

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held via Teams and in Firth Community Centre on Thursday, 21 April 2022, at 19:30

Present:

Mrs W Dunnet, Mr R Hourston, Mr N Macleod, Mr V Muir and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms L Richardson, Interim Head of Roads, Fleet and Waste.
- Ms L Aitcheson, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies had been received.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mrs A Stevenson and seconded by Mr V Muir.

3. Matters Arising

A. Road Repair Fund

Members resumed consideration of setting up a Road Repair Fund and heard that the Community Council could use its own budget to support applications. It was suggested that there should be a limit to how often individuals could apply to the fund. Members heard further about the process and procedure adopted by other Community Councils, and it was agreed that Democratic Services would forward to members details of this process and procedure, and it was:

Resolved that the matter would be discussed at a future meeting.

B. Donation Box Firth Park Garden

It was noted that Mr M Lynch, who had been working on this project, had stepped down from the community council and, after a brief discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mr R Hourston would take this matter forward.

C. RSPB Walkway

Members heard that the walkway was in disrepair but that it was not owned by the Council or RSPB. Members agreed that the damaged walkway was a hazard and asked that it now be removed, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would ask the relevant section if Orkney Islands Council would remove the walkway.

D. Bag the Bruck

Members heard that no groups had applied for sponsorship, and it was agreed that the local schools should be contacted to ask if they would be participating, with a view to funding them, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs A Stevenson would contact the local schools regarding Bag the Bruck.

E. Purchase of Picnic Benches

Members heard that four six-seater picnic benches had been ordered from St Colm's and that there was room for only two of these, which had been placed at the foreshore car park in Finstown. It was advised that two six-seater picnic benches had been returned to St Colm's, who had confirmed that they could be swapped for two three-seater park benches, which would fit better into the local area. Members

discussed suitable locations for the park benches, and it was agreed that Mr N Macleod and Mr V Muir would take this matter forward, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would order two three-seater park benches from St Colm's to replace the returned two six-seater picnic benches.
2. That members could consider the purchase of a third three-seater park bench at a future meeting.

F. Kirkyard Dyke Repair

The Chair advised that the damage had been done before the contractor had started work at the rear of the kirkyard. The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that the Burial Grounds Officer would investigate further, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Dog Fouling

The Interim Head of Roads, Fleet and Waste advised that there were no funds for new bins and that members could ask to have either existing bins moved to different locations or existing waste bins altered to dog waste bins or vice versa. Members heard that the Council placed a strong emphasis on dog owners being responsible and taking their dog waste away for disposal, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Christmas Tree at Firth Park

Members resumed consideration of the proposal to site a Christmas Tree within Firth Park, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council would not be placing a Christmas tree in this area.

4. Correspondence

A. Climate Action Funding

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding funding for climate action projects, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Letter of Introduction – West of Orkney Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence from Offshore Wind Power Limited, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the proposed West of Orkney windfarm, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. OIC Marine Planning Update

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a Marine Planning Update, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Memorial Safety/Repair Training

Members discussed correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that the Council would undertake an annual inspection of all Orkney gravestones and that there would be training to enable a range of people to inspect and repair gravestones. Members heard that part of this training would be to identify hazards and where possible, fix minor repairs on the spot or mark the gravestone as a hazard with a view to contacting families to discuss repair, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Availability of iPads

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the availability of iPads from Community Learning, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Planning Aid Scotland Services

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding Planning Aid Scotland Services, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Scottish Flood Forum

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an event on 25 – 29 April in Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Hope Co-Housing

Members discussed correspondence which had been circulated prior to the meeting, advising of an event in May which was being organised by Hope Co-Housing, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 4 April 2022, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining for approval was £11,897.62.

B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund

Members heard that the Community Fund would receive further income from the Wind Turbine project in this current financial year and that in the previous year, this money was donated to the Foodbank. After consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 4 April 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining for approval was £5,000.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 4 April 2022, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,584.00.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 4 April 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for allocation was £3,615.63.

E. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Members heard that each Community Council would be granted £500 to support the Jubilee celebration projects and that interested groups should be asked to submit invoices in order to receive funding, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Folk Festival

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Folk Festival, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the event, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £300 be granted.

B. Mrs I Linklater – Netball - Aberdeen

Following consideration of a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of attending a competition in Aberdeen on the weekend of 26/27 February 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

C. Mrs K McIntosh – Netball - Aberdeen

Following consideration of a request from Mrs McIntosh, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards taking part in a

rescheduled trip to the under 13's Netball Scottish Cup tournament for one local competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted for the trip.

D. OASC – North District Age Group Championships, Aberdeen

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards travel to a competition in Aberdeen in March for one local competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted for the trip.

E. OASC – Pentland Pentaqua, Wick

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards travel to a competition in Wick for seven local competitors, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted to each competitor for the trip, totalling £175.

F. OASC – Scottish National Age Group Championships, Glasgow

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards travel to a competition in Glasgow for one local competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted for the trip.

G. OASC – North Atlantic Challenge, Lerwick

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards travel to a competition in Lerwick for two local competitors, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 per competitor be granted for the trip, totalling £50.

H. OASC – Thurso Mini Meet

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards travel to a competition in Thurso for five local competitors, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 per competitor be granted for the trip, totalling £125.

7. Consultation Documents

A. 2022 Verge Maintenance Plan - Reminder

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the verge maintenance plan and a reminder that any comments should be submitted, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments were to be forwarded.

B. Finstown Traffic Management Study - Concerns and Options

Following consideration of an Orkney Islands Council consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding traffic control for Finstown village, members heard that a draft report had been received by Orkney Islands Council and that on receipt of the final report, it would be shared with Orkney Islands Councillors and Community Council members. It was also reported that further consultation would take place over the Summer of 2022, and that a public meeting to discuss this matter could be arranged, and it was:

Resolved to note that members wished no decisions should be made prior to a public meeting.

C. Disability Equality Scotland Event

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing information on an event to be held at the Pickaquoy Centre at the end of March 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had since passed.

D. Winter Service Plan 2022/2023

Following consideration of an Orkney Island Council consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Winter Service Plan for 2022/2023, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that comments could still be submitted until August 2022.

8. Publications

The following publications had been circulated previously, and were noted by members:

- VAO - Newsletter – February 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – February and March 2022.
- New Orkney Contract for Healthcare Improvement Scotland Community Engagement – March 2022.
- Scottish Rural Action News – April 2022.
- Police Scotland Orkney Area Newsletter.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Wall in Firth Park

Members heard that the wall in Firth Park was damaged and stone to repair it had been sourced from Cursiter Quarry at a price of £850. Members queried whether a discount could be applied, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To apply for CCGS on a cost of £850 towards the purchase of stone.
2. That Democratic Services would check the possibility of a discount with relevant officers.
3. That Mr Wood would be instructed to arrange the repair meantime.

B. Grass Cutting

Members discussed the grass cutting contract with Isbister's and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would contact Isbister's regarding their contract to cut the grass in the Firth and Stenness community areas.
2. That the Clerk would contact Isbister's to ask for the grass cutting to be resumed immediately.

C. Thank You Cards

Members signed thank you cards to be sent to Mr M Lynch who had resigned as a member of the Community Council and to Mr I Heggie, the outgoing Clerk to the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would post these cards to Mr M Lynch and Mr I Heggie.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be determined when the new Community Council was elected in July.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

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