

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm, and via Teams on Wednesday, 10 May 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Erland Drever, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson and Richard Shearer.

In Attendance:

- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, Orkney Islands Council (for Items 1 to 8) (via Microsoft Teams).
- Tom Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project (for Items 1 to 5A).
- Chris Webb, Head of Environment, Scottish Sea Farms (for Items 1 to 5B).
- Anna Price, Scottish Sea Farms (for Items 1 to 5B).

Chair:

- Hazel Flett, Clerk (for Items 1 and 2).
- Alan Scott (for Items 3 to 16).

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Robbie Thomson and Councillor Gillian Skuse.

2. Appointment of Chair

The Clerk advised of the options available for the appointment of Chair, and it was:

Resolved that Alan Scott should be reappointed Chair of Holm Community Council.

Alan Scott took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Clerk advised of the options available for the appointment of Vice Chair, and it was:

Resolved that Martin Lee should be reappointed Vice Chair of Holm Community Council.

4. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that Robbie Thomson should be reappointed as the Planning Representative for Holm Community Council.

5. Presentations

A. Orkney Native Wildlife Project

After hearing a presentation from the Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project, providing an update on the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, which was now in the knockdown phase, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

Councillor James R Moar joined the meeting during discussion of this item and the Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

B. Scottish Sea Farms

After hearing a presentation from representatives from Scottish Sea Farms on their proposal to achieve Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Certification for three sites operating from Scapa and St Margaret's Hope, and offering to attend two meetings of the Community Council twice per annum, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

The Scottish Sea Farms representatives left the meeting at this point.

6. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 15 March 2023 was approved, being proposed by Christine Muir and seconded by Bill Robertson, subject to the following item of discussion:

Christmas Tree Lighting

Martin Lee advised that the proposal was not to provide a hard standing, but a raised earth structure to prevent flooding, however it was advised that, regardless, both options would be considered engineering works and the decision to seek advice regarding planning permission remained valid.

7. Matters Arising

A. Various Roads Matters, including School Bus Routes

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council providing an update on various roads matters following the site visit held in February 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the further update from the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure regarding proposed works to Barrier No 1, details of which would be provided to the Community Council in due course.
2. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would seek further information from the Roads Team on the proposed widening of the B9052.
3. That Councillor Moar should update A Foubister regarding the proposal to undertake speed counts on the Moss Road.

B. Gate in Old Kirkyard

As Robbie Thomson had tendered his apologies, no update was available in respect of undertaking repairs to the gate in the old kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved to carry over this item to the next meeting.

C. Proposal for Living Christmas Tree

Alan Scott provided an update on discussions with Ewan Mackenzie regarding the siting of the tree, which would require further conversations with the Loch of Ayre committee. As any type of groundworks would require planning permission, for which a minimum fee of £1,000 would be payable (reduced by 50% if the application was submitted by the Community Council), it was now proposed to strim an area to make a natural path, and rotovate the area where the tree would be planted. Ewan Mackenzie would seek further information on the best type of tree and protection required in the open area, which would not be in line with the main road, but slightly

to the right, when heading towards Kirkwall at the bend. Planting should be done in the summer to give the tree a chance to get a good hold before winter, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position and that further discussion would take place at the next meeting.

D. Holm Graffiti

As Robbie Thomson had tendered his apologies and Erland Drever confirmed he had not been approached to help paint over the graffiti, no update was available, and it was:

Resolved to carry over this item to the next meeting.

E. Funding for Coronation Events

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that the bid for lottery funding for Coronation Events was unsuccessful, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Holm Play Park

Following consideration of a press release and guidance notes issued by Orkney Islands Council regarding a £400,000 fund to assist communities improve playpark equipment, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should forward the information to Holm Community Association.

8. Correspondence

A. Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding Bag the Bruck, to be organised by Greener Orkney to take place between 1 and 23 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should apply to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £300 and to split the grant evenly between applicants, noting that two applications had been received prior to any beach cleaning/tidying taking place.

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

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

Resolved:

1. To note that events would be held in Orkney at the Kiln Corner offices, Kirkwall; Sandwick Community Hall; the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall; and the Robert Rendall Building, Stromness, between 23 and 25 May 2023.

2. That Hayley Green would seek clarification on who would be responsible for determining working hours and lighting at the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay, should that development proceed.

C. Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council comprising PDF slides presented at a recent seminar for elected members on the new Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance, which was due to undergo public consultation later in the summer, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Third Sector Cost of Living Crisis Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Voluntary Action Orkney advising of the second tranche of the Third Sector Cost of Living Crisis Fund, for which applications required to be submitted by 28 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising of the annual grants to community councils for 2023/2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the annual grant to Holm Community Council for financial year 2023/2024 was £3,852.45.

2. That the capping limit for the Community Council Grant Scheme for financial year 2023/2024 was £3,726, with an additional capping limit of £743 in respect of costs associated with halls or community centres not in Council ownership.

F. White Ribbon Orkney Status Project

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding the White Ribbon Campaign, a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair of the White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group be invited to give a presentation to the Community Council.

G. Health and Care Representative

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer requesting nominations for a health and care representative, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Christine Muir should be appointed as the health and care representative for Holm Community Council.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure left the meeting at this point.

9. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 2 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 2 May 2023 of £14,011.74.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 2 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 2 May 2023, projects to the value of £2,840.61 had been approved, of which £2,521.61 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,961.64.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.
4. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that connections for Christmas lights be reinstated on the two street lighting columns which had been replaced following damage, on the corner of the village near the Loch of Ayre.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 2 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.
2. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council seeking further information on CDF2, whereby financial assistance had been provided to Holm Community Association for the “playpark”.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 2 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

10. Financial Requests

A. St Andrews Primary School

Following consideration of an application from St Andrews Primary School requesting financial assistance towards the P7 Outdoor Activities Trip to Hoy between 18 and 21 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 per pupil resident within the Holm area be awarded, to be met from the General Fund allocation.

B. U17 Netball

Following consideration of correspondence from E Thomson requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the U17 Netball District Finals held in Edinburgh on 29 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that a grant of £30 had been agreed via email.

C. Island Games

The Clerk had subsequently received correspondence from E Thomson requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating with the athletics squad at the Island Games to be held in Guernsey in July 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £60 be awarded.

11. Consultation – Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the annual consultation on the winter service plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make no comment on the winter service plan.

12. Meetings Attended by Members - Holm Community Association

It was advised that Holm Community Association had held another planning meeting for the Gala Day on 20 March 2023, which the Chair indicated had been cancelled, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

13. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletters – March and April 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – March and April 2023.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A. Headstone Works at St Nicholas Cemetery

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that it intended to repair one memorial in the St Nicholas Cemetery, a 98-year-old obelisk over two metres in height, which was deemed a high hazard during last year's inspections, and it was:

Resolved to note that the repair works, which were weather dependent, would be undertaken at the beginning of June.

B. Holm Rockworks Community Pitch

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Treasurer, East United, requesting assistance towards a long-term sustainable model for maintaining the Rockworks community pitch, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should reply to the Treasurer advising that, whilst sympathetic to the situation, the relationship lay between a football club, whether Holm or East United, and Holm Community Association, although the Community Council could consider assisting with project costs, should a viable project be submitted.
2. That Christine Muir would seek confirmation of ownership of the Rockworks.

C. 4G Coverage in St Mary's

Following representations from Martin Lee and Bill Robertson regarding the lack of 4G coverage in St Mary's and in parts of Holm, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Liam McArthur MSP highlighting that, although a new mast had been erected in Burray village, this had not increased 4G coverage in Holm and requesting that he investigate ways to increase coverage in Holm.

D. Rigs in Scapa Flow

Following representations from various members regarding noise from the rigs currently anchored in Scapa Flow, as well as from the fish farms with the daily boat operations and the potential noise from the Scapa Deep Water Quay, should that development proceed, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council highlighting concerns raised regarding noise from the rigs currently anchored in Scapa Flow as well as their positioning near the coastline of Holm.

15. 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 Monday, 26 June 2023 in Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:00.