

# Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in Birsay Community Hall and via Teams on Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr R Delday, Ms D Clouston, Mr M Leitch and Mr S Spence.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Ms L Richardson, Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Interim Clerk.
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mrs V Sinclair and Ms K Coghill, and Councillors R King and D Tullock.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 25 August 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr M Leitch and seconded by Mr S Spence.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar**

Members heard an update from the Chair advising that there was now a bus turning area in place. Concerns were raised from members that vehicles were now parking in this designated area, and that there was a requirement for No Parking signs to be installed. Ms D Clouston agreed to forward on photographic evidence of vehicles parked in this area, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact Orkney Islands Council for the requirement of No Parking signs.

### **B. Step and Handrail at Buckquoy**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, advising members that the steps were repaired in 2021, and the handrail was reattached again this year, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

### **C. Slip at Buckquoy**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, advising members that an inspection had been undertaken by Orkney Islands Council of the coastal erosion along the road, and that observations need to be maintained, the Chair advised members that he had contacted the landowners regarding the slip and they would be in agreement with work being done, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

### **D. Public Roads**

Resolved to note that no update had been received.

### **E. Dog Waste Bins**

Resolved to note that no update had been received.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Dounby Community School**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rota Kids from Dounby Community School, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding advice, support or funding for their swap shop, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £100 be granted.

### **B. Dounby Tree Lighting**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Chair of Harray and Sandwick Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the arrangements for the tree lighting in Dounby, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the tree lighting ceremony would take place on 2 December 2022 at 18:30.
2. That the tree would be decorated on 30 November 2022.
3. To note that the Kirkwall Town Band would play, and the school children would sing carols.
4. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on one third, being Birsay Community Councils share, of the total eligible cost,

### **C. Bishop's Palace**

The Chair advised members that part of the car park wall had collapsed following an accident and that an estimated cost of £400 plus VAT had been provided to have it repaired, and it was:

Resolved to carry out repairs from the quote provided.

### **D. Costa Head Windfarm and St Magnus Way**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Chairperson of St Magnus Way, copies of which had previously been circulated, members agreed this would need to be discussed with the developer, and it was:

Resolved to advise the Chairperson of St Magnus Way that they should contact the developer with their query.

### **E. SSEN Distribution Stakeholder Surgeries**

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN, copies of which had previously been circulated, the Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services stated that SSEN were in discussions with the National Grid, and Orkney Islands Council were in discussions with OLEG concerning possible power cuts in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **F. Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling**

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding potential funding for local area development, members agreed to put forward the path from Birsay graveyard to Birsay Tea Room, the path from Buckquoy to the Whale Bone and to develop the bottom of the Brae to Hepsa with a possible car park, and it was:

Resolved to put these projects to the Service Manager of Development and Marine Planning for consideration.

## **G. Dangerous Memorials**

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Burial Grounds Officer, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding two dangerous headstones, members noted that the Orkney Family History Society may be helpful in tracing family members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **H. Boundary Commission for Scotland**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Boundary Commission, copies of which has previously been circulated, and noting that there were no changes to be made in Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **I. West of Orkney Windfarm**

Following consideration of correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising on their intentions to submit applications to construct an offshore windfarm, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **J. Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the onshore pre-application consultation and a project update, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **K. Scottish Water - Annual Consultative Meeting**

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Water, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding their Annual Consultative meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **L. Thank You Letters**

The Interim Clerk advised members that thank you letters had been received from Mrs T Miller and Mrs S Thomson, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

### **A. European Marine Energy Centre Ltd**

Following consideration of correspondence from the European Marine Energy Centre Ltd, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an application to the Scottish Ministers to extend the operational life of the tidal test site from 7 to 10 years at the Fall of Warness, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2023**

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the verge maintenance plan for 2023, the Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services stated that a ditching programme was being put into place, with priority routes maintained initially. Birsay and Sandwick areas would be carried out at the end of January 2023, with an annual programme to commence thereafter. Members asked if consideration could be given to road offlets being dug for water run-off, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion and that the Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services had taken a note of the comments.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £9,760.11 as at 11 November 2022.

### **B. Birsay Energy Fund**

Following consideration of the Birsay Energy Fund, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £19,726.09 as at 11 November 2022.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £3,338.40 and the balance in the additional capping limit was £743 as at 11 November 2022.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for allocation was £8,183.37 as at 11 November 2022.

## **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval was £21.64 as at 11 November 2022.

## **7. Financial Requests**

### **A. Harray Young Farmers - North Area and National Junior Speechmaking Finals**

Following consideration of a request from Harray Young Farmers, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards two Birsay residents to attend two Junior Speechmaking final events, it was:

Resolved that a travel grants of £50 be granted for each applicant for each trip, totalling £200.

### **B. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council**

Following consideration of correspondence from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the Bonfire and Fireworks display, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £100 should be made and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.

### **C. Benches**

The Chair advised members that he had been in touch with Mr A Norquoy regarding maintenance of the shed at the Kirkyard and the benches, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.

## **8. Publications**

The following publications had been received and made available to members via email:

- Evening Bus Services.

- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind Community Newsletter.
- NHS Scotland Initiative SHARE.
- VAO Newsletter – August, September and October 2022.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – August, September and October 2022.
- Scottish Water Autumn Newsletter.
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter.

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

### **A. Speeding Concerns**

Following consideration of correspondence from E Drever regarding concerns about speeding at an area in Birsay and asking if consideration could be given to slow signs being erected, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would forward the concerns to the Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services.

### **B. Trees Reaching onto Road**

Members discussed a concern raised of trees reaching onto an area of the Hillside Road, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would forward on the details to Orkney Islands Council.

### **C. Straw Class**

Members discussed a request for funding assistance towards room hire costs for the weekly Straw Classes held over the winter months, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would request additional information and email it to members for consideration.

### **D. Support for Nisthill Windfarm**

The Chair advised members that a verbal request had been received from Nisthill Windfarm asking if the Community Council would provide a letter of support for their project. A member raised that the Community Council's should be providing a response on behalf of the whole community therefore it could be difficult to provide a letter of support as it was not known if the whole community supported the project, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would draft a response accordingly, which would be forwarded to members for their comments first.

### **E. Road Projects**

Members discussed the ongoing road repairs in Rendall and Harray, and it was:

Resolved to note the Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services comments earlier in the meeting.

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

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

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 2 February 2023 at 19:30 in Birsay Community Centre and via Microsoft Teams.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.