

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Kirk, Dounby, and via Teams on Wednesday, 8 March at 19:30

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mr C Kirkness and Mrs K Ritch.

Present (via Teams):

Mr G Brown, Mr G Sinclair and Mrs H Woodsford-Dean.

In Attendance (Teams):

- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Ms C Savage, Urban Design Planner, Development and Marine Planning.
- Ms C Hartley, Planning.
- Ms I Gaudie, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies had been received.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held on Wednesday, 25 January 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mrs E Grant and seconded by Mr G Brown.

3. Kirkyard and Strathborg Grass Cutting 2023

The Clerk provided information on the tenders received for the grass cutting at Harray Kirkyard, Sandwick Kirkyard and Strathborg Seating Area, from two different contractors. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. To award the contracts for Harray Kirkyard, Sandwick Kirkyard and Strathborg Seating Area to M Brass.

B. That the Clerk would write to all contractors confirming the outcome of the tender exercise.

4. Matters Arising

A. Dounby Plan

The Urban Design Planner, Development and Marine Planning provided a follow-on update from the email previously circulated from Mrs S Shearer, Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning. Members heard that the Planning Application had now been submitted and validated, and that the Planning Notice would be submitted in this weeks' Orcadian for comment. Approval from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund was still required, but hopefully the outcome would be known by the end of the week.

The Chair enquired whether it could be incorporated into the plan, that cars are unable to park/gain access onto the grass area in the corner. The Urban Design Planner, Development and Marine Planning suggested that a low-lying fence/bollard could be added in as part of the application process. She also advised that the pre-planning has was to commence in April 2023 and the delivery phase needed to be completed by Christmas 2024. It was agreed that a link to the planning application documents would be circulated for comment, and it was:

Resolved to note the above information.

B. Rats in Harray Kirkyard

An update of costs had previously been circulated to CC members, and everyone was in agreement for the work to go ahead, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, will request that work be commenced by the relevant department.

C. Car Park at St Peter's Kirk, Sandwick

This item was discussed again, and members agreed that they would enquire into the costs of repair, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would circulate the costs involved once received.
2. That this item would be discussed again at the next meeting.

D. Harray Hall Car Park

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, confirmed that due to a previous Council agreement to cover the costs of the repair for this time only, members are to obtain a quote for repair costs, and forward the quote to the Roads department, and it was:

Resolved to obtain a quote for repair before the next meeting.

E. War Memorial, St Peter's Kirkyard

No update had been received, and it was:

Resolved to discuss at the next meeting.

F. Festive Lighting

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer stated that the lights had not been ordered yet, but the hope was they would arrive in time. The Chair asked if a shed could be sited on the ground at the Amenity Site. The Chair agreed to source a contractor for installation of the lights, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, will enquire whether a shed could be housed on land next to the Amenity Site.
2. That the Chair will source a contractor to install the lighting.

G. Road Repair near Refuge Corner

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, stated that work was carried out under the culvert this week, but further work to complete the works was being held off until there were drier weather conditions. A member asked if temporary reduction in speed limit signs could be erected, and it was:

Resolved that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would enquire about the possibility of temporary speed limit signs being placed at the site.

H. Grit Bin at Sandwick Hall

Members were informed that the grit bin had been ordered, but Mrs K Ritch stated that it wasn't at the hall yet. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure said that due to high demand over the Christmas period, the bins were out of stock.

Mr G Brown mentioned that a request for the Milestone Kirk was rejected. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure advised that all bins can be ordered through the OIC website, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, would enquire as to the expected delivery date.

I. Dropped Kerbs for Wheelchair Users

Mrs E Grant stated that an inspection of the kerbs around Dounby had been taken place, and several areas of concern had been identified. Councillor King said that accessibility for the whole community was vitally important, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, will request that the relevant department from the OIC inspect the kerbs around the Dounby area.

5. Correspondence

A. Covid Recovery

Correspondence from the OIC Covid Recovery Officer was shared with members, relating to the availability of home Covid tests, and it was:

Resolved to note that tests have been placed in Harray Hall, Dounby Post Office, Milestone Kirk and the Community Fridge in Dounby.

B. Creating a Home Emergency Plan with SSEN

Correspondence from SSEN had previously been emailed to members regarding online events, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. SIF Member Evening and AGM

Correspondence had previously been emailed to members concerning the SIF online AGM, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. West of Orkney Windfarm

Correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm, regarding PAC had previously been shared with members. This event had subsequently been postponed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Thank You Letters

Members were informed that a thank you letters had been received from Pam Farmer, Dounby Bowling Club and Sandwich Community Association, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Consultations - Deposit Return Scheme

Members had been forwarded correspondence concerning an event to discuss the Deposit Return Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 21 February 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,910.86.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 February 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 £2,297.11 and £743 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 21 February 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 21 February 2023, and it was:

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

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Folk Festival

Members had been forwarded by email a request from the Orkney Folk Festival, asking for financial assistance to stage events in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £200 towards the Orkney Folk Festival event

B. Dounby Straw Class

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

Resolved to decline any award towards the cost of hall hire for the Dounby Straw Class.

C. Ewan Foubister – Orkney Athletics - Glasgow

Members had already agreed to a request, via email, from Ewan Foubister for a donation towards travel to attend Scottish Athletics Indoor Under 20 Championships in Glasgow, and it was:

Resolved to note that a general fund donation of £60 towards the trip had already been agreed and paid out.

D. Sandwick Community Association

Members had previously been forwarded by email a request from Sandwick Community Association for a donation towards a Coronation High Tea for the Senior Citizens Lunch Club, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £200 towards the event, subject to CCGS approval.

E. Harray Citizens Party – Women’s Institute

The Chair read out a request from Harray Scottish Women’s Institute for a donation towards the Harray Senior Citizens Party in June 2023, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £400 towards the event, subject to CCGS approval.

F. Graham Poke – Walkway (Bay of Skail to Housegarth Pathway)

The Chair read out a request from Graham Poke for a donation towards the repair of the pathway from Bay of Skail to Housegarth, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £200 towards the repair, 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 – January and February 2023.
- VAO – Small Grants Scheme – 2023/2024.
- VAO – National Lottery Community Fund – Funding Information Event.
- Scottish Water – Newsletter - Autumn 2022.

- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Pot Holes – Various Locations

Members raised a number of locations where there were damage to pathways or pot holes. These were:

- Market Green – agreed for the Community Council to arrange repairs.
- Dounby School Carpark.
- Yesnaby Road.
- Lyking Road – patching work had already been carried out, which the Councillors thanked OIC for, but holes starting to appear at the edges.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, would request the relevant department from the OIC to inspect the areas above, apart from the Market Green area.
2. Harray and Sandwick Community Councillors will arrange repairs for the Market Green area.

B. Zebra Crossing from Market Green to Co-Op, Dounby

A member of the community had approached the Chair to ask if a zebra crossing could be put in place in the vicinity of Market Green to the Co-op, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, would request that the relevant department look into the possibility of a zebra crossing in the area.

C. Coronation Funding

Mrs E Grant asked if any funding was available for Coronation events. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer stated that funding had been applied for, but as of yet, had received no response, and it was:

Resolved to note the response provided.

D. Jubilee Tree

Mr G Brown asked if the Jubilee Tree was still alive after being vandalised. The Chair said he would have a look, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Blackening Vandalism

Mrs E Grant stated that there was evidence of vandalism and areas being left in disarray after Blackening events. A request for a sign to be erected for public to tidy up after such events in the Market Green area, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, will request the relevant department from the OIC to look into the possibility of erecting a sign in the area.

F. Bay of Skail Benches

Concerns were raised that the benches at the Bay of Skail have disappeared, and could this be looked into, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, will request the relevant department from the OIC to look into the whereabouts of the benches.

G. Dounby Tidy Up

The Chair asked for an announcement to be made on Radio Orkney for volunteers to help tidy up the Dounby area on 3 May 2023 at 7:00pm. A request was also put in for arrangements to be made for the garden refuse skip to be emptied the night before the tidy up, and it was:

Resolved:

That the Clerk will contact Radio Orkney so that an announcement can be made on the morning of the tidy up.

That the Clerk, via a business letter to Democratic Services, will request the relevant department from the OIC to empty the garden refuse skip the night before the tidy up.

H. Community Council Liaison Assistant

The Community Council Liaison Officer introduced the Community Council Liaison Assistant to the members. Everyone welcomed her to her new position.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Following consideration of meeting dates, it was:

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

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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