

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at 19:30

Present:

Jacqui Hirst, Sheelagh Sneesby, Martin Lee, Kenny Rendall, Bill Robertson and Robbie Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.
- Councillor Andrew Drever.
- Councillor Steve Sankey.

- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

- One member of the local press.

Chair:

- Jacqui Hirst in the Chair.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minute	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Correspondence	3
5. Kirkyard Maintenance	4
6. Financial Statements	5
7. Financial Requests	6
8. Consultation Documents.....	6
9. Publications	7
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	7
11. Date of Next Meeting	8
12. Conclusion of Meeting	8

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that there were no apologies for absence.

2. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 3 November 2021 was approved, being proposed by Sheelagh Sneesby and seconded by Kenny Rendall.

3. Matters Arising

A. Tourist Brochure

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Orkney Islands Council advising of a price for the proposed reprint of the tourist brochure, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

B. Planters

After hearing an update from the Chair regarding the planters, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should obtain three quotes for the supply and planting of summer bedding plants, in various colours and heights, for the six planters in St Mary's.

C. Roads Matters – Barrier No 1 and Brae at Vigga

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Orkney Islands Council regarding progress on resurfacing works to Barrier No 1 nor the outcome of investigations on the condition of the road at the brae at Vigga, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

D. Financial Requests – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received notes of thanks for financial assistance provided towards participation in the Ross County Football Club and the Under 17 Scottish Netball squads, together with a contribution towards the purchase of a new safety boat by Holm Sailing Club, which had been forwarded to members by email, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

E. School Bus Route

Following consideration of correspondence from the Liaison Officer in response to the query regarding school bus routes and buses passing on a narrow stretch of road, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the buses were operating on separate routes by different operators and therefore travellers could not be swapped onto the larger bus or vice versa.

2. To note that discussions had been held with both operators, who had agreed they would try not to pass on the single-track road, however that might not always be possible.

3. That the Clerk should send the photos taken by a member to Orkney Islands Council, which showed the damage to verges, caused primarily by the size of the bus and the width of the road and not necessarily driver error, and enquiring whether the roads could be widened at certain pinch points, given that the large buses could grip the verge and slide off the road, particularly when the buses were carrying school children.

4. Correspondence

A. Cemetery Headstone Works

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council informing members of headstone remediation works within the St Nicholas Cemetery, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Graffiti at St Mary's

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding graffiti at St Mary's, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a large piece of graffiti on the sea wall at St Mary's had been reported to Orkney Islands Council, with assurance sought that it would be removed.

2. To note that Orkney Islands Council was not confident of finding a cleaning material that would be capable of removing the graffiti and at the same time not causing environmental harm to the seabirds and other wildlife in the area.

C. Orkney Islands Council – Winter Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the introduction of route-based forecasting for the winter service, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the briefing note.

D. North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub

Following consideration of correspondence from the Administration and Marketing officer introducing the North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub, funded by the Scottish Government and operated currently by Thurso Community Development Trust, with the aim to support communities in every aspect of designing, developing and delivering a climate action project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Community Council Meetings

Following consideration of a guidance note from Orkney Islands Council in relation to COVID-19 implications on attendance at Community Council meetings, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To note that wi-fi had now been installed in Holm Community Centre, which meant that, if required, blended meetings could take place.

F. COVID-19 and Omicron Advice and Request

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rural and Islands Communities Team within the Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy at the Scottish Government regarding COVID-19 and the significant risk posed by the Omicron variant, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Free Childminding Course

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a free training and support programme aimed at encouraging individuals to become new professional childminders, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Kirkyard Maintenance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding kirkyard maintenance, including standardising the maintenance level in burial grounds across Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the amended specification for maintenance of burial grounds, including the following:

- The period of the contract being April to October, which would allow for the last cut at the end of September being undertaken in early October, should weather conditions be unfavourable.
- The number of cuts – 12 in total.
- An allowance for additional cuts, although this should only be in exceptional circumstances.
- Tenders could be invited for a period of up to three years.

B. That the new kirkyard extension also required to be maintained through the Community Council tendering process and should be included in the tender documentation from 2022 onwards.

C. That the Clerk should advertise the grass cutting for the Holm Kirkyard, including the new extension, for a period of three years, in "The Orcadian" newspaper, with a closing date for tenders of Monday, 14 March 2022.

D. That any tenders received should be opened at the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 16 March 2022.

E. That Sheelagh Sneesby and Kenny Rendall be appointed to the Kirkyard Sub-committee.

F. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requiring that similar dog signs be installed on the gates to the new extension as were on the gates to the existing cemetery, as individuals had been observed letting dogs off the lead and exercising within the new extension.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 21 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 21 December 2021 of £13,939.14.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 21 December 2021, projects to the value of £2,808.46 had been approved, of which £1,908.46 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,702.92.

3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £676.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 21 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

D. Seed Corn Funding

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 21 December 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

7. Financial Requests

A. Scottish Climbing

Following consideration of correspondence received from K Moar thanking the Community Council for assistance provided and requesting assistance towards competing for Scotland in the final at Southampton on 27 and 28 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, following approval via email, a donation of £30 had been made towards participation in the final in Southampton.

B. Holm Christmas Party – December 2021

Following consideration of correspondence received from Holm Christmas Party committee members requesting financial assistance towards the 2021 Christmas party, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, following approval via email, a donation of £300 had been made towards the Holm Christmas Party held in December 2021.

C. Friends of St Nicholas

Councillor Andrew Drever advised that, as he was a general member of the Friends of St Nicholas, he would not be present during discussion of this item and left the meeting at this point.

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Friends of St Nicholas requesting financial assistance towards a building survey and formation of a business plan to assist with a formal funding application in relation to structural improvements to St Nicholas Kirk, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £1,000 be provided, to be met from the General Fund.

Councillor Andrew Drever re-joined the meeting at this point.

8. Consultation Documents

A. Draft National Planning Framework 4

Following consideration of correspondence from the NPF4 Team within the Planning and Architecture section of the Scottish Government advising of the consultation in respect of the draft National Planning Framework 4, a long-term plan for Scotland that set out how the Scottish Government's approach to planning and development would help to achieve a net-zero sustainable Scotland by 2045, with a closing date of 31 March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation documentation.

B. Aviation Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Transport Scotland regarding a consultation on development of the Scottish Government's Aviation Strategy to realise the vision "for Scotland to have national and international connectivity that allows us to enjoy all the economic and social benefits of air travel while reducing our environmental impact", with a closing date of 21 January 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation document.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan 2022 – Specification

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the specification for the verge maintenance plan for 2022, with a closing date of 4 March 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should provide comments to the Clerk in advance of the closing date.

9. Publications

The Clerk had received the following publications which had been forwarded to members via email:

- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 5, 12, 19 and 26 November, 3, 10 and 12 December 2021 and 14 January 2022.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Coronavirus/Covid-19: Latest Information and Advice – 9, 16, 23 and 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December 2021, 5, 11 and 18 January 2022.
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Community Engagement Orkney Team – Information Update – 10 November 2021.
- Scottish Water – Winter Campaign – Protect your pipes: heat, insulate and protect your home.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – November and December 2021 and January 2022.
- VAO Newsletters – November and December 2021.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter for Orkney Community Councils – 1 January 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Women's Aid Orkney

The Clerk had received correspondence from Women's Aid Orkney advising of a programme of talks around Women's Aid Orkney, the Domestic Abuse Act and domestic abuse within Orkney, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should invite Women's Aid Orkney to give a presentation at the next meeting.

B. Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Council's Strategic Projects Team advising that responses to the consultation on the location-specific community benefit scheme for Orkney's Community Wind Farm project would now be considered by the new Council, following the elections in May 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Orkney Matters

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the programme of Orkney's Matters meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Holm, St Andrews and Deerness Orkney Matters meeting would be held on Monday, 24 January 2022.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on Wednesday, 16 March 2022, via Microsoft Teams, unless there were significant changes to COVID-19 restrictions, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.