

# Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in the Stenness Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 12 June 2023 at 19:45

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Councillor R King.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Miss I Gaudie, Community Council Liaison Assistant/Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillor O Tierney.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr R Hourston and seconded by Ms B Scollay.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Finstown Traffic Management Study Report**

Members heard that the study had now passed and that they were now at the consultation stage, on an extension to the 30mph limit. Members questioned why the proposals were necessary, and Councillor Tullock informed them it was due to the complaints of speeding that had been received by Orkney Islands Council.

Councillor King advised that no individual could demand anything be put in place and that the purpose of the consultation was to allow all residents of Firth, and indeed the rest of Orkney, to feedback their thoughts on the proposals.

Members felt that the placement of the 30mph zone was not where it should be and suggested that it should extend beyond the area at the Atlantis Lodges not as far as the property named Marsdene, as this would be too close to the bend on the Kirkwall side of Finstown. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the members would have further discussions regarding the proposals and would feed these back to Orkney Islands Council via the Democratic Services office prior to the 7 July 2023 deadline.

### **B. Weed Management in Finstown**

Resolved to note that no update was available.

### **C. Kirkyard Extension**

Members heard that the ownership of the strip between the kirkyard extension and the boundary of the housing estate was not held by Orkney Housing Association Ltd and that legal matters regarding the title deeds were ongoing. A member highlighted that the stone wall in the oldest part of the kirkyard was still in a state of disrepair and that the ivy had not been dealt with, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would feed back the issue of the wall and ivy to the relevant officer at Orkney Islands Council.

### **D. Orkney's Tourism Infrastructure Design Phase**

Members discussed the proposals which had been put forward following the public consultation, and felt that many were not feasible or required, due to existing

infrastructure or facilities already in place. Mrs A Stevenson agreed that the water refill station and motorhome waste disposal would be beneficial but felt there should not be designated spaces for motor homes in the car park as this would encourage motor homes to park in the car park overnight and would only be used in the summer but would restrict spaces the whole year round.

Members discussed ownership of the land, of the proposed loop path and questioned what signage could be installed, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would contact the Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, and request that they meet with the community council to discuss their concerns.

### **E. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Resolved to note that no update was available.

### **F. Christmas Lights**

Members discussed if there was a need for further Christmas lights and if they could be provided with the red wraparound variety. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the supplier only had 'warm white' and 'cool white' available. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to leave the Christmas lights as they were for this year and then determine if what they had was adequate for their needs.

### **G. Quarry Group**

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

### **H. Wildflower Planting**

Following discussion of whether there was a suitable place for possible allotments to be established in Finstown and other improvement ideas, it was:

Resolved that none of the proposed ideas were feasible, apart from the donation box, which is in hand by Mr R Hourston.

### **I. Bag the Bruck 2023**

Members felt that there was confusion as to where individuals and groups should apply for Bag the Bruck clean up packs. Members suggested that posters could be displayed prior, to better publicise this. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Bag the Bruck funding be split evenly between the two applicants and that the Interim Clerk would ensure payment to both was carried out.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Annual Grants 2023/2024**

Correspondence from Democratic Services had previously been forwarded to members regarding the annual grant amounts being awarded this financial year, and it was:

Resolved to note that the annual grant awarded to Firth and Stenness Community Council for 2023/2024 was £4,325.23.

### **B. White Ribbon Orkney**

Members had previously received a letter from WRO, providing information on what their purpose was and offering a presentation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the community council would not be accepting the invitation of White Ribbon Orkney.

### **C. CC Health and Care Representatives**

Members had previously received correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the election of a Health and Care representative on the community council. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the community council would wait until they had more members in place, before deciding on a Health and Care Representative.
2. To note that, in lieu of a suitable representative, the role would normally fall to the Chair.

### **D. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-Application Consultation Events**

Following consideration of correspondence from the West of Orkney Windfarm, members queried if the project was viable, that maintenance of the turbines would be carried out by firms from Caithness, rather than ones from Orkney, and why so much had already been undertaken by Orkney Islands Council. Councillor King advised that the council needed to ensure the necessary planning and procedures were in place, so that it would be ready when the time came, and that West of Orkney Windfarm were not the only interested party, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. OHAL Committee Recruitment Event**

Members had previously been sent information from Orkney Housing Association on an upcoming event, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event would be taking place on 21 June 2023.

## **5. Finance Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 5 June 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £11,388.27.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Resolved to note that the sheets for 2023/2024 had not yet been made up and that the statement for the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund was missing.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 5 June 2023, it was:

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

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Scottish National Age Group Championships, Aberdeen**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen from 12 – 16 April 2023, for Alfie Price, it was:

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

### **B. Mrs N Kenyon – Netball Scotland Finals, Edinburgh**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the Under 15s District Team competing in the Netball Scotland's National Finals in Edinburgh on 29 April 2023, for Lucy Kenyon, it was:

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

### **C. Mrs N Kenyon – North District Athletics Championships, Inverness**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards Orkney Athletic and Running Club competing in Javelin at the North District Championships in Inverness on 13 May 2023, for Lucy Kenyon, it was:

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

### **D. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Thurso Mini Meet**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the Thurso Mini Meet to be held in

Thurso Swimming Pool on 6 May 2023, for Elin Donaldson, Lily Harcus and Annie Kenyon, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25 per competitor, totalling £75.

### **E. Ness of Brodgar – Boards**

Members had previously discussed a request from Ness of Brodgar for financial assistance towards new information boards, and had agreed via email to assist financially, and it was:

Resolved to note that a donation had been granted for the boards of £570, which the Interim Clerk had secured Community Council Grant Scheme funding for.

### **F. Mrs I Linklater – North District Athletics Championships – 12-13 May, Inverness, Junior Inter County, Shetland and Scottish Schools Athletics, 9-10 June, Grangemouth**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the three athletics competitions in May and June 2023, for two competitors, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Max Linklater would receive a general fund donation of £25 each for two trips, and Rafi Linklater would receive a general fund donation of £25 each for two trips.

2. That no donation would be granted to Max Linklater for junior inter county, as this competition is funded by the group themselves, rather than individual competitors.

### **G. Firth School Trip – Hoy Outdoor Centre**

Following consideration of a request from Firth Primary School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the P7 residential trip to Hoy Outdoor Centre, for 6 pupils (Isla Sinclair, Khloe Watson, Louise Moar, Lily Harcus, Megan Fletcher and Brooke Geddes), it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25 per pupil, totalling £150.

### **H. Stenness Community Association – Coronation Events**

Following consideration of a request from Stenness Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards their Coronation Celebrations on 7 May 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation be granted for the event at £224.25, subject to CCGS approval.

## **I. Stenness Community Association – Senior Citizens Meal**

Following consideration of a request from Stenness Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards their Senior Citizens meal on 1 June 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation be granted for the event at £200, subject to CCGS approval.

## **J. Mrs N Kenyon – Junior Inter County, Shetland**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards her daughter Lucy competing in Javelin at the Junior Intercounty in Shetland on 2 - 4 June 2023, it was:

Resolved that a grant would not be awarded on this occasion, as this competition is funded by the group themselves, rather than individual competitors.

## **K. Mrs N Kenyon – Scottish Schools Athletics, 9-10 June, Grangemouth**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards Orkney Athletic and Running Club competing in Javelin at the Scottish School Championships in Grangemouth on 8 – 11 June 2023, for Lucy Kenyon, it was:

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

## **L. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Midsummer Meet – 17-18 June, Shetland**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the Midsummer Meet to be held in Lerwick on 17 – 18 June 2023, for Elin Donaldson, it was:

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

## **M. Changes to Funding Policy**

Members discussed the need to update the policy regarding funding individuals attending sporting events, due to frequent and multiple trip requests. Members felt that this may limit what is available to other parties and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that only 5 trips per child would be funded, each financial year, effective from 1 April 2023.

## **7. Consultation - Boundaries Scotland – Constituencies**

A consultation had been circulated advising of proposed changes to the constituency boundaries in Scotland and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that no changes were proposed for Orkney.

## **8. Publications**

Resolved to note that the following publications had been forwarded to members:

- VAO – Training and Funding update – April and May 2023.
- VAO – Newsletter – April 2023.
- ORSAS Newsletter – June 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – April 2023.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

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

## **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on Thursday, 7 September 2023 commencing at 19:30 in Firth Community Centre.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

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