

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held via Zoom on Thursday, 10 December 2020 at 19:30

Present:

Ms W Dunnett, Mr M Lynch, Mr N Macleod, Mr V Muir and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Sergeant R Morris, Police Scotland.
- Mr I Heggie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mr R Hourston and Councillor H Johnston.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Members heard a report from the Police Scotland representative that, in general, there was a positive report for the area and that Police Scotland would like to pass on their thanks to members of the public for continued support. Roads continued to be monitored and members were advised that any measures to assist in reducing speeding within the villages should be requested from Orkney Island Council's Roads department, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Police Scotland representative left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 6 February 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr M Lynch and seconded by Mrs A Stevenson.

4. Matters Arising

A. Cursiter Quarry

Members heard from Councillors regarding the voting at committee, and appeal procedures, and acknowledged the information provided, and it was:

Resolved to await the planning appeal decision.

B. Stone Bench Agreement

Members discussed responsibility for any ongoing or associated costs relating to the stone bench at the shore front, and it was:

Resolved to acknowledge the letter sent to Orkney Islands Council accepting responsibility for any ongoing costs relating to the bench.

C. Road Repairs

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding road repairs and reporting of any issues, members briefly discussed the current state of the roads within the parishes, and also heard that Democratic Services were compiling a county-wide list of areas where there were issues, and it was:

Resolved that members should provide a list of areas requiring repair to the Clerk so that these may be passed on to relevant department.

D. Damaged Picnic Table

Members heard that the table had been repaired to a high standard by the Criminal Justice department. Both timber and preservative had been used. Members discussed that an appropriate reimbursement of £50 should be given, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should inform Democratic Services of the donation to be made from the Community Council's budget.

E. Cursiter Recycling Centre

Members heard that the centre was now open but not accepting black bags, and also that where black bags could not be used due to age or infirmity, red bags could be requested, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Christmas Tree Lighting

Members discussed the successful installation of both tree and lights. Members also discussed the removal of some street lighting decorations on the grounds of health and safety. It was acknowledged that Orkney Island Council would replace current decorations with a more appropriate type. However, it was heard that the policy next year may be that the Community Council would be responsible for the dismantling and storage of next year's lighting, and it was:

Resolved that this issue should be raised at the next meeting.

G. Religious Targeting

Members heard that there had been a recent mailshot carried out via post and email from a religious group, and it was:

Resolved to note that this was due to the current pandemic.

At this point Ms W Dunnett left the meeting and Mr N Macleod took the Chair.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence had previously been circulated to members. All items were noted, given that it had been some time since they had been sent:

- Keep Scotland Beautiful - Scotland's Beach Awards 2020.
- Switched on Towns and Cities – Feasibility Study.
- HIAL – Air Traffic Management System Plans.
- Orkney Islands Council - Barrier No 2 Survey – Information.
- Request for Help – Local Electricity Bill.
- OIC Community Resilience Fund Details.
- Democratic Services – Information on CC Annual Grant 2020/2021.
- Enquiry – Covid-19 Tech Response.
- Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Year One Update.

- Orkney Islands Council - Verge Maintenance Plan and Consultation Responses.
- Democratic Services - CC Insurance Renewal 2020.
- Planning Procedures and Covid-19.
- Successful Funding – Maintenance of Firth Park.
- NHS Orkney/Orkney Health and Care - Conversation with the People of Scotland.
- Scottish Civic Trust - Awards for Community-Led Built Environment Projects
- Web Workshop on Rural Connectivity/5G.
- Connecting Scotland Phase 2, Round 2.

6. Finance Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 27 November 2020 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £12,631.85.

B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund

After consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 27 November 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £5,000.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 27 November 2020 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,138.37.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 27 November 2020 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation was £3,534.95.

7. Financial Requests

A. M Flett – U15 Netball – February 2020

Resolved to note that a general fund donation of £25 had been granted.

B. Glaitness Primary School – Nethybridge Trip

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 to one pupil had been granted, totalling £25, which had since been returned due to the cancellation of the trip.

C. Firth Primary School – Nethybridge and Hoy Trips

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 per pupil had been granted, totalling £225, which had since been returned due to the cancellation of the trip.

D. Annual Payment for Rennibister – Donation

Resolved to note that the Rennibister income had been donated to Orkney Food Banks.

E. Remembrance Wreaths

Resolved to note that the Clerk had purchased two remembrance wreaths from the general fund in November, totalling £64.00.

F. Stenness Community Association – Christmas Tree and Gifts

Resolved that a general fund donation of £200 had been granted to SCA towards their Christmas tree and gifts for local children.

G. WMTB – Printing Costs

Resolved to note that the Community Council had paid their share of the West Mainland Tourist Brochure reprints, at a cost of £90, from CCGS.

8. Consultations

The following consultations had been previously circulated to members, and were noted only, as many of the deadlines had already passed or they did not wish to make contributions or comments:

- John Rae Society – Consultation Event and Survey.
- Orkney Burial Services and Funeral Arrangements.
- Orkney Islands Council - Winter Service Plan 2020.
- Scottish Rural Action – Survey of Rural Scotland's Covid-19 Experiences.
- Orkney Islands Council - Local Housing Strategy.
- Local Government and Communities Committee – Views on Participation Requests and Asset Transfers.

9. Publications

The following publications had been circulated previously, and were noted by members:

- VAO Newsletter – September, October and November 2020.
- VAO Training and Funding – February to October 2020.
- Scottish Water Newsletter – May 2020.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Wreath siting at Finstown Memorial

Members discussed the difficulty of keeping the memorial wreath in place. It was suggested that a local blacksmith could manufacture a device, and it was:

Resolved that the Democratic Services Manager would provide pictorial instruction as to how other Community Councils have solved this problem.

B. Happy Valley Roof

Members discussed a repair that they felt was necessary at Happy Valley, and were advised that Orkney Island Council would ensure that any health and safety issues were attended to, and it was:

Resolved to note information provided.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on Thursday, 25 February 2021 (perhaps via Zoom depending on tier rules), commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:56.