

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 20 January 2022 at 19:30

Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr A Dundas, Mr A Marwick, Mr D Marwick and Mr N Sclater.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor J Richards.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mrs P Damvelt, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr A Dixon and Councillor B Foulkes.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 11 November 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr A Dundas and seconded by Mr M Clouston.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter - Germiston Road

Members had been advised that the bike shelter has been unlocked.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that there were some land ownership issues to consider regarding Germiston Road. Members were also informed that the Men's Shed might not be able to set up the bus shelter in the next 12 months, as they are setting up new premises in Stromness. However, the Men's Shed had already agreed and purchased the materials for the build and maintained communication about the project with the Chair.

Again, it was also advised that there were concerns regarding engineering standards and that planning permission might be needed for any new shed in this location, as well as a concrete foundation. Members discussed the possibility of using Community Council Grant Scheme funds for this project before March this year.

The areas still in consideration were at the end of Scorrabrae Road or at Smoogro Road, which was the preferred location as it had regular users. Land access and permission would need to be discussed, and ownership needed to be confirmed at the end of Smoogro Road. In addition to this, Skarabrae might be added as an option. It was also agreed that the landowner at Germiston should be advised what was planned, as this had previously been discussed with them.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would research land ownership at these locations and permits needed.
2. That the Chair would investigate the bus shelter construction with the Men's Shed.

B. Footpaths/Community Planning - Link to Survey

After a short discussion regarding a pavement through Orphir village, and that this should be discussed at the upcoming Orkney Matters meeting, it was:

Resolved that members would await further updates from the Planning Manager regarding this issue.

C. Kirkyard Documents

Members discussed the new amended kirkyard grass cutting tender document, which had been sent round for consideration prior to advertising. After a brief discussion, it was:

Resolved to contact Democratic Services regarding changes which needed to be made in point 5 in clarifying the removal of debris, as well as making sure the legal obligation was properly covered.

4. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

A. Lease Agreement

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair was still in discussions with OIC on this matter, and works were planned to bring the property up to a suitable standard.

B. Upgrade of Video and Audio Equipment

It was again noted that this project was dependent on the outcome of the lease discussions and that no further update was available at this time. The Chair had not had a chance to contact the museum in Lyness about the return of the longship, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Correspondence

A. Scops Arts Trust Grant 2022

An email regarding grants available had been circulated previously to members, regarding awareness talks, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Fully funded Short Courses - Robert Gordon University

An email had been circulated previously to members, regarding funded short upskilling courses at the university, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Community Stories Fund

An email had been circulated previously to members, regarding organisations and community groups who want to take part in and celebrate Scotland's Year of Stories. A second funding round would be taking place in the second half of 2022 and will open for application from 24 January 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. ONWP - Traps

An email with an update on what the Orkney Native Wildlife Project had been working on had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. The William Syson Foundation - Funding

Members were advised of the latest funding, emailed previously to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Our Creative Voice - Kenneth Fowler

A briefing from Kenneth Fowler was emailed to members about a project being led by Creative Scotland: Our Creative Voice, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Briefing Note - Route Based Forecasting

An email had been previously circulated to members about the use of route-based forecasting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. COVID-19 and Omicron advice

Advice regarding the latest updates on COVID-19 and Omicron was emailed previously to members. I was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Historic Environment Support Fund

Members had been updated about the correspondence between the Clerk and HES regarding the Support Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Correspondence from the OIC Strategic Projects Team

An update on the work of location-specific community benefit scheme for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project was previously circulated via email to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Orcadian coverage

Members were informed about an email sent to the Chair regarding the potential for the Orcadian to cover some of the CC stories, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

L. Historic Environment Support Fund

Members had been updated on correspondence between the Clerk and HES regarding the Support Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Consultations

A. Aviation Strategy

Members had been notified of the online consultation, open until 21 January, to inform the development of the Scottish Government's Aviation Strategy, and it was:

Resolved that no comments were to be forwarded at this time.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2022

Members had been previously sent a copy of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2022 for consultation from Orkney Islands Council, which was open for comments until 4 March 2022, and it was:

Resolved that no comments would be forwarded.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance and Saga Centre 2021/2022

Following consideration of the financial statements as at 23 December 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of £20,676.31 in the general account and £33,557.80 in the Saga Centre account.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 December 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,610.40.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 23 December 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,755.42.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 23 December 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,518.00.

8. Request for Financial Assistance – Christmas Party

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Community School for financial assistance towards their Christmas party in December, it was:

Resolved that it had been agreed via email to award a general fund donation of £50 towards the party, which had since been paid out.

9. Publications

The following publications, which had been previously emailed to members, were noted:

- VAO – Newsletter – December 2021.
- VAO - Training and Funding Updates – January 2022.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – January 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business – Charity Status

The Chair discussed with members the possibilities of moving the Orkneyinga Saga Centre towards charity status. It was still not clear whether this would be in partnership with the Orphir Community Association, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That it would be investigated what steps need to be taken to become a charity.

B. To seek more information on whether the Orkney Community Association would consider merging or unify with the Saga Centre and what other opportunities exist.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held on Thursday, 3 March 2022, in person or via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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