

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Primary School and via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 7 December 2022 at 19.30

Present:

Mrs L McAdie, Mr L Flett, Mr I Rendall and Mr P Thomas.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Councillor R Peace.
- Councillor G Skuse.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated from Mr T Craigie.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 4 October 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr I Rendall and seconded by Mr P Thomas.

3. Matters Arising

A. Travel Grant Policy

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 travel grant rates, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the policy and conditions for travel grants in 2022/2023 be as follows:

- £15.00 grant for travel within Orkney.
- £40.00 for travel within the UK and out with Orkney.
- £70.00 for travel out with the UK.

- Any individual can claim travel grants up to a maximum of £200 in any given financial year, which could be any combination of the three travel grant rates as detailed above.
- School curriculum travel would be considered on available finance at any given time.
- All recipients of travel assistance must be individually named within the financial application and must reside in St Andrews or Deerness, in order to receive any travel grant awarded.

B. Review of Ayrenergy Guidance Notes

Following consideration of this Community Council's guidance notes for Ayrenergy Ltd funding, financial and education grant applications and clauses for inclusion with financial award correspondence, it was:

Resolved that no update was required to the guidance notes or clauses.

C. Ayrenergy Ltd

Members considered correspondence received from Ayrenergy Ltd advising that they had gifted a further £5,000 to this Community Council's Ayrenergy Ltd fund. Mr I Rendall advised that he thought it appropriate for the Clerk to write to Ayrenergy Ltd thanking them for this additional contribution of funding, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk writes to Ayrenergy Ltd thanking them for the additional contribution of funding.

4. Consultation Documents

A. Scottish Island Federation – Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation for Social Care Support

Following consideration of information which had previously been circulated regarding a consultation event which related to a Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation for Social Care Support, in the Pickaquoy Centre on 1 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no response to the consultation and had not attended the event.

B. Marine Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland, which had previously been circulated, regarding an application for Variation of Planning Consent for the extension of the operational life of the tidal test site at Fall of Warness; from seven to ten years, which required a response by 15 December 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that, prior to 15 December 2022, members could submit a response via the Clerk if they wished to.

C. Draft Verge Maintenance Plan 2023

Members considered a consultation document which had previously been circulated on the Verge Maintenance Plan 2023, which required a response by 19 December 2022. Mr I Rendall noted the timing of cuts and suggested that, if growing conditions warranted an additional cut, then a third cut would be beneficial. The Chair advised that priority roads were cut and then, some weeks later, the verges on side roads were cut and this does not appear cost effective or environmentally friendly. It was unanimously agreed that this Community Council would like all the verges cut at the same time to save on fuel and time. It was also noted that safety cuts can be requested by members of the public and reported to Customer Services, OIC. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk submit members' response to the Draft Verge Maintenance Plan 2023 consultation to Democratic Services.
2. To note that safety cut requests can be reported to Customer Services, OIC.

D. Boundary Commission of Scotland

Following consideration of the Boundary Commission of Scotland's revised consultation document, Revised Proposals of UK Parliament Constituencies, which required a response by 5 December 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no response to the consultation document.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish 4G Infill Programme Evaluation - Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government regarding the Scottish 4G Infill Programme Evaluation and undertaking a survey to evaluate new services in local areas, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. NHS Improvement Scotland – Upcoming Webinars

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Improvement Scotland regarding upcoming online webinars and events, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Scottish Island Federation (SIF) – Online events and Meetings

Members considered correspondence from SIF regarding online events, consultations, meetings, opportunities and grants available to communities, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. NHS Scotland Initiative - SHARE

Following consideration of correspondence from the University of Dundee requesting that people join the Scottish Health Register and Biobank in order to be sent information about health research projects (studies), copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Avian Influenza – Briefing Note

Following consideration of correspondence from The Trading Standards Manager, OIC regarding Avian Flu and the progress to ascertain the number of poultry premises in the surveillance zone, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Update and Request

Following consideration of correspondence from ONWP, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an update and a request to attend a future meeting to provide further updates on their project to eradicate stoats in Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note that members did not wish to meet with ONWP as they already provided regular updates.

G. Scotland Loves Local Gift Card

Following consideration of correspondence from Scotland's Town Partnership regarding the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. SSEN Distribution – Online Event

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN Distribution, copies of which had previously been circulated, inviting members to attend an online event on 24 November 2022 regarding a "last resort" scenario of planned emergency power cuts to save energy this winter, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. HITRANS – Windracers

Following consideration of correspondence from HITRANS, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the use of unscrewed aircraft systems to deliver critical cargo to remote areas of the United Kingdom, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Voluntary Action Orkney – NZET Committee Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO inviting members to join a meeting in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall on 28 or 29 November 2022 with the Convenor of the NZET Committee who will hold an inquiry into "A Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland", copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Scapa Deep Water Quay – Consultation Event

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting members to participate in a public consultation event at the Kiln Corner, Kirkwall on 1 December 2022, providing information on the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay and specifically the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

L. Thank You Letters

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, St Andrews SWI, Orkney Amateur Swimming Club and Mr A Robertson for financial assistance provided.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 24 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £15,651.48.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £2,550.80 from the main capping limit and £743 from the additional capping limit.

C. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 23 November 2022, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £7,847.46.
2. To note that the additional £5,000 from Ayrenergy Ltd was now in this account.

7. Financial Requests

A. Education Grants

1. Allocation of Funding

Following consideration of an allocation of funding towards a 2022/2023 Education Grant, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the education grant would have a set fund limit of £2,500.
- B. That following consideration of the annual education grant applications, any funding not disbursed would be returned to the main Ayrenergy Ltd fund.

2. Applications

Following consideration of six education grant applications, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To award an education grant, totalling £500 each to five applicants: Rhona Bain, Ann Lennie, Kieran McKinney, Sam Rendall and Dee Steel.

B. That the applicant B Njilakondo did not reside in St Andrews or Deerness parish and therefore their education grant application was not considered.

B. Travel Grant Assistance

1. Ellen Cooper

Members considered correspondence from Ellen Cooper requesting travel assistance for her participation in an Under-17 netball district competition in Dundee and a development competition in Glasgow, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to award Ellen Cooper two £40 travel assistance grants totalling £80.

2. Isla Baillie

Members considered correspondence from Isla Baillie requesting travel assistance for her participation in a gymnastics competition in Inverness, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to award Isla Baillie a travel assistance grant totalling £40.

C. Deerness Community Association – 2022 Christmas Lunch

Mr L Flett declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Members considered correspondence received from Deerness Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the production costs of the 2022 Deerness Senior Citizens Christmas lunch for approximately 70 senior citizens. Following much discussion, consideration was given to a lump sum award of funding or a price per person. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that any decision made at this meeting would require to be approved by Mr T Craigie also; in order for the decision to be quorate. She also advised that as per member's approval; payment would be made to those Deerness residents attending the Christmas lunch, and that receipted invoices for costs, which would not include any alcohol beverage cost, required to be submitted to the Clerk, in order to claim the grant, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To approve a grant totalling £8.00 per Deerness resident senior citizen towards the 2022 Deerness Senior Citizen Xmas lunch, subject to approval by Mr T Craigie also and eligibility under CCGS.

2. That, in order to claim the grant, a list of Deerness resident senior citizens in attendance should be supplied to the Clerk along with receipted invoices for costs.

D. St Andrews Senior Citizens – 2022 Christmas Lunch

Members considered correspondence received from St Andrews Senior Citizens, requesting financial assistance towards the production costs of the 2022 Christmas lunch for 34 senior citizens, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To approve a grant totalling £8.00 per St Andrews resident senior citizen to St Andrews Senior Citizens towards the 2022 St Andrews Senior Citizen Christmas lunch, subject to eligibility under CCGS.
2. That, in order to claim the grant, a list of St Andrews resident senior citizens in attendance should be supplied to the Clerk along with receipted invoices for costs.

E. Deerness Children's Party Group

Members considered correspondence from Deerness Children's Party Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards their Christmas party and cost of presents and party food for Deerness children, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation totalling £50 to Deerness Children's Party Group.

8. Publications

The following publications had been made available for members to view and were noted:

- Glasdon – Brochure.
- Scottish Water – Autumn Newsletter.
- OIC Road Works – Update.
- Orkney Harbours – Offshore Wind Newsletter – September and October 2022.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update and Newsletter – October and November 2022.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – October and November 2022.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Kirkyard Maintenance Contract

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that it would be appropriate to consider advertising the Kirkyard Maintenance contracts early in order to give prospective contractors time to organise for the forthcoming season(s). Democratic Services would issue the Clerk with tender documents, and she advised that the Burial Grounds Officer, OIC had given consideration to increasing the cuts at Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard from four to six cuts however she would require to check with him whether definitive approval had been given for this increase in cuts for season 2023. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To set a three-year tender, covering seasons 2023, 2024 and 2025.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would ascertain if the Hall of Tankerness Kirkyard grass cut would be increased from 4 cuts to six cuts.

3. That the Clerk would be issued with the Kirkyard Maintenance tender documents and thereafter, she could advertise the contract in the "Orcadian" newspaper.

B. Private Road Maintenance

Councillor R Peace advised that a member of the public had contacted him to ascertain if this Community Council provided road materials for the repair of private roads in St Andrews and Deerness parishes. The Chair advised that the Community Council used to fund this however there was not currently a scheme set up, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Peace would report this information back to the member of the public.

C. Festive Lights for Toab

Councillor R Peace advised that more than one resident from Toab had asked if he could establish the progress of Christmas lights for Toab. The Chair advised that a previous Community Council member had been keen on this idea and had investigated costs and procedures required for progressing the erection of wrap-around festive lights for lampposts in Toab and Deerness. This would require a qualified or competent person to install them and this and other associated costs was no longer funded by OIC and, if progressed, would have to be organised and funded by the Community Council. It was advised that planning permission would also be required. The Chair also advised that previous Community Council members had decided to leave this decision to the next Community Council. Mr L Flett suggested that any discussion/decision on the progression of festive lights for Toab and Deerness should be deferred until there is a full complement of Community Council Members, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Peace would advise his constituents to write to the Community Council if they wished the progression of Christmas lights for Toab to be given consideration.

D. CC Updates

The Chair asked the Community Council Liaison Officer to provide updates to requests for action on the following issues:

- Brough of Deerness Landslide.
- Memorial and Gloup Paths, Deerness
- Passing Place – Top of Brae of Fea, Tankerness.
- Flooding Water – Holm Road at Heatherlea, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the Community Council Liaison Officer's advice that all issues had been reported accordingly and action taken where appropriate.

2. To note that further information on the landslide and paths would be forwarded when available.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Members considered 2023 meeting dates, and it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council would be held in St Andrews Primary School at 19:30 on 8 February, 19 April, 14 June, 23 August and 15 November 2023.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:44.