

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in the Orphir Community School and via Teams on Tuesday, 28 February 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr A Marwick, Mr S Pyke and Mr N Sclater.

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor I Taylor.
- Councillor K Leask.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms C Waters, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs B Clubley.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Pyke and seconded by Mr N Sclater.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter: Smoogro Road

The Chair provided an update on the bus shelter. Plans had been submitted to Orkney Islands Council and a quote received from a contractor willing to undertake the work. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the quote be agreed to in principle, although an alternate quote would still be sought if a contractor came forward.
2. That the Chair would make enquiries with Orkney Islands Council regarding the status of the planning application.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

The Chair provided an update on the refurbishment of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre, advising that the design had been completed and submitted to Orkney Islands Council but as yet no building warrant had been approved. Given that and the availability of contractors, work was expected to start in April but be complete by peak tourist season. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair make enquiries with Orkney Islands Council on the status of the building warrant.
2. That a digital copy of the plans be provided to the Clerk so that she could contact HESF to confirm that work had commenced and start the process to claim the remaining 10% of funds by March 2023.

C. Christmas Lights

The Chair confirmed that the new Christmas Lights are being stored at the school, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Dog Bins

The Chair confirmed that a larger Dog Bin has been requested but the Community Council Liaison Officer commented that she believed this request had been turned down by the council. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would again enquire as to whether a larger bin could be provided and, in the case of rejection, a second small bin be requested.

E. Orphir Football Club

An update had been received from Orkney Islands Council that they had insufficient funds to add Orphir football pitch to the maintenance schedule of pitches to be cut and lined. This was a great disappointment to the community council. After discussion, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services be asked to write to the Sport and Leisure service, OIC, asking that the request be reconsidered, stating that there was a historical precedence for Orphir Football Club and the relaunch of football in the area would be of great value to the physical and mental health of many.

F. Road Speed Limits

Information regarding speed analysis at Houth in Houton had previously been provided by the council and circulated to members, however the data for Orphir Village had not been provided. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved that data for Orphir Village be requested again from Orkney Islands Council, via the business letter to Democratic Services.

G. Houton Small Boat Provision

Further information had been provided by Mr G Flett regarding the provision for small boat mooring at Houton. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Orphir Community Council would be happy to support such provision.
2. To ask via the business letter to Democratic Services for them to write to Orkney Islands Council Harbours regarding the suggestion and obtain feedback on the process for such a provision.

H. Dangerous Memorials

An email had previously been circulated to members regarding maintenance to dangerous memorials in the county. As neither Orkney Islands Council nor Orphir Community Council had yet been able to trace any relatives on the memorials at Orphir, it was:

Resolved that the appropriate memorial repair/remedial action should go ahead.

4. Correspondence

A. ORSAS – Peedie Birds at St Magnus Cathedral

An email regarding an event at St Magnus Cathedral had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. SOTO – Community Tourism Roadshow

An email regarding tourism roadshow events had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Chair would add the email to the Orphir Community Council Facebook page.

C. Covid Recovery in Local Communities

An email from Orkney Islands Council's Covid Recovery Advisor regarding lateral flow tests available for communities had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would respond with request for tests to be delivered to Orphir School.

D. VAO Small Grants Scheme 2023/2024

An email regarding the VAO Small Grants scheme had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Cost-of-Living Poster

An email from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Cost-of-Living Payment had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Orkney Harbours: Pre-Application Notification

An email from OIC regarding pre application notification for developments at Hatston and Scapa had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Historic Environment Scotland: HEG

An email from Historic Environment Scotland regarding the launch of the new Historic Environment Grants had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Chair would attend the session if possible.

H. Event – Creating a Home Emergency Plan with SSEN

An email from SSEN with details of an event for Home Emergency Planning had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. SIF – Member Evening and AGM

An email regarding a SIF Member Evening and AGM had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Consultations

A. West of Orkney Windfarm: Community Panel 2

Members had previously been forwarded an email regarding the West of Orkney Windfarm Community Panel 2 meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. West of Orkney Windfarm – Orkney Community Panel Confirmation

Members had previously been forwarded an email regarding the West of Orkney Windfarm Community Panel meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. EMEC – Billia Croo Section 36 Consent

Members had previously been forwarded an email regarding granting of consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

Members had previously been forwarded an email from the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board, and it was:

Resolved to make no comments at this time.

E. West of Orkney Windfarm – Orkney Community Panel Final Minutes

Members had previously been forwarded an email with the minute of the West of Orkney Windfarm meeting on 23 January 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance and Saga Centre

Following consideration of the financial statements as at 9 February 2023, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balances of £20,395.58 in the General account and £36,738.22 in the Saga Centre account.

2. To note that the Chair and Clerk had emptied the donations box at the Saga Centre and that the cash had been handed over for processing by Democratic Services.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £685.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 9 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,755.42.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 9 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,518.00.

7. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. OASC - North District Age Group Meet

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for swimmer attendance at the North District Age Group Meet, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £100 from the General Fund.

B. Orkney Folk Festival

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Folk Festival regarding a concert to be held in Orphir Community Hall, it was:

Resolved to note that Orphir Community Association would provide the hall free of charge for the concert.

C. Louise Sclater

Following consideration of a request from Louise Sclater regarding financial assistance towards a Kirkwall Grammar School Trip to Strathclyde University, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £50 from the General Fund.

D. Orphir Badminton Club

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Badminton Club regarding financial assistance towards new shuttles, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £294, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

E. Orphir Community School - Hoy Trip

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Community School regarding Financial Assistance towards a P7 trip to Hoy, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £300 from the General Fund.

F. OASC - North District Age Group Round 2

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for attendance at the North District Age Group Round 2 Meet it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £100 from the General Fund.

G. Freyja Seatter - Highland Dancing Competition

Following consideration of a request from Freyja Seatter for attendance at a Highland Dancing competition in Wick it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £25 from the General Fund.

8. Publications

The following publications, which had previously been emailed to members, were noted:

- SRA Newsletter – September and December 2022, January and February 2023.
- Liam McArthur Holyrood Highlights – November 2022 to January 2023.
- VAO October Newsletter – November and December 2022 and January 2023.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – November 2022 and January 2023.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Grass Cutting Tender

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the Grass Cutting Tender for the coming season needed to be advertised and awarded. After discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the contract would be advertised to cover the next 3 years with a short deadline, as the season would be commencing soon.
2. That, once tenders were submitted, the Chair and Vice Chair would have delegated powers to choose the successful tender.

B. Payment of Saga Centre Custodian

The Clerk asked for confirmation that the Saga Centre Custodian had now been paid for last year and this was confirmed by the Community Council Liaison Officer. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit indents for the coming season to ensure timely payment, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

C. Community Council Member Vacancies

The Community Council Liaison Officer raised that as 6 months had passed since the community council elections, the remaining 2 seats on the council could now be re-advertised, and it was:

Resolved that current council members would reach out to members of the community to encourage involvement.

D. Orkney Renewable Energy

Mr S Pyke raised that he had been informed by Orkney Renewable Energy that planning permission for wind turbines on land in Orphir was to be submitted to Orkney Islands Council and that the community council was encouraged to approach them with any questions they wish to be addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

E. Road Repairs

Mr N Sclater raised the question of repair of potholes in the roads in Orphir, Germiston Road being particularly rough. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, offered to check where Germiston Road was on the current program of repair and feedback to the community council. In addition, she reminded members that there is a facility for reporting potholes to the council online and that the more reports a pothole gets, the higher priority it is given. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

F. Ditch Clearing

Mr N Sclater again mentioned that ditch clearing activities he had observed did not appear to be an effective use of resources, given the time taken and personnel involved. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, replied that she would investigate what activity had taken place in the Skail area but that health and safety measures must be adhered to which could cause an observer to think that more resource was being used than required. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and await detail from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 16 May 2023 in person or via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:34.