

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm and via Teams on Wednesday, 8 November 2023 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse.
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications), Orkney Islands Council.
- David Sawkins, Deputy Harbour Master (Strategy and Support), Orkney Islands Council.
- Naomi Bremner, Eylandskyn.
- Jack Farnham, Development Manager, West of Orkney Windfarm (via Teams).
- Donald Budge, West of Orkney Windfarm (via Teams).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- One member of the public.

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1. Apologies

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

2. West of Orkney Windfarm

Following a presentation from West of Orkney Offshore Wind Farm representatives, including the project timeline which suggested that construction would commence in 2027, the potential to utilise Scapa Deep Water Quay as a construction base, initially for three years, community benefit, including being a Silver Sponsor of the Island Games 2025, attending supply chain events organised in Orkney and potential investment from both the UK and Scottish Governments in both renewables and port infrastructure, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

3. Orkney Harbours Masterplan – Scapa Deepwater Quay

Following a presentation from David Sawkins and Naomi Bremner on progress with the Scapa Deepwater Quay project, including ongoing procurement exercises, potential for external grant funding and/or investment, lighting of the quay, on the access road and on the realignment of the A961, and community benefit in the procurement sense, rather than as an ongoing financial benefit, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

Jack Farnham, Donald Budge, David Sawkins, Naomi Bremner and the member of the public left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 30 August 2023 was approved, being proposed by Robbie Thomson and seconded by Bill Robertson.

5. Matters Arising

A. Various Roads Matters

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Island Council responding to queries regarding road widening in Holm and white lining, including text from relevant legislation and guidance, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to a special meeting, at which representatives from Orkney Islands Council would be present, to be held in early December.

B. Gate in Old Kirkyard

The Clerk had just received a quote from R Thomson for works to the gate in the old kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved to circulate the proposal by email for approval.

C. Proposal for Living Christmas Tree

The Chair advised that there was nothing further to report at this time on the proposal for a living Christmas tree, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

D. Christmas Wrap Lighting

The Clerk advised that Eddie Fraser Electrical Ltd and ALFIK Shore Base Services had been instructed to carry out the works to the Christmas wrap lighting, the cost of which would be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

E. War Memorial

Following consideration of correspondence from The Yard regarding maintenance at the Holm war memorial, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Clerk had secured permission from members via email for The Yard to proceed with an initial general tidy up to the upper and lower paved areas, including loose pointing between slabs, siting two wooden planters, planted with spring bulbs and a general tidy up and pruning of the shrub bed, in time for Remembrance Day, at a cost of £280, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
2. That the Clerk should seek a quote from The Yard for Phase 2, namely planting up a hawthorn hedge along one side and the back of the memorial, as well as a revamp of the shrub bed, to be carried out in Spring 2024.

F. Layby at end of Cornquoy Road (Hurtiso Viewpoint)

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council responding to the request for a litter bin to be provided at the Hurtiso viewpoint, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as the Hurtiso viewpoint was not a picnic spot, a litter bin in a remote location would only attract fly tipping and more litter, therefore Orkney Islands Council would not be providing a litter bin at the layby.
2. That the matter should be further discussed at the special meeting with the representatives from Orkney Islands Council to be held in early December.

G. Greenwall Road

The Clerk had not yet received a response from Orkney Islands Council to the request that the junction be dug out and lined with hard core, as had been carried out at a junction in Deerness with similar problems, and it was:

Resolved that the matter should be further discussed at the special meeting with the representatives from Orkney Islands Council to be held in early December.

H. Footpaths

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising on the proposal to extend the footpath beyond Barrier View Café to the junction of Number 1 Barrier, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, in the spring/summer of 2024, Orkney Islands Council would look to speak to/visit all communities for a review of the Local Development Plan and to speak to communities on completing community led local place plans.
2. To note that the request for the footpath was noted, however at this point in time Orkney Islands Council had limited resources to lead on this type of work.

I. Resurfaced Path

The Clerk had received a note from Orkney Islands Council in relation to the query regarding the standard of micro asphaltting on the footway from outside Alfred Flett's workshop to the end of Sutherland Drive, stating that they had no concerns meantime, and it was:

Resolved that the matter should be further discussed at the special meeting with the representatives from Orkney Islands Council to be held in early December.

6. Correspondence

A. Scottish Civic Trust – My Place Awards 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust regarding the My Place Awards 2024, which celebrated projects and people that worked to improve places and communities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. West of Orkney Windfarm – Offshore Applications

Following consideration of correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm regarding the submission of offshore consent applications and notices which would appear in the local press, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Scottish Islands Federation – Weather Disruption – Reporting

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding reporting of travel disruptions due to weather warnings which might impact the resilience of Scottish island communities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Totem Pole

Christine Muir had received representations from a member of the public regarding the condition of the totem pole at the Rockworks, particularly where the pole entered the ground, and, after discussion, it was:

Resolved that Martin Lee should contact Scottish and Southern Energy to ascertain whether they would be willing to inspect the totem pole and make recommendations for any remedial works.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 26 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 26 October 2023 of £16,426.24.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/24 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 26 October 2023, projects to the value of £2,469.18 had been approved, of which £1,479.18 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £2,184.49.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 26 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 26 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

9. Financial Requests

A. Holm Senior Citizens Meal

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association providing details on arrangements and costings for the Holm Senior Citizens' meal, proposed for 9 December 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £1,000 be provided, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
2. That, should Holm Community Association be unable to provide receipts up to the value of £1,000, the remaining balance be paid as a donation from the General Fund.

B. Scottish Canoe Association – Fit for Girls Programme

Following consideration of correspondence from J Munro requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Fit for Girls programme through the Scottish Canoe Association in partnership with SportScotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 for each of the two trips, be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

C. OYDG Under 11s

Following consideration of an application from E and T Drever requesting financial assistance towards E Drever Jnr's participation in OYDG's Under 11s football match in Dingwall on 23 and 24 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be provided, subject to confirmation of participation.

D. Holm Children's Christmas Party

Following consideration of an application from the organisers of the Holm Children's Christmas Party requesting financial assistance towards the party to be held on 3 December 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £300 be provided.

E. Gymnastics

The Clerk had received an application from S Brown requesting financial assistance towards E and A Brown participating in a gymnastics competition in Inverness on 19 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 towards each gymnast be provided, subject to confirmation of participation.

F. Scottish Schools Netball and Orkney District Netball

The Clerk had received an application from M Ewing requesting financial assistance towards A Ewing participating in the Scottish Schools Cup and for Orkney in the District Cup, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be provided in respect of each game attended, subject to confirmation of participation.

G. Wick Academy Football and KGS School Football

The Clerk had received an application from M Ewing requesting financial assistance towards G Ewing participating in the Highland League with Wick Academy and as part of the KGS school football team in the Scottish Schools Cup, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be provided in respect of each game attended, subject to confirmation of participation.

H. Climbing

The Clerk had received correspondence from L Moar requesting financial assistance towards K Moar competing in the British climbing finals to be held in Southampton, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be provided towards competing in the British finals, as well as £30 towards competing in each of the preceding rounds, subject to confirmation of participation.

I. Review of Policy

After discussion on the existing policy for financial assistance, it was:

Resolved that the policy be reviewed at the next meeting, particularly in relation to participation in events within the UK, but out with Scotland.

10. Meetings Attended by Members - Getting it Right for Everyone

Orkney Health and Care had organised an Idea Generation Session in respect of Getting it Right for Everyone (GIRFE) held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 18 September 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that Councillor Gillian Skuse had attended the event, with further sessions to be arranged.

11. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletters – August, September, and October 2023.
- ORSAS – Quarterly Newsletter – September 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – September and October 2023.

- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – Issue 4 – 2023.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Benches

The Clerk had received correspondence from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council regarding benches, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should complete the survey on behalf of the Community Council, advising that the Community Council had not previously assisted with maintenance of benches, noting that there was one bench in the playpark and one at the Hurtiso viewpoint.

B. Business Gateway

The Clerk had received correspondence from Business Gateway Orkney offering a workshop event in the local community hall for people thinking about starting a new business, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should provide Business Gateway Orkney with contact details for Holm Community Association.

C. Coastal Erosion

Following discussion of coastal erosion along the main road through St Mary's, opposite the property known as Rowan Cottage, as well as on the coastal road near St Nicholas Kirk, it was:

Resolved that the matters should be further discussed at the special meeting with the representatives from Orkney Islands Council to be held in early December.

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, 24 January 2024 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 21:45.