

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council via Microsoft Teams at 19:30 on Wednesday, 11 November 2020

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr G Brown, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mr C Kirkness, Mrs K Ritch and Mr G Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J McGrath, Interim Clerk/Community Council Liaison Officer.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr I Flett and Councillors R King and O Tierney.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the general meeting held on 26 August 2020 was approved by members, being proposed by Mr C Kirkness and seconded by Mrs E Grant.

3. Matters Arising

A. St Peters Car Park and Kirkyard Gate

The Interim Clerk read out an email which had been received from the Burial Grounds Clerk, which advised that she had arranged for the gates to be replaced. It was also reported that the potholes in the car park had been reported and would be addressed by the Roads Support team. Members asked whether it would be possible for the old gates to be removed meantime, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would enquire with the relevant department as to whether the old gates could be removed.

B. Northbigging Road – Visibility Issues

The Interim Clerk advised that no update had been received, and members reported that it was still difficult to see when exiting the junction. Mrs E Grant agreed to speak with the householders concerned first, and then contact Democratic Services if there was no improvement, and it was:

Resolved to discuss again at the next meeting.

C. Water on Appiehouse and Kierfield Roads

Members reported that there were a number of areas where water was lying or running down the roadways and asked whether it would be possible to put out flooding signs at times of particularly wet weather. The Interim Clerk advised members to take photographs or video of the areas when it was particularly bad. It was also reported that there were a number of potholes between Kierfield Farm and Housegarth and agreed that the water lying was a result of the water runs not being cleared, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would again report the problem areas.
2. To continue to monitor the situation.

D. Christmas Tree – Arrangements

The Chair advised that it was planned to erect the Christmas Tree on 2 December and that the lights would be switched on later that week. It was agreed that selection boxes should be purchased by the Community Council as a gift for each of the children at Dounby Primary School, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would liaise with the Chair regarding the purchase of selection boxes.
2. To note the information provided.

4. Correspondence

A. Bus Shelter – Bimbister Road End

Following consideration of correspondence from a Harray resident, copies of which had previously been circulated, querying whether consideration could be given to the erection of a bus shelter at the end of the Bimbister Road, members felt that this was not a suitable place for a shelter and that there were not presently enough school-aged children in that vicinity to warrant a shelter at this time, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond to the correspondence accordingly.

B. Web Workshop on Rural Connectivity

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the 5G New Thinking project and an associated workshop which had been held that day, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided details on the final Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind which had recently been published, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Conversation with the People of Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO, in conjunction with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, NHS Orkney and Orkney Health and Care, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a series of events aimed at capturing people's experience of health services during the pandemic, it was:

Resolved to note that the events had taken place on 4 November.

E. CLAN Support and Wellbeing Centre

Following consideration of correspondence from CLAN Cancer Support, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that local support services had reopened in September, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Waste and Recycling Services

Members considered correspondence from Infrastructure and Strategic Projects, OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding plans to resume normal waste and recycling services in due course, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Festive Lighting

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding festive lighting which was being recommended for replacement, and plans to hand over responsibility to the Community Councils, members discussed the costs involved in removing, storing, maintaining and eventually replacing decorations. They also asked if it would be possible for communities to have collective storage arrangements. It was agreed that further information would be required, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would make enquiries and report back to the next meeting.

H. Briefing Note – Offshore Wind Project, Caithness

Members considered correspondence from Xodus Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Dounreay Tri project, and members agreed it would be good to be kept up to date with progress on this. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would advise Xodus Group of the Community Council's interest in receiving further updates.

I. West Mainland Tourist Brochure

Members discussed the recent reprint of the tourist brochure, and noted that the £90 fee would be split between the five Community Councils involved, to be taken from CCGS, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and the funding commitment.

5. Consultations

A. Local Housing Strategy

Following consideration of the Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 mid-point review and associated consultation, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

B. Islands Communities Impact Assessment

Following consideration of the consultation document from the Scottish Government's Islands Team, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £7,675.02 as at 30 October 2020.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £3,296.21, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £669 as at 30 October 2020.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for allocation was £9,640 as at 30 October 2020.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval was £2,500 as at 30 October 2020.

7. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Remembrance Day Wreaths

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed, via email, to fund the wreaths for the Harray and Sandwick War Memorials from CCGS, at a cost of £64.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Coaching Courses

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for funding towards a local resident taking part in coach education courses, it was:

Resolved to award £50 from the general fund, as per the financial policy.

C. VAO Membership Renewal 2020/2021

Resolved to note that the membership had been renewed for the financial year 2020/2021 at a cost of £15.

Resolved to note that no financial requests had been received.

8. Publications

The following publications had been received and made available to members via email:

- VAO Newsletter – July to October 2020.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – August to October 2020.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Roads Issues

Members advised of the poor state of the Nistaben Road in Harray, particularly at Netherbrough at Caperhoose corner, and on the Russland Road towards Northbigging and down from the Merkister Hotel. Councillor D Tullock advised that members of the public could report such issues directly to OIC through the MyOrkney portal, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would report these issues to the Roads Support team.

B. Harray Hall Car Park

It was reported that the Harray Hall car park was in a poor state, especially at the front, and members queried whose responsibility it was, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would enquire with the relevant department.

C. Minutes and Agendas

Members asked whether it would be possible to advertise so that folk were more aware of when the meetings would be taking place, and also if it would be possible for minutes to be posted directly to the Harray and Sandwick Facebook page.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the meeting date could be submitted by the Clerk to Radio Orkney so that it could be read out as part of the Daily Diary.
2. That a link to the Community Council minutes page of the OIC website could be put on the Harray and Sandwick Facebook page.

D. Grass Cutting Tenders

Members were advised that the tenders would need to be advertised shortly so that contractors could be appointed to cut the various areas in the parishes and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the grass cutting tenders would be advertised with a closing date of the day before the next meeting, so that they could be discussed accordingly.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Following a discussion regarding dates for the next meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next two meetings of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held either online or in the Milestone Church, Dounby, on Wednesday, 10 February 2021 and Wednesday, 21 April 2021, both commencing at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:10.