on to Roads Support with the Head of Neighbourhood Services copied in.

E. School Transport and Road Safety

The Interim Clerk read out a response from the Team Manager (Resources), advising that this issue was still in progress for the safe walking routes, and that unfortunately they could not regulate which days there were spare seats on the bus and could not allocate them to a nominated pupil. Members agreed that this was not a safe route to walk and that they believed that there was a space on this bus. They wished to keep on pursuing this matter on behalf of the family, and it was:

Resolved to ask again for a space on the bus to be allocated to the young person.

F. Germiston and Hobbister Roads Repairs

The Interim Clerk advised that these areas had been reported and the Corporate Director agreed to find out when works were planned but advised that surface dressing would be carried out only, not full dressing, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

G. Orphir Cemetery

A response from the Head of Neighbourhood Services was read out to members, which advised that she had looked at the groundwater investigations that were done as part of the process around developing the extension, which concluded that there were no springs, wells etc. in the vicinity of the burial ground and that there was no risk to groundwater posed by the development of the site. She added that the report did note that the groundwater level varied across the site and so certain burial plots may be more likely to water intrusion if the ground is very saturated, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask via the business letter if a larger pump could be used to remove water more efficiently.

4. Correspondence

A. R100 and SBVS – Orphir Briefing

Members had previously been sent a copy of the Orphir briefing in relation to the roll out of fibre broadband and the voucher scheme, and it was:

Resolved to ask for additional information on the broadband voucher scheme.

B. Webinar with OU Scotland

Information on an Open University webinar on the numerous ways that the Open University can support Community Councils across Scotland had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had taken place on 18 January.

C. Scottish Water – Leaks and Bursts

An email from Scottish Water had previously been circulated to members, urging members of the public to report any leaks or bursts in the system after the cold weather so that these could be addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Bridge over Swanbister Burn

Resolved to note that this correspondence had been discussed at item 3D above.

E. VAO Small Grants Scheme 2024/2025

Information had previously been circulated to members about the opening of the Small Grants Scheme for funding of up to £500 for projects and activities carried out by constituted groups and charitable organisations, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

F. CDF Allocation

Members had previously been sent a letter from Democratic Services, advising that each community council had been allocated an additional tranche of £5,000 in their Community Development Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. King's Portrait Scheme

Members were informed that late correspondence had been received from the Cabinet Office regarding a scheme to offer a free framed portrait of His Majesty the King, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

H. Thank You Letters

Resolved to note that letters of thanks for financial support provided had been received from Orphir Community School, Inga Burton and Josie Gibbons.

5. Consultations

A. Local Transport Strategy

Members had previously been sent information on a consultation on the Local Transport Strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed on 12 January 2024.

B. Local Development Plan Scheme

Correspondence had previously been circulated to member advising of the consultation regarding the first stage of the review of Orkney's Local Development Plan, and the publication of the Development Plan Scheme Newsletter. Members were invited to read the newsletter and provide feedback and comments on their approach to engagement, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 7 March 2024.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Members had previously been sent a copy of the Verge Maintenance Plan so that they could make any comments ahead of the summer season, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for any comments was 29 March 2024.

D. Winter Service Plan 2024

A copy of the consultation on the Winter Service Plan had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that any feedback had to be returned no later than 29 March 2024.

E. BSc Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest

Members had previously been sent information from a student of Environmental Management who was undertaking an honours project about conservation of the Scottish Rainforest, and it was:

Resolved to note the survey.

F. NHS Orkney – Listening Event

Correspondence from NHS Orkney had previously been forwarded to members, advising of a survey and consultation sessions which were being held in February to get feedback, views and ideas, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Orphir Community Council as at 12 February 2024:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £19,952.08.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

Following consideration of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre fund statement as at 12 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of 46,942.20.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 12 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the capping limit was £671.13.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 12 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £18,755.42 available to allocate to projects.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 12 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £3,518 available to allocate to projects

7. Financial Requests

A. Orphir School – Christmas Party

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Community School Forum, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of a Christmas party for the children of Orphir, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £100 towards the party.

B. Orphir Community Association – Kettles

Members had previously been forwarded a request from Orphir Community Association for assistance with the cost of purchasing 5 new kettles for the Community Centre, and it was:

Resolved to award £150 towards the cost of the kettles, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Ingrid Tait – Celtic Connections

A request for financial assistance had been received from Ingrid Tait, for help with the cost of a trip to Glasgow to perform as part of the Celtic Connections festival, and it was:

Resolved to grant a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

D. Freyja Seatter - Highland Dance

A request for assistance from the parents of Freyja Seatter had been circulated to members, for funding towards travel to a Highland Dance competition in Keiss on 2 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

E. Orphir Badminton Club

Members were advised that a request for financial assistance towards the cost of new shuttles had been received from Orphir Badminton Club, and it was:

Resolved to award £300 towards the cost of shuttles, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Publications

The following publications had previously been circulated to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – November and December 2023 and January 2024.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Grit Bin at Orphir Kirk Junction

A member advised that the bin that used to be at the junction of the main road at Orphir Kirk had recently been moved further down the Gyre Road and was harder for residents to access there. Members asked if it could be returned to its original location, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the business letter to Democratic Services, if the grit bin could be returned to the area close to the kirk and the junction with the main road.

B. Wooden Boardwalk, Waulkmill

Members advised that the wooden walkways at Waulkmill were in a poor state of repair, and asked who was responsible for these, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the business letter to Democratic Services, if the Council had any responsibility for the boardwalks at Waulkmill.

C. Roads Scheme

Members considered whether they should operate a road aggregate scheme for the Orphir area in the new financial year. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk should advertise for notes of interest in a scheme and to discuss at the next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held at 19:30 on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at Orphir School and via Teams.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:25.