

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 16 August 2021 at 19:00

Present:

Rikki A Lidderdale, Tom Rendall, Lorraine A Craigie, David L Flett, Christopher Gee, Christine E Marcus, Cathleen A Hourie and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Lorna Richardson, Strategic Policy and Projects Officer, Orkney Islands Council (for Item 2).
- Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- 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 Robert F Leslie and Councillors David Dawson and Gwenda M Shearer.

2. Waste Management

The Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, advised that she had nothing specific prepared, although it was noted that several items on the agenda related to her area of work, and it was agreed to discuss those matters, together with any general questions on waste management services.

A. Waste and Recycling Services

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council providing an update on waste and recycling services, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a presentation from the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, on waste management services, including services resuming following COVID-19 restrictions, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the briefing note and the further update provided.

Christine Marcus joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

B. Vehicles in St Olaf's Cemetery

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding vehicles using St Olaf's Cemetery, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing further representations from the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, regarding potential damage to the paths throughout the cemetery and a public relations exercise on reminding the public regarding access, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the increasing concern regarding the number of vehicles routinely accessing St Olaf's Cemetery, using paths which were not designed for the wear and tear currently being experienced.
2. To note that work had commenced on the extension to St Olaf's Cemetery, which included additional parking, and which would not interfere with funeral arrangements or access to the existing cemetery.
3. To remind members of the public that vehicular access in and through St Olaf's Cemetery should, in the main, be restricted to funeral vehicles, Blue Badge holders and members of the public who could not readily access the cemetery on foot.

C. Memorial Area in St Olaf's Cemetery

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding a proposal for a memorial area in St Olaf's Cemetery, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing further representations from the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a group of midwives from The Balfour had approached Orkney Islands Council regarding the possibility of making a memorial area on the right corner of the war memorial roundabout in St Olaf's Cemetery, including an inscription on a granite bench provided by John Corse, remembering the lost babies of Orkney.
2. To support the proposal for a memorial area within St Olaf's Cemetery as proposed.

The Strategic Policy and Projects Officer, Orkney Islands Council, left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The Minute of the Meeting held on 28 June 2021 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by John Mowat.

The Minute of the Special Meeting held on 26 July 2021 was approved, being proposed by Lorraine Craigie and seconded by John Mowat.

4. Matters Arising

A. Town Centre Funding – Tankerness House Gardens

Following an update from the Chair on progress with the project at Tankerness House Gardens, it was:

Resolved to note progress to date, the ambitious timescale for completing the works and claiming grant, namely 30 September 2021, and problems with sourcing materials, as well as increased costs, as a result of circumstances outwith the Community Council and the developer's control, including the coronavirus pandemic.

B. Hanging Baskets

Following an update from the Chair on the provision of hanging baskets, it was:

Resolved to note that a donation of £300 had been received from Kirkwall BID towards the provision of hanging baskets for 2021.

C. Dog Litter Bins

Following an update from Councillor John Richards advising that the Youth Forum had not met since the last meeting of the Community Council to discuss the possibility of sharing information on the location of litter bins across Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next available meeting after the Youth Forum had met.

5. Correspondence

A. Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Native Wildlife Project advising of the new Community Liaison Officer, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Right of Way Investigation

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a right of way investigation in regard to Neuketineuks Lane, Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that individual members should respond directly to the questionnaire issued by Orkney Islands Council regarding use of Neuketineuks Lane, Kirkwall.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 6 August 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 6 August 2021 of £16,885.24.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 August 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 6 August 2021, projects to the value of £628.02 had been approved, all of which had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £2,951.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 6 August 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,188.42.

7. Financial Requests

A. Arcadia Community Park Association

Following consideration of correspondence received from Arcadia Community Park Association requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of roses, fruit trees and compost, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £600 be awarded towards the cost of purchasing roses, fruit trees and compost, subject to assistance from the Community Development Fund being approved.

B. Orkney Riding Centre

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Trustees of the Orkney Riding Centre requesting financial assistance towards the provision of a public access defibrillator at the Orkney Riding Centre on Old Finstown Road, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £520 plus VAT, if applicable, be awarded towards the cost of providing a weatherproof storage cabinet for a public access defibrillator at the Orkney Riding Centre, subject to assistance from the Community Development Fund being approved.

C. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

Following an update from the Chair on the bonfire and fireworks to be held at Pickaquoy in November 2021, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Rotary Club's Bonfire Committee was due to meet on 16 August 2021.
2. That the Clerk should liaise with the Rotary Club regarding the Event Management Plan, together with a risk assessment.
3. That a minimum grant of £1,500 be awarded towards the purchase of fireworks, at a maximum cost of £2,000, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
4. That the Clerk should write to those Community Councils who had responded favourably in 2019, to determine whether they wished to provide a donation towards the event in 2021.

Christopher Gee left the meeting at this point.

8. Consultations

A. Review of Gambling Policy

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the gambling policy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. SEPA – Orkney Local Flood Risk Management Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a consultation by SEPA on the Orkney Local Flood Risk Management Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting to allow members to consider the consultation documentation.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletters – June and July 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – July 2021.
- L McArthur MSP – Coronavirus/Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 13 July 2021.
- Paths for All – eNews – 30 June and 3 August 2021.
- Scotland’s Towns Partnerships – Scotland Loves Local Phase 4 Launch.
- Scotland’s Towns Partnerships – July 2021 monthly bulletin.
- SEPA Updates – 9 July and 6 August 2021.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Information Update from Community Engagement Team Orkney – 14 July 2021.
- Scottish Rural Action – July 2021 Newsletter.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – July 2021.
- Kirkwall BID – August 2021 Newsletter.
- Orkney Islands Council – Community Development Fund – Update.

Regarding Police Scotland, the Clerk was asked to write to the Local Area Commander inviting him to attend the next meeting of the Community Council to discuss police matters, including future arrangements for attendance at community council meetings.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Gates at Bignold Park

Following representations from a member regarding the condition of the gates at the Bignold Park, Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved to note that Councillor John A R Scott would raise the matter with the relevant service at Orkney Islands Council and report back to the next meeting.

B. Castle Street Pay and Display Car Park

Following representations from a member who had witnessed cars exiting the Castle Street pay and display car park onto Junction Road, against the one way system, it was:

Resolved to note that the matter had already been raised with Orkney Islands Council, although improved and/or upgraded signing would assist.

C. Ragwort

Following representations from a member regarding the increasing incidence of ragwort growing in verges, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should raise the matter with Orkney Islands Council as, previously, ragwort was a notifiable weed which required to be removed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 4 October 2021, commencing at 19:00.

B. That the Clerk should liaise with the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding a return to face-to-face meetings and, should a venue be secured, make appropriate arrangements for the meeting on 4 October 2021.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:13.