

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 14 November 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Rikki A Lidderdale, Moyra Gordon, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie, Chris J F Matthews, John R Mowat and Lynne Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Lorna Richardson, Interim Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Tom Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Catriona MacIntosh, Residential Volunteer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Michael Harvey, Senior Project Officer, Active Travel Strategy, Strategic Partnerships Team, Sustrans Scotland.
- 1 member of the local press.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Microsoft Teams).

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Barbara J M Graham, Christine E H Marcus and David W Hughes and Councillor David Dawson.

2. Weyland Bay Coastal Path Project

The Senior Project Officer, Sustrans Scotland, gave a short presentation on the proposed Weyland Bay coastal path project, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position with the project, together with concerns raised by Community Council members, which would be passed to Orkney Islands Council for consideration during the detailed design process. Those concerns include:

- retention of the layby.
- potential increase in litter and requirement for more bins and dog mess bins.
- potential for increased wild camping or overnight camper parking.
- narrow corner near the Coastguard station.
- existing path/pavements in the area.
- coastal erosion and flooding.

3. Orkney Native Wildlife Project

The Community Liaison Officer gave a short update on the Orkney Native Wildlife project, including the total number of stoats eradicated, trap checks, monitoring, including island with no known stoat sightings, volunteer work, youth engagement and education officer work, and it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 5 September 2022 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by John Mowat.

5. Matters Arising

A. Doorway in Broad Street

Following consideration of correspondence from Cathleen Hourie regarding repairing the archway door on Broad Street, Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the current position within Virgin Money's capital improvement programme.

B. Seatter Bridleway

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding the broken fencing on the Seatter bridleway, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as the fence served no purpose, but stretched for approximately 130 metres with 20-25 posts, and as the posts and wire were not obstructing the path nor posed any risk, the Community Council could, if it so wished, to remove the posts, but it would not be a priority for Orkney Islands Council unless there was budget available at the end of the financial year, in which case, its removal might be instructed.
2. That Robert Leslie would attempt to remove as much of the wire as possible, weather dependent, which was causing a hazard to people using the bridleway, particularly those with dogs on leads.

C. Door in St Olaf's Wynd

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding repairs to the door in St Olaf's Wynd, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as the door was not listed, but was in a conservation area, any works would require planning permission, for which the Community Council would be entitled to a 50% discount on the relevant fee.
2. To note that the Community Council could apply for planning permission, as the consent went with the land, not the applicant, therefore if ownership was ascertained between now and the application being determined, any permission could be passed to the owner.
3. To note that a location and site plan at scale 1:1250 would be required to accompany any planning application, together with photos to show the existing state of the door, including a statement to the effect that it was not economically viable to reinstate the door and that a replacement was required, as there was a "refurbishment first" approach in planning.
4. That Rikki Lidderdale should produce scale plans for submitting with a planning application.
5. That Chris Matthews should contact the three main tourist organisations to ascertain whether they would be willing to make a small contribution towards the cost of replacing the door, given that it was part of a walk.
6. To note the potential for funding from Historic Environment Scotland in respect of repair works, the closing date for applications for which was 15 January 2023.

D. The Big Tree – QR Code

Following consideration of correspondence from Kirkwall BID regarding the process for creating a QR code, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should liaise directly with the Manager of Kirkwall BID to ascertain the most appropriate website to host the relevant information on the Big Tree, with the QR code to be available near the replica award in the Orkney Museum rather than on a plaque inside or in the vicinity of the Big Tree on Albert Street.

E. Warm Hubs

The Clerk had not received a response from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Community Council's request to encourage making available buildings in the Kirkwall area for warm hubs, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council to ascertain what action, if any, was being taken to assist with the cost-of-living crisis.

6. Correspondence

A. Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council requesting ideas for new or improved footpaths, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Senior Projects Officer, Sustrans Scotland, would update the Senior Planner, Orkney Islands Council, with the following suggestions for the Kirkwall and St Ola area:

- Old Finstown Road to Sunnybank Road, to make a circular route with the Muddisdale path.
- Signage on existing popular routes.
- Highland Park House – Highland Park Distillery – Cattie Maggie's bridleway – footpath past Fea to Scapa.
- Papdale East area up to Berstane Loan – improve surface, including removal of deep ruts.

B. Kirkwall Community Green Spaces Project

Following consideration of correspondence from the Kirkwall West and Orphir Councillors regarding a recent initiative based on bringing unused or out of use public spaces back into community spaces in Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Leask should provide the Clerk with the list of 14 potential sites for onward distribution to the Community Council.
2. To note that Orkney Islands Council had carried out a green space audit in 2007, which should provide additional information with regard to taking unused space back into use.

3. To note the potential projects, including wildflower meadows, low maintenance areas, small woodlands, art in public spaces, open space with a football goal where young children could go for a kickabout.

4. To note the potential the potential opportunities for safe routes to green spaces which did not necessarily assume a car to access.

C. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-Application Consultation Notice

Following consideration of correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm advising of Offshore Wind Power Limited's intention to submit applications for marine licences from Marine Scotland for the construction of the offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Chris Matthews, the Community Council's representative on the community panel, would endeavour to attend one of the events to be held in Orkney between 22 and 24 November 2022.

D. Scottish Islands Federation – Events and Consultations

After consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation detailing various events and consultations during November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind – Community Newsletter

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the development of a new quay facility in Scapa Flow, known as the Scapa Deepwater Quay, together with the community newsletters, The Airt o Wind, for September and October 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. NHS Scotland Initiative – SHARE

Following consideration of correspondence from the SHARE Deputy Programme Manager, School of Medicine, University of Dundee, advising of SHARE, the Scottish Health Research Register and Biobank, a register of people happy to be sent information regarding health research projects, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Avian Flu

Following consideration of correspondence, including a briefing note, from Orkney Islands Council regarding the recent avian flu case in Firth and the declaration of an avian flu protection zone, copies of which had 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, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 2 November 2022 of £17,915.02.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/23 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 2 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £3,663.02 had been approved, of which £1,563.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,468.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 2 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,093.42.

Councillor Steven Heddle left the meeting at this point.

8. Financial Requests

A. Gymnastics, Dancing and Squash Competitions

Following consideration of correspondence from T Russell requesting financial assistance towards her children's participation in gymnastics, dancing and squash competitions in October, November and December 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that grants of £20 would be provided in respect of each of the following events, subject to confirmation of attendance:

- Gymnastics, Perth, 28 October 2022.
- BATD Jessie Stewart Haggarty MBE Junior Highland Scholarship, Renfrew, 26 and 27 November 2022.
- HISA Squash championships, Wick, 10 and 11 December 2022.

B. Gymnastics – Perth, 29 October 2022

Following consideration of correspondence from A Bruce requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in a gymnastics competition in Perth on 29 October 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

C. Gymnastics – Inverness, 12-13 November 2022

Following consideration of correspondence from E McConnachie requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in a gymnastics competition in Inverness on 12 and 13 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

D. Climbing – British Finals, Swindon, 26-27 November 2022

Following consideration of correspondence from S Begley requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in the British climbing finals to be held in Swindon on 26 and 27 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

E. Policy on Financial Assistance

Resolved that the Finance Sub-committee should review the policy on financial assistance, in light of the cost of travelling to competitions out-with Orkney.

9. Consultations

A. Application to Vary Section 36 Consent – EMEC

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland seeking representations to an application by EMEC for a variation to the existing section 36 consent in respect of the Fall of Warness tidal test site, by 15 December 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council seeking comments on the draft verge maintenance plan for the 2023 season by 19 December 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising as follows:

- Hand removal of ragwort, particularly in area of Market Stance, Old Finstown Road.
- Page 5 – delete “where necessary” from final bullet point.

10. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Defibrillator at Orkney Riding Centre – Opening Ceremony

The Chair gave a short report on the small ceremony at the Orkney Riding Centre, on 10 October 2022, in respect of the provision of a community defibrillator, for which the Community Council had provided financial assistance towards the box to house it, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

B. Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation for Social Care Support

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an engagement event by the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation, held in the Pickaquoy Centre on 3 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

11. Publications

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

- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – September, October 2022.
- Scottish Rural Action – September and October 2022 Newsletters.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership:
 - Scotland's Towns Bulletin – September 2022.
 - Get involved with Scotland Loves Local Gift Card.
- Paths for All – eNews – September, October 2022.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 30 September, 7 and 28 October and 4 and 11 November 2022.
- VAO – Newsletters – September and October 2022.
- Kirkwall BID – Newsletter – Halloween 2022.
- SEPA Updates – 6 and 7 October 2022.
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Information Update (12 October 2022).
- Scottish Water – Autumn Newsletter.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Boundary Commission for Scotland advising of the consultation on its revised proposals for UK Parliamentary constituencies, and it was:

Resolved note that the review had no effect on the Orkney and Shetland Parliamentary constituency as it was protected in statute.

B. Bonfire and Fireworks Display

The Chair referred to the annual bonfire and fireworks display held at Pickaquoy on 5 November 2022 and extended his thanks to all involved in organising the event and on the day, resulting in a large attendance with favourable weather conditions, and it was:

Resolved to note the success of the event.

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, 23 January 2023, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:20.