

# Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre and via Teams on Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at 19:30

## Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson and Richard Shearer.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse (via Teams).
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, Orkney Islands Council (for Items 1 to 6(b)).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

## Chair:

- Alan Scott in the Chair.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minute.....	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence .....	4
5. Financial Statements .....	5
6. Financial Requests .....	6
7. Consultations .....	6
8. Meetings Attended by Members – Community Councils Webinar .....	7
9. Publications .....	7
10. Any Other Competent Business - Scottish Water .....	7
11. Date of Next Meeting .....	7
12. Conclusion of Meeting .....	8

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Erland Drever and Robbie Thomson.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 8 November 2023 was approved, being proposed by Christine Muir and seconded by Bill Robertson.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Various Roads Matters**

Following consideration of a draft Minute of the Meeting held on 11 December 2023 with representatives from Roads Services, Orkney Islands Council, together with updates from Orkney Islands Council regarding the various items raised at that meeting, copies of which had been circulated, members discussed the content of both documents, with some members expressing continued frustration that Orkney Islands Council did not appear to be taking on board the Community Council's concerns regarding the state of the roads and that no budget was available for any works. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Peace should speak to Roads Services, Orkney Islands Council, to seek further clarity on the matters raised.
2. To note that a review meeting would be scheduled for autumn/winter 2024.
3. That the Clerk should arrange for a representative from Orkney Islands Council to attend the next meeting to provide more information on the Orkney Flood Management Plan.

Richard Shearer joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

### **B. Gate in Old Kirkyard**

Following consideration of a quote from R Thomson in respect of refurbishing the gate at the old kirkyard, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the quote of £950.40 be accepted, with the works to be funded, in full, from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

### **C. Proposal for Living Christmas Tree**

After hearing an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that no further update would be available until early Spring.

## **D. War Memorial**

The Clerk advised that she had not yet received a quote from The Yard Nursery for phase 2 of the works at the war memorial, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact The Yard Nursery again prior to the next meeting.

## **E. Layby at end of Cornquoy Road (Hurtiso Viewpoint)**

Although it had been suggested at the previous meeting that this item be raised with the roads representative, this had been overlooked, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to E Flett advising of the initial response received from Orkney Islands Council in that, as this was not a recognised picnic spot/viewpoint, a bin would not be provided.

## **F. Totem Pole**

M Lee advised that SSEN suggested the totem pole was beyond repair and that the preferred solution would be to take the totem pole out and lay it down level where it could still be viewed, and it was:

Resolved that M Lee should pass on the information to Holm Community Association, given the totem pole was originally a community project and was located on land owned by the Association.

## **G. Financial Requests – Notes of Thanks**

Following consideration of notes of thanks received from various recipients of financial assistance granted by the Community Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **H. Financial Requests – Scottish Canoe Association**

The Clerk had received correspondence from J Munro advising of a change of date for a workshop arranged by the Scottish Canoe Association as part of the Fit for Girls Programme, and it was:

Resolved that the assistance provided for the original workshop be awarded in respect of the rearranged date.

## **I. Financial Assistance – Review of Policy**

Following discussion of the existing policy for financial assistance, adopted in June 2021 to match St Andrews and Deerness Community Council's policy, it was:

Resolved that Councillor Peace should raise the matter at the next meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council to ascertain whether they would be prepared to increase the policy limits, and include a separate category in relation to events out with Scotland.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Boundaries Scotland – Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries**

Following consideration of correspondence from Boundaries Scotland announcing dates and locations of local inquiries following consultation on its provisional proposals for Scottish Parliament constituency boundaries, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Restrictions on Burial Ground Grass Cutting Budgets**

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council regarding restrictions on burial ground grass cutting budgets for community councils, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence which would affect the Community Council when it retendered the grass cutting in 2025.

### **C. R100 and Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Improved Parking for Recreation Users at Holm Pier**

Following consideration of correspondence from S Harcus regarding improved parking for recreation users of Holm pier, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, while the Community Council supported, in principle, the proposal to create improved parking at Holm Pier, the matter be deferred until further information on the Flood Management Plan, referred to at item 3(a)(3) above, was available.

### **E. Community Development Fund Allocation**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of an additional tranche of CDF funding, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had received an additional allocation of £5,000 which could be used to meet shortfalls on any major projects being undertaken within the community which might also receive funding from the main Community Development Fund, and/or to lever in money from any other outside funding source.

## **F. BBC Children in Need – Big Sky Fund**

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO regarding two online information sessions in respect of the BBC's Children in Need Big Sky Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the online events would be held on 23 January and 8 February 2024.
2. To note that the fund, which was to support emotional wellbeing of 8-13 year olds, was on a first come first served basis, and related to projects looking at talking about their feelings, being active, learning, taking notice and giving more.
3. To note that local councils, the NHS and Community Councils were unable to apply to the fund.
4. To note that any activities could not be held within the school day, nor be used to deliver core statutory projects within schools.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 9 January 2024 of £15,902.32.

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

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 9 January 2024, projects to the value of £3,603.18 had been approved, of which £1,901.18 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,504.09.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

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

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 9 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.

## **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 9 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. Gymnastics**

Following consideration of an application from E and T Drever requesting financial assistance towards their daughter participating in a gymnastics vault and floor competition in Inverness on 18 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

### **B. Gymnastics**

Following consideration of an application from E and T Drever requesting financial assistance towards their daughter participating in a gymnastics competition in Motherwell on 27 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

### **C. Loch of Ayre Walkway Association**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association requesting financial assistance towards the provision of chicken wire on decking boards, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to meet the cost in full, noting the quote of £788.04 provided by the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being awarded.

### **D. 1<sup>st</sup> Holm Brownies**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the 1<sup>st</sup> Holm Brownies requesting financial assistance towards the annual census for four leaders and hall hire, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £482 be given in respect of the annual census for four leaders and hall hire incurred by the 1<sup>st</sup> Holm Brownies.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Local Development Plan Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the start of the review of the Local Development Plan, for which responses were required by 7 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should complete the online survey, on behalf of the Community Council, positively, including developing a local place plan.

## **B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the verge maintenance plan, for which responses were required by 29 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make no comment.

## **C. Winter Service Plan 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the winter services plan, for which responses were required by 29 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should check with Orkney Islands Council whether the road from Greenwall through to the junction at Occlester was a school bus route and therefore a route 2S, as schools buses used that route.

## **8. Meetings Attended by Members – Community Councils Webinar**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a Community Council Webinar organised by the Improvement Service with Open University Scotland, held on 18 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the webinar had provided lots of useful information which was free to access.

## **9. Publications**

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

- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – November 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- VAO Newsletters – November and December 2023.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business - Scottish Water**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Scottish Water regarding checking for leaks and bursts, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on 20 March 2024 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

B. That the Clerk should write to St Andrews and Deerness Community Council regarding the proposed amendments to the policy on financial assistance, referred to at paragraph 3(i) above, noting that both Community Councils would then meet on the same date.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

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