

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 18:00

Present:

G Robertson, T Avis, C Bates, A Clark, A Sinclair and R Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Stockan.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- Mr L McArthur, MSP.
- Mr C Bell, RSPB.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mrs K Dobrzynski, Island Link Officer/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from J Traynor and Councillor R Crichton.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 3 July 2020 was approved, being proposed by G Robertson and seconded by C Bates.

3. Matters Arising

A. Road to Groat's Shop

Following consideration of an update from the OIC regarding the road to Groat's Shop, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and that a letter to be forwarded to OIC to reconsider repairs being carried out before the suggested timescale of 2022/2023.

B. Hoy Wind Farm

Following consideration of an update statement from the Project Officer, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

C. Refuse Collections

Following consideration of an update from OIC regarding the Refuse Collections, it was:

Resolved that to note the content of the update.

D. Special Refuse Collections

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the re-instatement of Special Refuse Collections, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the ILO would forward a letter to request better communications from the department when an uplift has been requested and paid for.

E. Walls War Memorial - Date Error

Following consideration of an update regarding the date error on the Walls War Memorial, an assurance that the error would be rectified without cost to the Community Council, and advice to forward apologies for the error, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the update.

2. That the ILO would inspect and obtain photographs to ensure the date has been rectified.

F. Aggregate

Following consideration of an update from the ILO advising that there were two applicants who were yet to uplift their requested allowance, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the update.
2. That the ILO would contact applicants to ascertain if they still wanted to claim their allocated allowance.

G. Abandoned Vehicles

Following an update from the Democratic Services regarding the number of abandoned vehicles on the island, it was:

Resolved:

1. To request further information on the possibility of Environmental Health contacting owners to remove abandoned vehicles.
2. That Councillor J Stockan would obtain information on the OIC policy on the removal of abandoned vehicles.

H. Overhanging Trees

Following consideration of complaints received from residents regarding overhanging trees and damages to vehicles, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the complaint.
2. That the ILO would collate a list of landowners to send a letter of request to trim overhanging trees and shrubbery.
3. To monitor the situation.

I. Rackwick Road

Following a complaint made by one of the Community Councillors regarding the road repairs due to be carried out on the Rackwick Road, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the complaint.
2. That the ILO would write to OIC to ask if the road repairs were being done in the near future or if SSE intended to complete them after Phase 2 was complete.

4. Correspondence

A. SNH/ONWP Stoat Trapping

Following consideration of the correspondence from Scottish National Heritage (SNH) regarding SNH/Orkney Native Wildlife Project Stoat Trapping, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Leader Evaluation

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding Leader evaluation, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Island Community Resilience Group Updates

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding Island Community Resilience Group Updates, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To invite Sergeant Martin Arbuckle of Kirkwall Police to the next Community Council Meeting.

D. New Draft Dementia Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the New Draft Dementia Strategy, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. SSEN - Pentland Firth East Cable Replacement

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding SSEN commencing Pentland Firth East cable replacement, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. New Pentland East 33kV Cable

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the New Pentland East 33kV cable, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

G. Local Electricity Bills Reintroduction

Following consideration of correspondence from Power for People regarding the Local Electricity Bills Reintroduction, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Ferries for Graemsay, Hoy and Walls

Following consideration of correspondence from Alistair Carmichael MP regarding the Ferries for Graemsay, Hoy and Walls (case ref: AC9000), it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

I. Community Council Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Community Council Survey, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

J. New Befriending Opportunity

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO regarding New Befriending Opportunities, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

K. Feedback for Recovery Group

Following consideration of correspondence from T Avis regarding Feedback for the Recovery Group, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

L. Views on participation requests and asset transfers

Following consideration of correspondence from Local Government and Communities Committee regarding a survey of views on Participation Requests and Asset Transfers, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

M. Tuesday Community Resilience meeting

Following consideration of correspondence from T Avis regarding the Tuesday CR meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

N. Biosecurity Plan Proposal

Following consideration of correspondence from Chris Bell, RSPB and Orkney Native Wildlife Project, regarding the Biosecurity Plan Proposal for Hoy and Walls, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

O. Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

Following consideration of correspondence from Sectoral Marine Planning regarding the publication of the plan for Offshore Wind, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

P. Conversation with the People of Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding invitations to events for the 'Conversation with the People of Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

Q. Alliance Scotland – Conversation with the People of Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Orkney regarding feedback required on Scotland's experience related to the Covid 19 pandemic, it was

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

R. Emily Bragg, Jehovah's Witness Worldwide

Following consideration of correspondence from Emily Bragg regarding Jehovah's Witness Worldwide Campaign, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

S. St Colm's Housing Complaint

Following consideration of correspondence received by the ILO from residents complaining about housing allocation on St Colm's Quadrant, and a report from Councillor J Stockan advising that an update would be forwarded once investigations had concluded, it was:

Resolved to note the complaint and ongoing investigation by OIC.

T. My Place Awards

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Civic Trust regarding the My Place Awards 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

U. Alliance Scotland Privacy Document

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Orkney regarding a Privacy Document for Alliance Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

5. Consultations

A. HIAL Air Traffic Management Strategy: Impact Assessment

After consideration of the HIAL Air Traffic Management Strategy consultation, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 19 August 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Local Housing Strategy

After consideration of the Local Housing Strategy consultation, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 28 September 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

C. Island Communities Impact Assessments

After consideration of the Island Communities Impact Assessments consultation, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 12 October 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the Community Council's general finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £15,565.86 as at 30 October 2020.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £648 in the island capping limit as at 30 October 2020.

C. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £4935.04 as at 30 October 2020.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note the funds remaining for approval of £3658.47 as of 30 October 2020.

7. Presentation by RSPB

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the RSPB officer, who made a presentation on the Biosecurity Plan for Hoy Proposal. The Chair thanked him for the presentation, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation and that, going forward, T Avis would work with Chris Bell as a representative of the Community Council.

8. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications were made available at this meeting:

- Orkney Ferry Statistics June, July and August 2020.
- To Absent Friends.
- Plantscape - £1000 funding available for High Street floral displays.
- News from the Carnegie Trust.
- VAO July and August 2020 Newsletters.
- VAO Training and Funding Update September.
- VAO Volunteering Summary November.
- VAO Summary of Volunteering Opportunities November.
- Scottish Water Newsletter.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Internet Services on Hoy

After consideration of an update from the ILO on the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme and a letter from Alistair Carmichael MP on the current grant schemes available, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and correspondence and to continue exploring possibilities of aggregating schemes and vouchers to fund a Community Wide Scheme.

B. Resilient Communities Fund

After consideration of correspondence from Scottish and Southern Electricity regarding the grant of £2,060 issued to Graemsay, Hoy and Walls towards the cost of a satellite phone, asking for an evaluation form to be completed, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the ILO would reply stating that due to the cost and accounting complications, the purchase of a satellite phone could not be progressed and query whether the Community Council could hold on to the monies for a little while longer or could they use the monies for something else on the island.

C. Virtual Visits with Liam McArthur MSP

After consideration of discussion with Liam McArthur MSP regarding thoughts and suggestions from the Community Council on how best to organise virtual visits for residents of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the discussion.

The Chair thanked Liam McArthur MSP for joining the meeting and advised that it was reassuring for both the CC and residents that he is contactable.

D. St Colm's Play Park

After consideration of an enquiry and complaint regarding the change of responsibility of the play park and the siting of a port-a-cabin on the play park, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the discussion.
2. That the ILO would send a letter to OIC asking:
 - Why has the port-a-cabin been placed on the play park?
 - Why are the workmen blocking access to garages that residents pay for?
 - Has there been an area allocated for children to play in whilst the port-a-cabin is in situ?
 - What will be done to rectify the areas of ground that has been churned up by vehicles and materials?

E. St Colm's Bus Shelter

After consideration of a complaint from a resident that the bus shelter had been damaged in the recent storms, it was:

Resolved to note that the damage had now been repaired.

F. Hoy Wind Farm

After consideration of the email received from the Project Manager regarding an update of the planning application, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

G. Community Resilience

After consideration of an update from T Avis regarding the current resilience group, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and to add to the agenda of the next CC meeting for further discussion.

H. Recycling

After consideration of an update from Councillor J Stockan, regarding the existing restrictions social distancing requirements of drivers due to the current COVID 19 pandemic and the limited availability of vehicles, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the update.
2. That the ILO would ascertain when the Stronsay trial was due to finish and when Hatston Recycling Centre would be accepting plastics for recycling.

I. 5G Workshop

After consideration of an update from the ILO regarding the 5G workshop she attended, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the update.
2. That the Strategic Advisor (Renewables and Connectivity) should be invited to the next CC meeting and asked if she would like to produce a statement that can be distributed to the public.

J. Rackwick Water Improvement Scheme

After consideration of an update from Councillor J Stockan regarding the current progress of the scheme being at a standstill due to the COVID 19 pandemic, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

K. Hoy on Hoy

Following an update from Councillor J Stockan on the plan for Sir Chris Hoy to visit Hoy in September 2021 and his intention to approach the IoHDT to discuss a business plan in connection with the visit, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

L. Christmas Trees at Moaness, Lyness and Longhope Piers

Following a request for the CC to consider supporting Christmas trees to be sited at Moaness, Lyness and Longhope, it was:

Resolved to note the request and that, as the application was received so late, the CC would make a donation of £100 to each of the piers as a one-off donation and that the recipients for each pier would be:

- Rachel Thomson for Moaness Pier.
- Emily Smith for Lyness Pier.
- Kieran Sinclair for Longhope Pier.

M. St Colm's Play Park Grass Cutting

Following a request by one of the Community Councillors to donate funds, retrospectively, for the cutting of the grass at St Colm's Play Park during the summer, it was:

Resolved to note the request and that a donation of £100 be made to Matthew White for the cutting of the grass at St Colm's Play Park.

N. Bent Light by The Steadings

Following consideration of a report that there was a bent streetlight by The Steadings, it was:

Resolved to note the complaint and that the ILO would report the issue for rectification.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would be held on Friday, 26 February 2021.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:10.