

Minutes of the online meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council held on Monday 7 December 2020 at 19:30

Present:

E R Harcus, C Gunn, Mrs E Flett, Miss F Georgeson, Ms L Wilson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs L Leitch, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from J Stevenson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 27 January 2020 was approved, being proposed by C Gunn and seconded by Miss F Georgeson.

3. Matters Arising

A. Heating in the Evie School Hall

Resolved to note that the matter of the Evie School heating was ongoing.

B. Technical and Breakdown Issues with Waste and Recycling Lorries

Resolved to note that this matter had been superseded since the date of the initial correspondence.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney Islands Council Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration and discussion of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council on the preparation of the Regional Marine Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Women's Aid Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence received from Women's Aid Orkney asking if they could attend a meeting to discuss the new Domestic Abuse Act and domestic abuse within Orkney, it was:

Resolved to invite the group to the next online meeting for a 15-minute talk.

C. Vodafone and O2 Mobile Phone Signals

Following consideration on correspondence received on behalf of Westray Community Council on the lack of mobile signals and after discussion on the poor mobile coverage in areas of mainland Orkney, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to send a letter to both O2 and Vodafone with a copy also to be sent to Liam McArthur, MSP.

D. Reinstatement of Headstones in the Old Evie Kirkyard

Following consideration of correspondence informing members that all but one of the headstones in the Old Evie Kirkyard had been re-erected, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

E. West Mainland Resilience Facebook Page

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services which advised that a West Mainland Resilience Facebook page had been set up earlier in the year as another means of keeping in touching and highlighting issues during lockdown. After also noting that Harray and Sandwick Community Council had set up their own individual facebook page and following discussion on how a page could be used to also promote grants and provide information, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would set up an Evie and Rendall Community Council Facebook page.

F. Parish Boundaries and Incorrect Addressing

Following consideration of correspondence from an Evie resident who repeatedly received letters from the planning department addressed to him in the parish of Rendall, and following discussion on why this was, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to include the matter in the business letter.

G. Community Council Insurance Policy Renewal

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services with information on the Community Council insurance renewal, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the documents.

H. Planning Procedures and COVID-19

Following consideration of correspondence received from Scottish Community Councils updating members on planning procedures and engagement with Community Councils throughout lockdown, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Transfer from Innogy to RWE

Following consideration of correspondence received on from RWE advising that the renewable business of Innogy had transferred to RWE to form RWE Renewables, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. South Aittit Sea Wall

Members considered correspondence from the owners of South Aittit highlighting the damage done by the sea to the retaining wall at their property. Following discussion on whether the Community Council had funded such repairs before and debate on which Council department might be in charge of the matter, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to include the matter in the business letter.

K. Red Phone Box, Gorseness Road

Following consideration of correspondence from a Rendall resident asking for permission to use the red phone box on the Gorseness Road to sell baking and home produce, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council had no issues with the phone box being used as a base to sell produce.

L. Aikerness Beach Toilets

Following correspondence from an Evie resident asking for advice on whether or not lines could be painted on the car park at the Aikerness beach toilets, it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to advise the writer to contact Development and Infrastructure for their guidance and reply.

M. Waste and Recycling Services

Following a lengthy discussion on correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council updating members on the delivery of waste collection services, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

N. My Place Awards

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Awards, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

O. Reporting of Road Issues

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that, at present, only category one defects were being dealt with, and after hearing from the Chair that he was collating a list of roads within the parishes needing attention for submission to Democratic Services, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

P. Scottish Government's Connecting Scotland Phase 2 Programme

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council updating members on the Scottish Government's Connecting Scotland programme to provide devices and support to develop digital skills for people who are digitally excluded and on low incomes, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To include the details of the programme on the new Facebook page.

Q. Orkney Scam Action Group

Following consideration of correspondence received from Police Scotland highlighting the new multiagency group set up to tackle scams, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To also details of the group on the new Facebook page.

5. Maintenance - Evie and Rendall Kirkyards and Evie Memorial 2020-2021

Members heard that the grass cutting contract had been awarded to Isbister Brothers following their successful tender back in April 2020, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the contents of the update.
- B. That the Clerk to apply to the Community Council Grant Scheme for the amount of £193.64 plus VAT on the cost of maintaining the Evie War Memorial.

6. Evie and Rendall Community Park Group Update

Members heard that local residents had been asking when the Park would be finished and that COVID was not the reason for the lengthy delay in the completion of the project, and it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to contact the main contractor for an update.

7. Report from West Mainland Tourist Brochure meeting held 7 February 2020

Members were advised that several amendments had been made to the brochure including the addition of the St Magnus Way and the inclusion of all defibrillators in the West mainland. Printing of the brochure was subject to proofing by members at their next meeting. Each of the five West Mainland Community Councils had been billed for the cost of making the changes to brochure at a price of £18 each, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

8. Report on Evie Surgery Sub Committee meeting held on 24 February 2020

The meeting heard that the final meeting of the Evie Surgery Sub Committee had been held in February 2020 where members had agreed to disband the group. Any future updates and issues from Dounby Surgery would be dealt with by the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

9. Verge Maintenance Plan and Consultation Response

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance consultation responses, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the responses.

10. Finance

A. Financial Statements as at 12 March 2020

1. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £2,594.66.

2. NPower Fund

After consideration of the NPower Fund statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £34,818.70.

3. Burgar Hill Renewables Fund

After consideration of the Burgar Hill Renewables Fund statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £709.57.

4. Hammars Hill Energy Fund

After consideration of the Hammars Hill Energy Fund statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £25,253.00.

5. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance had been fully allocated.

6. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £6,480.30 remained available for allocation.

7. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 12 March 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,395.00 remained available for allocation.

B. Financial Requests Previously Approved

The undernoted applications had been approved by members by return of email following the cancellation of the March meeting and are noted for the minutes.

1. Ms R Ware, Interview for Highlands and Islands University, Inverness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Ms R Ware, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for travel assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending a University interview in Inverness, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £75 was given towards toward the cost of the trip, which was met from General funds.

2. Miss W Deyell, Under 15's Netball, Dundee

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss W Deyell, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for travel assistance towards the cost of her daughter competing in Netball in Dundee, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £75 was given towards toward the cost of the competition, which was met from General funds.

3. Road Repairs to Quoyhenry, Rendall

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs M Cormack, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for grant funding for improvements to the road to Quoyhenry, Rendall, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 was awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

4. Miss C Wood, Trip to Aberdeen University

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss C Wood, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for travel assistance towards the cost of attending an Open Day at Aberdeen University, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £75 was given towards toward the cost of the trip, which was met from General funds.

5. Road Repairs to The Acre, Evie

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr J Adams, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for grant funding for improvements to his driveway at The Acre, Evie through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 was awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

6. Road Repairs to Hinderayre, Rendall

Following consideration of correspondence received from Messrs Montgomery, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for grant funding for improvements to the road to Hinderayre, Rendall, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 was awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

7. F Tams-Gray, University trip to Amsterdam

Following consideration of correspondence received from F Tams-Gray, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for travel assistance towards the cost of attending a University trip to Amsterdam, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £150 was given towards toward the cost of the trip, which was met from General funds.

8. Orkney Care and Repair – Improvements for Householder

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Care and Repair copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the cost of installing hoists for a Rendall resident, it was:

Resolved to note that the resident may have since passed away and for the Clerk to look into the matter.

C. Community Council Annual Grant 2020-2021

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members that the annual grant awarded to Evie and Rendall Community Council for 2020/2021 was £3,812.55, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Applications for Financial Assistance

1. Rendall Football Club – Training Costs

Following consideration of correspondence received from Rendall Football Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards training costs for the amount of £872, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £872 be given towards the training costs, which should be met from NPower.

2. Evie, Rendall and Firth Ploughing Match – Public Liability Insurance

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Evie, Rendall and Firth Ploughing Match Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the cost of their annual public liability insurance for the amount of £107, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £107 be given towards the insurance, which should be met from Bugar Hill Renewables Fund.

3. Rendall Community Association – Maintenance of Rendall Football Pitch

The Chair and Ms L Wilson declared an interest in this item of business.

Given that there was no quorum present, it was agreed for the Clerk to email the member who was not present who had no interests to declare in the Rendall Community Association (RCA) for their response to the application for financial assistance with the annual maintenance of the Rendall football pitch, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the member with no interest to declare in the RCA and for a decision to be minuted at the next meeting.

4. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the training costs of two of their coaches from Rendall, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £75 be given to each of the two coaches, which should be met from Bugar Hill Renewables Fund.

5. Road Repairs to Midval, Evie

Following consideration of correspondence received on behalf of Mrs Work, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for grant funding for improvements to the road to Midval, Evie, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 be awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

6. Evie School – Christmas Trees

Ms L Wilson declared an interest in this item of business and did not take part in the discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Evie School, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing three small indoor Christmas trees, it was:

Resolved that the full cost of the Christmas trees would be met from NPower.

7. Evie School Nursery – Waterproofs

Ms L Wilson declared an interest in this item of business and did not take part in the discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Evie School Nursery, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing waterproofs, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should apply for the full cost of £160 from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

8. Road Repairs Scheme – Eviedale, Evie

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr and Mrs Porritt applying for grant funding for improvements to their driveway at Eviedale, Evie, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 be awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

9. Road Repairs Scheme – Harbour Lights, Rendall

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs G Farrer applying for grant funding for improvements to their track at Harbour Lights, Rendall, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 be awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

10. Road Repairs Scheme – Nordavoe, Rendall

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr and Mrs Mears applying for grant funding for improvements to their road at Nordavoe, Rendall, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that Nordavoe had been included in a multiple application made previously for the five properties on the same road.
- B. To note that to date no claim had been made for any of the five properties.
- C. That the Clerk would advise the householder of the previous application made.

E. Financial Statements as at 30 November 2020

1. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the balance was £3,464.95.

B. That Firth Primary School had returned their donation towards their residential trips as they had been cancelled.

2. NPower Fund

After consideration of the NPower Fund statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £41,390.90.

3. Burgar Hill Renewables Fund

After consideration of the Burgar Hill Renewables Fund statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the balance was £6,904.57.

B. That the annual community benefit of £6,150 had been received and a thank you letter sent in return.

C. That one financial contribution made by cheque had not been presented to the Bank and had been re-credited back to the Burgar Hill Renewables Fund.

D. To note that the Stromness Academy Geography trip to Switzerland had been cancelled after being postponed and that the recipients of funding awarded would be asked to pay their donation back to the Community Council.

4. Hammars Hill Energy Fund

After consideration of the Hammars Hill Energy Fund statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the balance was £24,517.68.

B. To note that £8,000 in total had been approved by members towards the Education grant applicants by email with 15 applicants studying outwith Orkney receiving £500 and two Orkney College students being awarded £250.

5. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,184.89 remained available for allocation.

6. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £6,480.30 remained available for allocation.

7. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 30 November 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,395.00 remained available for allocation.

11. Any Other Competent Business - Resignation

Members heard that Michael Leitch had stepped down from the Community Council due to moving out of the parish boundaries. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer informed members that if any residents were agreeable to replacing the vacancy on the Committee to get in touch directly with Democratic Services or through the Clerk. C Gunn expressed his genuine appreciation and thanks to Michael over the years, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the discussion.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council would be held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 25 January 2021, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.