

# **Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 13 March 2023 at 19:00**

## **Present:**

Tom Rendall, Rikki A Lidderdale, Barbara J M Graham, Christine E Harcus, Cathleen A Hourie, David W Hughes, Robert F Leslie, Chris J F Matthews, John R Mowat and Lynne Spence.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson (via Teams).
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- 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, and Councillors Gwenda M Shearer and Ivan A Taylor.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 23 January 2023 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by Christine Harcus.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Seatter Bridleway**

Robert Leslie confirmed that he was awaiting drier weather before he removed the broken wire from the Seatter bridleway, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

### **B. Door in St Olaf's Wynd**

Following consideration of correspondence from Historic Environment Scotland advising that the application for repair grant was unsuccessful, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing an update from the Vice Chair in respect of the proposal to replace the door, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that an application for planning permission had been submitted.
2. That the planning application fee, estimated at £250, be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme.
3. To note that the Clerk had received correspondence from the Orkney Tourist Guides Association advising of their support for the Community Council's initiative to have the door at St Olaf's Kirk sympathetically restored.
4. That the Vice Chair should contact the construction department at Orkney College to determine whether apprentice joiners could assist with making a new door or restoring the existing door, subject to planning permission being granted.

### **C. The Big Tree – QR Code**

The Chair advised that, as Kirkwall BID had only recently secured its next five-year term, following the ballot, no further progress had been made regarding the QR code for the Big Tree, although he now anticipated that progress would be reported to the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

Lynne Spence joined the meeting at this point.

## **D. Warm Hubs and Cost of Living Crisis**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council responding to the Community Council's request for information on the provision of warm hubs and assistance with the cost-of-living crisis, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that public buildings were available for folk to go and get a coffee and a seat, namely the Kirkwall Library and the Stromness Warehouse Building.
2. To note that a scheme of assistance was launched at the end of January 2023 to provide eligible households to apply for £200 towards the cost of living, which was being widely advertised as the income thresholds were much higher than would normally be expected, with every household encouraged to check the criteria and apply, and the application process being very straightforward.
3. To note that the Council had also provided third sector organisations with funding and would be launching a business support scheme as well.

## **E. Policy on Financial Assistance**

Following consideration of recommendations from the Finance Sub-committee on a revised policy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the policy on financial assistance, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved with immediate effect.

## **F. Woodlands Work – Reinstating Shingle Paths**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council in response to the damaged paths through the Muddisdale Wood, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a lot of work was carried out over the last few months on the Muddisdale paths as a result of erosion of the route, which was a combination of the paths not being fit for purpose, construction on adjacent land and increased rainfall.
2. To note that the construction area to the west of Liberator Drive was attributing to the overflow onto the park with wingwalls and makeshift access points restricting the ditch, as well as the amount of water coming from the adjacent golf course and fields overwhelming the drainage system in the park.
3. To note that the area required to be re-assessed and a more appropriate footpath system put in place as, although ruts had been infilled, timber grids cleared and additional drainage added, a more comprehensive assessment and design required to be undertaken to meet the change in climate and increased popularity of this recreational area.

4. To note that upgrading of part of this core path was being considered as an element of the Kirkwall West Green Wedge Project as part of this network was now considered to be an active travel route because of the housing developed in this location.

5. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that the road leading out to Scapa Pier had suffered a recent landslip and, although debris had collected in the dip and was not affecting the public road, there were two overhanging areas which should be assessed as a matter of urgency.

### **G. Orkney Logistics Hub and Scapa Deep Water Quay**

The Community Council had been invited to attend a presentation on the Orkney Logistics Hub and the Scapa Deep Water Quay in the offices at the Kiln Corner on 27 February 2023, following which the presentation had been circulated to all members, and it was:

Resolved to note that four members had responded to the invitation and attended the presentation on 27 February 2023.

### **H. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction**

Cathleen Hourie advised that she had contacted Clive Chaddock regarding students at Orkney College helping with the upkeep of the shrub bed at Scapa junction, who had advised that the students had a full programme with no spare capacity. However, he was also involved with the Community Justice programme and would find out whether that group could provide some assistance, and it was:

Resolved that Cathleen Hourie should liaise with Christine Marcus should additional manpower be identified for works to be carried out once better weather arrived.

### **I. Cooke Aquaculture – Proposed Aquaculture Developments**

Following consideration of correspondence from Cooke Aquaculture detailing existing monitoring requirements which would be replicated should the proposed aquaculture developments at Quanterness and Meil Bay be consented, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **J. West of Orkney Windfarm – Orkney Community Panel**

Following consideration of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Orkney Community Panel held on 23 January 2023, together with a project update presentation on the West of Orkney Windfarm, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **K. Benches at the Willows**

Although the Clerk had not received a response from Orkney Islands Council regarding the request to remove or repair the benches at the Willows, it was reported that the benches had been removed. The Chair had also received correspondence from Councillor John Ross Scott which suggested that Stromness Community Council were responsible for benches in public places and had purchased plastic benches to replace the older, damaged ones, utilising Community Council Grant Scheme funding. It was also noted that the benches along the Hatston footpath/ coastal walk were in a poor state of repair. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council seeking clarification on responsibility for benches in public places, the number of benches in Kirkwall and the condition of those benches, following which the matter would be reconsidered.

## **L. Former Knackery Site at Hatston**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the state of the former knackery site at Hatston, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, although some work had been carried out to tidy up the site, particularly as the shed was being used for storage of materials collected through the drinks container recycling scheme being run by Employability Orkney, the stocks of broken bins, which were stored on site, were regularly reviewed.
2. To note that there was no spare manpower to tidy up the yard, as all resource was out collecting bins elsewhere, however the Warehouse Manager would be contacted to see what, if any, plans or opportunities there were for a further tidy up.

## **M. Kirkwall Community Green Spaces Project**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Councillor Kristopher Leask advising that work was ongoing to identify all of the green spaces, although this had not been progressed lately due to other priorities, and it was:

Resolved to note that Councillor Leask would report back later in the year, once Directorate Action Plans within Orkney Islands Council had been produced and it could be ascertained whether the development of green spaces featured as a priority.

## **N. Ditch Clearing**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the ditch clearing equipment, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That although it was accepted that the machine did leave a trail of muck in its wake, it was a two-man job – one in the machine and one at the front who, as noted was there for safety reasons and to make sure there were no obstructions, therefore to have someone at the back would require a third operative.

2. That the Operations team would investigate how much scope there was for the second operative to do some tidying up at the back, without detriment to his other duties, which would be reported back in due course.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Memorials Update and Reminder**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a press release aimed at encouraging and reminding the public to check the Council's list of memorials identified as needing remedial work to "make safe" and to contact the burials team if a memorial/headstone they cared for was listed, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Deposit Return Scheme, Events and Consultations**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding the Deposit Return Scheme, various events and ongoing consultations, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Orkney Harbours – Pre-Application Notification**

Following consideration of correspondence from Sweco advising of pre-application notices submitted to Orkney Islands Council regarding the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay and the proposed Logistics Base at Hatston, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Creating a Home Emergency Plan with SSEN**

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN regarding creating a home emergency plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **E. Scottish Islands Federation Member Evening and AGM**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of its Member Evening and AGM which was held on 2 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **F. West of Orkney Windfarm – March PAC events**

Following consideration of correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm advising that the March Pre-Application consultation events had been postponed, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **G. National Lottery Community Fund – Funding Information Event**

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO advising of National Lottery Community Fund information events to be held in Orkney from 22 to 24 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, as Barbara Graham was attending a one-to-one session, she would ascertain whether the St Olaf's door and public benches would be eligible for assistance from the National Lottery Community Fund.

## **H. SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding their 2023 Opinion Survey, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact SEPA advising that it was not easy for an organisation like the Community Council to respond to an online survey, however members had been encouraged to respond in an individual capacity and not expressing any view on behalf of the Community Council.

Councillor Steven Heddle left the meeting at this point.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 2 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 2 March 2023 of £16,446.87.

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

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 2 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £3,796.72 had been approved, all of which had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,387.97.

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

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 2 March 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 – International Highland Dancing Competition**

Following consideration of correspondence from Move Orkney requesting financial assistance towards competing in an international highland dancing competition held at Disneyland Paris between 3 and 5 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £40 be provided towards each of the dancers aged 18 years or under, subject to confirmation of participation in the competition.

### **B. Just Dance Orkney – Dance World Cup**

Following consideration of correspondence from Just Dance Orkney and an individual requesting financial assistance towards participating in the Dance World Cup to be held in Braga, Portugal, between 4 and 8 July 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £40 be provided towards each of the dancers aged 18 years or under, resident within the Kirkwall and St Ola area, subject to confirmation of participation in the event, with the grant assistance to be paid to Just Dance Orkney.

### **C. Orkney Folk Festival – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival requesting financial assistance towards the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival, copies of which had been circulated, Cathleen Hourie, seconded by John Mowat, moved that a donation of £400 be provided.

Barbara Graham, seconded by Rikki Lidderdale, moved an amendment that a donation of £345 be provided.

On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £400 be provided towards the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Orkney Folk Festival.

### **D. Glaitness School – P7 Residential Trip**

Following consideration of correspondence from Glaitness School requesting financial assistance towards the P7 residential trip to Nethybridge between 29 May and 2 June 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a total grant of £375 be provided.

### **E. Girlguiding Orkney – Westend Performance, Aberdeen**

Following consideration of correspondence from Girlguiding Orkney requesting financial assistance towards attending a Westend performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in Aberdeen on 18 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that no assistance be provided on this occasion and that Girlguiding Orkney be advised of the new policy statement, including that requests which related to participation in educational or training events may be considered eligible for assistance.

### **F. U15 Netball District League**

Following consideration of correspondence from E Wallace requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in an Under 15 Netball District League match in Aberdeen on 25 February 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be provided, subject to confirmation of participation in the match.

### **G. Mina Mackay Festival of Highland Dance**

Following consideration of correspondence from T Paterson requesting financial assistance towards her daughters participating in the Mina Mackay Festival of Highland Dance held in Keiss, Caithness, on 4 March 2023, as part of the Move Orkney Highland Dance Team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be provided in respect of each of the dancers, subject to confirmation of attendance.

### **H. Mina Mackay Festival of Highland Dance**

Following consideration of correspondence from M Foubister requesting financial assistance towards his daughter participating in the Mina Mackay Festival of Highland Dance held in Keiss, Caithness, on 4 March 2023, as part of the Move Orkney Highland Dance Team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

### **I. Mina Mackay Festival of Highland Dance**

Following consideration of correspondence from D Johnston requesting financial assistance towards her daughters participating in the Mina Mackay Festival of Highland Dance held in Keiss, Caithness, on 4 March 2023, as part of the Move Orkney Highland Dance Team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be provided in respect of each of the dancers, subject to confirmation of attendance.

### **J. 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkwall Company Boys Brigade – Annual Camp**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkwall Company Boys' Brigade requesting financial assistance towards their Annual Camp at the George Smith Centre, Templars Park, Aberdeenshire, between 2 and 6 August 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £300 be provided, subject to confirmation that the 15 boys aged between 11 and 17 participated in the annual camp.

## **7. Meetings Attended by Members**

### **A. Stromness Detachment (Orkney Army Cadets)**

The Stromness Detachment of the Orkney Army Cadets had invited the Community Council to attend an Open Night at Stromness Academy on 6 March 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that, due to adverse weather conditions, the event had been cancelled.

### **B. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow**

The Chair and John Mowat had attended the SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow held on 10 March 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the report on attendance.

## **8. Publications**

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

- Paths for All – eNews – January and February 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – January and February 2023.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 27 January, 4, 12 and 24 February and 4 March 2023.
- VAO – Newsletters – January and February 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – January and February 2023 Newsletters.
- Kirkwall BID – February 2023 Newsletter.
- SEPA Updates – 8 February 2023.
- Alistair Carmichael MP – The Week in Parliament – 13, 17 and 24 February and 3 and 11 March 2023.
- ORSAS – Quarterly Newsletter – December 2022-February 2023.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Scotland's Towns Bulletin – 2 March 2023.
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Good to Share – February 2023.

Rikki Lidderdale agreed to investigate whether the door at St Olaf's would be eligible for any of the funding streams contained in VAO's Training and Funding Updates.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Crofting Commission Area Representatives Recruitment**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Crofting Commission advising of their recruitment campaign for Area Representatives, who acted as a valued link between the Commission and their local crofting communities, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **B. West of Orkney Windfarm**

The Clerk had received further correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm advising that, although the PAC events had been postponed, Royal Mail had inadvertently delivered leaflets with the wrong dates, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation events would now be held in Kirkwall on 23 and 24 May, in Sandwick on 23 May and in Stromness on 25 May 2023.

## **C. Funding for Coronation Events**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that an application had been submitted to the National Lottery Awards for All Scotland Fund in respect of Coronation events, and it was:

Resolved to note that, as it would be some time before the outcome of the application was known, Community Councils could provide donations from either their general fund or use the Community Council Grant Scheme to support community events marking the King's Coronation.

## **D. Kirkwall BID**

John Mowat and Lynne Spence had attended a Zoom meeting organised by Scotland's Towns Partnership regarding revitalising town centres and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should invite the Kirkwall BID Manager to attend a future meeting of the Community Council to discuss the BID's plans for the next five years, following the recent successful rebalot.

## **10. 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, 15 May 2023, commencing at 19:00, noting that a public meeting may be held immediately prior, to appoint to the vacant position.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:56.

Appendix 1.

## Policy on Financial Assistance

### Travel out with Orkney but within the UK

Number of participants.	Grant level.
Up to 10 people.	£30 per person.
11 to 15 people.	Total grant of £300.
16 or more people.	Total grant of £375.

### Travel out with UK

Number of participants.	Grant level.
Unlimited.	£40 per person.

### Conditions

1.	This policy applies to persons aged 18 years or under and resident within the Community Council area.
2.	This policy does not preclude applications from persons aged over 18 years being considered on individual merit.
3.	Only applications from constituted groups will be considered. Applications from individual members participating in sporting competitions/training events as part of a team (or constituted group) will not normally be considered. Attendance at entertainment or recreational events, such as concerts or theatre performances, will not normally be supported.
4a.	The maximum grant to be claimed in any financial year, for travel out with Orkney but within the UK, shall be capped at £375.
4b.	For travel out with the UK, only one application from a group or individual will be considered within any financial year, with no cap on the total amount.
5.	Individuals undertaking multiple trips, e.g., a season of training and/or competitions/games, as part of a regional or national team/squad, will be considered, with the grant being limited to £15 for each training event/competition/game etc attended. The maximum grant to be claimed in any financial year shall be capped at £150.
6.	Proof of attendance at any event will be required before grant is paid.