

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Primary School and via Teams on Wednesday, 15 November 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr T Craigie, Mr L Flett, Mrs N Linklater, Mrs L McAdie, Mr I Rendall and Mr P Thomas.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Councillor R Peace.
- Councillor G Skuse.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and introduced the new Democratic Services Manager (DSM). On the invitation of the Chair, he addressed members and advised that he had been two months in Orkney and he would welcome reports of issues that he could assist any Community Council in resolving. Mr T Craigie asked what his job was and what he could resolve. The DSM advised that his role was to work with and assist Community Council's in progressing and resolving local issues for the benefit of their communities. He advised that nothing had changed in the way Community Councils' contact Democratic Services as they have always done, and it was:

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 28 August 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr L Flett and seconded by Mrs N Linklater.

3. Matters Arising - Ayrenergy Ltd Report

The Chair advised that an annual report was required to be submitted to Ayrenergy before 31 December 2023, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a report to Ayrenergy, detailing the funding awarded from the Ayrenergy account by 31 December 2023.

4. Consultation Documents

Resolved to note that no consultation documents had been presented for member's consideration.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish Civic Trust

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust raising awareness of their My Place Awards for Community-led Projects and Community Champions with entries invited by 14 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

B. Orkney Health and Care

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting members to attend the Orkney Health and Care engagement session, on 18 September 2023; Get it Right for Everyone, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

C. Democracy Matters Consultation - Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from Councillor R Peace advising that the Scottish Government had made available small pots of funding to assist local

organisations to hold an event/meeting/gathering to discuss the various themes of the Democracy Matters Consultation, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

D. London Hearts

Following consideration of correspondence from London Hearts advising that grant funding and training was available for the purchase of a defibrillator, the Chair asked if members were aware of defibrillators sited in St Andrews and Deerness parishes. It was reported that St Andrews Community Centre had one defibrillator located in the Community Centre, and St Andrews Primary School also had one, externally fitted, defibrillator. The Chair asked if there were potential other locations within the parishes for siting more defibrillators and she suggested the redundant phone box at Whitecrest Park. The Clerk advised that this phone box was in poor condition with the door tied closed with a rope and the Chair advised that, sometime ago, BT had been requested to remove this phone box due to being redundant and in a poor state of repair. Members suggested the Deerness Stores and Sheila Fleet Jewellery/cafe, Tankerness. However, Mr L Flett queried that with one already located at Deerness Community Centre was there a requirement to have a second located in close proximity at Deerness Stores. In answer to a question from the Chair, the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure advised that a defibrillator was not located at Bossack Quarry, Tankerness.

Councillor G Skuse advised that the proprietor of the premises where a defibrillator could be located would require to be contacted to ascertain permission for the siting of a defibrillator, as a defibrillator required to be powered and the proprietor would have to undertake weekly and monthly inspections and update the Scottish Ambulance database, in order that they can use the defibrillator in an emergency. She also advised that Mr B Braby was the contact for Orkney Heart Support Group, and that this group provided funding and could purchase appropriate defibrillators for external siting in the Orkney climate, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Clerk had circulated the London Hearts correspondence to local outlets including to Deerness Stores.
2. That Councillor J Moar would contact Deerness Stores and the Chair would contact Sheila Fleet Jewellery/cafe to ascertain whether each business would wish to source funding to have a defibrillator externally located, powered and carry out requirements for inspection and updating recorded with the Scottish Ambulance database.

E. Scottish Islands Federation - National Islands Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation inviting members to attend workshops in Stromness and Westray on 6 and 7 November 2023 regarding the consultation and review of the National Islands Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Weather Disruption

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation inviting members to report online weather-related disruption to local events, impacting the resilience of Scottish Island Communities, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Winter Service Plan 2023-2024

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Winter Service Plan 2023-2024, Mr L Flett and Councillor J Moar advised that the grit bin had been approved by OIC for the Horries Road, Deerness, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that Mr L Flett would check to see if it was in position.

H. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council

Members considered correspondence from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council regarding benches in the care of this Community Council and the arrangements for repair, replacement, and maintenance of these benches. The Clerk advised that there were no known community council owned benches in St Andrews and Deerness parishes, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would complete Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council's survey.

I. Ms A Lidderdale, PhD Researcher

Following consideration of correspondence from Ms A Lidderdale, PhD Researcher regarding the Scottish National Islands Plan and looking to develop an understanding of how islanders (past and present) are interacting with the plan and the impacts of the decision-making process, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the Clerk, again, would circulate this information to all members.

J. Thank You Letters

Resolved to note that thank you letters for financial assistance awarded had been received from East Mainland Church, Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, Mrs M Cooper, Mrs F McKinney, Ms M Morris, Mrs J Scott, Mrs D Scott, Miss A Lennie, Mrs J Baillie, and Mrs S Nicolson.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £17,106.14.

B. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £19,011.46.

C. 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £2,747.82 available to allocate to projects within the main capping limit.

7. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Travel Assistance - Miss A Nicolson

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss A Nicolson for travel assistance for two dance trips with the Move Orkney Highland Dance team, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance of £40 per trip totalling £80, pending the Clerk's check of travel assistance granted to Miss A Nicolson not exceeding the maximum travel assistance of £240.

B. 2023 Senior Citizen Christmas Lunches

Mr L Flett declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Members considered correspondence received from St Andrews Senior Citizens, requesting financial assistance towards the production costs of the 2023 Christmas lunch for fifty senior citizens. Their request was for £14 per senior citizen. Mr I Rendall proposed £10 per senior citizen, and this was seconded by Mr T Craigie, however it was noted that Deerness Community Centre Association's request was for £8 per senior citizen for their 2023 Christmas lunch and in order to show fairness it was decided that both parishes senior citizen's should be awarded the same rate per senior citizen for the 2023 Christmas lunches, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To approve a grant totalling £8.00 each to St Andrews Senior Citizens for the fifty St Andrews resident senior citizens towards their 2023 St Andrews Senior Citizen Xmas lunch, totalling £560 and subject to eligibility under CCGS.
2. That in order to claim the grant, a list of St Andrews resident senior citizens in attendance should be supplied to the Clerk along with receipted invoices for costs.
3. To approve a grant totalling £8.00 each to Deerness Community Centre Association for sixty Deerness resident senior citizens towards their 2023 Deerness Senior Citizen Xmas lunch, totalling £400 and subject to eligibility under CCGS.
4. That in order to claim the grant, a list of Deerness resident senior citizens in attendance should be supplied to the Clerk along with receipted invoices for costs.

C. Mrs V Foubister – Deerness Halloween Party

Following consideration of correspondence from Mrs V Foubister regarding the Deerness Halloween Party Group request for funding towards the cost of party food/soft drinks/prizes/Halloween craft supplies and gift bags, it was:

Resolved to grant Mrs V Foubister (representing the Deerness Halloween Party Group) £50, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

D. St Andrews Community Association

Following consideration of correspondence from St Andrews Community Association regarding their request for funding towards replacement flooring at St Andrews Community Centre, it was:

Resolved to grant St Andrews Community Association £1,000 towards the replacement flooring, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

E. Deerness Community Centre Association

Following consideration of correspondence from DCCA regarding their request for funding towards the cost of three items of new play equipment for their extended Deerness playpark and following some discussion, it was:

Resolved to grant DCCA £1,000 towards three items of new play equipment for their extended playpark, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

F. Education Grant Applications

Following consideration of two further education grant applications, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a further allocation be made from the Ayrenergy Ltd fund, totalling £815 for two education grants.
2. To award a £315 education grant to Miss Jasmin Brown and a £500 education grant to Miss Andrea Brough.

8. Publications

The following publications had been made available for members to view and were noted:

- VAO – Newsletter – August, September and October 2023.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – August, September and October 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action - Newsletter - August, September and October 2023.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command – CC Newsletter, Issues 3 and 4

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Off Lets, Ditches and Flooding Issues in St Andrews and Deerness

Mr P Thomas joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Mr I Rendall advised that many off lets required to be dug out to reduce the flooding on roads in St Andrews and Deerness parishes. He advised that some offlets had been dug out in Deerness however there were more requiring attention.

Councillor R Peace advised that any member of the public could report this online to Customer Services or direct through "MyOrkney" on the OIC website.

The Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure asked which areas were most in need of off lets requiring digging out and members provided the Clerk with the following information for reporting via Democratic Services:

- Longtownmail to Mossclair, Tankerness on the Hall of Tankerness Road.
- The Yinstay Road, Tankerness.
- The Groatsetter Road, Tankerness.
- Quoys Road, Deerness.
- Denwick Road, Deerness.
- Halley Road, Deerness.

Councillor G Skuse advised that there were ditches that also required cleaning as water from waste land was flooding into them and the ditch was full and with nowhere for the water to flow, other than onto the road or land and therefore causing a flooding issue. One ditch requiring cleaning is located close to Bossack Quarry, at the bottom of farmland on Ellenfield, Tankerness and almost opposite Willowvale, Tankerness. Some landowners in the vicinity were known however, one area of land at this location; the owner is not known. With two recent accidents causing damage to the structure of the Brig at this location and no repair progressed to date, she advised that the ditch blockage was caused by stones in the ditch as well as car parts from these accidents and members agreed that the repair to the brig and ditch cleaning required to be progressed with some urgency and that the Clerk should also report this issue to Democratic Services.

The Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure advised that the Orkney Native Wildlife Project (ONWP) had very recently met with OIC regarding their organisation placing wooden stoat traps in ditches; in order to catch stoats along the path they use to travel in ditches. The use of wooden stoat traps had then resulted in blocked ditches and flooding issues. She advised that this action by ONWP had caused many issues in the Deerness area and ONWP had agreed with OIC to place metal cages in ditches and also to advise OIC of the sites where they place the metal cages, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that any member of the public could report road, ditch and verge maintenance issues online on OIC's website under Roads.
2. That the Clerk report that offlets required digging out in the verges in St Andrews and Deerness parishes and to advise of the areas members proposed were in most need of attention due to the flooding issues on roads.
3. That the Clerk report that ditches in St Andrews and Deerness required cleaning in order to avoid flooding onto roads and, in particular, the urgent need of cleaning of the ditch close by the brig at Willowvale and Bossack Quarry, Tankerness as well as to the structure of the brig itself at Willowvale, Tankerness following impact from two car accidents.
4. To note the information provided by the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, regarding stoat traps.

B. Shed Doors in St Andrews Kirkyard

Mr I Rendall advised that he had a phone call from the Burial Grounds Officer, OIC, asking if he knew who held the key for the St Andrews Kirkyard shed. Despite asking he knew of no person with the key and therefore the shed had not had preservative applied. The Clerk advised that she had asked Mr B Scott if he knew of a key for the shed door and he advised that the lock was rusted solid and required breaking off and a new lock required to be applied and next year the shed doors could then be painted, and this had been reported by the Clerk to Democratic Services. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

C. Boundaries Scotland

The Chair advised that correspondence had been received from Boundaries Scotland with further changes required to some boundaries in areas of Scotland and that this did not include Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

D. Democratic Services Manager

The Democratic Services Manager asked if he could video parts of the next meeting as well as interview two members to create a video to raise awareness and promote Community Councils and hopefully encourage more people to stand for election to Community Councils in Orkney. Mr T Craigie expressed interest in being interviewed.

The Democratic Services Manager asked if there were any issues members wished to bring to his attention. The Chair advised that this Community Council remained one member short of the full complement of members and that this was despite electing Mrs N Linklater at the last meeting. She asked the Democratic Services Manager to investigate why Community Councils had to wait another six months until they can schedule another public meeting to elect a final member to the Community Council. Mr P Thomas advised that, on occasions, this policy could also impact meetings from progressing by community councils not being quorate, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Democratic Services Manager would video part of the next meeting, and that two members could intimate to him that they wish to be included in a video interview at the next meeting.
2. That the Democratic Services Manager would investigate the policy, whereby a period of six-months must pass before another public meeting can be held to elect a new member.

10. Date of Next Meetings

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, and the subsequent meetings, of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council, it was

Resolved that the next meetings would be held on 20 March, 26 June, 28 August, and 20 November 2024 in St Andrews Primary School and via Teams at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:43.

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