

# Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr David Hamilton, Mr Colin Kirkness, Mr Graham Brown, Mrs Evelyn Grant, Mr Kevin Groundwater, Mrs Karen Ritch, Mr Gary Sinclair and Mrs Helen Woodsford-Dean.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Rachael King.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Councillor Jean Stevenson (via Teams).
- Ms Hayley Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Mr Ross Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Reverend Kerr Wintersgill, Milestone Community Church.
- Ms Michelle Ward, Service Manager, Women's Aid Orkney.
- Ms Jayne Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk.

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## **1. Presentation From Women's Aid Orkney**

The Service Manager of Women's Aid Orkney gave a talk about the dynamics of domestic abuse and the impact this has on the survivor. A background history was given, with Orkney being the last county in Scotland to establish Women's Aid. Members heard that referrals had increased by 16% over the last year, with the thinking that women now feel more comfortable in approaching the service. Domestic Abuse was still under reported, with many survivors not willing to refer the matter to the police due to the lack of confidence in the Criminal Justice system. There are ongoing discussions with The Orcadian concerning Domestic Abuse reporting, which presently leave the survivor open to exposure. In 2019, the Domestic Abuse Act was updated to include coercion and control as a criminal offence. The Service Manager completed her talk, and after answering a number of questions, left the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **2. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Duncan Tullock.

## **3. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting held on 4 October 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr G Brown and seconded by Mr K Groundwater.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Harray Hall Car Park**

Following on from the email circulated from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure regarding the condition of the car park, Ms Green stated that the car park remains on the list for repair. If there are further concerns regarding the condition, representatives of the Harray Hall should contact OIC via the online portal to request potholes to be filled. The car park concerns would be raised at the relevant committee in February, whereby an inspection of the car park would be carried out. Members would still like to know who would be held responsible for any accidents on the car park due to the potholes and uneven surface, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the above and await response of where responsibility lies should an accident occur due to potholes and uneven surface.

### **B. War Memorial, St Peter's Kirkyard**

Following on from an update from the Community Council Liaison Officer, which was circulated to members outlining the cost of repair, members asked if it was possible for a Community Council to crowdfund or apply to such organisations as the British Legion/Poppy Fund. As the War Memorial Fund had already rejected a previous application, would it be worth approaching them again to see if they would contribute a percentage of the cost. Members agreed to consider this in the next financial year, and to add onto the agenda in the Spring 2024.

Councillor King asked whether it would be beneficial to approach other Community Councils as a collective approach. The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications stated that there are plans to invite the Chair and Vice Chair of Community Councils to meet to discuss such items as this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk enquire whether alternative funding can be sought via organisations such as the British Legion/Poppy Fund, or whether the War Memorial Fund would be willing to pay a percentage of the cost of repair.
2. That the Clerk, via business letter, enquire whether Community Councils are able to crowdfund for such repairs.
3. That members would consider the repairs again in the Spring 2024.

### **C. Blackening Vandalism**

No update had been received, but members asked if it would be possible to put posters in the toilets, with this being continued in the new toilet blocks once built, and it was:

Resolved to enquire, via business letter, whether this would be possible.

### **D. Planning Applications – Bus Shelter**

No update had been received, but members agreed to add this to the agenda in Spring 2024, and it was:

Resolved to add the item to the agenda in Spring 2024.

### **E. Strathborg**

The Clerk had contacted the Orkney College, and they were willing to help, but the type and number of trees were required. Mr G Brown passed on information from the Orkney Woodland Project, and the Clerk would contact them for more information. Mrs H Woodsford-Dean stated that Zero Waste have Orkney grown trees, which would be ideal for the area, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the Orkney Woodland Project.

### **F. Rats in Harray Kirkyard**

Members considered the reports from Pest Control, which had previously been circulated, and agreed that the bait traps had not eradicated or solved the rat problem. Members agreed to continue for another year, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request that traps be laid for another year, to be funded by the community council.

### **G. Glass on Paths**

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, stated that visits were made to the area when glass has been reported. It was suggested that Cursiter

Quarry be contacted if glass is sighted, as traces can be made of lorries carrying such a load. If the situation arises again, members are to contact the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, and she would be able to track it at the quarry, and it was:

Resolved that members report any sightings of glass on the path to the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

## **H. Brodgar Road**

Members had previously been sent a response from the Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council, covering all the areas of concern. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, stated that discussions were being held with Stagecoach. The Road Safety Forum was due to meet soon, and this concern would be raised. There are hopes to have a resolve to this safety concern before Christmas, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

## **I. Waste Charges – Dounby Show**

Discussions had been held with the Waste Team, and unfortunately, the actions of the West Mainland Agricultural Society collecting the bins would not reduce the bill significantly, it would just reduce labour costs. It was recognised that the Society had been undercharged in previous years.

The Chair asked what the cost would be if the Society bought their own bins and just had them collected. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, stated that they would still be charged for collection and labour. Mr G Sinclair stated that the Society were looking at other avenues, and the matter would be discussed at the West Mainland Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting in January, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the information.

## **J. Abandoned Car**

Members advised that the car had now been removed, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the information above.

## **K. Christmas Lights**

The Chair had asked for the lights to be dropped off by OIC but was later informed that this was not possible, and that Frasers now had to collect these, which would add to the original quoted cost. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would enquire about the reason for non-delivery by OIC. The Chair asked to be copied into any email correspondence.

Fitting of the lights would commence on Monday, 27 November by Frasers. One member from the Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows would be at the Tree Lighting to turn on the lights. Ministers from the Milestone Kirk would give the Christmas message, and the Church Choir would sing Christmas Carols. Members of the

Dounby School FODS would go, with a Piper, to the Milestone Kirk after the Tree Lighting.

Selection boxes had been ordered and would be taken to the Milestone Kirk for the school children to collect, along with a bottle of whisky for Santa, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the information and await a response from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, concerning the delivery issues of the lights.

## **L. Grit Bins**

Members advised that grit bins had not yet been put in place at either the Sandwick Hall or the Milestone Community Church, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would ask if they could be delivered soon.

## **M. Waste Charges – Dounby Show**

Item already discussed in 4i, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

## **N. Water On Road - Sandwick**

Members advised that the issue had now been resolved, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

## **O. Market Green Planning Application**

Members were advised that the Market Green Planning Application was being discussed at the Planning Meeting on Wednesday, 29 November, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

## **P. Trees for Strathborg**

Item already discussed in 4e, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the Orkney Woodland Project.

## **Q. Grass Cutting Tenders 2024**

After consideration, members agreed that an advert be placed in The Orcadian for applications to tender for either a one- or three-year duration. The deadline for applications being set at 11 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, request an advert be placed in The Orcadian for applicants to tender for a one- or three-year contract, with a submission deadline of 11 March 2024.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. National Islands Plan Review – Workshop in Stromness – 6 October - Cancelled**

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence via email relating to information concerning a consultation on the review of the National Islands Plan, but this had now been cancelled due to ferry cancellations, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Winter Service Plan**

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence relating to the Roads Winter Service Plan for 2023/24, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Weather Disruption – Reporting – Scottish Islands Federation**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from The Scottish Islands Federation relating to possibilities of travel disruption in local areas, with delays and cancellations on all transport modes as well as power outages, and disruptions to other services, due to forecasts of high winds, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Michael Brass Invoice**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email of the invoice from Michael Brass for grass cutting services at Strathborg, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **E. My Place Awards - Celebrating Placemaking Efforts in Scotland**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from the Scottish Civic Trust to raise awareness of their national My Place Awards, which celebrate projects and people that work to improve places and communities in Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **F. Fact Find Around Benches Questionnaire**

Members considered and completed the questionnaire from the Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council concerning individual Community Council's involvement around benches, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would complete the agreed response and submit the online questionnaire on behalf of Harray and Sandwick Community Council members.

## **G. Bins at St Michael's Cemetery**

Members considered the proposal to move the existing bin at St Michael's Cemetery to an alternative location, but felt the Cemetery would benefit with an additional bin at the proposed location, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request an additional bin at the proposed location.

## **6. Consultations**

### **A. National Islands Plan Review – Shetland Workshops – 1 and 2 November**

Information from the consultation on the review of the online National Islands Plan on 1 and 2 November had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. National Islands Plan Consultation Event – Stromness/Westray – 7 November**

Information in relation to National Islands Plan consultation workshops happening in Stromness and Westray had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan Consultation**

Members had previously been sent information on a PhD research project around Our Islands, Our future (OIOF) towards the development and implementation of the National Islands Plan (the Plan) through the Institute for northern studies, UHI Orkney. Recognition of work in renewables and THAW in Orkney legislation, policy and regulations can play a large role in decisions and outcomes in the isles. An understanding was being sought of how islanders (past and present) are interacting with the National Islands plan and the impacts of the decision-making process, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 10 November 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,006.58.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 10 November 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining for approval in the main and additional capping limits were £0.03 and £743.00, respectively.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

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

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £2,892.16.

### **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Members had previously been sent copies of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 10 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that £0.00 remained available for approval to projects.

## **8. Applications for Financial Assistance**

### **A. HYFC National Speechmaking Trip**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Harray Young Farmers, requesting financial assistance towards a two-day trip to Edinburgh for a junior speechmaking final on 9 December for two residents, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £60 be given towards each of their costs towards the trip.

### **B. Letter from Ms D Walker re Road Repair**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Ms D Walker, Appie House, Harray requesting assistance towards road repairs on the Howe Road, it was:

Resolved that the application was declined.

### **C. Sandwich Community Association - Christmas Events**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Sandwich Community Association requesting financial assistance towards a Christmas Party for children on 16 December and a Senior Citizens Christmas dinner on 17 December, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a general fund donation of £250 be given towards the Children's Christmas Party.
2. That £300 be given towards the Senior Citizen's Christmas dinner on evidence of receipts up to those amounts.

## **9. Publications**

Resolved to note that the following publications had been forwarded to members:

- VAO – Newsletter – October 2023.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – October 2023.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter November 2023 – 16 Days of Activism Special Edition.
- Police Scotland – Newsletter Issue 4.

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

### **A. Dog Waste Signs**

A member of the public had approached the Chair requesting signs be put up around the Dounby area for owners of dogs to clean up after them. The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, stated that a campaign could be effective and that he had a number of ideas, and would get back with more information, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk, via business letter, would request that signs be placed around Dounby as a reminder for owners of dogs to clean up after them.
2. That the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, would report back to members with campaign ideas.

### **B. Bus Shelter - Dounby**

A member of the public had approached the Chair to complain about the number of cars continually parking in the bus stop, opposite Asda, resulting in members of the public having to walk onto the road for the bus. Members discussed requesting line markers be repainted and “Buses Only or Bus Stop” be painted on the road along with a sign stating the area is for buses only, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request for the bus stop marker lines to be repainted and road markings be painted with either “Buses Only or Bus Stop” and a sign be put up with “Buses Only.”

### **C. Dropped Kerbs**

Members would like an update on whether this is still being considered in the Dounby plan, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk, via business letter, would forward a request as to whether this is still being considered in the Dounby Plan.

### **D. Verge Cutting**

Mr C Kirkness wished to know why Evie and Finstown had verges cut inside the 30mph speed limit, but Dounby did not. Councillor O Tierney stated that he would enquire and report back, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor O Tierney would investigate the matter and report back to members.

## **E. Roads Repair Policy**

Mr C Kirkness asked to have sight of the Roads Repair Policy, as a great number of roads in the Harray and Sandwick area have awful road surfaces. He would also like to know where the previous budget allocation had gone when road surface works were suspended, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request a copy of the Roads Repair Policy and enquire on the budget allocation from suspended road surface works.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

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

Resolved that the next two meetings of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 24 January and 13 March 2024 commencing at 19:30 in Milestone Community Church.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:53.