

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in the Firth Community Hall on Thursday, 7 September 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs W Dunnet, Mr R Hourston, Ms B Scollay and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mr D Hannon, Strategic Projects Manager.
- Mr C Purnell, Strategic Projects Manager.
- Ms M Green, Strategic Projects Officer (Communications and Engagement).
- Ms C Savage, Urban Design Planner, Development and Marine Planning.
- Ms C Hartley, Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Miss I Gaudie, Community Council Liaison Assistant/Interim Clerk.
- One member of the press.

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1. Presentation on Community Wind Farm Project

A presentation was given from representatives from Orkney Islands Council's Strategic Projects Team, regarding the Community Wind Farm Project, which would see the installation of 6 wind turbines each, in Quanterness, Hoy and Faray.

The representatives stated that the project would provide community benefit to all the community councils in Orkney and that a proposed fund of £84,000 would be given to each community council, annually, while the project was active. The Chair asked what they could achieve with such a large sum of money. The Strategic Projects Manager explained that the project team could work with the community council to find a suitable project to spend the money on. Mrs A Stevenson asked the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer what criteria the community council would have to adhere to when spending the funds, and the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer clarified that as the project was still in the early stages, any funding criteria remained to be determined, and it was:

Resolved to note contents of the presentation.

The Strategic Projects Team representatives left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies

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

3. Election of Office Bearers

Following a brief discussion, it was:

Resolved to maintain the status quo and that no change would be made to the current office bearers, which are as follows:

- Chair – Mrs W Dunnet.
- Vice Chair – Mrs A Stevenson.
- Planning Representative – Mr R Hourston.
- Health and Care Representative – Mrs W Dunnet.

4. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 12 June 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr R Hourston and seconded by Ms B Scollay, subject to the following amendment:

Item 6M should read "Resolved that only 5 trips per child would be funded, each financial year, effective from 1 April 2023."

5. Matters Arising

A. Orkney's Tourism Infrastructure Design Phase

The Urban Design Planner and Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, were present at the meeting to discuss Orkney's Tourism Infrastructure Design Phase with the community council. They explained that they were looking to improve the

infrastructure already owned or maintained by Orkney Islands Council and that Finstown was one of their key areas. Potential improvements would include the following:

- Public toilets upgrade, with water refill station and motorhome waste disposal.
- Installation of e-bike chargers in car park.
- Car park re-profiling to include disabled and motorhome spaces, and possibly a dedicated snack van space.
- Orientation/interpretation in the car park area.
- Potential formalisation of a loop path via Heddle Road and Core Path WM8, with directional signage and Core Path improvements.

The Urban Design Planner advised that as they are only yet at the design phase, they could look at including Place Planning within the project, which involves more community engagement and for which there is funding available to community groups, that local authorities cannot access.

Councillor King inquired if the loop path was limited by budget. The Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, stated that there was a limited maintenance budget for core paths, and this would need to be taken into consideration.

The Chair stated that she felt that the e-charging spaces were often empty but that the rest of the car park was otherwise normally quite full. Mrs A Stevenson added that she felt that it can already be difficult to leave the car park and that the inclusion of a dyke would not be helpful. The other members agreed with this.

The Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, stated she could email the plans to the members, to allow them to have more time to look at the plans and to then provide feedback, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, would email the plans to Democratic Services for circulation to CC members.

The Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, and the Urban Design Planner left the meeting at this point.

B. Finstown Traffic Management Study Report

Councillor Stevenson advised the members that there were detailed maps of the Traffic Management Study in the foyer of the community centre, which they could look at. It was determined that there had been no changes to the maps since the previous community council meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Weed Management in Finstown

The Chair stated that the strip of land, at the back of the kirkyard, was overgrown and full of dockens, but nobody appeared to want to take ownership of the area, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Kirkyard Stone Wall and Ivy

Resolved to note that no update was available.

E. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following discussion members were advised that the verge maintenance plan could be found on the Orkney Islands Council's website. The Chair also asked if a 'no animals' sign could be instated at the new kirkyard, as individuals had been seen walking animals in the vicinity, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Democratic Services would enquire if a 'no animals' sign could be installed.

F. Quarry Group

Resolved to note that a Quarry Group had not yet been formed.

6. Correspondence

A. SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023

Following consideration of correspondence regarding SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund 2023, for which application had to be submitted by 31 July 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Remembrance Sunday Wreaths

The Community Council Liaison Officer had circulated information prior to the meeting, regarding the ordering of poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday from the Royal British Legion, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would arrange for two poppy wreaths to be ordered from the Royal British Legion and that an application be submitted to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the cost.

C. Scottish Health Council Member Recruitment

Following consideration of correspondence regarding Health Improvement Scotland's Scottish Health Council Member Recruitment, for which applications required to be submitted by 31 July 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Christmas Tree Lighting

Members discussed the Christmas Tree Lighting and agreed to conduct proceedings in the same manner as the previous year. The only possible difference may be the involvement of school children performing Christmas Carols, but this would be at the Firth Community Centre, so would not affect the tree lighting itself. It was agreed that the event would commence at 18:30 on 1 December 2023.

The Chair stated that they had ordered red lights the previous year, but the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer clarified that this had not been included in their business letter and therefore no red lights had been ordered.

The members also discussed where the lights would be erected, as the previous year they had been informed that the lights could only be put on certain poles, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would order a Christmas Tree for both Firth and Stenness, and that an application be submitted to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the cost.
2. That Mr R Hourston would carry out the arrangements for the tree lighting to take place.
3. That the community council would make their own arrangements for the Christmas lights to be erected.

E. Community Led Local Development

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Community Led Local Development grant scheme, for which expressions of interest had to be submitted by 31 July 2023, copies of which had been circulated previously, it was:

Resolved to note contents of the correspondence.

F. Invitation to the Scottish Water ACM 2023

Following consideration of correspondence regarding an invitation to Scottish Water's Annual Consultative Meeting for 2023, which was being held on the evening of Tuesday 29 August, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Thank You Letters

Members had previously been circulated with correspondence from F Aberdeen, Firth Primary P7 and Stenness Community Association, thanking the community council for their financial support, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the community council appreciated the thank you letter.

H. Scottish Civic Trust – My Place Awards

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Civic Trust, regarding their My Place Awards, for which responses had to be in by 14 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Get It Right for Everyone

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) regarding their plans to 'Get It Right for Everyone', for which they would be holding an idea generation session on Monday 18 September, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 8 August 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £11,783.07.

B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund

Following consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 8 August 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £5,000.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 August 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £2,444.31 remaining for approval and the OIC Additional Capping Limit had £743.00 remaining for approval.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 8 August 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for allocation was £3,615.63.

E. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 8 August 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that there was no balance remaining for approval.

8. Financial Requests

A. Aberdeen - Intercounty Sprint Triathlon, Wick

Following consideration of a request from K Gilmour, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards her son, competing in Intercounty Sprint Triathlon in Wick on 11 June 2023, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

B. OASC - North District Development Meet, Inverness

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards two swimmers competing in the North District Development Meet in Inverness on 23 – 26 June 2023, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25 per competitor.

C. Linklater - Guernsey and Grangemouth Trips

Following consideration of a request from I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards her son, competing in high jump and long jump, in Guernsey at the Island Games on 6 – 15 July 2023, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

D. Kenyon - Scottish National Championships, Grangemouth

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards her daughter, competing in the Scottish National Championships in Grangemouth on 12 August 2023, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

E. Bonfire and Fireworks - Picky, November 2023

Following consideration of a request from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of holding the annual bonfire and fireworks event at Pickaquoy in November 2023, it was:

Resolved that general fund donation be granted for the event at £100, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

F. Stenness Community School, Outdoor Education Programme

Following consideration of a request from Stenness Community School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards two P6 pupils, attending an Outdoor Education Programme from 19 – 21 September 2023, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25 per pupil.

G. Stenness Parent and Carer Council

Following consideration of a request from Stenness Parent and Carer Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the costs of replacing their netball equipment, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the project at £140, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

H. K Gilmour, OASC – Coaching

Following consideration of a request from K Gilmour, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the costs of completing a Level 2 coaching course on behalf of Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £300, and be paid directly to Orkney Amateur Swimming Club.

9. Consultations

A. Women's Aid Orkney

Following consideration of a short survey from Women's Aid Orkney, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board's Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy, for which responses were due by 25 August 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Scottish Government: Planning Phase 3 of Permitted Development Rights Review

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government regarding the Planning Phase 3 of Permitted Development Rights Review, for which responses were due by 23 August 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Draft Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding its proposed procurement strategy for 2023 to 2028, for which responses were required by 31 July 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Visitor Levy Bill

Members discussed the Visitor Levy Bill consultation, for which the deadline for responses had been extended to 15 September 2023.

The members did not feel in support of the bill and felt it could potentially have a damaging effect on Orkney's tourism industry. They felt that it would be better to focus on charging day-trippers to Orkney, particularly those with motorhomes, but it was unclear how this could be carried out effectively or practically.

Councillor King stated that a Bill would need to be created which was relevant to the islands, as the only way to reach Orkney was by ferry or by plane and this makes Orkney a more expensive holiday destination than those on the Scottish Mainland.

Mrs A Stevenson stated that guests staying with her had made comments that the volume of cruise liner passengers at Orkney's tourist attractions, detracted from the overall visitor experience, and it was:

Resolved that the community council would submit a letter, detailing their thoughts on the Bill, to Democratic Services and they would forward it to the relevant council officer.

10. Publications

The following publications had been received and circulated to members via email, and were noted;

- VAO – Training and Funding update – June and July 2023.
- VAO – Newsletter – June and July 2023.
- ORSAS Newsletter – June 2023.
- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Command - CC Newsletter – June and August 2023.
- NHS 'Good to Share' Information Bulletin.
- Save the Date - Merchant Navy Day - 3 September.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – July 2023.
- ORSAS quarterly newsletter – September 2023.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Resolved to note that there were no further items to be discussed.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held in Stenness Community School on Monday, 6 November 2023 at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.