

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 4 October 2021 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

- Mrs H Flett, Clerk.

- Sergeant Simon Hay, Police Scotland (for Item 11B).
- 1 member of the local press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from David L Flett and Christopher Gee, and Councillor John A R Scott.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Chief Inspector Ali Garrow had submitted his apologies, due to illness.

3. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 16 August 2021 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by Tom Rendall.

4. Matters Arising

A. Town Centre Funding

After hearing an update from the Chair in respect of the project at Tankerness House Gardens, it was:

Resolved to note that, having received all invoices, the final claim was submitted on 24 September 2021. The contingency element covered all additional costs, with the final project cost coming in at just over £1,000 under budget. The Community Council expressed thanks to The Yard for undertaking the project and also to the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer, who had co-ordinated the project on behalf of the Community Council.

B. Dig Litter Bins

Councillor John Richards advised that the Youth Forum had not yet met and was also undergoing a change in membership. He undertook to update the Community Council once a meeting had taken place, noting that the person who had originally scoped the location of dog litter bins was still keen to see a rationalisation of locations and numbers, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

C. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

After hearing an update from the Chair on arrangements for the bonfire and fireworks at Pickaquoy and following consideration of the Event Management Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that arrangements were progressing, with applications for the road closure and the Pipe Band procession submitted.
2. To note that offers of financial assistance totalling £600 had been received from other community councils.
3. To approve the Event Management Plan, as submitted.

John Mowat joined the meeting at this point.

D. Consultation – SEPA – Orkney Local Flood Risk Management Plan

Following consideration of the detailed consultation documentation in relation to those parts of the Orkney Local Flood Risk Management Plan pertaining to Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should submit comments to the Clerk, no later than 30 October 2021, in order that a response could be submitted by the closing date.

E. Gates at Bignold Park

After hearing an update from the Chair in respect of the Community Council's request that the main entrance gates to the Bignold Park be painted, it was:

Resolved to note that the gates at the Bignold Park had been painted.

F. Castle Street Pay and Display Car Park

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding cars exiting the Castle Street car park against the one-way system, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Roads Support, Orkney Islands Council, was aware of the situation and that works were on a list, along with other lining works, which would hopefully resolve the matter in the near future.

G. Ragwort

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council in response to the Community Council's concerns regarding the prevalence of ragwort, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should draft a response to Orkney Islands Council and circulate via email to all members for approval, prior to the Clerk submitting the response formally.

5. Correspondence

A. Community Benefit Scheme – Wind Farm Project

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising members of progress with the consultation on the Community Benefit Scheme for the Wind Farm project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. New Bus Fleet for Orkney

Following consideration of a press release from Stagecoach regarding the new bus fleet for Orkney, with the first five buses arriving in October, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Legion Scotland – Kirkwall Branch – Kirkwall War Memorial

Following consideration of correspondence from the Kirkwall branch of Legion Scotland regarding maintenance of the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Cathleen Hourie should check with Dowell's to ascertain whether the works proposed would help with the leaching.
2. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that the works proposed in the quote from Dowell's be undertaken, preferably in advance of Remembrance Sunday.
3. That, if required, the Community Council was prepared to assist with the cost of the works, up to a maximum sum of £400, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

D. Connecting Scotland Round 2 Phase 2

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding Round 2 Phase 2 of the Connecting Scotland scheme, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Platinum Jubilee – New Cities

Following consideration of correspondence from Councillor Steven Heddle regarding the awarding of city status as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, should Orkney Islands Council submit an application for Kirkwall to receive city status, the Community Council would support such an application.

F. HiTrans – Small Grants – Community Active Travel Projects/ School Streets

Following consideration of correspondence regarding HiTrans' small grant scheme in relation to community active travel projects/school streets, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to enable further investigation of potential projects and funding options.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 14 September 2021 of £5,517.40.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/22 Community Council Grant Scheme statement, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 14 September 2021, projects to the value of £2,628.02 had been approved, of which £628.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,751.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 14 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

7. Financial Request – Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards the cost of two residents participating in the North District Age Group championships to be held in Inverness on 9 and 10 October 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be awarded to each of the participants, subject to proof of attendance.

8. Consultations

A. NHS Orkney – Clinical Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence regarding NHS Orkney's consultation on its proposed Clinical Strategy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should submit individual responses.

B. Orkney Distilling Ltd – Application for Variation of Premises Licence

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding an application from Orkney Distilling Ltd for an application for variation of the premises licence in respect of the Distillery and Visitor Centre, Ayre Road, Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make no representation or objection in respect of the application, noting that discussions were ongoing with Police Scotland, and the Community Council was not aware of any adverse issues relating to the premises.

9. Meetings Attended by Members - Scottish Land Commission

Christine Marcus had attended the Orkney Virtual Public Meeting organised by the Scottish Land Commission held on 29 September 2021, and it was:

Resolved to note that, following representations made at the virtual meeting, the Scottish Land Commission was now aware that land ownership in Orkney was very different to mainland Scotland, where a small number of landowners owned substantial areas of land which remained vacant and/or unused and therefore could be put to better use by tenants or community organisations.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletters – August and September 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Updates – August and September 2021.
- VAO – “Worrying About Money?” leaflet for Orkney.
- L McArthur MSP – Coronavirus/Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 24 August, 14 and 28 September 2021.
- L McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 3, 10, 17 and 24 September and 1 October 2021.
- Scotland’s Towns Partnerships – August and September 2021 monthly bulletins.
- Kirkwall BID – August and September 2021 Newsletters.
- Paths for All – eNews, 1 September and 1 October 2021.
- SEPA Update – 3 September 2021.
- Scottish Rural Action – September News.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland – An Information Update from HIS Community Engagement Orkney Team.
- Scottish Water – Autumn 2021 Newsletter.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Bushes on Inganess to Scapa Core Path

After hearing representations from John Mowat regarding overgrown shrubs and bushes on sections of the core path between Inganess and Scapa, particularly the bridleway between Cattie Maggie’s quarry and the main Kirkwall-Holm road, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should check with Orkney Islands Council to determine whether members of the Community Council could trim back overgrown shrubs and bushes on the core path.

B. Police Scotland

The Police Scotland representative joined the meeting at this point and, following an introduction from the Chair, confirmed that Chief Inspector Garrow wished to see a uniform approach to information being conveyed to all community councils across Orkney. The proposal was for a quarterly newsletter and the representative encouraged members to let him know what type of information they would like to see included in the newsletter. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

Sergeant Hay left the meeting at this point.

C. Orkney Drugs Dog – Community Council Engagement

A representative of Orkney Drugs Dog had offered to attend community council meetings to provide an update on their work, and it was:

Resolved that the representative of Orkney Drugs Dog be invited to give a presentation.

D. Resurfacing and Patching Works

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding programme details for upcoming patching and resurfacing works throughout Orkney, including several areas within Kirkwall, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising of a pothole at the junction of Easdale Loan with Holm Road which required attention.

E. National Care Service Consultation

The Clerk advised members of the email circulated just prior to the meeting regarding an online event in relation to the Scottish Government's consultation on the proposed National Care Service to take place on 8 October between 09:00 and 11:00. Numbers were limited to 30 spaces on a first come first served basis, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Doorway in St Olaf's Wynd

After hearing representations from a member regarding the condition of the doorway in St Olaf's Wynd, which was the only remaining relic of the former St Olaf's Church, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would make initial enquiries regarding ownership, following which, if required, the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising of the broken glass and rusty hinges and asking whether works could be undertaken.

12. 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 on Monday, 29 November 2021, commencing at 19:00, at the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall. Should the Clerk be unable to secure a suitable room at the Pickaquoy Centre for a face-to-face meeting, with facilities for virtual attendance, the meeting should be postponed until Tuesday, 30 November 2021, to be held in the King Street Halls.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.