

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 27 November 2023 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Robert F Leslie, Steven Brodie, Moyra Gordon, Barbara J M Graham, Cathleen A Hourie, Rikki A Lidderdale, Rosemary Rhodes and Lynne Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services, Orkney Islands Council.
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications), Orkney Islands Council.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Jack Farnham, Development Manager, West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm (via Microsoft Teams).
- Donald Budge, Supply Chain, Skills and Local Content Manager, West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm (via Microsoft Teams).
- John Richards, White Ribbon Orkney.
- Matt Webb, White Ribbon Orkney (via Microsoft Teams).
- 2 members of the public.
- 1 member of the local press.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm.....	2
3. White Ribbon Orkney.....	2
4. Adoption of Minute.....	2
5. Matters Arising.....	2
6. Correspondence	4
7. Financial Statements	4
8. Financial Requests	5

9. Consultation – PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan	6
10. Publications	6
11. Date of Next Meeting	7
12. Conclusion of Meeting	7

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from John R Mowat and Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

2. West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm

Following a presentation from representatives regarding the West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm, which included a project timeline suggesting that construction would commence in 2027, the potential to utilise Scapa Deep Water Quay as a construction base, initially for three years, community benefit, including being a Silver Sponsor of the Island Games 2025, attending supply chain events organised in Orkney and potential investment from both the UK and Scottish Governments in both renewables and port infrastructure, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm representatives left the meeting at this point.

3. White Ribbon Orkney

Following a presentation from John Richards and Matt Webb regarding White Ribbon, the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation.

The White Ribbon Orkney representatives left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 9 October 2023 was approved, being proposed by Rikki Lidderdale and seconded by Robert Leslie.

5. Matters Arising

A. Benches

Lynne Spence provided an update on the actions relating to benches agreed at the previous meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the interactive map was not yet completed.

2. To note that seven community councils, a mix of both mainland and island community councils, had completed the online survey.
3. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council seeking responses to the questions raised at the previous meeting.
4. That consideration be given to contacting families that had provided memorial benches to ascertain ongoing maintenance requirements.

B. Boating Shed at Peedie Sea

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that Community Justice had cleaned the graffiti off the benches and the front of the building, and had tried to remove the graffiti from the walls, and it was:

Resolved to note that Robert Leslie had visited the site and confirmed that, whilst not completely obliterated, the graffiti was certainly less noticeable.

C. Orkney Digital Forum

Following consideration of correspondence from L McArthur MSP regarding the Orkney Digital Forum held on 27 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a further on-line meeting would be held on 15 December 2023.
2. To note that, whilst less of an issue for the Kirkwall and St Ola area, presentations from Openreach and Virgin confirmed that they were only filling commercially viable gaps, whereas it was for the Government to fill any remaining broadband “black spots”.
3. To note the more concerning issue of the switch from analogue to digital which would result in lost connectivity if the household had no backup system.

D. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

Following consideration of correspondence from S Leask and Team Swan raising concerns regarding the bonfire and fireworks at Pickaquoy and advising of a petition opposing the display at its current location, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved the Clerk should arrange a meeting, with representatives from the Community Council, the Rotary Club and Team Swan, to discuss matters raised in the correspondence, with the outcome reported back to the next meeting.

E. Financial Requests

Following consideration of notes of thanks received for financial assistance provided by the Community Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

The two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

6. Correspondence

A. My Place Awards 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust regarding the My Place Awards 2024, which celebrated projects and people that worked to improve places and communities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Weather Disruption – Reporting

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding reporting of travel disruptions due to weather warnings which might impact the resilience of Scottish island communities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. News Release – 2nd Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

Following consideration of correspondence from Boundaries Scotland announcing dates and locations of local inquiries following consultation on its provisional proposals for Scottish Parliament constituency boundaries, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 13 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 13 November 2023 of £15,262.10.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 13 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £4,978.02 had been approved, of which £2,778.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £679.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 13 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,163.46.

Councillor Steven Heddle left the meeting at this point.

8. Financial Requests

A. Glaitness Primary School – P7 Residential Trip to Nethybridge

Following consideration of an application from Glaitness Primary School requesting financial assistance towards the P7 residential trip to Nethybridge from 27 to 31 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £375 be given, to be paid in financial year 2024/25.

B. Move Orkney

Following consideration of an application from Move Orkney requesting financial assistance towards a pupil attending the Tanya Horne Festival of Highland Dance in Wick on 19 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given, subject to confirmation of participation.

C. Gymnastics Competition

Following consideration of an application from E McConnachie requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in a floor and vault gymnastics competition in Inverness on 19 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given, subject to confirmation of participation.

D. Dancing Competition

Following consideration of an application from T Paterson requesting financial assistance towards her daughters attending the Tanya Horne Festival of Highland Dance in Wick on 19 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of each dancer, subject to confirmation of participation.

E. Gymnastics Competition

Following consideration of an application from S Webb requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in a floor and vault gymnastics competition in Edinburgh on 26 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given, subject to confirmation of participation.

F. Dancing Competition

Following consideration of an application from D Johnston requesting financial assistance towards her daughters attending the Tanya Horne Festival of Highland Dance in Wick on 19 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of each dancer, subject to confirmation of participation.

G. Gymnastics Competition

The Clerk had received an application from L Allan requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in a gymnastics competition in Hamilton between 1 and 3 December 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given, subject to confirmation of participation.

9. Consultation – PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from A Lidderdale requesting participation in a survey for her PhD in relation to the Scottish National Islands Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members could, if they so wished, complete the survey on an individual basis.

10. Publications

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- Alistair Carmichael MP – The Week in Parliament – 13 and 23 October and 3, 11, 19 and 24 November 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – October and November 2023.
- SEPA Updates – 19 October and November 2023.
- Paths for All – eNews – October 2023.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – Issue 4 2023.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 28 October and 3, 10, 17 and 25 November 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – October 2023 Newsletter.
- VAO Newsletter – October 2023.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Newsletter – November 2023.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – November 2023.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 22 January 2024, commencing at 19:00.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.