

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 3 November 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Jacqui Hirst, Shelagh Sneesby, Kenny Rendall and Bill Robertson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.
- Councillor Steve Sankey.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Tom Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Kevin Moar, Drugs Detection Dog Handler, Orkney Drugs Dog.
- Hayley Green, Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services, Orkney Islands Council.

Chair:

- Jacqui Hirst in the Chair.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Martin Lee and Councillor 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. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

3. Presentations

A. 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.

B. Orkney Drugs Dog

Following a presentation from Kevin Moar, 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.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 25 August 2021 was approved, being proposed by Jacqui Hirst and seconded by Kenny Rendall.

5. Matters Arising

A. Tourist Brochure

After hearing an update from the Clerk regarding the East Mainland Tourist Brochure, including the questionnaire circulated by Democratic Services, Orkney Islands Council, and a proposal for a reprint of the existing leaflet, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that Holm Community Council had no objection to a reprint of the existing leaflet, provided the erroneous material could be removed/redacted, and requesting that a price be

provided before a final decision was taken on whether or not to provide financial assistance towards the reprint.

B. Roads Matters and Surface Dressing Programme

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council outlining programmes for resurfacing and patching works for 2021 and 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Interim Executive Director would provide an update on works proposed for the Churchill Barriers, including a timescale, particularly for the resurfacing of Barrier Number 1.

C. War Memorial

The Clerk had received an email from Councillor Andrew Drever confirming arrangements for the wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday, and it was:

Resolved to note that, if required, the Chair would assist with any arrangements, should Councillor Drever not be available.

D. Festive Street Lights

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding festive streetlights, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, unfortunately, due to supply issues, the new wraps would not be available for Christmas 2021 and accordingly, Orkney Islands Council was currently checking existing street column decorations and would install those that met windage requirements.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting

After hearing an update from the Chair regarding the Christmas tree lighting event, it was:

Resolved to note that, as the venue was not available for the weekend of 26/27 November and given the increasing numbers of COVID cases in Orkney, possibly with community transmission, following consultation with Councillor Drever, she had, regrettably, taken the decision to cancel the indoor event.

F. Financial Requests – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from K Swan and Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council thanking the Community Council for financial assistance, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

G. Planters

The Chair advised that she had weeded all the planters, noting that they were planted with bulbs which would flower in the spring, following which the Community

Council would need to consider what other works were required, including some maintenance of the planters themselves, and it was:

Resolved to defer consideration meantime.

6. Correspondence

A. New Bus Fleet for Orkney

Following consideration of a press release from Stagecoach regarding delivery of the first batch of new buses for Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Connecting Scotland Round 3 Phase 2

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding Phase 2 of the Scottish Government programme Connecting Scotland, which focussed on organisations working to remove barriers related to digital exclusion for unemployed young people and adults, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Scottish Land Commission

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Land Commission regarding a virtual public meeting held on 29 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the event was not of particular relevance to Orkney, given that land ownership was not confined to one or two landowners with vast areas of unused or derelict land which could be put to better use.

D. 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 that members should make people who lived in St Mary's affected by flooding aware of the assistance that could be provided by the Scottish Flood Forum.

E. Resurfacing and Patching Works 2021/2022

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council outlining programmes for resurfacing and patching works for 2021 and 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Executive Director would arrange for the brae at Vigga to be inspected and potentially added to a future list of resurfacing works, given that annual patching was not sufficient to maintain the surface of the road.

F. East Mainland Agricultural Society

Councillor Norman Craigie was not present during discussion of this item.

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.

G. Broadening Coverage of Community Events

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Orcadian regarding broadening coverage of community events, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the Orcadian advising that Holm Community Council had no objection to the agenda for their meetings being made available to the newspaper, with the Chair being contacted thereafter to discuss any items of interest, and advising of the Holm News and Holm Hall Facebook pages which contained information relating to community events.

H. Double Interments

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a change in policy regarding double interments in the newly completed kirkyard extensions, including Holm, and it was:

Resolved to note that, following discussions with SEPA and confirmation from the Development Management team at Orkney Islands Council, with immediate effect, double depth lairs could now be offered for sale, and existing restrictions lifted.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 18 October 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 18 October 2021 of £14,484.62.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 18 October 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 18 October 2021, projects to the value of £2,708.46 had been approved, of which £1,980.46 had been claimed.

2. To note that the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit was £1,762.92.

3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £676.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 18 October 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,950.

D. Seed Corn Funding

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 18 October 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

8. Financial Requests

A. Ross County Football Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr and Mrs Ewing requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their son participating in games for Ross County Football Club, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 per game, up to a maximum of £180 for the remainder of this financial year, be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

B. Holm Sailing Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Sailing Club requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of a new safety boat, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant award of £1,950 be given towards the cost of purchasing a new safety boat, to be met from the Community Development Fund allocation.

C. Edinburgh University – Veterinary Medicine

Following consideration of correspondence from G Simpson requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's attendance at Edinburgh University to study veterinary medicine, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to G Simpson advising that other community councils who received income from wind turbines had schemes for education grants, however, as Holm Community Council did not receive any additional income from wind turbine developments, on this occasion, no assistance could be provided.

D. Under 17 Scottish Netball

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr and Mrs Ewing requesting financial assistance towards their daughter's participation in Under 17 Scottish Netball competitions, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 per competition out with Orkney, up to a maximum of £180 for the remainder of this financial year, be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

9. Consultation Documents

A. Short-term Lets Regulations

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee regarding a survey on the forthcoming short-term lets regulations, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

B. Local Transport Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding developing a new Local Transport Strategy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to members one week before the closing date in order that a response could be submitted.

C. Aviation Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Transport Scotland regarding 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, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Introduction of Memorial Permit

The Clerk had received 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, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to members one week before the closing date in order that a response could be submitted.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletters – August, September and October 2021.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – September and October 2021.

- VAO – “Worrying About Money?” Leaflet for Orkney.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 3, 10, 17 and 24 September and 1, 8 and 29 October 2021.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Coronavirus/Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 14 September and 26 October 2021.
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Community Engagement Orkney Team – Information Update – 23 September 2021.
- Scottish Water – Newsletter – Autumn 2021.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – 1 October 2021.

11. Any Other Competent Business - School Bus Route

After hearing representations from a member regarding school bus routes operated in the east end of Holm, where a small minibus and a large Stagecoach bus had to pass, resulting in one or both vehicles mounting the verge, causing damage and pulling dirt onto the main road, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council enquiring why the route operated in this way and the possibility of the children on the Stagecoach bus using the minibus instead, thus negating the need for the larger vehicle to travel along the narrow roads.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 19 January 2022, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50.