

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm, on Wednesday, 30 August 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Erland Drever, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson, Richard Shearer (via Teams) and Robbie Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, Orkney Islands Council.

Chair:

- Alan Scott in the Chair.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minute	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Correspondence	4
5. Community Council Accounts	5
6. Financial Statements	5
7. Financial Requests	6
8. Christmas Tree Lighting	7
9. Consultation – Visitor Levy Bill	7
10. Meetings Attended by Members	8
11. Publications	8
12. Any Other Competent Business	8
13. Date of Next Meeting	9
14. Conclusion of Meeting	9

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 26 June 2023 was approved, being proposed by Christine Muir and seconded by Bill Robertson, subject to the following item of discussion:

Various Roads Matters

Following a query from Councillor Skuse regarding the decision that ward members would email the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure requesting that the widening of the B9052 (from the war memorial down to the corner at the brig) be added to the programme of road improvements, it was:

Resolved to note the clarification provided by the Clerk that the Head of Neighbourhood Services had advised that this was the appropriate governance route to ensure the Community Council's request was considered, following which Councillor Skuse confirmed that Councillor Moar had agreed to follow this up.

3. Matters Arising

A. Various Roads Matters

The Clerk advised that no response had yet been received from Orkney Islands Council in relation to the first two points raised, namely further information regarding the legal requirements for white centre lining on classified roads and whether the annual removal of stones at Graemeshall had been undertaken, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should again write to Orkney Islands Council seeking the information required, including whether it was Scottish Government or local Council policy to remove centre white lining.

B. Gate in Old Kirkyard

Robbie Thomson had taken photos of the gate and queried whether a repair or a full refurbishment was required, and it was:

Resolved that Robbie Thomson should provide a detailed quote for refurbishment of the gate, for consideration at the next meeting.

C. Proposal for Living Christmas Tree

The Chair advised that this was currently with Ewan MacKenzie to provide advice on the type of tree and costs, and he would report back to the Community Council once this information was received, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

D. Holm Graffiti

Robbie Thomson reported that he had painted over the graffiti on the sea wall and provided photos, and it was:

Resolved that, as members considered the painting to have effectively covered over the graffiti, this action should now be closed.

E. Street Lighting Columns – Connections for Christmas Lights

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding street lighting columns, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the necessary connections for the Christmas lights would be installed by the end of October.
2. To note that the old brackets could be removed to allow the wraps to be extended down the street lighting columns, rather than bunched up as at present.
3. That the Clerk should seek a quote from ALFIK Shore Based Services for the hire of a loadall, and contact Eddie Fraser Electrical, Finstown, for them to remove the old brackets and lower the existing wraps, as well as fit the wraps to the new connections on the columns which had been replaced following damage, with a view to the work being carried out by the end of November, with all costs being met from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

F. 4G Coverage in St Mary's

Following consideration of correspondence from L McArthur MSP regarding 4G coverage in St Mary's, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided by the Parliamentary Liaison Officer for Virgin Media/O2 to L McArthur MSP regarding existing network coverage by O2 in St Mary's, which indicated strong outdoor coverage, but noting that the signal might not be able to penetrate houses fully, in which case householders could consider Wi-Fi calling.

G. Rigs in Scapa Flow and Scapa Deep Water Quay

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council responding to various points raised by the Community Council regarding rigs in Scapa Flow, noise issues and lighting at the Scapa Deep Water Quay, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That David Sawkins, Depute Harbour Master (Strategy and Support), Orkney Islands Council, be invited to the next meeting to provide a further update.

H. War Memorial

The Clerk advised that, although The Yard Nursery had been asked to provide a quote, this had not yet been received, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact The Yard Nursery regarding a quote for tidying up the war memorial.

I. Bin at St Nicholas

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding emptying the bin at St Nicholas Kirk, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the bin was serviced fortnightly with the domestic waste collection.

J. Holm Gala Day

The Clerk advised that, although the Community Council had agreed to provide assistance of £800 towards costs associated with the Holm Gala Day, to be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme, Holm Community Association had only be able to provide receipts to the value of £425, and it was:

Resolved that the remaining balance of £375 be paid as a donation from the General Fund.

4. Correspondence

A. Poppy Wreaths – Remembrance Sunday

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the cost of the poppy wreath be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme.
2. To note that the Clerk had contacted A Drever who advised that he would make the necessary arrangements for the short service on Remembrance Sunday.

B. Layby at end of Cornquoy Road

Following consideration of correspondence from E Flett regarding the layby and popular viewpoint at the corner of Cornquoy Road end opposite Hurtiso Farm and the litter left lying around which then blew onto fields where livestock were grazing, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that a bin, or alternatively, a black wheelie bin (as in those used for domestic rubbish) could be placed at the layby.

C. Appeal for Compassionate Community Approach to Media Engagement

Following consideration of correspondence from ORSAS appealing for a compassionate community approach to media engagement, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Community Council Accounts

Following consideration of the audited Community Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 31 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 31 March 2023 of £14,264.87.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/23 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 31 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 31 March 2023, projects to the value of £2,900.97 had been approved, of which £2,521.61 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,925.42.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

C. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 3 August 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the estimated balance as at 3 August 2023 of £17,024.64.
2. To note that the cost of six planters, charged to the General Fund, would be amended on the next statement, as it should be charged to the Community Council Grant Scheme (application 82302).

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/24 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 August 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 3 August 2023, projects to the value of £1,054.18 had been approved, of which £812.18 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £3,033.49.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 3 August 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 3 August 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

7. Financial Requests

A. Gymnastics Competition

Following consideration of applications from S Brown requesting financial assistance towards her daughters participating in gymnastic competitions in Perth on 10 June 2023 and in Inverurie on 25 June 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that grants of £30 be provided in respect of each competition, subject to confirmation of attendance.

B. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council

Following consideration of correspondence from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council requesting financial assistance towards costs associated with the Bonfire and Fireworks to be held at Pickaquoy on 4 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £200 be provided, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

C. Holm Bairns Hallowe'en Party

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the bairns Hallowe'en party to be held on 31 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £200 be provided.

D. OYDG

Following consideration of correspondence from E and T Drever requesting financial assistance towards their son competing in the Orkney under 11 OYDG football squad in Shetland, between 19 and 21 August 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

E. Holm Senior Citizens Christmas Meal

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the Holm Senior Citizens Christmas meal, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Holm Community Association requesting further information on the price per head and potential numbers.

F. Athletics

The Clerk had received correspondence from E Thomson requesting assistance towards her daughter participating in the Under 15 athletics competition for the North Area Trophy, to be held in Inverness on 16 and 17 September 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

8. Christmas Tree Lighting

Following consideration of arrangements for the Christmas tree lighting in 2023, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that Holm Community Association had agreed to arrange an indoor tree lighting event on 25 November 2023.

B. That the Community Council should offer to purchase the Christmas tree, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

9. Consultation – Visitor Levy Bill

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Parliament regarding a Call for Views on the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill and advising that the deadline for submissions had been extended to 15 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

10. Meetings Attended by Members - Climate Change online event

The Scottish Government had organised an online event on 21 July 2023 for people in Orkney, as part of a series of “place-based events” aimed at helping to inform climate change policy and Just Transition Plans relating to transport, land use and agriculture and the built environment and construction sectors, and it was:

Resolved to note that Martin Lee had attended the online event in a personal capacity, as it was not a Community Council event.

11. Publications

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- VAO Newsletters – June and July 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – July and August 2023.
- Scottish Islands Passport – Latest News and Short Survey.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – Issue 3.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Greenwall Road

Members were again concerned at the state of the road near Greenwall, caused not just by school buses, but larger vehicles, including agricultural vehicles, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council again requesting that the junction be dug out and lined with hard core, as had been carried out at a junction in Deerness with similar problems.

B. Scapa Deep Water Quay – Street Lighting

Martin Lee advised that, during public consultation events, it was commented that street lighting would be required on the full length of the access road down to the proposed new quay, as well as at the bus shelter and covering the junction with the main Kirkwall-St Mary’s road, and it was:

Resolved that, as David Sawkins was to be invited to the next meeting, he should be asked about the requirement for street lighting.

C. Footpaths

In response to a query from Erland Drever regarding the provision of a footpath past the Barrier View Café and on to the Rockworks and potentially to the junction with the Graemeshall Road, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Island Council querying what happened to the proposal which the Community Council submitted in response to a request for new footways etc.

D. Resurfaced Path

The Chair referred to recent works undertaken on the footway from outside Alfred Flett's workshop to the end of Sutherland Drive, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council querying the standard of micro asphaltting, as it did not appear that the surface was acceptable.

E. Various Roads Related Matters

The Chair suggested that, given the number of queries continually raised regarding roads, footpaths, etc, it might be appropriate to consider a special meeting, with appropriate officers from Orkney Islands Council invited to attend, to address all the various queries raised.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on Wednesday, 8 November 2023 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.