

# Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 29 November 2021 at 19:00

## Present:

Rikki A Lidderdale, Tom Rendall, David L Flett, Christopher Gee, Christine E Harcus, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie and John R Mowat.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
  
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
  
- Hayley Green, Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services, Orkney Islands Council.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
  
- Kevin Moar, Drugs Detection Dog Handler, Orkney Drugs Dog.
- Tom Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
  
- 1 member of the local press.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Moyra Gordon and Councillors Norman R Craigie and Andrew Drever.

## **2. Introduction**

The Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services, Orkney Islands Council, introduced herself and advised that she would be attending as many community council meetings as possible over the next few months in order to pick up on any matters concerning the individual community councils.

## **3. Police Scotland**

Unfortunately, Chief Inspector Ali Garrow was unable to attend the meeting.

## **4. Orkney Drugs Dog**

Following a presentation from the Drugs Detection Dog Handler, on the work of the charity, Orkney Drugs Dog, and his work with Zoe, the drug detection dog, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

The Drugs Detection Dog Handler left the meeting at this point.

## **5. Orkney Native Wildlife Project**

Following a presentation from the Community Liaison Officer, providing an update on the work of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, including monitoring wildlife, the detection dogs, education and awareness events and volunteer assistance, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

## **6. Minute of Previous Meeting**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 4 October 2021 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by Tom Rendall.

## **7. Matters Arising**

### **A. Dog Litter Bins**

Councillor John Richards advised that the Orkney Youth Forum had met recently and appointed a new Chair. The main item of business was meeting the recently elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament but he undertook to report back to the Community Council once the Youth Forum had discussed the issue of litter bins. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquooy**

The Chair reported that the event had taken place on Saturday, 13 November, after being postponed from 6 November due to adverse weather. Health and safety was top of the agenda. Donations totalling £900 had been received from other community councils, for which the Community Council was grateful, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### **C. Ragwort**

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Orkney Islands Council in response to the Community Council's further remarks regarding ragwort, and it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting and await a response from Orkney Islands Council.

### **D. Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding works at the Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, as there remained confusion as to whether the works carried out were as well as, or instead of, the works proposed by J Dowell and Sons, the Community Council Liaison Officer undertook to seek clarification and report back.

### **E. HiTrans – Small Grants – Community Active Travel Projects/School Streets**

The Chair reported that members of the Community Council had undertaken maintenance works on the bushes and shrubs along the core path at Cattie Maggie's and queried whether further works, including the installation of boardwalks at particularly wet stretches, might qualify for funding from the HiTrans small grants scheme, and it was:

Resolved that, in the first instance, land ownership should be ascertained, following which further consideration should be given to an application for external grant funding.

### **F. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Thank You**

The Clerk had received an email from the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club thanking the Community Council for financial assistance towards two residents participating in the North District Age Group championships held in Inverness on 9 and 10 October 2021, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

### **G. Bushes on Inganess to Scapa Core Path**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding maintenance of bushes and shrubs on the Inganess to Scapa core path, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that this matter had been discussed at item 4.E above.

### **H. Pothole at Easdale Loan/Holm Road**

Following consideration of a note from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising that the pothole at the junction of Easdale Loan and Holm Road had been identified as part of a recent safety inspection and would be attended to in due course, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **I. Doorway in St Olaf's Wynd**

Although initial enquiries had not confirmed ownership of the doorway in St Olaf's Wynd, the Chair undertook to follow up on potential ownership, and it was:

Resolved that, should the Chair's follow up conversations not confirm ownership, the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council instructing a legal search to be undertaken, at a cost of up to £100.

## **8. Correspondence**

### **A. Scottish Flood Forum**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a recent flood resilience community engagement event, including the recent visit by the Scottish Flood Forum, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. East Mainland Agricultural Society**

Following consideration of correspondence from the East Mainland Agricultural Society requesting support for an application to Orkney Islands Council's Community Development Fund for a new multi-purpose shed at the show park, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the East Mainland Agricultural Society supporting their application for funding.

## **9. Financial Statements**

### **A. General**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 17 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 17 November 2021 of £13,354.86.

## **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 17 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 17 November 2021, projects to the value of £2,727.72 had been approved, of which £727.27 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,691.37.

## **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 17 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,964.42.

# **10. Applications for Financial Assistance**

## **A. Orkney Gymnastics Club**

Following consideration of an application from M Want for financial assistance towards her daughter attending a gymnastics competition in Auchterarder from 14 to 17 October 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club**

Following consideration of an application from the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for financial assistance towards three swimmers participating in the North District Age Group Championships Part 2, held in Inverness on 13 and 14 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 for each swimmer be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **C. KGS Carol Service**

Following consideration of correspondence from P Stephenson requesting financial assistance towards costs associated with staging the KGS Carol Service in St Magnus Cathedral in December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration of the request pending clarification of one Council service charging another service for use of facilities.

## **D. Orkney Dance**

Following consideration of correspondence from C Inkster requesting financial assistance towards her daughter performing with the Scottish Youth Ballet in Dundee, from 4 to 6 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **E. Just Dance Orkney**

Following consideration of correspondence from M Want requesting financial assistance towards her daughter performing in Dundee, from 4 to 6 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **11. Consultations**

### **A. Local Transport Strategy**

Members considered a consultation from Orkney Islands Council regarding the development of a new Local Transport Strategy, with a closing date for comments of 1 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, and it was:

Resolved that members should submit individual responses.

### **B. Introduction of Memorial Permit**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the proposed introduction of a memorial permit, to ensure that memorials complied with standards, were checked on completion and that the work was auditable, with a closing date of 26 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that the Community Council was not in agreement with the proposal to introduce a memorial permit, with the stonemason to collect the money, proposed as a set fee of £50. There were no stonemasons in Orkney doing a bad job, the cemeteries were all well laid out and it was unreasonable to add yet another layer of bureaucracy, paperwork and cost on families when they were already dealing with a bereavement and could well be in shock and trauma.

### **C. Draft National Planning Framework 4**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government advising of the publication of the draft National Planning Framework 4, for which responses were required by 31 March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that consideration of submitting a response be deferred, to the next meeting, to allow members time to read the extensive consultation documentation and highlight any salient points.

### **D. Aviation Strategy**

Following consideration of correspondence from Transport Scotland advising of the publication of the draft Aviation Strategy, for which responses were required by 21 January 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that consideration of submitting a response be co-ordinated via email.

## **12. Meetings Attended by Members - Transport Scotland – Aviation Strategy**

Transport Scotland had arranged a drop-in session at Kirkwall Airport on 28 October 2021 to advise of the forthcoming consultation by the Scottish Government on an aviation strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had not been represented at the event.

## **13. Publications**

The Clerk had received the following publications which had been forwarded to members by email:

- SEPA Updates – 6, 15 and 27 October and 16 November 2021.
- L McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 8 and 29 October and 5, 12, 19 and 26 November 2021.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – 1 October 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Updates – October and November 2021.
- L McArthur MSP – Coronavirus/Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 26 October and 9 and 23 November 2021.
- Kirkwall BID – October and November 2021 Newsletters.
- VAO Newsletter – October 2021.
- Paths for All – eNews, 2 November 2021.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland – An Information Update from HIS Community Engagement Orkney Team – 10 November 2021.
- Scottish Water – Protect your pipes: heat, insulate and protection your home (email dated 23 November 2021).

## **14. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Winter Service – Route Based Forecasting**

The Clerk had received a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council advising of the introduction of Route Based Forecasting and consequent improvements to the winter service, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Lynn Road**

The Clerk had received correspondence from residents of Lynn Road advising of the poor condition of the road and asking whether the road could be resurfaced, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council to ascertain the status of the road, following which the matter could be reconsidered.

### **C. Town Centre Fund**

Councillor John Richards advised that there was a current underspend on Orkney Islands Council's Town Centre Fund grant funding of approximately £9,300 and asked whether the Community Council had any projects which might qualify, following the success of the improvement works at Tankerness House Gardens, and it was:

Resolved to note that, if ownership could be ascertained, improvement works to the doorway and arch at St Olaf's Wynd could be considered.

### **D. Metal Benches**

Councillor John Richards advised that two metal benches depicting war heroes, currently stored at the Royal British Legion premises at Junction Road, were due to be located at the Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial, and it was:

Resolved to note that arrangements were currently being made for the benches to be located in the vicinity of the Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial.

## **15. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held, most likely via Teams, on Monday, 24 January 2022, commencing at 19:00.

## **16. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:08.