

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held in Dounby Community Centre, on Wednesday, 7 February 2018 at 19:00

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr G Brown, Mr I Flett, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mr C Kirkness, Mrs K Ritch and Mr S Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor H Johnston.
- Mr L Fraser, Housing Manager (Policy and Planning), Orkney Islands Council.
- Mrs L Leitch, Clerk.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillors R King and D Tullock and Police Officer H Moonie.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Resolved to note there were no Police Scotland matters.

3. Research Questionnaire from L Fraser for Masters Dissertation

Members welcomed L Fraser from the Housing Department, Orkney Islands Council who had attended to ask members for their responses to a questionnaire as part of his Masters in Science Public Services Leadership. Following discussion, Mr Fraser thanked the members for their contribution and left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting Held 1 November 2017

Resolved that the minute of the meeting held on 1 November 2017 was approved, being proposed by Mr C Kirkness and seconded by Mr S Sinclair.

5. Matters Arising

A. Market Green Car Park, Dounby

Following consideration of the plans of Market Green Car Park in Dounby, copies of which had been previously distributed, and discussion of the ownership by Orkney Islands Council, it was resolved:

1. That members would like to know what plans, if any, Orkney Islands Council had for the Market Green.
2. That if Orkney Islands Council had no future plans for the area, would the Community be able to develop it.
3. To ascertain when and how Orkney Islands Council became owners of the area and when was the Market Green delegated to Education, Leisure and Housing.
4. That Councillor Tierney also agreed to look into the matter on behalf of the Community Council and report back on any findings.

Councillor Johnston joined the meeting at this point.

B. Road Issues on Stoneyhill Road

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, regarding the condition of the verges between the end of the Stoneyhill Road and Overhouse, Harray, it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To note that there had been a big improvement to the verge.

3. To note members would have preferred for the improvements to have been done closer to the end of the road.

C. West Mainland Tourist Brochure

Members heard that two Harray and Sandwick delegates had attended a Sub Committee meeting to discuss the West Mainland Tourist Brochure. The Sub Committee had agreed for a further 25,000 copies of the tourist brochure to meet the demand for the tourist season ahead which were currently being stored at the Harray Hall. The format of the brochure will be reviewed again in time for the 2019 tourist season with sponsorship also to be discussed and it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. That the Sub Committee were due to meet on 28 February 2018 to discuss the brochure further.

D. Zebra Crossing and Bus Stop, Dounby

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, which advised that due to the low vehicular traffic in Dounby, the application for a zebra crossing would not be met and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Flower Bed at Kirkabrecht Corner

Members heard from Councillor Johnston that the vegetation at the Kirkabrecht Corner would be removed with the Council committing to strimming the verge and the property owners were happy enough for this to be undertaken. Members also discussed the siting of the 30mph signs around the peripheral of Dounby, and queried when the limits would be reviewed again, and it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. For the Clerk to find out when the speed limits are due for consultation again.

F. Flooding on Ballarat Road

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, in response to members concerns over flooding on the Ballarat Road in Harray, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to highlight that the flooding was a major problem and the necessary works to the road should be identified as urgent.

G. Bin at Skail Beach Car Park

No update was available at the meeting and members noted that the bin had been removed from the car park, and it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to ask for further information from Orkney Islands Council as to where the bin had gone and why.

H. Access/Right of Way on Planning Application

Following consideration of correspondence which had previously been distributed detailing the access and right of way on a current planning application, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Dounby Tree Lighting – Donation of Christmas Tree

Resolved to note that the Dounby Co-op had been sent a letter from the Community Council thanking them for covering the cost of the Christmas tree for the Dounby Tree Lighting in December.

6. Correspondence

A. NHS Orkney – Appointment of Non-Executive Directors

After consideration of correspondence received from NHS Orkney advising that they would be advertising for three non-executive members to join their board, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Thrive Renewables Community Benefit Fund

Following consideration of correspondence received from Thrive Renewables inviting applications for their Community Benefit fund before the end of March 2018, it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That details of the fund be forwarded by Mr G Brown to Quoyloo Community Association and from the Clerk to the Harray Hall Committee.

C. Plastic Fantastic – Recycled Art and Crafts Exhibition

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Zero Waste promoting their forthcoming arts exhibition, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Bag the Bruck 2018

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, advising members of arrangements for the annual Bag the Bruck event to be held from 21 to 29 April 2018, it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the Clerk should apply for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme on a project cost of £300.
3. To note that the Birsay, Harray and Sandwick Kirk usually took part in the annual Bag the Bruck event.

E. Orkney Zerowaste Annual General Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Zerowaste inviting members to their Annual General meeting to be held on 8 February 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Thank You Letters and Messages

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

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received from Dounby Community School and the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club with a message of thanks conveyed by the Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

G. Community Council Funding

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which were distributed at the meeting, informing members that each Community Council could be receiving a pro-rata reduction in the annual grant received from the Council, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Consultations

A. Winter Service Plan 2017/2018

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2017/2018, copies of which had been previously circulated, members asked if the Northbigging Road could be upgraded to a Priority 2 road for snow clearance as a disabled resident required to be picked up on a daily basis, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would convey the members' request to Democratic Services.

B. Licencing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Overprovision Assessment

Following consideration of the Overprovision Assessment of Licenced premises, copies of which were distributed at the meeting, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make on the consultation.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan Specification 2017

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan Specification, copies of which were distributed at the meeting, and following discussion it was resolved:

1. To note that the ditches and verges were not cleared enough leading to flooding.
2. To note that members would prefer to see the whole of a verge being cut which would be more economical instead of the usual stopping and starting.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 24 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £3,751.26.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,993.40.

C. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund (CDF) statement as at 24 January 2018, and correspondence received from Democratic Services which explained how the fund was utilised, it was resolved:

1. To note that the sum of £9,640 remained available for allocation.
2. To note the contents of the correspondence.
3. To note that the fund could be used for developing the Market Green only if the area wasn't owned by Orkney Islands Council.

D. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn fund statement as at 24 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £2,500.00 remained available for allocation.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Harray Community Association – Defibrillator

Members resumed consideration of the request from Harray Community Association for financial assistance towards the provision of a defibrillator inside the Harray Community Hall and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should apply for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme for the amount of £200 towards the cost of the defibrillator.

B. Glaitness School – Nethy Bridge 2018

Following consideration of correspondence received from Glaitness School asking for financial assistance towards the cost of one pupil resident in Sandwick participating in the annual trip to Nethy Bridge in May, it was resolved:

1. That that the Clerk would check with Glaitness School if the pupil did reside in Sandwick.
2. That a £50 donation would be awarded if the pupil stayed in Sandwick.

C. Firth Primary School – Nethybridge 2018

Consideration was given to a letter from Firth Primary School applying for financial assistance for one pupil from the parish, participating in their class trip to Nethybridge in April 2018, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £40 to the Firth pupil.

D. Stromness Academy – Geography Study Tour to Switzerland

Mr D Hamilton declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Academy asking for financial assistance towards the cost of 5 pupils attending their Geography Study Tour to Switzerland, it was resolved:

1. To award a donation of £50 to four of the Academy pupils.
2. To note that one pupil had already received their maximum travel assistance for the current financial year.
3. That the pupil would receive the contribution towards their trip at the start of the new financial year in April.
4. That Stromness Academy would be informed of the two separate donations being made.

E. Stenness Community School – Nethybridge 2018

Consideration was given to a letter from Stenness Community School applying for financial assistance for one pupil from the parish, participating in their class trip to Nethybridge in April 2018, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £50 to the Stenness pupil.

F. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Gibson Cup, Wick

Following consideration of a letter received from the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club at the end of October 2017 applying for financial assistance towards the cost of one swimmer from the area competing in the Gibson Cup in Wick and after hearing that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had agreed for a donation of £20 to be made towards the travel costs to Caithness, it was:

Resolved to note that a donation of £20 had been made to the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club.

G. In the Fall – Short Film

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Director of a short film being filmed in Orkney, asking for financial assistance towards the costs of the production, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to ask for further details of information on the request.

H. Dounby Community School – Primary 6 Class trip to Hoy

Mr S Sinclair declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion.

Following consideration of a letter from Dounby Community School, which was distributed at the meeting, applying for financial assistance towards the cost of six pupils attending their class trip to Hoy in June, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £20 to each of the six pupils.

10. Publications

Publications from Orkney Police, Orkney Arts Forum, NHS Scotland, Police Scotland, Voluntary Action Orkney and the Orkney Partnership were made available to members at the meeting.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Dounby Tree Lighting – Entertainment

Members heard that the Kirkwall Town Band had provided the entertainment during the Dounby tree lighting in 2017 and that they usually received a donation of £100 for their efforts, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 should be sent to Kirkwall Town Band.

B. Drain outside Harray Hall

Members reported that there had been water boiling from the drain outside the Harray Hall onto the football pitch, and it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to find out whether or not the drain was the responsibility of Orkney Islands Council.

C. Overgrown trees at “The Lodge”

The matter of the overgrown trees at “The Lodge” was raised again, and members noted that it was only a problem when there were leaves on the tree, and it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to report the matter to Orkney Islands Council.

D. Lyde Road, Harray side

The meeting heard that there were flooding issues at the top of the Harray side of the Lyde Road with water coming down off the hill and into the ditches which were already full, and it was resolved:

1. To note that, due to the unprecedented amount of rainfall this winter, nothing could be done meantime.

2. To bring this matter forward to the next meeting for discussion.

E. Road Centre

Members noted that when the white paint had been planed off the centre of the roads in readiness for resurfacing, too much of the road surface had been removed. It was suggested that the resurfacing should recommence in May this year, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the discussion.

F. The Dochart, Tenston Road, Sandwich

Members heard that a water burst had been repaired by Scottish Water at The Dochart, just after the Tenston Road in Sandwich. However, when new tar was laid, too much was laid which had resulted in a serious bump in the road, and it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to report the matter Democratic Services.

G. Thank you to immediate past Community Council members

Members agreed that in recognition of the time, commitment and dedication to the Community Council, that immediate past members Mrs E Aitken, Mr J Corrigall and Mr D Grieve be invited along to the beginning of the next meeting to be presented with a gift as a token of the existing members' appreciation, and it was resolved:

1. That the Clerk would invite the three past members along to the beginning of the next meeting for the presentation of gifts from the Community Council.
2. That the Clerk would organise the purchase of the gifts.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved to note the dates of future meetings would be Wednesday, 18 April, and Wednesday, 13 June 2018, all in the Dounby Community Centre and commencing at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting concluded at 21:00.