

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Kirk, Dounby, on Wednesday, 25 January at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Councillor R King.
- Mr S Harris, Burial Grounds Officer (via Teams).
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs K Ritch and Mr K Groundwater, and Councillor J Stevenson.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held on Wednesday, 2 November 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr G Brown and seconded by Mr G Sinclair.

3. Dounby Plan

Members received an update from the Dounby Community Plan meeting of 18 January 2023. A number of concerns were raised with the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, including that they would prefer the toilet block to be moved slightly within the site. Members heard that the Dounby Plan was being submitted to the Development and Infrastructure Committee on 21 February, where further development requests can be raised.

A member requested a meeting with the planners to discuss the Community Plan, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, will enquire about all concerns raised, and report back to the Community Council.
2. That the Clerk will request, via business letter to Democratic Services, representation from the Planning Department, OIC.

4. Matters Arising

A. Rats in Harray Kirkyard

The Burial Grounds Officer gave an update of the findings from Pest Control, confirming that there is evidence of rat activity alongside the boundary wall, on the Merkister Hotel side. He added that evidence of vole predation is evident at the War Memorial/extension. He explained that three options were available:

- Prevention pointing on the exterior wall, but this will be expensive.
- Target the rats with gas, but this would mean the closure of the cemetery for three days.
- Setting of bait boxes. Initial cost of set up would be in the region of £600/£650. Ongoing costs of quarterly visits would be £320 per year.

As there was no available budget for this work within the kirkyards budget, the community council agreed that they would be willing to cover the costs. A member asked how soon this work could take place, and the Burial Grounds Officer stated that he would enquire about a start date. All members agreed that they favoured option 3, and agreed to go ahead, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would ask, via the business letter to Democratic Services, for Pest Control to commence work.
2. That the Clerk would apply for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance on the estimated cost of £650 for the installation of the boxes.
3. That the Burial Grounds Officer would inform members of the expected start date, once known.

B. Car Park at St Peter's Kirk

Resolved to forward this item to the March meeting for discussion.

C. Harray Hall Car Park

Members were disappointed to hear from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, that the Council are not prepared to repair the car park as a matter of urgency as it is not a public road and is not on their schedule of works. Members commented that Council vehicles and lorries have been sighted on the car park, contributing to the damage. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, said this would be checked with the Roads Department, and it was:

Resolved that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would report back on the findings from the Roads Department and a timescale for works at the car park.

D. War Memorial, St Peter's Kirkyard

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that an application had been submitted to the War Memorials Trust for funding towards the lettering, but there was a possibility this may not be successful due to a previous application being approved, and it was:

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

E. Dounby Plan

Resolved to note that this matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting, at Item 3.

F. Financial Policies

Members had been forwarded information on and had considered financial policies of other community councils around Orkney. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved

1. To amend the travel grant rates, from the start of the 2023/2024 financial year as follows:
 - Travel within Orkney, £20.

- Travel out with Orkney (3 trips maximum), £60 (first trip), and £40 for any subsequent trips.
- Grants only applicable to pupils still attending school.
- Any other awards considered on a case-by-case basis.

2. To review the financial policy at the first meeting of each calendar year.

F. Festive Lighting

The Chair asked the Community Council Liaison Officer if the additional new lights had been ordered, as they would like them to be in place for next year. She confirmed that the order was still to be made but that this would be done well in advance of the festive season. The Chair also reported that of the existing lights, one was currently not working, and that storage also needed to be considered for next year, due to the quantity increase. Councillor R King enquired about insurance when stored, and it was suggested that the lights would be included in the community council's policy. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs E Grant would enquire about possible storage in the United Free Church.
2. That the Clerk would ask, via a business letter to Democratic Services, if a store or shed can be placed on the site of the old toilet block, once demolished.

H. Road Repair near Refuge Corner

There was no update on this item, and the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, advised that she would contact the Roads Department, and it was:

Resolved that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would provide an update and report back on a planned completion date.

5. Correspondence

A. NHS Scotland – SHARE

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

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Invitation to meet the Convener of the NZET Committee

Correspondence from the NZET Committee had previously been emailed to members regarding a meeting in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. HITRANS Scottish Islands - Windracers

Correspondence was shared with member from HITRANS Scottish Islands relating to the Windracers UAV technology, which has a capability of delivering critical cargo to remote areas within the UK, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. EMEC Billia Croo – Section 36 Consent – Notice of Determination

Correspondence from EMEC, regarding consent granted by the Scottish Ministers to construct and operate an offshore generating station had previously been shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. West of Orkney Windfarm – Community Panel

Correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm advising of the date and time of the Orkney Community panel, via Teams had previously been shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

Correspondence from the SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow, informing members of the virtual event, was shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Thank You Letters

Members were informed that a thank you letter had been received from Kayla Harvey, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Consultations

A. Boundary Commission for Scotland

Members had been forwarded correspondence from the Boundary Commission for Scotland's consultation on its Revised Proposals of UK Parliament constituencies, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. EIA – Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub

Members had been forwarded correspondence in relation to the Scapa Deep Water Quay and the Orkney Logistics Base (Hatston) projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Pentland Floating Offshore Windfarm

Members had been forwarded correspondence from Marine Renewables concerning additional information of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan

Members had been forwarded correspondence regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that members had no comments to make.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 18 January 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £15,170.86.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 18 January 2023, 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 £2,913.81 and £743 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 18 January 2023, 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 18 January 2023, and it was:

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

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Jenna Miller – Netball - Glasgow

Members had been forwarded by email a request from Jenna Miller, asking for financial assistance to attend netball events in Glasgow, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had previously agreed via email to award a general fund donation of £50 towards Jenna Miller's trip to Glasgow.

B. Dounby Centre Bowling Group

Members had previously been forwarded by email a request from the Dounby Centre Bowling Group, asking for assistance with the cost of hall hire, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £100 towards the Dounby Centre Bowling Group's hall hire, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Dounby School P7 Trip to Hoy

The Chair read out a request from Dounby School, for financial assistance towards the P7 trip to Hoy in April. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £450 towards the Hoy Trip, subject to CCGS approval.

9. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – November and December 2022.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – November 2022.
- Alistair Carmichael Correspondence – 28 November 2022.
- Good to Share – NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland Update – November 2022.
- Scottish Water – Newsletter - Autumn 2022.
- Orkney Harbours – Offshore Wind Newsletter – October and December 2022.
- Scottish Government and CoSLA – “Let's Talk Scottish Education”.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Grass Cutting Tenders

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the tenders for grass cutting at Sandwick and Harray kirkyards and the Strathborg seating area were ready to go out, if members were in agreement to advertise. Following discussion on preferred length of contract, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise the kirkyard grass cutting tenders on a one-year contract.
2. To set a closing date prior to the next meeting so that tenders could be discussed, and decisions made.

B. Sink Hole in Sandwich Kirkyard

A member had previously reported a sink hole in Sandwich Kirkyard, and the meeting was advised that the Council was aware of this, and that it was being actioned. Family members were also being kept informed of progress, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Grit Bin at Sandwich Hall

A member reported a requirement for a grit bin at Sandwich Hall, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request this, via the business letter to Democratic Services, and ask if this could be put in place.

D. Dropped Kerbs for Wheelchair Users

A member requested if the dropped kerbs for wheelchair users could be reassessed, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request this, via the business letter to Democratic Services, and ask if this could be investigated.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Following consideration of meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Harray and Sandwich Community Council would be held on Wednesdays 8 March, 26 April and 30 August 2023.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15.