

# Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in Stenness Community School on Thursday, 17 November 2022 at 19:30

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Jean Stevenson.
  - Councillor Owen Tierney.
  - Ms Hayley Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
  - Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
  - Ms Linda Aitcheson, Clerk.
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- One member of the press.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillors Rachel King and Duncan Tullock.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr Raymond Hourston and seconded by Ms Barbara Scollay, subject to the following amendment:

Item 6J1 should read “That the Chair would arrange for the CC-owned benches to be stored inside over the Halloween period”.

## **3. Matters Arising**

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

Following lengthy discussion, members observed that it was not obvious from the existing plan where the 40mph limit would begin, and that any speed restrictions required enforcement. Members further suggested that there was a feeling amongst the community that their views were not heard and that the consultants did not know the area and therefore, did not know the best solutions. Members indicated that a public, face-to-face meeting, rather than an on-line consultation, is more effective. The Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure reported that a full consultation had taken place regarding this issue. Councillor Owen Tierney raised the question of amendment to the existing plan, suggesting the that flashing warning signs be placed at the entrances to and the middle of, Finstown and to move to use of the buffer zones if the flashing warning signs proved unsuccessful, given that the existing plan had not yet been passed at full Council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would arrange for the Clerk to receive a link to an up-dated map showing the existing plan area.
2. That Councillor Owen Tierney had members’ support to ask for a formal amendment to the existing plan, to incorporate flashing warning signs be placed at the entrances to and the middle of, Finstown and a move to the use of the buffer zones if the flashing warning signs prove unsuccessful.

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

Members were informed by the Community Council Liaison Officer, that the issue of weeds growing in Finstown had been reported to the relevant Council department and that an inspection had been carried out by the Council relating to the state of local signage in the county. The Chair raised the issue of a bin located at Flett’s Corner, querying whether it could be moved, in order for the bench to be reinstated. The Chair further asked if weed management was an annual event and the Community Council Liaison Officer confirmed that it was part of the Verge Maintenance Plan which had previously been distributed, and it was:

Resolved to ask via the business letter, that the bin at Flett's corner be re-located.

### **C. Kirkyard Extension**

Members heard from the Community Council Liaison Officer, who confirmed that the land between the Kirkyard extension and the housing estate at the rear, was owned by OHAL. The Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure reported that in order to combat the weeds growing on the land, a plan was in place to grow a wildflower garden, and it was:

Resolved that the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would ascertain the current management plan for the area in time for the next meeting.

### **D. Road Repair Fund**

Members resumed consideration of this item and heard from the Community Council Liaison Officer that the property in question was in the Firth and Stenness Community Council area, although other properties in the same cul-de-sac were in a neighbouring Community Council area. Members spent a considerable time discussing the cost of the repairs and the fair allocation of any monies for such an application and any future applications and following this in-depth discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That unfortunately, the members could not support the application, given the difficulties of finding a fair and equitable way of doing so.
2. That the Clerk write to the applicant to inform him of the decision.

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

Mr Raymond Hourston reported that he was arranging for a donation box to be made which could be placed within the wall at Firth Park Garden, and it was:

Resolved that Mr Raymond Hourston would continue to manage this matter and report back to the members at an appropriate future meeting.

### **F. Bag the Bruck**

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that both Firth Primary School and Stenness Community School had completed the relevant application paperwork and that payment for both schools had been processed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that Democratic Services had been unable to establish ownership of the walkway. Whilst members raised the possibility of Criminal Justice becoming involved in the dismantling of the walkway, the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure reported that this would likely be impossible due to logistical difficulties. It was noted that members of

the local community might be in a position to adopt or utilise the resources of the walkway for beneficial use within the community, and it was:

Resolved that where community use could be made of the materials, members would not object.

## **H. Picnic Benches**

The Chair reported that the picnic benches had been stored indoors during Halloween and that they were now back in situ, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

## **I. Grass Cutting**

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that Isbister's contract has another year to run and that the company would fulfil this contract, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

## **J. Christmas Trees**

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that Christmas trees had been ordered and paid for, that Stenness Community Association would organise the decorating of the Stenness tree, that the Community Council would arrange for the Firth tree to be put up and the lights put on, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

## **4. Correspondence**

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the following:

- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Events - October/November 2022.
- OIC – notice of roadworks taking place around the County – October/November/December 2022.
- NHS Scotland – SHARE – Health Research Register – October 2022.
- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – thank you letter and progress report – October 2022.
- OIC – briefing information on Avian Flu outbreak in the County – November 2022.
- Appointment of new Chief Executive for Orkney Islands Council – November 2022.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 3 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,917.31.

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

Following consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 3 November 2022, it was:

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

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £622.15, and that the additional capping limit was fully allocated.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 3 November 2022, it was:

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

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Open Meet**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

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

### **B. Mrs K McIntosh – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs K McIntosh, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Dundee in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

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

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

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Dundee in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

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

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Scottish Islands Federation – Scotland’s Social Security System**

Following consideration of a Scottish Islands Federation consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding various engagement events, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Scottish Islands Federation – Events and Consultations**

Following consideration of a Scottish Islands Federation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding various events and consultations taking place in October and November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Orkney’s Tourism Infrastructure Design Phase**

Following consideration of a Land Use Consultants/OIC communication, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding various consultation events taking place in October, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would ascertain the exact subject matter of the consultation.

### **D. Offshore Wind Power Limited – West of Orkney Windfarm – Public Consultation Meetings**

Following consideration of a West of Orkney Windfarm document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding public consultation meetings in November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Scottish Islands Federation - Review of Inspection Scrutiny and Regulation for Social Care Support**

Following consideration of a Scottish Islands Federation consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a review event in November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Marine Scotland – Application to Vary Section 36 Consent – EMEC**

Following consideration of a Marine Scotland document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a consultation on application to vary section 36 consent, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. Verge Maintenance Plan 2023**

Following consideration of an OIC document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan for 2023, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there was no map shown on the document and no map on the OIC website to assist in consideration of the plan and that the consultation closes on 19 December 2022.
2. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would provide a map showing the verge areas in question.

## **8. Publications**

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

- VAO – Newsletter – September 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding update – September 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding update – October 2022.
- Scottish Water – Autumn 2022 Newsletter
- OIC Marine Services – Harbour Developments in Orkney - Newsletter.

The last item on the list generated the following observations:

- Increasing the depth of harbours, in order to facilitate larger cruise ships and ferries, could conflict with efforts to reduce carbon emissions.
- The number of cyclists from cruise ships in groups travelling the county's roads, is posing challenges and difficulties for road infrastructure and motorists.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Additional Items**

The Clerk read out the following list of correspondence, consultations and publications which had been received since the posting of the agenda and documents, and which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the following:

- Loves Local Scotland – Gift Card – November 2022.
- Boundary Commission Scotland – Review and Consultation – November 2022.
- Orkney Harbours – Offshore Wind Newsletter – November 2022.
- NHS SHARE – Health Research Register – November 2022.
- West of Orkney Windfarm – proposal of application notice and events/consultations – November 2022.
- OpusXenta – Digitalisation of Cemetery Records – November 2022
- Scottish Islands Federation – Island Housing Group on-line meeting – November 2022.
- SSEN – Stakeholder surgeries - (powering on together) November 2022.
- Scottish Islands Federation – Let’s Talk Scottish Education – Consultation on-line – November 2022.

## **B. Christmas Lights**

Members heard from the Chair that approximately half of the old Christmas lights had been dispersed around the community and that Fraser Electricals and the Smiddy would erect them. The new lights would be delivered imminently which would be the responsibility of the Community Council to erect. Members were informed by the Community Council Liaison Officer that to leave the wrap around lights up after the festive season would require planning permission and that the lifetime of the lights would be prolonged if they were taken down and stored. It was also suggested that the Roads Support Officer could meet with members to discuss the positions of the erected lights. Members undertook a brief discussion, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would co-ordinate the putting up of the new lights.
2. That Democratic Services would assist the relevant Community Councils with applying for planning permission to keep the wrap around lights up, if required.
3. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would ascertain exactly how many lights had been ordered for Finstown and Stenness and would locate a street map, to show the locations of the lights once erected.

## **C. Quarry Group**

Members heard from the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure that a Cursiter Quarry Public Liaison Committee was being planned as part of the planning condition for the quarry extension, which would undertake a scrutiny role, and which could be Community Council or other organisation led. Whilst OIC could not operate the Committee, it would support the Community Council or other organisation in the initial setting up stages. The Corporate Director offered to arrange an expert to attend the next meeting or to arrange a special meeting, and it was:

Resolved that members would take time to consider and reflect upon this issue, before responding to the Corporate Director.

## **D. Stenness School – London Trip**

A member reported that despite the overwhelming amount of monies attracted by the crowd funding initiative, the school would be submitting an application to the Community Council for additional funding, and it was:

Resolved that the application would be supported when it was received.

## **E. Bins**

Members discussed the issue of holding bins safe during high winds and were informed by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure that there was a 6-week trial period currently taking place, with suggestions from the local community sought, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

## **F. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Members discussed the ceremony relating to who would officially switch on the Christmas Tree lights and what activities would take place, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Jean Stevenson would switch on the Christmas Tree lights.
2. That the Chair would liaise with local groups and organisations, with a view to creating an activity schedule.

## **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Resolved:

A. That the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held in Firth Community Centre on Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 19:30.

B. That if enough individuals came forward from the parishes, a public meeting in February could be convened in order to fill the vacant positions on the Community Council.

C. That the dates of meetings for 2023 could be discussed at the next meeting with any new elected members.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

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