

Minute of the Blended Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Primary School and via Teams on Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 19:30

Present:

Mr T Craigie, Mr L Flett, Mrs L McAdie, Mr I Rendall and Mr P Thomas.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Councillor R Peace.
- Councillor G Skuse.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

The CCLO welcomed all to the meeting and took the Chair for items 1 and 2. She explained the role of Democratic Services, the Clerk, and what the role of the CC members and Councillors was in relation to meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been intimated.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mrs L McAdie be appointed Chairperson of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

B. Vice Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr I Rendall be appointed Vice Chairperson of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

C. Planning Representative

Following a vote, it was:

Resolved that Mr T Craigie be appointed Planning Representative for St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

D. Contact member for Grass Cutting Contractors and Inspector of Kirkyard's

Mr T Craigie declared an interest in this item.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mr I Rendall would be the contact member for grass cutting contractors in St Andrews and Mr P Thomas in Deerness, and each would inspect their respective areas Kirkyard's on behalf of the Community Council.

Mrs L McAdie took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting and especially the two new community council members, Mr T Craigie and Mr P Thomas, and the three new Councillors for the area.

She advised that this Community Council was two members short of the full complement and therefore she requested that members actively encourage individuals within the parishes to stand for election from the next possible election date, February 2023.

3. Adoption of Constitution

Following consideration of the constitution for St Andrews and Deerness Community Council, it was:

Resolved to adopt the constitution for St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.

4. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 29 March 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr L Flett and seconded by Mrs L McAdie.

5. Matters Arising

A. Brough of Deerness Landslide

No update had been received regarding progress of works at the Brough of Deerness, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

B. Memorial and Gloup Paths, Deerness

No update had been received regarding progress of works at the Memorial and Gloup paths, Deerness, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

C. Passing Place – Top of Brae of Fea, Tankerness

The CCLO advised that the request for remedial works to the pushed in verge at the passing place on the top of the Brae of Fea, Tankerness had been forwarded to the Roads Team, who would investigate and action any work required, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Flooding Water – Holm Road at Heatherlea, Toab

The CCLO advised that the request for remedial works to address the flooding water running down the side of the Holm Road at Heatherlea, Toab had been forwarded to the Roads Team, who would investigate and action any work required, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Correspondence

A. Scottish Water – Water Network Upgrade

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding Scottish water's investment totalling 3.1 million in water network upgrade in the East Mainland, Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Scottish 4G Infill Programme

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Scottish Government, Scottish 4G Infill Programme (S4GI) and the provision of 4G mobile infrastructure in this area and in order to evaluate the benefits provided surveys are being undertaken and shared online, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. NSI Directorate

Members considered correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, advising that she and members of her team would continue to attend Community Council meetings as it has proved mutually beneficial to all, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. New Orkney Access Panel

Following consideration of correspondence Disability Equality Scotland and requesting new members to join their new Orkney Access Group, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Evening Bus Services

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC Transport advertising the evening bus service available on the main roads in this area, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling

Members considered correspondence from the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, inviting members to submit ideas for new and improved footpaths in Orkney with the establishment of a £500,000 fund and other match funding sources being investigated. Following some discussion, it was noted that options for the repair of the footpath at the Brough of Deerness was being investigated, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk submit to the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning proposals for four potential projects in this area.
2. To ask OIC to progress the repairs at the Mull Head Nature Reserve, on the pathway to the Broch of Deerness, following the landslide.
3. To suggest that the car park at Dingieshowe is too small and would benefit from expansion.

4. To suggest that a benefit to those living in the rural countryside and others would be the establishment of cycle tracks in the St Andrews and Deerness area.

5. To also mention that improvements to the Old Tankerness Road from the Mount, Tankerness to its boundary with Kirkwall Airport. Over many years, the road condition has been left to deteriorate and remains in poor condition, with impact from coastal erosion in areas, and also would benefit from widening in areas.

G. Thank You Letter

Following consideration of a thank you letter received from Mr A Robertson for financial assistance provided, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Consultation Documents

Resolved to note that there were no consultation documents for consideration.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 21 September 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £16,375.50.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 September 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £2,684.40 from the main capping limit and £743 from the additional capping limit.

C. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 21 September 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £7,847.46.

D. Accounts to 31 March 2022

Following consideration of the St Andrews and Deerness Community Council Accounts to 31 March 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance in accounts to 31 March 2022.

9. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Communities Membership 2022/2023

Members had considered correspondence received from Orkney Communities requesting payment for the 2022/2023 membership renewal of the website, orkneycommunities.co.uk, and it was:

Resolved that, by e-mail, members had approved the Orkney Communities 2022/2023 membership renewal totalling £45, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

B. St Andrews Community Association (SACA)

Members had considered correspondence received from SACA, requesting financial assistance towards the 2022 grass cutting at St Andrews Community Centre (SACC), and it was:

Resolved that, by e-mail, members had approved a £250 grant to SACA towards the 2022 grass cutting at SACC, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

C. Deerness Community Association (DCA)

Members had considered correspondence received from DCA, requesting financial assistance towards the 2022 grass cutting at Deerness Community Centre (DCC), it was:

Resolved that, by e-mail, members had approved a £780 grant to DCA towards the 2022 grass cutting at DCC, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

D. Angus Robertson – Weightlifting

Members had previously considered correspondence from Angus Robertson requesting financial assistance towards his participation in a series of weightlifting competitions on mainland Scotland as part of the national squad, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had previously approved by email a travel grant to Angus Robertson for travel assistance of £30 per trip, up to a total of £180.

E. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council – Bonfire and Fireworks

Members considered correspondence from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of hosting their annual fireworks display in Kirkwall, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant totalling £100 to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

Councillor R Peace left the meeting at this point.

F. St Andrews SWI

Members considered correspondence from St Andrews SWI, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the costs of holding the St Andrews Children's Halloween party, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant totalling £55 to St Andrews SWI, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

G. Deerness Halloween Party Group

Members considered correspondence from Deerness Halloween Party Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting a donation towards the costs of holding the Deerness Children's Halloween party, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation totalling £50 to Deerness Hall Party Group.

H. Travel Grants

1. Ann Lennie

Members considered correspondence from Ann Lennie, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards her participation in the Mixed Inter-County Hockey competition in Shetland, and it was:

Resolved to award Ann Lennie travel assistance grant totalling £30.

2. Jody and Sam Groundwater

Members considered correspondence from Jody and Sam Groundwater, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards their participation in the Highland Team Event badminton competition in Glasgow, and it was:

Resolved to award Jody and Sam Groundwater travel assistance of £30 each, totalling £60.

3. Deerness SWI

Members considered correspondence from Deerness SWI, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards four Deerness SWI team members' participation in the "Variations on a Theme" competition in Ayrshire, and it was:

Resolved to award Deerness SWI travel assistance of £30 each, totalling £120.

I. Education Grants

Members considered correspondence from four local students applying for an education grant and it was noted that the education grant had never been advertised this year, due to the elections of the new Community Councils, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To defer discussion of the education grant allocation of funding and disbursement to the next meeting.
2. That the Clerk advertise the education grant in the appropriate places with a closing date for receipt of applications of 5 December 2022.

3. That the Clerk would write to the current applicants, who previously submitted an education grant, advising that the education grant would be advertised and that only following the closing date for applications, and at the next meeting, will awards of an education grant be allocated to applicants.

J. OASC – Inverness Autumn Meet

Members considered correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club (OASC), copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards F and S Cooper's travel costs for the Inverness Autumn Meet, it was:

Resolved to approve £30 travel assistance grant each to OASC, totalling £60.

K. OASC – Thurso Open

Members considered correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club (OASC), copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards L Budge and F Cooper's participation in the Thurso Open Meet, and it was:

Resolved to approve £30 travel assistance each to OASC, totalling £60.

L. East Mainland Church – Poppy Wreaths

Members considered correspondence from East Mainland Church, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of two poppy wreaths, and it was:

Resolved to grant full costs to East Mainland Church for the two poppy wreaths, subject to eligibility from CCGS.

10. Publications

The following publication had been made available for members to view and were noted:

- Scottish Rural Action - April, May July and August 2022 Newsletters.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command – April 2022 Newsletter.
- Information Update – Healthcare Improvement Scotland Community Engagement Orkney Team.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – August 2022.
- VAO - Newsletter – September 2022.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Grass Cutting Contract

Mr T Craigie, who was the grass cutting contractor for St Andrews and Hall of Tankerness Kirkyards, advised that the specifications for the number of cuts in Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard had not been adequate and that he had made some additional grass cuts, at his own cost, in order to avoid complaint from the public. He advised that he felt six cuts per season would be more appropriate and that he had

taken photos to show the issues he had encountered with the grass growth. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer requested that he send the photos to Democratic Services for consideration. Mr T Craigie also advised that Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard had gravestones lying in the grass and railing and kerbing to cut around, which added to the time taken to cut this kirkyard.

With regard to St Andrews Kirkyard, he advised that there were a number of sunken graves requiring levelling and that he would be prepared to undertake this work if given the soil to level up the lairs.

Mr P Thomas agreed to monitor the Deerness Kirkyard and report any issues to Democratic Services, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would write to Democratic Services requesting that the specification for amount of grass cuts made in Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard be increased from 4 cuts to 6 cuts per season.
2. That Mr T Craigie would send his photos of the grass growth in Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard to Democratic Services.
3. That the Clerk would report the issues with sunken lairs requiring levelling at St Andrews and Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard's to Democratic Services and advise that Mr T Craigie had offered to undertake the remedial work.
4. That Mr P Thomas would monitor Deerness Kirkyard and report any issues to Democratic Services.

B. Late Agenda Items

The CCLO advised that the late submission of agenda items by members of the public appeared to be an ongoing issue for clerks. Following discussion, the Clerk advised that the Community Council website advises that agenda items must be with the Clerk two weeks prior to any meeting. Mr I Rendall proposed that the Clerk should include the date of the next meeting and the closing date for receipt of agenda items for the next meeting, when issuing replies from tonight's meeting to community group/organisations. The CCLO advised that this closing date should to be adhered to if any progress was to be made moving forward with this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That items for the agenda must be with the Clerk two weeks prior to the meeting date in order to be considered.
2. That the Clerk should advise successful applicants accordingly of the dates for submission.

12. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, 7 December 2022 in St Andrews Primary School at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:57.