

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams on Wednesday, 26 April 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr Graham Brown, Mrs Evelyn Grant, Mr Colin Kirkness and Mrs H Woodsford-Dean.

In Attendance:

- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Councillor J Stevenson (via Teams).
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Rev K Wintersgill.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note apologies had been received from Mr K Groundwater, Mrs K Ritch and Mr Gary Sinclair and Ms J Smith-Saville.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr C Kirkness and seconded by Mrs H Woodsford-Dean.

3. Matters Arising

A. Car Park at St Peter's Kirk, Sandwich

Members discussed the current poor state of the car park and the urgent need for the potholes to be filled. After consideration of available resources, it was agreed that the community council should arrange to rip out the surface with a digger and if possible, roll the surface after filling the potholes, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr C Kirkness would order a load of grubblings from the quarry, priced at £15 per tonne.
2. To contact Mr G Sinclair and inform him of what had been suggested.
3. That the Clerk apply for Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the costs.

B. Harray Hall Car Park

Members considered a letter previously sent to Harray Community Association in July 2004, which advised of responsibility for upkeep of the car park. However, no works had been carried out since that date and the car park was now in a state of disrepair.

Members considered two quotes received from contractors, for digging out and repairing the car park in its entirety. Members commented that, even though the road was privately owned, it was frequently used by the public and council vehicles alike and, given the high costs of the repairs, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would forward the quotes on to the Head of Neighbourhood Services for consideration, and her team would decide if they had capacity to undertake the works.

C. War Memorial, St Peter's Kirkyard

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she had still to make enquiries regarding funding from the War Memorials Trust, and obtain a quote from a local contractor for the works required, and it was:

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

D. Festive Lighting - Storage Shed

Following consideration of the potential to use the shed at the local amenity site in Dounby, it was:

Resolved to put this matter on hold in the meantime and see if a storage solution could be incorporated into the Dounby Plan.

E. Road Repair near Refuge Corner

Members were updated by the Head of Neighbourhood Services, who advised that the option of speed limits had been deemed inappropriate and unfeasible for the situation. She advised that there was a drainage issue, and the road would need to be dug up for the permanent repairs to be carried out, and that ditching work would be carried out to the adjacent land, which they now had the landowner's permission for. The works would take approximately 2 weeks, one of which would see the road closed to traffic, and it was hoped they would commence by July 2023. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Roads team would continue to tighten up the temporary plates in-situ in the meantime.
2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would update the members with a precise timetable.

F. Grit Bin at Sandwich Hall

A grit bin was to be supplied but it was uncertain if it had been installed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members would find out if the grit bin had been installed.
2. To note that further requests could be made via the MyOrkney portal.

G. Dropped Kerbs for Wheelchair Users

Members heard that wheelchair users currently must use a back route when travelling between the school and the shop, as the dropped kerbs in place were too narrow to be used, and it was:

Resolved that this issue should be taken into consideration when discussing the Dounby Plan.

H. Potholes

Members heard that the potholes reported had been repaired. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that it would be quicker to report any potholes on the MyOrkney portal. She also stated that a works order had been issued for the repairs to the Dounby School Car Park and that it was on the list of works to be completed. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Zebra Crossing, Dounby

There had been no update on this item, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would ask for an update from Roads Support.

J. Blackening Vandalism

Members again discussed damage that had happened as a result of blackenings and asked if notices could be put up as in other areas around Orkney, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would ask for an update from the relevant section(s).

K. Bay of Skail Benches

Members advised that the benches had still not been returned to the area in preparation for the summer season, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would make enquiries to see if the benches had been returned to the vicinity of the toilets.

L. Coronation Events

Members heard that the Milestone Community Church would be holding a big lunch at 12:00 midday, after the Sunday Service, and that a general tidy up was planned around the school, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the tidy up event be advertised via Radio Orkney's Daily Diary by the Clerk.
2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would arrange for someone to check the skip on the Tuesday prior to ensure that there was enough space for the collected rubbish.

4. Correspondence

A. EMEC – Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site – Variation of Consent Under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989

Members had previously been passed correspondence from EMEC regarding an application for variation of consent relating to their Fall of Warness site, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. West of Orkney Windfarm- Pre-Application Consultation Notice

Members had previously been forwarded information on pre-application consultation in relation to the West of Orkney windfarm project, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Bag the Bruck 2023

Members heard that the Milestone Kirk had taken part in Bag the Bruck and had applied to the community council for sponsorship, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would check that no other organisations had an application to submit before arranging payment to the Milestone Kirk.

D. SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey Reminder

Members had previously been forwarded information on a survey that SEPA were carrying out, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Democratic Services and Communications Service Manager Retirement

Members had previously been sent an email to advise of the retirement of the Service Manager for Democratic Services and Communications, OIC, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had sent a message to Democratic Services to pass on to Mrs Spence.

F. Mr M Johnston – Ultra Fast Fibre, Beaquoy and Dounby

Copies of correspondence from Mr M Johnston had previously been circulated to members in relation to the installation of ultra-fast fibre in the Dounby area, and it was:

Resolved that this was not a community council issue and to note the information provided.

G. Orkney Islands Marine Region - Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Members had previously been sent information on guidance which was being developed by the OIC's Marine Planning Team, in relation to Finfish Farming, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Annual Grants 2023/2024

Copies of a letter informing of the annual grant allocations for Orkney Community Councils for financial year 2023/2024 had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the annual grant for 2023/2024 was £4,341.55.

I. Thank-you letters

Resolved to note thank you letters for financial assistance provided had been received from Harray Women's Institute and the Straw Class run by Diane Clouston.

5. Consultations

A. Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

Members discussed the Winter Service Plan and noted it had not been changed from the previous year's plan. Members asked the Head of Neighbourhood Services if the roads covering the school runs could be completed earlier in the day. She stated there was scope for the routes to be reassessed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk include the matter in the business letter.
2. That the Clerk should request grit bins for P3 routes via the business letter.

B. VAO – How well do you know VAO?

A consultation from Voluntary Action Orkney had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation and that members could complete this if they wished to.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

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

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,910.86.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 18 April 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 £1755.43 and £743.00 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

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

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

7. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. OASC - Inverness Graded Meet

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the costs of R Custer, N Smith and A West competing in the Inverness Graded Meet on 1 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £180 be given to cover the travel costs, which should be met from the General Fund.

B. OASC – Pentland Pentaqua

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the costs of G Custer, E Dick, M Dick and K Stockan competing in the Pentland Pentaqua event in Wick on 26 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £240 be given to cover the travel costs, which should be met from the General Fund.

C. OASC – Scottish National Age Group Championships

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the costs of Eve Wood competing in the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships 2023 in Aberdeen from 12-16 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £60 be given to cover the travel costs, which should be met from the General Fund.

D. OASC - Scottish National Open Swimming Championships

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the costs of Irving Norquoy competing in the Scottish National Open Swimming Championships in Grangemouth on 22 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £60 be given to cover the travel costs, which should be met from the General Fund.

E. OASC - University of Aberdeen Open Age Group Meet

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for

financial assistance towards the costs of Nathan Smith competing in the University of Aberdeen Open Age Group Meet from 28-30 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £60 be given to cover the travel costs, which should be met from the General Fund.

F. SAYFC International Travel – Uncover India: High Deserts and Markets Tour

Following consideration of correspondence received from N Work, Harray Young Farmers Club, copies of which were provided at the meeting, applying for financial assistance towards a trip to India, it was:

Resolved that travel grants were not given towards those over the age of 18, so no award would be given.

G. Dounby Primary School – Norwegian Constitution Event

Following consideration of correspondence received from Dounby Primary School, copies of which were provided at the meeting, applying for financial assistance towards the costs travel of taking a group of pupils to the Norwegian Constitution Event in Kirkwall on 17 May 2023, it was:

Resolved that more information was required before a decision could be made and for the Clerk to make enquiries with the Education department.

H. Netball Orkney – District Under 17s Finals

Following consideration of correspondence from Lorraine Harvey, copies of which were provided at the meeting, applying for financial assistance towards the costs of her daughter, Kayla Harvey, attending the District Under 17s Finals in Edinburgh on 28 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £60 be given to cover the costs, which should be met from the General Fund.

8. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – March 2023.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – March 2023.
- VAO – National Lottery Community Fund Event - Friday 24 March 2023.
- VAO – Third Sector Cost of Living Crisis Fund.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Joyce Mudd – Drain Gratings

The members considered correspondence received from Joyce Mudd, regarding raising the drain gratings at her house. She believed that in their current state they were causing damage to be done to her house and would like for them to be made

the same level as the road. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised she would forward the letter to her team and get some background information. However, the Head of Neighbourhood Services stated it would be unlikely anything would be done quickly, and a structural engineer's report would be required, and it was:

Resolved that the correspondence would be passed on to the Head of Neighbourhood Services.

B. Milestone Community Church – Community Engagement

Members discussed reinstating the representative from the CC to sit on a Milestone Kirk stakeholder group, and it was:

Resolved that a representative from the community council was not required but that the minister would continue to be invited to future CC meetings.

C. Planning Applications

Members heard of Orphir Community Council's plans to install a bus shelter and put in a layby and were interested in other projects that CCs were carrying out themselves. Members then discussed that the pick-up for Stromness Academy should be at Dounby Primary School, as there was already a bus shelter in place and it would be a safer alternative to the crossroads and outside the shop. After discussion, it was:

Resolved to contact either the Education, Planning and Roads departments and enquire if the installation of a bus shelter on Vetquoy Road could be included in the School Travel Plan.

D. Christmas Lights

Members discussed the requirement to get the ports for the Christmas lights installed in the poles before winter and to find a suitable place to store the Christmas lights. It was uncertain if the lights needed to come down and it was noted that Stromness's lights were still up, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To arrange a meeting with Birsay Community Council to discuss installation and storage requirements.
2. To liaise with Firth and Stenness and Stromness Community Councils regarding their procedures for Christmas lights.

E. Parking Issues

Members discussed the fact there was no way of preventing people parking on double yellow lines and mentioned areas in Kirkwall and Stromness. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that enforcement of this was the responsibility of Police Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Strathborg

Members discussed the need to inspect Strathborg, after the Dounby clean-up had been completed, and investigate if anything needed to be done, and it was:

Resolved that the Char and Vice Chair would arrange to inspect the area.

G. Health and Care Representative

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that a Health and Care representative could be elected to represent the CC at any meetings regarding health and care issues, such as those recently with isles communities relating to NHS24/primary care issues, and it was:

Resolved to include this item on the agenda of the next meeting.

The Chair thanked the Head of Neighbourhood Services and her colleagues from the service for attending their meetings.

10. Dates of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 23 August 2023 commencing at 19:30 in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:20.