

# Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 24 January 2022 at 19:00

## Present:

Rikki A Lidderdale, Tom Rendall, Robert F Leslie, Lorraine A Craigie, Moyra Gordon, Christine E Harcus, Cathleen A Hourie and John R Mowat.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Barbara Foulkes.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
  
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
  
- 2 members of the local press.
- Chief inspector Alastair Garrow, Police Scotland.
- Michelle Ward, Service Manager, Women's Aid Orkney.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from David L Flett and Christopher Gee, and Councillors Norman R Craigie, Andrew Drever, Steve Sankey and Gwenda M Shearer.

## **2. Police Scotland Matters**

After hearing a presentation from the Police Scotland representative on local policing matters, including road safety and road crime, pedestrian and cyclist clothing and lights, serious and organised crime, drugs and drug detection, acquisitive crime, including fraud and online crime, antisocial behaviour, violence and disorder, protecting vulnerable people, terrorism and public order, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation, including plans to hold island surgeries and the three main priorities, namely drugs, road traffic issues and cyber-crime.

Councillors Sandy Cowie and Leslie Manson joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **3. Women's Aid Orkney**

After hearing a presentation from the Service Manager regarding the work of Women's Aid Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation.

Councillor Barbara Foulkes, the Police Scotland representative and the Service Manager, Women's Aid Orkney, left the meeting at this point.

## **4. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 29 November 2021 was approved, being proposed by Tom Rendall and seconded by John Mowat.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **A. Dog Litter Bins**

Councillor John Richards advised that the Youth Forum had met earlier and had asked whether the Community Council would support its efforts in redistributing litter bins to more appropriate locations, and it was:

Resolved that the Youth Forum be invited to make a presentation to the next meeting.

### **B. Ragwort**

The Clerk had received a response from Orkney Islands Council agreeing that pulling ragwort by hand was the only feasible option for small areas, as spraying with herbicides was not, as it would most likely harm other desirable plants as well as wildlife. However, if the matter was localised to a single quarry, consideration could be given to strimming before the ragwort set seed. It was:

Resolved that members should report any areas where ragwort was an issue through Orkney Islands Council's website, which would then be passed to the relevant service for action.

### **C. Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial**

The Clerk had received a response from Orkney Islands Council advising that an in-house team had cleaned the memorial, although there were further works required to seal the top of the memorial so that water could not get into the joints, run down the inside, taking out the salt as it leached out at the bottom, which would be done in the summer months, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Works and Inspection Manager was aware that he had previously advised that upkeep of the memorial was the responsibility of the Community Council, however if the Community Council was happy to allow the Council to do the work, he would arrange for this to be done.
2. To note that, should the Community Council and the Royal British Legion wish to contribute financially, that would be much appreciated by the Council.

### **D. HiTrans – Small Grants – Community Active Travel Projects/ School Streets – Ingness to Scapa Core Path**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding works carried out on a section of the core path in the vicinity of Wideford, including drainage, which was subsequently damaged by livestock, and suggesting that a path be created along the field boundary/dry stone wall where the ground was more level and firmer, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the potential for funding to upgrade parts of the core path which had been damaged by sheep.
2. To note that parts of the Seatter bridleway were also in a poor condition and could benefit from some remedial works, particularly at the Berstane Road end, where chips or stones on the wet patches might help.

### **E. Doorway in St Olaf's Wynd**

The Chair advised that he had contacted the owner of the courtyard who, in the first instance, would contact his solicitor to determine ownership, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

### **F. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks**

The Clerk had received correspondence from M Want, C Inkster and Orkney Amateur Swimming Club thanking the Community Council for providing financial assistance towards attending various events, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **G. KGS Carol Service**

Following consideration correspondence from P Stephenson advising that the KGS Carol Service was not able to proceed and hence the application for financial assistance had been withdrawn, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **H. Lynn Road**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that the section of Lynn Road beyond where the streetlights stopped was not the Council's responsibility, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the individuals who had initially contacted the Community Council advising that, as the road was not the responsibility of the local authority, the householders themselves would be responsible and perhaps they could arrange for a load of scalplings or dust to be delivered and spread.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Administration and Marketing Officer, Thurso Community Development Trust, advising of the North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub, which had been established to support communities in designing, developing, and delivering a climate action project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Guidance Note for Community Council Meetings**

Following consideration of a guidance note from Orkney Islands Council in relation to COVID-19 implications on attendance at community council meetings, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the guidance note.

### **C. COVID-19 and Omicron Advice and Request**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rural and Islands Communities Team, Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy, Scottish Government, requesting groups to promote COVID-19 guidance and protections in light of the increasing numbers of Omicron cases, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Right of Way Investigation – Neuketineuks, Kirkwall**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the outcome of the investigation into a right of way at Neuketineuks, Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the public consultation had yielded insufficient evidence to satisfy the Council that it would be expedient to take any action to assert the route as a public right of way for vehicular access and therefore the Council would not be taking any further action on the matter in terms of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967.

### **E. Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the announcement by Scottish Ministers in relation to the granting of planning permission for sites at Quanterness and Hoy, as part of Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **F. Free Childminding Course**

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a free training and support programme aimed at encouraging up to 10 individuals to become new professional childminders, in a bid to help address childcare shortages across Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **G. Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project**

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the public consultation on a Location-Specific Community Benefit Scheme, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, recognising the importance of the scheme to the local communities and the timeframes in which the project might proceed, if successful in securing planning permission (in the case of Faray) and Council support, the decision on the scheme would be made early in the next Council, following the election in May.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 6 January 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 6 January 2022 of £13,073.17.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 January 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 6 January 2022, projects to the value of £2,727.72 had been approved, of which £2,727.27 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,691.37.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 6 January 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,964.42.

## **8. Hanging Baskets**

Following consideration of the provision of hanging baskets for the 2022 season, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the grant funding, amounting to £4,500, received from Scotland Loves Local, would be used towards the provision of hanging baskets in 2022.

B. That the Community Council should continue the scheme to provide floral hanging baskets in the town centre during 2022 for private businesses and households only.

C. That the Clerk should contact Kirkwall BID to determine whether they would be in a position to provide some financial assistance towards the provision of hanging baskets.

D. That the Clerk should seek further external funding towards the provision of hanging baskets in the town centre.

E. That businesses and private individuals participating in the scheme should be requested to pay one third of the cost of a basket, with the remaining cost met from a combination of the Scotland Loves Local funding and Community Council Grant Scheme funding.

F. That a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded towards the provision of hanging baskets, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

G. That the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements to secure a contract for the provision of hanging baskets during 2022.

H. That powers be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair to accept a tender for the provision of hanging baskets.

I. That the Chair and Vice Chair should contact the successful tenderer to agree the length of time the hanging baskets should remain on the buildings.

## **9. Flower Tubs at Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial**

Following discussion of the continued provision of flower tubs at the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Community Council should provide flower tubs at the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial containing Royal British Legion colours.

B. That a grant of £100 be awarded towards the provision of the flower tubs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

## **10. Consultations**

### **A. Draft National Planning Framework 4**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government advising of the publication of the draft National Planning Framework 4, for which responses were required by 31 March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, given the extensive consultation documentation, members should respond individually.

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

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of the consultation on the verge maintenance plan for 2022, for which responses were required by 4 March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, should members have any concerns regarding the specification, they should email the Clerk prior to the closing date.

## **11. Publications**

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- Kirkwall BID – Second November 2021 Newsletter.
- L McArthur MSP – Covid-19: Latest Advice and Guidance – 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December 2021 and 5, 11 and 18 January 2022.
- Paths for All – eNews, 1 December 2021.
- VAO Newsletters – November and December 2021.
- L McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 10 and 12 December 2021 and 14 and 21 January 2022.
- SEPA Updates – 13 and 17 December 2021.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Scotland's Towns Newsletter, 14 December 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Updates – December 2021 and January 2022.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter for Orkney Community Councils – 1 January 2022.

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Orkney Youth Local Action Group**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the YLAG (Orkney) Facilitator seeking expressions of interests from any groups or individuals within the Community Council area to participate in a project to empower young people to make their voices heard, to contribute towards sustainable community planning and distribute funding to projects that benefitted them, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Orkney Matters**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of the Orkney Matters' meeting for the Kirkwall and St Ola area, and it was:

Resolved to note that the meeting would take place on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 via Teams.

### **C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards the North District Spring Championships to be held in Inverness on 5 and 6 February 2022, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 for each swimmer be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

### **D. Roadways in Bignold Park**

Following representations from an individual member, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council and Orkney Agricultural Society praising the standard of works relating to the provision of roadways through the Bignold Park and the difference it had made, particularly in assisting children walking to school.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 14 March 2022, commencing at 19:00, with the venue to be determined nearer the time depending on the COVID-19 situation.

B. To note that, with Community Council elections scheduled for June 2022, the Clerk proposed that the May meeting (date to be confirmed) continue with normal business, excluding the appointment of office bearers.

## **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

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