

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 11 March 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mr I Deyell, Mr P Donnelly Ms A Duncan, Mrs H Scott and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mr D Miller, Safety and Resilience Officer.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Ms S Moore, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillor S Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the general meeting held on 15 January 2021 were adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mr I Scott.

The minutes of the two special meetings held on 9 February 2021 were adopted, subject to the addition of the instruction given by the Chair to the Clerk and Mr P Donnelly to work together on a letter to the resilience department of Orkney Islands Council.

Both the minutes of the meetings held on 9 February 2021 were adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mr I Scott.

The minutes of the special meeting held on 11 February 2021 were adopted, being proposed by Ms A Duncan and seconded by Mr I Deyell.

The minutes of the special meeting held on 18 February 2021 were adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Ms A Duncan.

3. Matters Arising

A. Stiles

Ms A Duncan advised that she needed to get back in touch with NILPS to find out at what stage the funding was for the stiles. She also offered to re-circulate the documents detailing the type of gates to be installed around the shore, of which funding would need to include payment for an individual to install these gates, along with an estimation on the time it would take to remove the old wooden stiles. It was agreed that if members were happy with the style of these gates, Ms A Duncan would be delegated permission to make arrangements for this job to be done.

Mr I Scott reported that he was extremely concerned with the state of the stile at Doo Geo and would like this to be highlighted to Orkney Islands Council as he felt it should be their responsibility to maintain or remove dangerous stiles, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Ms A Duncan would recirculate information regarding proposed gates.
2. That members delegated authority to Ms A Duncan to proceed with making arrangements for the project to go ahead.
3. That the stile at Doo Geo would be reported for inspection.

B. Conversation with People of Scotland

Councillor H Woodbridge advised that she had nothing to report on this meeting but would find the report from that meeting and circulate it to member, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

C. Road Aggregate

After discussion from the members regarding the road aggregates, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would order as many bags of scalplings as the budget would allow and those bags would then be distributed around the island relative to the length of the driveway the householder intended to maintain.

D. Connecting Scotland, Phase 2, Round 2

Councillor H Woodbridge advised that she did not attend this meeting and had nothing to report, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Rabbits

After hearing from Mr P Donnelly regarding employing someone to survey the rabbit population on the island, it was:

Resolved to defer a decision on this matter until after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

F. Cattle Grid

After hearing from the Chair of the worsening state of the cattle grid at the pier, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue again with Orkney Islands Council.

4. Presentation by Safety and Resilience Officer

After hearing from the Safety and Resilience Officer regarding the resilience on the island, it was reported that the resilience group cannot get a boat out to North Ronaldsay if they had several weeks of cancellations. Their role is to improve the resilience of the island to prevent cancelled ferries from becoming an emergency. It would be up to the island to inform the resilience group what the island would need help with, then the resilience group could look into funding to install redundances on the island. After discussion by the members, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Safety and Resilience Officer would circulate documentation on how resilience groups work and instructions on how North Ronaldsay might set up a local resilience group on the island to gather information and report to Orkney Islands Council's Resilience Group.

B. That the biggest problem facing the island during winter would be fuel, and that the resilience group and Democratic Services would work together to secure funding to help the Community Council buy a 2,000-litre bowser which would stay on the island permanently unless it was being filled with fuel, and would only be used in an

emergency if there had been several cancelled ferries. The bowser would be the responsibility of the resilience group, once formed.

C. That a local resilience group would be set up on island when the documents come through, and that this group would gather information and advise individuals how to improve their resilience through winter.

Mrs H Scott joined the meeting at this point.

Members thanked the Safety and Resilience Officer for his presentation, and he left the meeting at this point.

5. Correspondence

A. Orkney Ferries Replacement

After discussing the correspondence received from Mr R Leslie, SNP candidate for the forthcoming Scottish Parliament Elections, regarding replacing the inter isles ferries, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Covid-19 Marketing Campaign

After discussing the correspondence received from the Scottish Government, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. People-led Policy Panel

After discussing the correspondence received from VAO regarding a volunteer opportunity, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Scottish Water Appeal

After discussing correspondence received from Scottish Water, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an appeal to inform them of any water leaks or bursts, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. EUSS Support

After discussing correspondence received from Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the deadline to apply for Settled Status, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Verge Maintenance

After discussing the contents of the consultation on verge maintenance for the 2021 season, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That members would like to request two cuts this year.
2. That members would like to ask the Roads Support Team to allow the local road men to cut the dangerous corners on the verges if the verge cutter cannot come out to the island early enough to deal with these corners.

B. Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation

Members had been forwarded details of consultations being carried out by DEFRA and the Scottish Government on Livestock Transportation and Animal Welfare, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed but that members would like the Clerk to write a letter of concern to the Scottish Government.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 February 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance in the General Fund was £12,140.87.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the Turbine Fund statement as at 22 February 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balance in the Turbine Fund of £9,116.00.
2. To note that a cheque was expected from North Ronaldsay Trust which would be deposited into this account.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 February 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £527.40 was left in the additional capping limit, and that the main and island capping limits were fully allocated.

2. That the Clerk would advertise the kirkyard and memorial grass cutting contract for 2021.

3. That Mr I Scott would submit an application for assistance on cutting the grass at the Memorial Hall.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 22 February 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £5,000.

E. Seedcorn Fund

Following consideration of the Seedcorn Fund Statement as at 22 February 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £122.

8. Financial Request – CK Trading

Following consideration of correspondence received from CK Trading requesting Seed Corn funding for his online business, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the members agreed to award the remaining Seed Corn funding and the Clerk would forward this request to Democratic Services for final approval.

B. To note that Democratic Services were not aware of another tranche of funding being made available for Seed Corn.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative had nothing new to report.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that the Planning Representative had nothing new to report.

C. North Ronaldsay Trust Representative

It was reported that the Community Development Manager had resigned because she had taken up her post at the school. An advert had gone out for a replacement CDM, and the post would be part-time at first but then full-time for a year.

It was also reported that the Trust now had a property available for a resident nurse practitioner, and that the Trust, Community Council and NHS were still in discussions as to a specific tenancy agreement, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

10. Publications

The following publications were made available to members:

- VAO Newsletter – February and March 2021.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – January and February 2021.
- Orkney Ferries – Statistics - February 2021.
- Letter from School Place – January and February 2021.
- What's On at CLAN.

11. Any Other Competent Business - Message of Thanks

Mr P Donnelly intimated that he would like to thank the Clerk and Democratic Services for the work put in with the numerous special meetings recently, and it was:

Resolved that members noted their thanks.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 29 April 2021 via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:30.