

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 23 January 2023 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Rikki A Lidderdale, Barbara J M Graham, Christine E Marcus, Cathleen A Hourie, David W Hughes, John R Mowat and Lynne Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, Orkney Islands Council (for Items 1 to 10A).
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer
- 1 member of the local press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Moyra Gordon, Robert F Leslie and Chris J F Matthews, and Councillors Steven B Heddle, Kristopher D Leask, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer and Ivan A Taylor.

2. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 14 November 2022 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by John Mowat.

3. Matters Arising

A. Seatter Bridleway

The Clerk advised that, between adverse weather and illness, Robert Leslie had been unable to remove the broken wire at the Seatter bridleway, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

B. Door in St Olaf's Wynd

After hearing an update from the Vice Chair regarding proposals to replace the door in St Olaf's Wynd, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a planning application for a replacement door had been submitted.
2. To note that an application had been made to Historic Environment Scotland for a Historic Environment Repair Grant towards the cost of a replacement door.
3. To note that, as Chris Matthews was not present, no update was available on contact with the main tour organisations to determine whether they would be willing to provide financial assistance.
4. That consideration be given, in due course, to approaching Orkney College to determine whether joinery students could assist with making the replacement door.

C. The Big Tree – QR Code

After hearing an update from the Chair regarding a QR code for the Big Tree, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Kirkwall BID would be willing to assist with the QR code for the Big Tree.
2. To note that initial contact had been made with the Planning service at Orkney Islands Council to determine what applications, if any, would be required for a small plaque containing the QR code to be installed on the metal insert in the Big Tree.
3. That consideration be given to utilising the remaining grant funding of approximately £500 in printing more leaflets and the plaque for the QR code.

D. Warm Hubs/Cost of Living Crisis

The Clerk had not yet received a response from Orkney Islands Council to the initial query on the provision of warm hubs or what action, if any, was being taken to assist with the cost-of-living crisis, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

E. Financial Request

The Clerk had been advised that full sponsorship had been secured in respect of the BATD Jessie Stewart Haggarty MBE Junior Highland Scholarship and, accordingly, no financial assistance would be claimed from the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

F. Policy on Financial Assistance

The Finance Sub-committee had not yet met to consider the policy on financial assistance and, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration of the policy on financial assistance until the Finance Sub-committee had met and made recommendations.

4. Correspondence

A. West of Orkney Windfarm – Proposal of Application Notice

Following consideration of correspondence from the Development Manager, West of Orkney Windfarm, regarding the proposal to submit applications to Highland Council regarding construction of the offshore windfarm and associated onshore transmission infrastructure to connect the windfarm to the grid at, or near, the Spittal substation in Caithness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. SSEN – Powering on together this winter

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN regarding online stakeholder surgeries aimed at building resilience during the winter, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the North of Scotland stakeholder surgery was held on 24 November 2022.

C. HiTRANS – Scottish Islands – Windracers

Following consideration of correspondence from HiTRANS regarding the SATE (Sustainable Aviation Test Environment) project and Windracers, a company leading the effort for the use of uncrewed aircraft systems to deliver critical cargo to remote areas of the UK, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Woodlands Work

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding three wooded areas managed by the Council which would be undergoing specialist maintenance works soon to ensure they continued to thrive, including Muddisdale Woods in Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, following a survey of each of the woods by a qualified arborist, work such as pruning of eye-level branches near paths, surgery to remove unhealthy limbs and thinning of branches to open up the canopy and encourage growth would be carried out by a specialist.
2. That Hayley Green would investigate what works could be done to reinstate the shingle paths through the woodland at Muddisdale which had been washed away during the recent wet weather.

E. Orkney Logistics Hub and Scapa Deep Water Quay

Following consideration of correspondence from SWECO regarding the Pre-Application Notices in respect of the Orkney Logistics Hub and the Scapa Deep Water Quay, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should identify a suitable date when Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council could attend the public exhibition offices at Kiln Corner, to receive a short presentation on the proposals.

F. EMEC – Billia Croo Section 36 Consent

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland advising of the granting of Section 36 consent in respect of the expansion of EMEC's Billia Croo wave energy test site, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 6 January 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 6 January 2023 of £17,559.42.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/23 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 January 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £3,764.72 had been approved, of which £3,664.72 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,407.17.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 6 January 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,163.46.

6. Financial Requests

A. Move Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from Move Orkney Highland requesting financial assistance towards attending an International Highland Dancing competition at Disneyland Paris in March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration of the application to enable the Finance Sub-committee to consider and make a recommendation, given that the request related to international travel.

B. Just Dance Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from Just Dance Orkney requesting financial assistance towards attending the Dance World Cup in Braga, Portugal, in July 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration of the application to enable the Finance Sub-committee to consider and make a recommendation, given that the request related to international travel.

C. KGS Netball

Following consideration of correspondence from E Wallace requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in the Under 14 District League netball fixture held in Shetland on 28 and 28 December 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be provided, subject to confirmation of participation.

7. Hanging Baskets

Following discussion on the provision of hanging baskets throughout Kirkwall Town Centre for 2023, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Community Council should continue the scheme to provide floral hanging baskets in the town centre during 2023 for private businesses and households only.

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

C. That businesses and private individuals participating in the scheme should be requested to meet the cost of a basket, less the Community Council Grant Scheme funding.

D. That the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements to secure a contract for the provision of hanging baskets during 2023.

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

F. 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.

8. Flower Tubs at War Memorial

Following discussion on 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 £150 be awarded towards the provision of the flower tubs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

C. That the Clerk should enter the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial in the Royal British Legion's Best Kept War Memorial competition.

9. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction

Following discussion on the condition of the shrub bed at the Scapa junction, it was:

Resolved that Cathleen Hourie should contact Clive Chaddock to determine whether agriculture/horticulture students at Orkney College could assist with carrying out some maintenance at the shrub bed.

10. Consultations

A. Cooke Aquaculture – Proposed Aquaculture Developments

Following consideration of correspondence from Cooke Aquaculture regarding public consultation on two site development proposals at established aquaculture sites at Quanterness and Meil Bay, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Cooke Aquaculture welcoming the developments, given the employment opportunities as well as the community benefit which the company provided, and seeking confirmation that monitoring was carried out at the sites to ensure no detrimental effect on local wildlife.

B. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Overprovision

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a consultation on overprovision being carried out by the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board, for which responses were required by 17 March 2023, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should respond to the consultation advising that the Community Council did not think there was overprovision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of any particular description, within the locality, being the Orkney area.

11. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Scottish Islands Federation – Island Housing Group

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of a meeting of the Island Housing Group held virtually on 24 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Scottish Islands Federation – Let’s Talk Scottish Education

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding a national discussion entitled “Let’s Talk Scottish Education”, held virtually on 29 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Meeting with Convener of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO regarding a meeting with the Convener of the Scottish Parliament’s Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 28 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the report on attendance by John Mowat.

D. Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub

Following consideration of correspondence regarding a public consultation event in respect of the Scapa Deep Water Quay and the Orkney Logistics Hub held at the Kiln Corner, Kirkwall, on 1 December 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that various members of the Community Council had attended the public consultation event.

E. West of Orkney Windfarm – Orkney Community Panel

The West of Orkney Windfarm Orkney Community Panel had met on 23 January 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that Chris Matthews, the Community Council's representative on the Orkney Community Panel, would provide an update at the next meeting.

12. Publications

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

- ORSAS – Quarterly Newsletter – November 2022.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 18 and 25 November, 2, 9, 16 and 23 December 2022 and 13 and 20 January 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – November and December 2022 Newsletters.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – November 2022.
- Paths for All – eNews – November and December 2022.
- VAO – Newsletters – November and December 2022.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Scotland's Towns Bulletin – December 2022.
- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind – Community Newsletter – The Airt o Wind – December 2022.
- SEPA Updates – 30 and 31 December 2022 and 11 January 2023.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Liaison Officer advising of the SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow to be held on Friday, 10 March 2023, together with a further Orkney and Shetland virtual meeting on 16 March 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair and John Mowat would attend the roadshow.

B. Benches at the Willows

Following a discussion on the condition of the benches at the Willows, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that all four benches were in a poor state of repair and requesting that they be repaired or replaced.

C. Former Knackery Site at Hatston

Following a discussion on the state of the site of the former knackery at Hatston, particularly discarded and broken wheelie bins, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that the site be tidied up.

D. Kirkwall Community Green Spaces Project

Following a discussion on the green spaces project, which was discussed at the previous meeting, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should again request Councillor Leask to provide the list of 14 potential sites referred to in his original correspondence.

E. Ditch Cleaning

Following a discussion on a new machine which Orkney Islands Council had deployed for cleaning ditches, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that consideration be given to an operative being tasked with clearing up the rubbish left by the machine.

F. Winter Maintenance

Following a discussion on the recent cold spell and provision of salting/gritting, particularly side streets in Kirkwall and paths, it was:

Resolved to note that, as annual consultation was held in respect of the Winter Maintenance Plan, these issues should be raised at the appropriate time.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held in the St Magnus Centre on Monday, 13 March 2023, commencing at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:35.