

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 9 October 2023 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Robert F Leslie, Moyra Gordon (via Teams), Rikki A Lidderdale, John R Mowat and Lynne Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications).
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- 1 member of the public.
- 1 member of the local press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Barbara J M Graham, Cathleen A Hourie and Chris J F Matthews, and Councillors Sandy Cowie and Steven Heddle.

2. West of Orkney Offshore Wind Farm

Representatives from the West of Orkney Offshore Wind Farm had been unable to attend the meeting, therefore the presentation was deferred to a later date.

3. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 21 August 2023 was approved, being proposed by Rikki Lidderdale and seconded by Robert Leslie.

4. Matters Arising

A. Benches

The Clerk had circulated a short report from Lynne Spence on work undertaken by the Sub-group set up at the previous meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a Kirkwall and St Ola bench map be created, providing baseline data on where the benches were placed, their condition and ownership.
2. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council seeking responses to the following specific questions:
 - Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council is committed to high quality, safe places for people to sit or rest. To what extent is the Council considering the needs of residents in Kirkwall and St Ola in their future planning around bench placement in our area?
 - What are the processes for checking the existing benches and where does this information go?
 - What is the current budgetary provision within OIC for providing or repairing benches in Kirkwall and St Ola?
 - Are you aware of external funding from other parties or agencies for benches or how to access any funding?
 - What are your longer-term plans/vision for Kirkwall and St Ola benches?
 - Anything else we should know?
3. That the Clerk should issue an email, together with a link to a Microsoft form, to all other Community Council clerks, to scope what other community councils did in relation to benches within their areas.

B. Door in St Olaf's Wynd

As the planning application required to be resubmitted, it was:

Resolved that the proposed replacement of the door in St Olaf's Wynd be parked meantime, pending resubmission of the planning application.

C. The Big Tree – QR Code

The Chair advised that information had been passed to the Kirkwall BID for uploading to the website and that the plaque would be ordered shortly, following which the QR code would be activated, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

D. Palace Road and Palace Gardens

The Clerk had received a response from Orkney Islands Council regarding heightening the wall on Palace Road, as well as the emptying of bins, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Planning service had been consulted some time ago regarding increasing the height of the wall and had provided a comprehensive reply setting out why that would not be without issue.
2. To note that policy stated that bins should be on the public road on collection date and that it was the householder's responsibility to get them on the pavement; whether this was actually done or whether the operatives went and collected the bins out of a sense of public duty, the Council could not say.

E. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from the individuals and groups thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided at the last meeting, as well as correspondence from the 1st Kirkwall Company Boys Brigade, thanking the Community Council for financial assistance towards their annual camp, and it was:

Resolved to note the letters of thanks.

F. Sand at Scapa Bay

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding sand at Scapa Bay, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Roads Service do arrange for sand to be swept off the road as and when necessary.
2. To note that there were no plans to remove the dunes that had built up adjacent to the road; the road width had been checked recently and, whilst there were sections of single traffic road, the forward visibility was more than adequate for a road with a 40-mph speed limit.

3. To note that removal of the dunes would disturb a well-established ecosystem that had been in place now for many years; in addition, the dunes acted as a speed reducing feature and removal would encourage traffic to increase their speed.

4. To note that there were no parking restrictions and no plans to introduce anything that prevented a camper van parking in the area. The access on the bend was not an official passing place and as such cannot be signed. It was noted that an area had been fenced off by the owner, however the Council was not aware if this has had any impact on vehicles.

5. To note that the bench referred to was not a matter for Roads; however, the bench had been removed by others.

G. ID for Community Council Members

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that Orkney Islands Council was considering the provision of simple lanyard style ID for Community Council members to use when on official business, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

H. Boating Shed at Peedie Sea

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the Community Payback Supervisor (Criminal Justice) had looked at the graffiti at the boating shed to see what could be done, initially with pressure washing, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council would be advised on progress and/or removal of the graffiti, hopefully before the bonfire and fireworks display to be held on 4 November 2023.

I. Islands Games

Following consideration of dates at which the Islands Games should be invited to give a presentation, it was:

Resolved that the Island Games committee be invited to give a short presentation to a meeting in early 2024.

5. Correspondence

A. ORSAS

Following consideration of correspondence from ORSAS appealing for a compassionate community approach to media engagement, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Best Kept War Memorial

Following consideration of correspondence from Legion Scotland regarding the Best Kept War Memorial competition, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the judges' comments regarding the Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial, which reflected the amount of partnership working to maintain the condition of the war memorial.
2. To note that the war memorial subsequently won an award in the Best Kept War Memorial competition for 2023, with the Chair of the Community Council, together with the President of the Kirkwall branch of the Royal British Legion attending the presentation of trophies and certificates held in New Haig House, Edinburgh, on 8 September 2023.
3. To note that approval had been sought, via email, to reimburse the Chair's expenses in attending the presentation in Edinburgh, amounting to £344.50.
4. To express the Community Council's thanks to everyone involved in maintaining the war memorial and the surrounding area.

C. Scottish Forum of Community Councils

Following consideration of correspondence from the Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian regarding the proposal to establish a Scottish Forum of Community Councils, including draft Terms of Reference, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved

1. That the Clerk should sign up to the Scottish Forum of Community Councils.
2. That the draft Terms of Reference be approved.

D. National Islands Plan Review

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding online sessions, together with a workshop held in Stromness on 6 October 2023 which had subsequently been postponed due to ferry cancellations, in relation to the review of the National Islands Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Orkney Digital Forum

Following consideration of correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP regarding the Orkney Digital Forum to be held in the St Magnus Centre on 27 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the further correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP advising of the speakers at the Digital Forum.

F. Logistics Base Development – Hatston Harbour, Kirkwall

Following consideration of correspondence from the Marine Directorate, Scottish Government advising that marine licences had been requested under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in regard to the development of a logistics base at Hatston pier, for which comments were required by 29 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make no comment.

6. Naming of New Kirkwall Care Facility

Following consideration of suggestions from Papdale Primary School and Glaitness School on potential names of the new Kirkwall care facility, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should submit the following names to Orkney islands Council for consideration:

- Muddisdale House.
- Sunset House.
- Kirkjuvagr House.

7. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

Following consideration of the Event Management Plan in relation to the bonfire and fireworks display to be held at Pickaquoy on 4 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Event Management Plan be approved.

B. To note that donations totalling £895 had been received from other Community Councils.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 26 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 26 September 2023 of £19,440.79.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £4,978.02 had been approved, of which £2,778.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £679.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 26 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,163.46.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 26 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.

9. Financial Requests

A. Gymnastics

Following consideration of an application from L Allan requesting financial assistance towards J Allan's participation in a gymnastics competition held in Perth, from 1 to 3 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of participation.

B. Youth Climbing Series 2023

Following consideration of correspondence from S Begley requesting financial assistance towards H Henderson's participation in the Youth Climbing Series 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded in respect of each of two rounds in Aberdeen, one in Inverness and one in Kilmarnock, together with the national final in Sheffield, subject to confirmation of participation.

C. Orkney Golf Club

Following consideration of correspondence from S McAlister requesting financial assistance towards six junior members of Orkney Golf Club competing in the Junior Golf Sixes Competition held at the Paul Lowry Golf Centre, Aberdeen, on 9 and 10 September 2023, and qualifying for the National Finals to be held at the Gleneagles Golf Course in Auchterarder on 1 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded in respect of each of the six junior golfers, subject to confirmation of participation at both competitions.

D. Lorraine Bremner Festival of Highland Dance

Following consideration of three separate applications for financial assistance towards dancers competing in the Lorraine Bremner Festival of Highland Dance held in Wick on 2 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that grants of £30 be awarded to each of the dancers, subject to confirmation of participation.

E. North District Championships and Junior Academy Training Sessions

Following consideration of correspondence from T Blowfield requesting financial assistance towards T Blowfield, a member of the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, attending North District swimming competitions, as well as participation in the Junior Academy training sessions as part of the National Squad, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, as Orkney Amateur Swimming Club had received the full allocation of funding for 2023/2024 in accordance with policy, no further assistance should be given.

F. Athletics

Following consideration of two separate applications for financial assistance towards athletes attending the North Area Trophy Competition held in Inverness on 16 and 17 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that grants of £30 be awarded to each athlete, subject to confirmation of participation.

G. Youth Climbing Series

Following consideration of an application from R McCaw requesting financial assistance towards D McCaw competing in the Youth Climbing Series, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that grants of £30 be awarded in respect of competitions in Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness and Kilmarnock, together with a medal ceremony and training session in Dundee, subject to confirmation of participation.

H. KGS Football

Following consideration of an application from L Allan requesting financial assistance towards F Allan participating in a school football match held at Millburn Academy, Inverness, between 27 and 28 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of participation.

I. Gymnastics

Following consideration of an application from C Gilmour requesting financial assistance towards L Gilmour competing in a gymnastics competition to be held in Perth on 26 November 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of participation.

J. Highland Dancing and Gymnastics competitions

The Clerk had received correspondence from T Russell requesting financial assistance towards M Russell participating in the Kingdom of Fife Championships on 28 October 2023, the Tanya Horne winter festival of dance on 19 November 2023 and gymnastics competition on 26 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved that grants of £30 be awarded in respect of each competition, subject to confirmation of participation.

K. U14 Rugby

The Clerk had received an application from L Millar requesting financial assistance towards R Millar participating as part of the Orkney Rugby Football Club's under 14 squad in competitions in Caithness on 7 October 2023 and in Shetland on 2 and 3 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved that grants of £30 be awarded in respect of each competition, subject to confirmation of participation.

L. Gymnastics

The Clerk had received an application from L Millar requesting financial assistance towards S Millar participating in a gymnastics competition to be held in Perth on 26 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of participation.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Application for Variation of Premises Licence

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding an application from Sinclair Breweries Ltd for a variation of the premises licence in respect of the Orkney Brewery Bottle Shop at 28 Albert Street, Kirkwall, requesting an increase in terminal hours from 18:00 to 21:00 on Mondays to Saturdays, for which representations were required by 25 October 2023, and it was:

Resolved to make no comment.

B. West of Orkney Windfarm

The Clerk had received correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm advising that offshore consent applications had been submitted to the Scottish Government, with the formal Notice of Application appearing in local and national papers from

9 October 2023, stating that representations would be required by 20 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Development Brief – Land north of Muddisdale Road

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the draft Development Brief in respect of Site K4 (land north of Muddisdale Road, Kirkwall), proposing that the site, which was currently allocated for housing, be redesignated as a green and blue corridor to provide connected and varied open space, for which representations were required by 15 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

Lynne Spence left the meeting at this point.

11. Meetings Attended by Members

Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership

Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership had arranged an engagement session held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 18 September 2023, regarding Get it Right for Everyone, a more personalised way to access help and support when needed, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

12. Publications

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

- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – Issue 3.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – August and September 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – August and September 2023 Newsletters.
- Paths for All – eNews – August and September 2023.
- VAO – Newsletters – August and September 2023.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – September 2023.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 8, 15, 22 and 29 September and 6 October 2023.
- Scottish Forum of Community Councils – Newsletter Issue 1.
- SEPA Updates – 15 September and 4 October 2023.
- Alistair Carmichael MP – The Week in Parliament – 15 September 2023.
- Scotland’s Towns Partnership – Newsletter – September 2023.

13. 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, 27 November 2023, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:00.