

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Kirk, Dounby and via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr G Brown, Mrs E Grant, Mr C Kirkness, Mrs E Rendall, Mrs K Ritch and Mr G Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J McGrath, Interim Clerk/Community Council Liaison Officer.
- One member of the public.
- One member of the press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr K Groundwater.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the general meeting held on 8 November 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr G Sinclair and seconded by Mr G Brown.

3. Kirkyard Tenders

The Interim Clerk advised that the tenders for grass cutting at Sandwick and Harray kirkyards and Strathborg were ready to go out, if members were in agreement to advertise. She also advised that the number of cuts had been amended following a review of kirkyard maintenance which had been carried out by Orkney Islands Council. Following discussion on preferred length of contract, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise the kirkyard grass cutting tenders on a one-year contract.
2. To set a closing date prior to the next meeting so that tenders could be discussed, and decisions made.

4. Matters Arising

A. Festive Lighting

Members heard an update from the Community Council Liaison Officer, regarding Festive Lighting, advising that the order had not yet been placed but that this would be done soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Harray Hall Car Park

Members considered correspondence from the Interim Executive Director (Environment, Property and IT Services) on the Harray Hall Car Park, which advised that works could be undertaken by the Council or the community council could tender for the works. She also advised that the issue of the bus parking regularly in the car park would need to be addressed by Harray Community Association, as this could be adding to the damage, and it was:

Resolved that Mr G Sinclair would speak to fellow members of Harray Community Association to see what their preference would be for carrying out works.

C. Union Jack Flag

The Chair confirmed that the Union Jack flag had been delivered to him, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Correspondence

A. Briefing Note – Route Based Forecasting

Following consideration of a briefing note from the Roads Support Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding how winter services are planned, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub

Members considered correspondence from the North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding assistance available with climate action projects, and further correspondence on an online event to be held on 3 February, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Free Childminding Course

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Community Learning, Development and Employability Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of a free training and support programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Strategic Projects Team Update

Following consideration of correspondence from the Strategic Projects Team, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided an update on the work that had been done to put together a location-specific community benefit scheme for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkney Youth Local Action Group

Correspondence had been received from the OYLAG Facilitator, copies of which had been emailed to members, asking for information about groups and individuals who may be interested in the projects involving young people and local projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

F. Thank You Letters

Members heard that thank you letters had been received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, Sandwick Community Association, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. Participation in Local Politics

Following consideration of a consultation document received from the Local Government Housing and Planning Committee on barriers to participation in local politics, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation deadline had now passed.

B. Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan for Orkney

Members had previously been sent a copy of the consultation on the Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan for Orkney, copies of which had been emailed as there was a very short deadline for responses, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation deadline had now passed.

C. Aviation Strategy

Members considered information, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a Scottish Government consultation on the national aviation strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation deadline had now passed.

D. Fourth National Planning Framework

A consultation had been previously circulated to members via email prior to the meeting from the Scottish Government, regarding the draft NPF4, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation deadline had now passed.

E. Highland Wind Limited – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Members had previously been sent a copy of the Scottish Government consultation on the scoping “addendum”, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation deadline had now passed.

F. Verge Maintenance Plan

A consultation had been previously circulated to members with their agenda papers regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan for 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses was 4 March 2022 and that any comments could be passed to the Interim Clerk.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £10,389.14 as at 13 January 2022.
2. That the grant provided to Sandwick Community Association for a Christmas party, which did not take place due to Covid restrictions, could be used for an Easter party instead.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £2,487.23, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £676 as at 13 January 2022.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for allocation was £6,223.84 as at 13 January 2022.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval was £2,500 as at 13 January 2022.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Ewan Foubister – Scottish Schools Indoor Championships

Following consideration of a financial request from Ewan Foubister for funding towards taking part in the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships in Glasgow on 10 February 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

B. Jenna Miller – U13 Netball Trip, Aberdeen

Mrs K Ritch declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence sent on behalf of Jenna Miller, copies of which had been emailed round members prior to the meeting, requesting funding towards a trip to Aberdeen on 29/30 January to take part in a netball competition, it was:

Resolved to award a £50 donation from the general fund towards the trip.

9. Publications

The following publications had been received and made available to members via email:

- Scottish Water – Protect Your Pipes.
- Alistair Carmichael MP – Newsletter – 29 November and 17 December 2021 and 21 January 2022.
- Save Our Islander Discount (Orkney and Shetland MP and MSP).
- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – November and December 2021 and January 2022.
- VAO Free Upskilling/Reskilling Courses - UHI
- NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Newsletter - November 2021.
- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Command - Newsletter – January 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Rats in Harray Kirkyard

Members reported that there was still a bad problem with rats in Harray Kirkyard and noted that this had been brought up at a recent meeting. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would enquire with the relevant OIC departments regarding the placement of traps within the kirkyard.

B. Car Park at Bay of Skail

A member asked if ownership of the car park on the opposite side of the road from Skail Beach and toilets was known, as it was bad with potholes. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that this had been queried before and that it was private land, but offered to have this confirmed, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would query with OIC Legal whether this was OIC owned land.

C. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A member asked if there would be any plans locally to hold events for the upcoming Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Councillor H Johnston advised that there would be funding made available for groups who would like to hold events, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs E Grant would liaise with the resident who had queried and set up a meeting with relevant parties in due course.
2. That Mrs E Rendall also offered to help out and liaise with any plans.

D. Market Green Car Park

Mr C Kirkness advised that some works had been done in the Market Green car park but that it was still in a poor state with a number of potholes. Members queried whether they would be allowed to do some works there. The Community Council Liaison Officer offered to speak to Roads Support about this matter, and it was:

Resolved to suggest a meeting with a Roads Support officer on site.

E. Dounby Plan Meeting

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that a meeting was being arranged with members of Harray and Sandwick and Birsay Community Councils to discuss the Dounby Place Plan, and it was:

Resolved that the date of 17 February was suitable and that members would look out for a meeting invite.

F. Phone Box in Dounby

Members advised that the door had been pushed in, and asked whether the box could be removed completely, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact BT.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved that the next meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held in the Milestone Church, Dounby, on Wednesday, 16 March 2022, commencing at 19:00.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 19:52.