

# Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in Firth Community Centre on Wednesday, 21 September 2022 at 19:30

## Present:

Mrs Winifred Dunnet, Mr Raymond Hourston, Ms Barbara Scollay and Mrs Ann Stevenson.

## In Attendance:

- Ms Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Councillor Rachel King (via Teams).
- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Mr Mark Bailey, Community Engagement Officer, VAO (via Teams).
- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Welcome**

The Community Council Liaison Officer opened the meeting and welcomed the new member to the Community Council. She referred to the Scheme of Orkney Community Councils and explained the role of Democratic Services.

## **2. Election of Office Bearers**

### **A. Chair**

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mrs Winifred Dunnet be elected Chair of Firth and Stenness Community Council.

### **B. Vice Chair**

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mrs Ann Stevenson be elected Vice Chair of Firth and Stenness Community Council.

### **C. Planning Representative**

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr Raymond Hourston be appointed Planning Representative for Firth and Stenness Community Council.

## **3. Adoption of Community Council Constitution**

Following consideration of the constitution, it was:

Resolved to adopt the constitution for Firth and Stenness Community Council.

## **4. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Jean Stevenson and Duncan Tullock, and the Clerk, Ms Linda Aitcheson.

## **5. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the of meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 21 April 2022 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Raymond Hourston and seconded by Mrs Ann Stevenson.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **A. Finstown Traffic Management Study - Report**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services was present to hear concerns and answer queries in relation to the Finstown Traffic Management Survey, and subsequent report, which had recently been completed.

Members expressed disappointment that the survey had been carried out in January and February and felt that the results would have been different if it had been done over the summer. The Head of Neighbourhood Services explained that there was a process that had to be followed due to there being a petition submitted, and the timing of the survey was due to the period they had been allowed to investigate and respond to this.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services explained that a consultation exercise had been carried out and extensively publicised, but that they could not force people to contribute. 272 responses had been received, and an expert opinion was also considered when writing the subsequent report.

There were various discussions around the location of the counters, and average speeds recorded, as well as what the members felt the solutions could be.

Because of the nature of some of the questions, the Head of Neighbourhood Services suggested that the Roads Support Manager attend to speak to this item at a future meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To keep this on the agenda.

Councillor Owen Tierney left the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **B. Weed Management in Finstown**

Whilst the Head of Neighbourhood Services was still in attendance, members asked why the Council had not been out treating weeds. They were advised that this was simply a matter of resources, and that because they only had a small team, they had to focus on immediate safety issues. Work would be actioned as and when time and resources allowed.

Members also commented on the state of some of the signage around the parishes of Firth and Stenness, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. To ask via the business letter that road signs be cleaned and replaced where necessary.

Councillor Rachel King left the meeting at this point.

## **C. Kirkyard Extension**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services was also asked to comment on the extension to Finstown kirkyard, as the members had concerns about the wall, land ownership and also the damage done to a resident's fence. She explained that planning determined the design of the extension wall and that the gates had gone up that day,

and also apologised on behalf of the Council for the damage done. She offered to check the status of discussions over who owned the strip of land between the kirkyard wall and the back of the houses, which was full of weeds, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the conversation.
2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would return with a response regarding ownership of the strip of land to the rear of the kirkyard.

#### **D. Christmas Lights**

Members asked about this project, and were advised that the lights had now been delivered and that it would be the responsibility of the Community Councils to install, store and maintain them, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

#### **E. Dangerous Memorials**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that inspections had been taking place across Orkney, and they would notify Community Councils of any memorials that were found to be unsafe to see if they could assist in tracking down relatives. The Council would not be fixing someone else's memorial as it was the family's responsibility to carry out a repair, but they would make it safe if it was regarded a high hazard. The correspondence from the Burial Grounds Officer, copies of which had been emailed to members prior to the meeting, advised that 2 out of 689 memorials in Firth cemetery and 1 out of 474 in Stenness cemetery were considered "dangerous and needing actioning", and it was:

Resolved to note the report and correspondence regarding dangerous memorials.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services left the meeting at this point.

#### **F. Road Repair Fund**

Members resumed consideration of this item, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would provide a map of Firth and Stenness showing the parish boundaries so that this item could be discussed again at the next meeting.

#### **G. Donation Box - Firth Park Garden**

Members resumed consideration of this item, and as the person who was previously looking into this had now left the Community Council, it was:

Resolved that Mr Raymond Hourston would pursue this and look at appropriate boxes and fittings.

## **H. Bag the Bruck**

Stenness School had advised that they had carried out a collection, but no response had been provided by Firth School, so it was agreed to check, and that if both schools had done some kind of tidy up around the time of the event, they would share the funding, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact both schools, who would be provided with a donation of £150 each towards this event from CCGS should it turn out that they had taken part in the event.

## **I. RSPB Walkway - Future Plans**

Neither Democratic Services or members had managed to find out any more about the walkway, and it was:

Resolved to ask via the business letter to Democratic Services if the remains of the hide and walkway could be removed as it was a safety hazard.

## **J. Picnic Benches**

The issue with the bench location had been resolved, but it was agreed that the benches should be taken in prior to Halloween, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would arrange for the CC-owned benches to be stored inside over winter.
2. To include in the business letter to Democratic Services that there were a lot of weeds around at Flett's Corner and ask that they be dealt with.

## **K. Wall in Firth Park**

Resolved to note that the works to repair the wall in Firth Park had now been completed to a very satisfactory standard.

## **L. Grass Cutting**

The grass cutting in Firth Park was discussed again, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk/Democratic Services would check the contract to confirm the number of years it was to cover.
2. That the Clerk would make sure that the contractor was aware of the terms and conditions and that there was another year of the contract remaining.

## **7. Correspondence**

Resolved to note the following correspondence, which had all been forwarded to members ahead of the meeting:

- West of Orkney Windfarm – Community Engagement Plan - July 2022.
- West of Orkney Windfarm – Crown Estate Scotland’s Sustainable Communities Fund – August 2022.
- Letter from OIC Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure – August 2022.
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland Community Engagement Team Orkney – information and update – August 2022.
- Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling.
- NSPCC - Talk PANTS Legacy Event – September 2022.

## **8. Finance Statements**

### **A. Annual Accounts**

After consideration of the Firth and Stenness Community Council year end statements as of 31 March 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of the end-of-year accounts for 2021/2022.

### **B. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,773.43 as at 29 August 2022.

### **C. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund**

Following consideration of the statement for the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance as at 29 August 2022 was £5,000.

### **D. Community Council Grant Scheme**

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 29 August 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £1,624.15, that the additional capping limit was fully allocated.

## **9. Financial Requests**

### **A. Mrs N Kenyon – Athletics**

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed to award £25 towards a local competitor travelling to an athletics competition in Falkirk in June 2022.

## **B. Mrs I Linklater – Athletics**

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed to award £125 towards two local competitors travelling to various athletics competitions in Inverness and Grangemouth during the summer (5 trips at £25 per trip).

## **C. Mrs N Kenyon - Athletics**

Members had previously been forwarded a request for financial assistance towards one local athlete competing in Grangemouth in August 2022, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £25 towards the trip.

## **D. Kirkwall and St Ola CC – Bonfire and Fireworks 2022**

Members considered a request from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of putting on the annual bonfire and Fireworks display in Kirkwall on 5 November, and it was:

Resolved to make a donation of £100, subject to CCGS approval.

## **E. Stenness Community School – Outdoor Education Event**

Following consideration of a request from Stenness Community School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of six P6 children taking part in Outdoor Education activities in September and October 2022, it was:

Resolved to make a donation of £25 per pupil, totalling £150.

## **F. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Autumn Meet**

Members considered a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been emailed, for financial assistance towards one local swimmer attending the Autumn Meet in Inverness in September 2022, and it was:

Resolved to make a donation of £25.

## **G. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Thurso Open Meet**

Members considered a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been emailed to members, for financial assistance towards two local swimmers attending the Thurso Open in September 2022, and it was:

Resolved to make a donation of £25 to each competitor, totalling £50.

## **H. Mrs I Linklater – Athletics**

Members considered a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had been emailed previously to members, for financial assistance towards two local competitors attending a competition in Inverness in September 2022, and it was:

Resolved to award £25 to each competitor, totalling £50.

## **I. Stenness Community Association – Football Pitch Improvement Project**

Following consideration of a request which was read by the Interim Clerk at the meeting, asking for assistance with the cost of the football pitch improvement project, it was:

Resolved to award up to £1,200 towards the project, subject to CCGS approval, to include the cost of two benches the same as the ones purchased for Finstown, should the Association wish to have them.

## **10. Consultations**

### **A. Scottish Water Annual Consultative Meeting**

Members had previously been sent information on the annual consultative meeting of Scottish Water which had been held in August, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had taken place.

### **B. OIC and Stagecoach – Evening Bus Services**

Members had been forwarded an additional agenda item via email regarding evening bus services, and it was:

Resolved to note that the bus services were a welcome service and were well used.

### **C. OIC - Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling**

Members had been forwarded an additional agenda item via email, from OIC Development and Marine Planning, which asked for suggestions on areas where new or improved footpaths were needed around Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to suggest via the business letter that the route around the Ouse, from the brig at the school around to the mill, be considered.

## **11. Publications**

The following publications had been circulated to members via email and were noted:

- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – June 2022.
- VAO – Newsletters – June, July and August 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding update – July 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding update – August 2022.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – August 2022.

## **12. AOCB – Christmas Arrangements**

It was agreed that trees should be ordered for Finstown and Stenness, and to apply for CCGS on the cost. The Chair would contact the relevant people regarding the tree lighting, which would take place on 2 December 2022, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. To apply for CCGS on the cost of two Christmas trees, estimated to be £370.

### **13. Dates of Future Meetings**

Following discussion on dates for another meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held in Stenness School on Thursday, 17 November 2022 at 19:30.

### **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:47.