

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held online via Zoom on Thursday, 13 August 2020 at 19:30

Present:

Miss K Coghill, Mr R Delday, Mr D Scarth and Mr A Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Mr A Stanger, Interim Clerk/Community Council Liaison Officer.

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1. Election of Office Bearers

A. Election of Chair

Prior to the meeting members were asked to email Democratic Services with their nomination for the position of Chair. Members were then advised of the result and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr R Delday had received a majority of the vote.
2. That Mr R Delday duly accepted the position of Chair.

B. Election of Vice-Chair

Prior to the meeting members were asked to email Democratic Services with their nomination for the position of Vice-Chair. Members were then advised of the result and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Miss K Coghill had received a majority of the vote.
2. That Miss K Coghill duly accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

C. Election of Planning Representative

Prior to the meeting members were asked to email Democratic Services with their nomination for the position of Planning Representative. Members were then advised of the result and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr A Spence had received a majority of the vote.
2. That Mr A Spence duly accepted the position of Planning Representative.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Mr M Hay and Mr S Spence, and Councillors H Johnston, D Tullock and O Tierney.

The Chair also advised members that Mr K Spence had resigned from the Community Council and that a Public Meeting to elect another member would be held in due course.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 16 January 2020 was considered by members and subsequently approved, being proposed by Mr R Delday and seconded by Mr D Scarth.

4. Matters Arising

A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

Members were advised that alternative contractors had not yet been approached and that the level of work required could be substantial. Members also queried whether there were any planning restrictions or stipulations imposed by OIC that would need to be adhered to, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to check previous minutes to ascertain whether any restrictions or stipulations had been noted.

B. Slip at Buckquoy

The Chair advised members that this issue was no further on at this stage and that he would investigate further prior to the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would provide an update at the next meeting.

C. Draft Plan for Dounby

Members agreed that due to the ongoing Pandemic it was unlikely that this project had been progressed, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer was to ask the Planning Officer for an update on any progress made.

D. Birsay Marker Stone

Mr A Spence advised members that he had not yet been able to fix the Birsay Marker Stone, and it was:

Resolved that Mr A Spence would hope to commence work on this shortly.

E. Pontoon at the Geo

Members were advised that the Pontoon had been sold and subsequently taken away, and it was:

Resolved that this matter was now concluded.

F. Potholes/Flooding at Sabiston Mill

Members were advised that a response from the Roads Department had not yet been received, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk on behalf of members would ask OIC for an update on this matter.

G. Grit Bins at Howe Road

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, confirming that two grit bins would be provided for the Howe Road, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Flooding at the Palace

The Chair advised members that following several visits to the area, it appeared that the flooding varied according to the direction of the wind, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would continue to monitor the situation.

I. Newsletter

Members were advised that the Newsletter was close to being finalised and should be sent out via post and email in due course, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Hall Association

Given that Mr S Spence was not present at the meeting, it was:

Resolved to discuss this further at the next meeting.

K. Recognition Plaque at The Old Manse

Following consideration of correspondence from the residents of The Old Manse, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing further information on the style of the plaque and the required process in order to receive permission for this to be installed, it was:

Resolved:

1. That members agreed for the relevant application to be made in the name of the Community Council.
2. That the Interim Clerk was to ask OIC if any costs associated with this could be subject to Community Council Grant Scheme assistance.

L. Skiba Geo

The Chair advised members that the aggregate for repairing the road at Skiba Geo had now been purchased and the work carried out, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that this had previously been agreed by members via email.
2. That the cost would be subject to Community Council Grant Scheme assistance.

M. Benches at the Palace

The Chair advised members that the benches at the Palace had been removed at the request of the landowner. The benches had subsequently been cleaned, painted, relocated to Buckquoy, and would then be taken into storage once winter arrived, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tender 2020

Members were advised that, as agreed by email, Isbister Brothers had been awarded the contract for the Kirkyard grass-cutting for 2020, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Correspondence

A. Peedie Breeks Concerns

Following consideration of correspondence from a concerned parent, regarding the proposed closure of Peedie Breeks, the subsequent impact on families and seeking a letter of support to Orkney Islands Council for a similar flexible childcare provision, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the preparation of the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. West Mainland Tourist Brochure update

Following consideration of correspondence from the West Mainland Tourist Brochure sub-committee, providing an update on the progress of the new brochure, copies of which had previously been circulated, members were advised that this had been delayed due to the ongoing Pandemic, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Benbecula Community Council – HIAL ATMS Petition

Following consideration of correspondence from Benbecula Community Council seeking nomination of a suitable person to support a petition to the Scottish Government in respect of HIAL's ATMS plans, copies of which had been circulated, and further information provided by Councillor R King, it was:

Resolved to note that OIC had raised various concerns with HIAL regarding the plans.

E. Annual Grants 2020/2021

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC, confirming the level of Annual Grants awarded for the coming financial year, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Insurance Renewal 2020

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC, regarding the insurance arrangements for the coming year, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members agreed for the premium to be paid from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

G. 'To Absent Friends' Festival

Following consideration of correspondence from the Burial Grounds Officer, regarding an annual festival being held in November to remember those who have passed away and funding that was being offered for this, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, copies of which had been circulated, and further discussion regarding the donations previously awarded for various trips that did not proceed, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the estimated balance of £4,169.74 as at 20 July 2020.
2. That the Interim Clerk was to contact the various people and groups awarded donations for trips that did not proceed to ask if these were to go ahead in the future instead.

B. Birsay Energy Fund

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

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £15,106.42 as at 20 July 2020.

C. 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 £3,143.80, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £669.00 as at 20 July 2020.

D. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note that £8,138.37 remained available for approval as at 20 July 2020.

E. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note that £21.64 remained available for approval as at 20 July 2020.

F. Annual Accounts

Following consideration of the Annual Accounts 2019/2020 as prepared by OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

8. Financial Request - Education Grant – Dance School of Scotland

Members considered a request from a resident parent requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending the Dance School of Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to award an Education Grant of £150.00 towards the costs associated.

9. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan and the consultation responses from OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan consultation document from OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

10. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications had been received and made available to members:

- VAO Newsletter January - June 2020.
- VAO Training and Funding Update February – July 2020.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Public Toilets in Birsay

Members discussed the ongoing issue with the public toilets being closed and agreed that a solution needed to be found as soon as possible. Members were also advised that an update on the current situation would be provided shortly and following further discussion regarding the enhanced cleaning arrangements currently required, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to ask OIC for full details on the enhanced cleaning requirements.

B. Slip at Buckquoy

Members resumed discussion of this issue and agreed that they would welcome more involvement from Historic Environment Scotland in order to progress the repairs required, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would contact Mr K Spence for an update on the progress made thus far.
2. That Councillor R King was happy to discuss the matter with the Director of Historic Environment Scotland.
3. That the Chair would contact Councillor R King should this be required.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Birsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 19 November 2020 either online or at the Birsay Community Centre.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:40.