

Minute of the Meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council held in Evie Community School on Monday, 5 February 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Eoin R Marcus, Elizabeth A Flett, Fiona M C Georgeson, Colin Gunn, Jane Rawle, Duncan Clarke and Mark Hull.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Rachael King.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Councillor Duncan Tullock.
- Councillor Jean Stevenson.
- Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that there were no apologies.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mark Hull and seconded by Colin Gunn.

3. Matters Arising

A. Road Speed Concerns in Evie

A verbal report was provided by the Interim Clerk, advising members that it was not possible to erect SID's at these locations as the signs were battery powered and relied on charging up the batteries overnight from the street light power supply. The units must also be erected two to three metres above road level and at these locations there was not a suitable post or column. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Kirkyard – Grass Cutting

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council advising members to consider the need to reduce the spend on kirkyard grass cutting, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise that the number of cuts should be reduced to ten for the new Kirkyards.
2. That adverts should be put out inviting tenders for the work.
3. That powers should be delegated to the Chair and the Kirkyard Representatives to open the tenders.
4. That any additional cost would be agreed by email following the opening of tenders.

C. Play Park – Grass Cutting

After hearing a report from the Interim Clerk regarding grass cutting for the Play Park, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise that the number of cuts should be reduced to ten for the new Kirkyards.
2. That adverts should be put out inviting tenders for the work.
3. That powers should be delegated to the Chair and the Kirkyard Representatives to open the tenders.

4. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the total cost.

5. To note that the tree guards should be removed from the trees that had been planted, as soon as possible, and that the Play Park Committee should be advised accordingly.

4. Correspondence

A. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that a further tranche of Community Development Funding of £5,000 was being made available to each Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. R100 Programme Update

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the R100 programme members raised the lack of community publicity resulting in a lack of knowledge regarding the programme, it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Islands Council that members were of the opinion that there was a lack of information been provided to the communities and that consideration should be given to holding public meetings to raise awareness in the communities.

C. Traffic Concerns – Brookfield, Rendall

Following consideration of correspondence from P Kelly raising concerns about the possible increase in traffic, following the grant of planning permission for eight houses in the area, and possible increased speeds, it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council if the analysis of the speeding survey was available along with their comments on the concerns.

D. Hammars Hill

Following consideration of correspondence from Hammars Hill Energy advising members that the annual community benefit of £13,300 had been paid to the Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that a letter of thanks should be forwarded to Hammars Hill Energy.

E. Thank You Letters

After hearing a report from the Interim Clerk advising members of notes of thanks from those in receipt of funding, it was:

Resolved to note that thanks had been received from Evie Community Association (Over 60's lunches), Rendall Community Association, Evie School (trip to Skara Brae

and Ring of Brodgar), Gillian Phaithaisong, Charlene Nicolson, Hammars Hill Grants (Chloe Wood, Gemma Montgomery, Alexander Hall, Leah Wood, Rowan McAllister), Stromness Academy (Swiss Trip), Lesley Sinclair, Sam Tomalin, Olivia Scott and Hannah Thomson.

F. National Improvement Framework

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online meeting they were organising with the Scottish Government to assist in learning more about and feed into the National Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care and Community Health, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

G. Harvard Study

Following consideration of correspondence from L Novick advising that she wished to investigate the role of community benefits schemes as part of a team of Harvard graduate students, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would prepare a draft response and email round members for their comments.

H. Scottish Rainforest Project

Following consideration of correspondence from D Gunn asking if the community council could assist with reaching out to the community with his survey, it was:

Resolved that arrangements should be made to put the information of the Evie and Rendall Community Council Facebook page.

I. Accounts Commission

Following consideration of correspondence from the Accounts Commission providing information on their website where access to Orkney Islands Council's information could be found, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

5. Consultations

A. Orkney Local Development Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council that the first review of Orkney's Local Development Plan was being held between 14 December 2023 and 7 March 2024. Councillor R King advised that this was the time to put information forward as this plan would shape future plans, and it was:

Resolved that the information should be posted on the Community Council's Facebook page.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the Plan and that members had no comments to make.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024-2025

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2023-2024 and looking ahead to the 2024-2025 plan, members discussed the valuable input by members of the public into the recent snow clearing. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, advised that their help was very much appreciated, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the actual balance was £7,190.77.

B. NPower Fund

After consideration of the NPower Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance of £46,658.38.

C. Burgar Hill Renewables Fund

After consideration of the Burgar Hill Renewables Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £4,766.77.

D. Hammars Hill Energy Fund

After consideration of the Hammars Hill Energy Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £37,237.76.

E. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that both the OIC Main Capping Limit and the OIC Additional Capping Limit were fully allocated.

F. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £11,636.86 remained available for allocation.

G. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,395.00 remained available for allocation.

7. Financial Applications

A. Rendall Football Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Rendall Football Club asking if the financial assistance awarded at the last meeting could be amended as they were going to cancel some of the room bookings and would like to use the funds for additional equipment, it was:

Resolved that the funds could be used to purchase additional equipment.

B. D McGee – Rugby Trips

Following consideration of correspondence from D McGee requesting financial assistance towards the cost of both him and his son attending seven trips to different rugby events between 24 November 2023 and 23 February 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £90 be given towards the cost of each trip for each person, totalling £1,260, which would be met from the Bugar Hill Renewable Fund.

C. C Nicolson – Rugby Trips

Following consideration of correspondence from C Nicolson requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending eight trips for rugby events between 7 January and 25 February 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £90 be given towards the cost of each trip, totalling £720, should be met from the Bugar Hill Renewable Fund.

D. Rendall Community Association

Eoin Harcus, Mark Hull, Jackie Montgomery and Jane Rawle declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion.

Following consideration of correspondence from Rendall Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the cost of professional assistance to enable them to take the proposed extension project forwards, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £5,400 would be awarded, which should be met from the Npower Fund.

E. Road Scheme Assistance

Following consideration of correspondence from A Matheson-Brough requesting financial assistance towards the cost of road materials, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £300 would be awarded, which would be met from the Npower Fund.

8. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – November and December 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November/December 2023 and January 2024.
- VAO – BBC Children in Need’s new Big Sky Fund .
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Financial Request Forms

A member advised that they had been asked why there was a now a financial request form that required to be completed when applying for funding from the Community Council when an email had been sufficient before. The Interim Clerk advised that the new forms had been provided to Community Councils following advice from Orkney Islands Council Finance Section. The forms asked for all the relevant details required for processing any payments to the applicant, although this information was not passed on to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Traffic Lights at Hammars Hill

Members queried how long the traffic lights were expected to be situated at Hammars Hill. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure advised that the tar plant was due to be in operation the following day which would hopefully help the situation, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

10. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council would be held in Evie School and via Teams on Monday, 22 April 2024 at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:53.