

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in the Birsay Community Hall on Thursday 23 August at 19:30

Present:

K Spence, R Delday, M Hay, D Scarth, A Spence and S Spence

In Attendance:

- Councillors R King and D Tullock
- One officer from Police Scotland, Mrs M Spence from Democratic Services and Mrs L Leitch, Clerk

Order of Business

Order of Business.....	1
1. Apologies.....	2
2. Election of Chairman	2
3. Election of Vice-Chairman	2
4. Election of Planning Representative.....	2
5. Chairman’s Gratuity.....	2
6. Police Scotland Matters.....	2
7. Minute of the Meeting held on 29 March 2018	3
8. Note of Meeting held on 7 th June 2018.....	3
9. Matters Arising.....	3
10. Proposed Costa Head Wind Farm – Community Investment	4
11. Correspondence	5
12. Consultations.....	6
13. Financial Requests	7
14. Financial Requests	7
15. Publications	9
16. Any Other Competent Business	9
17. Date of Next Meeting.....	10
18. Conclusion of Meeting	10

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Miss K Coghill.

2. Election of Chairman

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that K Spence be appointed Chairman of Birsay Community Council.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that D Scarth be appointed Vice Chairman of Birsay Community Council.

4. Election of Planning Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that A Spence be elected Planning Representative for Birsay Community Council.

5. Chairman's Gratuity

K Spence declared an interest in this item of business and was not present during discussion thereof.

Following discussion of the Chairman's gratuity in recognition of the extra time and work involved with the position, it was:

Resolved to award the Chair the amount of £600 per annum to be back dated from when the member took over as Chairman.

6. Police Scotland Matters

Members heard the Orkney Drugs Dog was progressing. Sergeant Morris asked for members to respond to the invitation to attend the forthcoming engagement meeting scheduled for 6 September 2018 at the Pickaquoy Centre. The Officer also advised that from a police perspective the force were happy with how the Dounby Show went. Various local issues were discussed, along with the recent proposal to introduce tasers, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

The Police Officer left the meeting at this point.

7. Minute of the Meeting held on 29 March 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 March 2018 were approved, being proposed by K Spence and seconded by R Delday.

8. Note of Meeting held on 7th June 2018

The meeting heard that the note of meeting held on 7 June 2018 was for information purposes only.

9. Matters Arising

A. Attendance by Members

The meeting heard that, in the past, if members did not attend a certain number of Community Council meetings then they would be asked to step down from the Committee, and it was highlighted that this rule still stood. Some members confirmed that text messages reminding them of the meetings had worked well and asked for this to continue, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the discussion.

B. Replacement Sign at Fisherman's Huts

After hearing that the replacement sign had been ordered and the Chair would arrange for the plinth to be built by a local builder, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

C. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

Available at the meeting were the proposed drawings to develop the foreshore from the Ministry Huts to Zanzibar. The Chair advised that he required a letter of consent to proceed with the car park from the two landowners involved. The meeting was also informed that if the Community Council submits the plans in their name then only half of the fees would be applicable. The Chair also advised that he would contact the Economic Development Officer with regards funding for the project, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

D. Slip at Buckquoy

Since the previous meeting, the necessary repairs to the slip had been made and new handrails had also been installed by Orkney Islands Council. To date, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) had not contributed towards the cost and it was suggested that since the slip was a shared responsibility then the cost of placing gabions in the area be met by HES. Councillor King agreed to raise the matter with the Director of Development and Infrastructure as there were other works within the same area taking place meantime, and it was:

Resolved for Councillor King to raise the matter further.

E. Road across the Links

The meeting heard that the road had been flattened by a digger to remove the ruts on the surface and the landowner had been happy with the works that had taken place, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

F. Fallen Headstones and Concrete Plinths, Birsay Kirkyard

Members considered two items of correspondence, which were distributed at the meeting, updating Community Councils on the current headstone inspection being carried out, and also advising members that the provision of concrete plinths in the Birsay Kirkyard was in the plans for future works to be carried out:

The meeting also heard that the shed (which belonged to the Community Council) within the Kirkyard was in need of repairs to the wall and members agreed for the work to be carried out by a local joiner.

Concern at there being no running water available within the Kirkyard was also raised, and the members agreed that placing a propcorn barrel to collect rain water would be the easiest solution. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. The contents of the correspondence.
2. That the Chair would ask a local joiner to repair the Kirk shed with the cost to be met from the Community Council.
3. That a propocorn barrel be placed within the Kirkyard to collect rain water.

G. Seafarers UK – Merchant Navy Day

Since the previous meeting, members of Harray and Sandwick Community Council had agreed to split the cost of the Red Ensign flag to be flown on Merchant Navy Day, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

10. Proposed Costa Head Wind Farm – Community Investment

The meeting heard that four members had been attending the recent Community Investment Steering Group meetings with the Chair also participating in a meeting with Local Energy Scotland (LES) in Inverness for further information and details and how to proceed with Community Investment. Members heard that the planning decision on the proposed wind farm had been deferred to 31 August 2018, and that in the meantime, Hoolan Energy was in the process of producing a Memorandum of Understanding. The Chair highlighted that appointing a lawyer with experience of

community investment was essential. Members of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council had also been involved with the initial meetings regarding Community investment however they had not responded recently to emails sent by the Chair with regards the way forward and whether or not to proceed jointly. Members also agreed that only once the planning committee had reached a decision would the Community Council be in a position to determine the way ahead. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council to determine whether or not they wished to join with Birsay to proceed with matters further.

11. Correspondence

A. Police Scotland – Community Resilience Planning

Following consideration of correspondence from Police Scotland regarding their Community Resilience Planning, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Digital Champion Training

Following consideration of correspondence from the Council's Community Learning and Development Service inviting members to their Digital Champion Training to be held on 5 September 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Roon About Birsay Newsletter

Due to other commitments, the Chair had previously intimated that he would like to step down as Editor of the Roon About Birsay newsletter. Members heard that J Norquoy had agreed to administer the newsletter for adverts and news articles for publication. The meeting suggested that Miss K Coghill be asked to step in Editor.

The Clerk advised that an invoice for printing the September 2017 issue had recently been received with the bill being settled through the Community Council Grant Scheme. The Clerk also sought clarification that the Community Council paid for the printing which was confirmed by members.

The meeting also heard that donations had been awarded to the Birsay Drama Group and Birsay Mums and Toddlers for their help in distributing the Birsay newsletter. It had been brought to the attention of the Clerk that the Birsay Kids Club had also delivered the newsletter in the past, and it was agreed that they should also receive a donation of £100, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would ask Miss Coghill to take over as Editor of the newsletter.
2. That future invoices for printing be paid through the Community Council Grant Scheme.
3. That the Birsay Kids Club would be given a donation of £100 for their help in distributing the circular.

D. Pier Arts Centre – Development of Linkshouse Residency Centre

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Pier Arts Centre asking for the Community Council to submit a letter of support in respect of the Development of Linkshouse Residency Centre, it was:

Resolved for a letter of support to be sent to the Pier Arts Centre.

E. Thank You Letter

After hearing from the Clerk that a thank you letter had been received in respect of financial assistance provided by the Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note that a thank you had been received in respect of financial assistance provided by the Community Council.

12. Consultations

A. Scottish Water – Shaping the Future

Scottish Water's consultation on the future of water and waste water services had been discussed at the March and June meetings, where concern was raised at the serious problem over the escalating number of geese, particularly on the Boardhouse Loch, and whether or not the water treatment was removing any pollutants left by the birds, and it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the deadline for submission of comments was 31 August 2018.
2. That D Scarth had previously agreed to compile a response to the consultation ahead of the deadline for comments.

B. Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy

Following consideration of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for submission of comments was 5 September 2018, and that no comments had been received.

13. Financial Requests

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance Statement as at 13 August 2018, it was:

Resolved that the balance was £3,474.98.

B Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2018/19 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 13 August 2018, it was:

Resolved that the balance remaining for approval was £1,113.02.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 13 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was 8,183.37.

C. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seedcorn Fund statement as at 13 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval as £21.64.

14. Financial Requests

A. Dounby Centre Mini Bus

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Dounby Centre requesting financial assistance towards the running costs of the mini bus which amounted to £2,080, and after hearing that the vehicle is used regularly by local clubs, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £1,000 be given towards the running costs of the minibus, subject to approval of the Community Council Grant Scheme.

B. Mrs C Atkinson – Under 13's Netball, Perth

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs C Atkinson applying for financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter playing for the Under 13's Orkney netball squad in Perth, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £50 should be awarded towards the cost of the netball trip.

C. Mrs C Atkinson – Inverness Caledonian Thistle, Dublin Cup, Ireland

Members considered correspondence received from Mrs C Atkinson, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her son playing for Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the Dublin Cup, Ireland. The meeting heard that Mrs Atkinson had received the full quota of donations for trips to the mainland for the current financial year. However, the trip to Dublin had been unforeseen and as a result Mrs Atkinson had asked if the Community Council could contribute a further £50 towards the cost of the trip being the amount awarded for overseas excursions. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That on this occasion an extra £50 would be granted given that the trip was unexpected.
2. That any future applications would only be accepted in the order that they are received.

D. THAW Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence received from THAW Orkney requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their ongoing project, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would try and find out if any Birsay residents had benefitted from the support of THAW Orkney.

E. Year of Yong People – Youth Concert

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney's Year of Young People Ambassadors requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their proposed Youth Concert to be held in August, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 be given towards the Youth Concert.

F. Dounby Community School – Primary 6 Class to Hoy

Following consideration of correspondence received from Dounby Community School applying for financial assistance towards the cost of the Primary 6 Class trip to Hoy in September 2011, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given to each pupil from the Birsay area taking part in the trip.

G. Kirkwall & St Ola Community Council – Bonfire and Fireworks, Pickaquoy

Following consideration of correspondence which had been received from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council asking for financial assistance towards the cost of the annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display at the Pickaquoy in November, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 would be given toward the cost of the event.

H. Mr and Mrs Spence – Scottish National Athletic Championships, Aberdeen

A Spence declared an interest in this item of business and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr and Mrs Spence applying for financial assistance towards the cost of their daughter competing in the Scottish National Athletics Championships being held in Aberdeen, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £50 towards the costs of the trip to Aberdeen.

15. Publications

A publication from HAGS Playground Equipment was made available to members at the meeting.

16. Any Other Competent Business

A. Forst, The Place

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting from a Birsay resident enquiring about access at her home, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved for the Chair to meet with the resident for clarification on the proposals.

B. Fisherman's Huts, Skipy Geo

Members heard that repairs to the gable end of the Fishermen's Hut at Skipy Geo were needed to be carried out at a cost of £1,200. The Birsay Heritage Trust had agreed to share the expense and following advice from the Democratic Services Manager, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to apply for the full amount of £1,200 through the Community Council Grant Scheme subject to approval with the cost of the Community Council being split equally with the Birsay Heritage Trust.

C. Market Green, Dounby

The meeting heard that two members had met with the members of Harray and Sandwich Community Council to discuss future plans to develop the Market Green in Dounby. Proposals included parking for disabled drivers, buses, cars and bikes and also a charging point. The meeting also heard that there may be legal issues over the disused fuel pumps and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

D. Birsay Playpark

Members were asked to consider recognising the work and time put in by two individuals out with the Birsay parish in the development of the Birsay Playpark. Members agreed to include a thank you in the forthcoming edition of the newsletter and to ask the Birsay Community Association if they would be in agreement to present a thank you gift jointly with the Birsay Community Council to the individuals, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That D Scarth would check if there were any other individuals who had significantly helped with the development of the playpark.
2. That M Hay would contact the Birsay Community Association with the details of the Community Council's proposal.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Birsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 1 November 2018 and Thursday 24 January 2019, both commencing at 19:30 in the Birsay Hall.

18. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:31.