

# Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams on Wednesday, 4 October 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr David Hamilton, Mr Colin Kirkness, Mr Graham Brown, Mrs Evelyn Grant, Mr Kevin Groundwater, Mrs Karen Ritch, Mr Gary Sinclair and Mrs Helen Woodsford-Dean.

## In Attendance:

- Mr Roddy McKay, Head of Planning and Community Protection, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Councillor Rachael King.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms Jayne Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minute.....	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence .....	5
5. Consultations .....	6
6. Financial Statements .....	6
7. Applications for Financial Assistance.....	7
8. Publications .....	7
9. Any Other Competent Business.....	7
10. Date of Next Meeting .....	8
11. Conclusion of Meeting .....	8

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note apologies had been received from Councillors Jean Stevenson and Duncan Tullock.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting held on 23 August 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr Colin Kirkness and seconded by Mr Gary Sinclair.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Harray Hall Car Park**

The Community Council Liaison Officer read out the response from the Roads Department concerning the resurfacing of the Harray Hall car park, advising that there were plans to fill in potholes, but the likelihood of the car park being resurfaced in 2024/2025, or anytime within the next few years, was extremely low. This would remain under review.

Members were in agreement with the Chair that, although it was progression to hear that the potholes would be filled in, the situation with the car park would just be as bad following winter weather, and the fact that the area is used continually by Council-owned vehicles alongside those using the hall for community events. There was also the issue remaining that the Council had not acted on their agreement from 2004 to maintain the car park, and clarity needed to be sought on who is responsible for any trips, falls or accidents due to the uneven surface.

Councillor King explained that she understood that pressures on budgets were extreme, but stated that she wished to follow this up, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Rachael King would request to be forwarded the email referred to from the Roads Department, so that she could follow this up and report back to the next meeting.
2. That the Clerk would enquire, via the business letter, who would be held responsible for any accidents on the car park.

### **B. War Memorial, St Peter's Kirkyard**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she had contacted a local contractor on a number of occasions, but had received no response. Further contact would be made, and it was:

Resolved to pass the item on to the next meeting's agenda for an update.

### **C. Zebra Crossing, Dounby**

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that investigations had taken place, but there was insufficient foot traffic and vehicle movement to warrant a zebra

crossing in that location. It was noted that there may be an opportunity to include this within the Dounby Plan developments, and it was:

Resolved to remove the item from the agenda meantime.

## **D. Blackening Vandalism**

Members agreed that there had been no recent issues, but asked if it would be possible to put posters in the toilets, with this being continued in the new toilet blocks once built, and it was:

Resolved to enquire whether this would be possible.

## **E. Bay of Skail Benches**

It was advised that, despite extensive enquiries, the mystery of the missing benches still remained unsolved. It was agreed that a replacement could be made by the member of public who wished to place a memorial bench in that location, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above and that the clerk would contact the member of the public.

## **F. Planning Applications**

This related to a query from the April 2023 meeting, where members asked if the installation of a bus shelter could be built into the school travel plan. No update had been received, but the Head of Planning and Community Protection requested for the email to be forwarded to see if it could be resolved, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer will forward on the email to the Head of Planning and Community Protection so that an update could be provided at the next meeting.

## **G. Strathborg**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that Sandwick Young Farmers Club had been contacted and appeared keen to carry out the work. A reminder would be sent to see if they were still interested. The Woodland Trust had been contacted concerning the supply of additional trees, but due to Orkney's location, the CC would be unable to apply. It was suggested that Orkney College may be a possibility, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would send a reminder email to the Young Farmers.
2. That the Clerk contact Orkney College in relation to the supply of suitable trees for this area.

## **H. Remembrance Bench (Skail)**

The Clerk advised that the member of public had been contacted with regards to a possible site, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **I. Rats in Harray Kirkyard**

The Community Council Liaison Officer had circulated information about the previous visits and costs to members prior to the meeting. Members discussed the necessity to continue with additional visits, as the last visit was the end of June. Members agreed to fund two more additional visits and requested that a report be submitted of the findings, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk, via the business letter, would request two more additional visits be actioned by the relevant department, and be funded through the CCGS.
2. To request that a report be submitted of the findings, so this may be reported to members at the next meeting.

## **J. Glass on Path**

The Chair advised that glass was still appearing on the path along the main road from Dounby School towards the Northbigging Road, despite it being cleared. Mr Colin Kirkness confirmed that glass was not being transported from Cursiter Quarry. Members asked if this could be investigated again, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via the business letter, would request that the relevant department investigate the matter and report back to members.

## **K. Brodgar Road**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council, outlining the community council's worries about this area during the summer months. Concerns were raised again in relation to the number of tourists on the Brodgar Road, and asked was there a possibility of a bus shelter at the road end. It was suggested that road safety advice could be put in the shelter in different languages. It was agreed that the issue is with independent travellers using this bus route, and it was pointed out that the issue had already been raised with Police Scotland and Stagecoach. Councillor Rachael King agreed that the issue certainly needed a solution and advised that something would hopefully be built into the Tourism Strategy Policy for next year, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above and await a response from Orkney Islands Council.

## **L. Waste Collection After Dounby Show**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the Waste Team had asked the Orkney West Mainland Agricultural Society to contact them direct on this matter. Mr Gary Sinclair had brought in copies of the previous two year invoices for waste collection from the Dounby Show. Members agreed that more clarification on the invoices was needed. The Chair asked if it would be possible to have a fixed cost for each year, if members of the Orkney West Mainland Agricultural Society were to gather all waste to one part of the park. Another possibility suggested to reduce fees,

would be to hire a trailer and dispose of the waste at Chinglebraes. The Head of Planning and Community Protection offered to make enquiries and forward on the findings, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk, via business letter, would ask if the relevant department could look into a fixed fee whereupon members of the Orkney West Mainland Agricultural Society would gather all waste into one area of the park for easier collection.
2. That the Head of Planning and Community Protection would make enquiries into the costings of the invoice and request clearer itemisation for each cost.

### **M. Abandoned Car at Dounby Crossroads**

The Head of Planning and Community Protection updated members and stated that Environmental Health had visited the site, and had subsequently approached the DVLA for the registered keeper of the vehicle. Once received, Environmental Health would then write to the owner of the vehicle and request that the vehicle be removed. If this was not adhered to within a set period, Environmental Health would then remove the car, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

### **N. Dounby School Road Entrance**

The Community Council Liaison Officer read an email from the Roads Department to members, which stated that the works at Dounby School car park were complete as per the planned programme of works. Due to budget restraints the extent of the works was reduced to address the worst areas of the running surface, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

### **O. Bonfire and Fireworks - Pickaquoy**

The Community Council Liaison Officer stated that the request for quieter fireworks was forwarded on, but had not received a response, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of above.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Getting It Right – OHSCP**

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence relating to information sessions from the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Visit Scotland Funding News**

Information on funding which had become available had been circulated to members via email, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. West of Orkney Windfarm – Offshore Applications Submitted to Scottish Government**

Correspondence relating to applications which had been recently submitted by West of Orkney Windfarm had been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Thank you Letter**

Resolved to note that a thank you letter for financial assistance provided had been received from Harray SWI for the donation towards the Harray Halloween party.

## **5. Consultations**

### **A. SIF Online – National Islands Plan Review Event**

Information from the Scottish Islands Federation on an event on 28 September had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. National Islands Plan Review**

Additional information in relation to a workshop in Stromness to be held on 6 October 2023 had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. West of Orkney Windfarm – Section 36 and Marine Licences Applications**

Members had previously been sent information on how to comment on applications submitted by West of Orkney Windfarm, with the deadline for comments being 20 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 18 September 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,018.98

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 18 September 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 £2,092.63 and £743.00 respectively.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 18 September 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 18 September 2023, and it was:

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

## **7. Applications for Financial Assistance**

### **A. Stenness Primary School**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Primary School, requesting financial assistance towards a three-day outdoor education trip for Lily Rosie, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be given to contribute towards the trip.

### **B. Stromness Academy Swiss Trip**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Stromness Academy requesting assistance towards an educational trip to Belgium and Switzerland for Callum Williamson, Alyosha Ritch, Lottie Skinner, Lucy Skinner, Arwen West and Eve Wood, it was:

Resolved that general fund donations of £60 each be donated to Callum Williamson, Alyosha Ritch, Lottie Skinner, Lucy Skinner and £40 each be donated to Arwen West and Eve Wood, as they had already received financial assistance this financial year.

## **8. Publications**

Resolved to note that the following publications had been forwarded to members:

- VAO – Newsletter – August and September 2023.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – August and September 2023.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter September 2023.

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

### **A. Plastic Wrapping at Isbister Stores**

Members were informed that the plastic had now been removed, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **B. Car Park at St Peter's Kirk**

Members were informed that the aggregate had been delivered and that they were just waiting for the contractor now, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **C. Christmas Lights**

The Chair advised that he would like the lights to be ordered. 43 columns needed to have lights attached. 12 new motifs needed to be ordered (to compliment the 12 purchased last year), and the remainder would be wraparounds in cool white. 32 sockets would also need to be ordered, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would take this forward.
2. That the costs of the lights and installation would be met from CCGS and CDF, with the costs split one third to Birsay CC and two thirds to Harray and Sandwick CC.
3. That Democratic Service would forward quotes for agreement prior to any purchase.

## **D. Grit Bins**

A member stated that grit bins had still not been delivered to the Sandwick Hall or Milestone Kirk, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Planning and Community Protection would follow up the request with colleagues and report back.

## **E. Road Flooding Sandwick**

A member stated that a number of ditches were flooding onto the roads and had not been reinstated as they were after works carried out by the contractor upgrading fibre broadband. Councillor Rachael King mentioned that the Council has spent a great amount of the budget on fixing culverts to prevent this, and cannot bear the costs again to put them right, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs Karen Ritch would forward on photographs of the problem areas to the Clerk, to be forwarded on to the relevant department within the Council.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 commencing at 19:30 in Milestone Community Church.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:52.