

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held in the Milestone Kirk, Dounby, on Wednesday, 2 November 2022 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Mr T Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Councillor J Stevenson (via Teams).
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors R King, O Tierney and D Tullock.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held on Wednesday, 31 August 2022 were approved, being proposed by Mr K Groundwater and seconded by Mr C Kirkness.

3. Presentation - Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Members received a presentation from the Community Liaison Officer which provided details on how many traps had been set and numbers of stoats removed. So far, over 400 stoats had been removed in the parishes of Harray and Sandwick. Funding was still in place until the end of the project, despite Brexit, and tracker dogs had been used to provide better accuracy on where the stoats were living, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

4. Matters Arising

A. Festive Lighting

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the lights were in storage ready to be delivered to the communities. The erection, maintenance and storage of the lights would be the responsibility of the community council going forward, and this was discussed at some length. Members were concerned that there was not much time left to arrange for the lights to go up before the festive period, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would circulate the Festive Lighting policy.
2. That the Roads Support Officer would be asked to meet members of both Harray and Sandwick and Birsay Community Councils at the Market Green on the evening of Monday, 7 November to discuss the project and to provide information.
3. That the Chair would contact local contractors with the view to having at least some of the lights up in time for the run up to Christmas.

B. Rats in Harray Kirkyard

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the Council maintained that they had not set any traps in the kirkyard and that it was not their responsibility to do so. Members were not content with this response and explained that this was an issue that they were approached by members of the public about many times over. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the business letter to Democratic Services, if the Council would consider adding the kirkyard to their existing pest management contract, if the CC assisted with any cost.

C. Car Park at Bay of Skail

Members were advised that some works had been carried out, and that this area was not under Council ownership, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Car Park at St Peter's Kirk, Sandwick

A response from the Roads Support team had been circulated previously to members, advising that this car park was not maintained by OIC and that their only maintenance liability would be on any part of the access that could be deemed to be within the boundary of the public road. Members discussed the possibility of arranging some works themselves, like they had done recently at the Market Green, and it was:

Resolved to add this as an agenda item for the March meeting.

E. Harray Hall Car Park

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the Council would carry out works but that this would not be a priority, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Road Signs around Dounby

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there were a number of signs that they were aware of that had been identified through inspections, and that these would be attended to as resources permit, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Correspondence

A. Memorial Inspections

Members discussed correspondence from the Burial Grounds Officer, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that following inspections, there had been no memorials in the Harray or Sandwick kirkyards which required attention. Members commented on the short timescale involved in trying to track family to attend to any memorials that required repair, and it was:

Resolved that this comment would be fed back to the Burial Grounds Officer via the business letter to Democratic Services.

B. Evening Bus Services

A copy of the evening bus service timetable had previously been circulated to members, and they commented that it was a very good service, despite not going from Twatt to Stromness, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling

Members discussed correspondence from the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding potential projects for new and improved footpaths, and it was:

Resolved to suggest extending the path from Dounby to Northbigging along the main road both ways, and in front of the new houses on the Swartland Road.

D. NHS Scotland – SHARE

Correspondence from NHS Scotland had previously been shared with members, relating to the Scottish Health Register and Biobank, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Appointment of new OIC Chief Executive

Members had been forwarded an email earlier in the day to advise that a new Chief Executive, Oliver Reid, had been appointed to Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Consultation - Scottish Islands Federation

Members had been forwarded correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation with information on various events and consultations that may be of interest, and it was:

Resolved to note that members could engage in any of these events or consultations should they wish to do so.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 27 October 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,824.15.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 27 October 2022, 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 £3,006.01 and £743 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 27 October 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £9,640.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Members had previously been sent copies of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 27 October 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note that £2,500 remained available for approval to projects.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Thurso Open

Members had previously been sent a copy of a financial request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, asking for assistance with the cost of taking two local swimmers to the Thurso Open in September 2022. It was noted that Arwen West had already received the maximum grant available for this financial year, and it was:

Resolved to award £50 towards Robbie Morrice's trip to Thurso.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North District Open, Aberdeen

Members had been forwarded by email a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, asking for assistance with the cost of taking one local swimmer and one official from the area to a competition in Aberdeen in November. It was noted that Eve Wood had already received the maximum grant available for this financial year, and that the CC did not provide travel grants to over 18's, and it was:

Resolved not to make an award on this occasion.

C. Sandwick Community Association – Christmas Events

The Interim Clerk read out a request from Sandwick Community Association, for financial assistance towards a bairn's Christmas party on 17 December and also a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner on 18 December. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £250 towards the Christmas party and a separate donation of £300 towards the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, which would be subject to CCGS approval.

D. Kayla Harvey – U17's Orkney Netball – Aberdeen

Mrs K Ritch declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

The Interim Clerk read out a request which had been received by email, asking for financial assistance towards a trip to Aberdeen with the U17 Orkney Netball squad, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

9. Publications

Members noted the following publications, which had previously been emailed by the Interim Clerk:

- VAO – Newsletter – August, September and October 2022.
- VAO - Training & Funding Update – September and October 2022.
- Alistair Carmichael Correspondence – 5 September.
- Good to Share – NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland Update – October 2022.
- Scottish Water – Newsletter - Autumn 2022.
- Orkney Harbours – Offshore Wind Newsletter – September 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Financial Policies

Members asked if it would be possible to have information on what other community councils' financial policies were so that they could consider what their standard awards should be going forward, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would circulate the relevant information to members after the meeting so that they could consider the rates.

B. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Interim Clerk advised that two sets of lights had been ordered along with the tree. The Chair advised that the ceremony would take place at 18:30 on 2 December and that no road closure would be required. The tree would be put up on 30 November. It was agreed that the Kirkwall Town Band would be asked to play and that the Chair would arrange purchase of more cable ties for the tree. Birsay Community Council would also be asked to help marshal, and the new ministers would be contacted with regards to reading the Christmas message and turning on the lights, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. War Memorial in St Peter's Kirkyard

A member reported that the lettering on the war memorial in St Peter's Kirkyard had become faded and required to be repainted. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would report this to the Burial Grounds Officer, via the business letter to Democratic Services, and ask that if this was under OIC's remit, it be attended to.

D. Verge Maintenance

Members commented that the verge cuts had been done too late this year, and that the last cut should be in August and then not again. They felt that many of the problems with drainage off the roads had been caused by grass cuttings blocking the culverts, and that the ditch clearing was not being done properly either, and it was:

Resolved to feed these comments back to OIC Roads Support via the business letter to Democratic Services.

E. Road Repair near Refuge Corner

Members asked what was being done with the road repair on the Harray straight, near to Refuge Corner, where there was currently a ramp and signage in place, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would enquire via the business letter as to when the repair was expected to be complete.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Following consideration of meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesdays 25 January and 8 March 2023.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.