

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held via Teams on Thursday, 24 February 2022, at 19:30

Present:

Mrs W Dunnet, Mr M Lynch, Mr V Muir and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Ms H Green, Interim Executive Director (Environmental, Property and IT Services).
- Mr K Moar, Orkney Drugs Dog.
- Mr T Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr I Heggie, Clerk,
- Ms L Aitcheson, Incoming Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mr R Hourston and Mr N MacLeod.

2. Presentation - Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Members were given a presentation by the Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project, on the progress made by the Orkney Native Wildlife Project. This included:

- Stoat eradication numbers.
- Recovery of native species due to eradication.
- Community engagement.
- Events and Learning.

After the presentation, members thanked the speaker for the presentation.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

3. Presentation – Orkney Drugs Dog

Members were given a presentation on the progress made by the Orkney Drugs Detection Dog handler. This included:

- Aims.
- Funding.
- Education, Activities.
- Figures of drug confiscation.

After the presentation, members thanked the speaker for the presentation.

The Orkney Drugs Dog representative left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 2 September 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mrs A Stevenson and seconded by Mr M Lynch.

5. Matters Arising

A. Firth Park Donation Box

Members heard that there was currently no progress and that it would be an ongoing matter, and it was:

Resolved to revisit this item at the next meeting.

B. Christmas Decorations

Members heard that the old decorations had been taken down and were currently held by Orkney Island Council. It was also confirmed that the new decorations would be ordered in time for display in 2022, and it was:

Resolved to acknowledge the information provided.

C. Repair to Bird Hide - Walkway below Old Firth Primary School

Members heard that the walkway which was in disrepair was the property of RSPB and therefore the maintenance was not within Orkney Island Council's remit. Liability was discussed and it was agreed that Democratic Services would further investigate this issue, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would contact RSPB regarding the future of the walkway and hide.

D. Firth Park Grass Cutting

Members heard that the contractor had been contacted and that they had assured the Clerk that they had both the will and facilities to ensure grass cutting was continued as per the contract, and it was:

Resolved to acknowledge the information provided.

E. Kirkyard Dyke Repair

Members heard that there had been work carried out in this area which had resulted in stones being out of place or missing, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would send images of the current situation to the Clerk for passing on to Democratic Services.

F. Waste Services at Cursiter

Members heard that the centre would continue to be used for recycling but that normal household waste (black bags) could not be accepted, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Maintenance of Road Signs

Members heard that in recent times there had been a shortage of raw materials, but that maintenance and replacement was now underway. Members also reported on specific instances where maintenance was required, and it was:

Resolved that this information would be reported back to Orkney Island Council by Councillor H Johnston.

H. Bag the Bruck

Members discussed the upcoming Bag the Bruck event, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact groups who had previously taken part in the event, and that members would speak to local groups who may wish to be involved.

I. Future Hybrid Meetings

Members heard that installation of wi-fi in Stenness Community School was in progress and that it was hoped that Firth Community Centre would receive a grant towards the installation of wi-fi which could possibly be in place for the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to acknowledge the information provided.

6. Correspondence

A. North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub - Online Event

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the event, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Free Childminding Course

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the availability of a free course, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Orkney Island Council - Strategic Projects Team Update

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Orkney Island Council Strategic Projects Team, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Local History as Told by Cemeteries

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the event, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Scotland's Census 2022

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the participation of members with the census, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 8 February 2022, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining for approval was £12,651.80.

B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund

After consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 8 February 2022, it was:

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

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 February 2022, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,624.47.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 8 February 2022, it was:

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

At this point Councillor R King left the meeting.

8. Financial Requests

A. Requests Agreed via Email

Resolved to note that the following awards had been agreed via email since the last meeting.

- Firth Primary School - £50 donation towards outdoor clothing.
- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club - £100 donation – North District Age Group Championships - Inverness – Part 1 - October 2021.
- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club - £50 donation - North District Age Group Championships – Inverness – Part 2 – November 2021.
- Max and Rafi Linklater – £50 donation - Athletics Competition - Inverness - September 2021.
- Josie McIntosh – £25 donation - Scottish Youth Ballet – December 2021.
- Freya Boonzaier – £100 donation - Climbing competitions in Edinburgh in September and October 2021, Perth in October 2021 and Glasgow in November 2021.
- Purchase of a Memorial Wreath Holder - £75.

B. OASC – North District Spring Championships 2022

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Inverness on 5 and 6 February 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

C. OASC - Aberdeen Trip - 17–20 February 2022

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a trip for one local competitor, to take part in the swim meet in February, it was:

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

D. Road Material - Fairfield, Norseman Village, Rendall

Following consideration of a request for funding towards road repairs for the property Fairfields, Norseman Village, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Mr Walters to inform him of ongoing consideration. It was also resolved to revisit this issue at future meetings.

E. St Magnus Way Funding

Following consideration of a request for funding from the Orkney Pilgrimage, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £400 be granted to the Orkney Pilgrimage.

F. Netball Orkney – Aberdeen - February 2022

Following consideration of a request from Ms C Walker, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in February 2022 for one competitor, it was:

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

G. Max Linklater - Athletic Trips

Following consideration of a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards three trips for Max, to take part in athletics competitions on the Scottish Mainland, it was:

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

H. Netball Orkney - Scottish Cup Tournament - February 2022

Following consideration of a request from Ms K McIntosh, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a netball competition in Aberdeen in February 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

9. Consultation Documents

A. National Planning Framework – December 2021

Following consideration Scottish Government consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the National Planning Framework, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkney Youth Local Action Group

Following consideration of an Orkney Youth Local Action Group consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, seeking public consultation on activities for young people, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. 2022 Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of an Orkney Island Council consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the verge maintenance plan, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Orkney Matters

Following consideration of an Orkney Island Council consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding issues for Firth and Stenness and the Orkney Matters consultation meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Finstown - Traffic Management Study

Following consideration of an Orkney Island Council consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding traffic control for the Firth and Stenness area, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Clerk would resend the email to the Chair.

10. Publications

The following publications had been circulated previously, and were noted by members:

- Scottish Ministers Approve Two Sites for 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' December 2021.
- VAO – Newsletter - January 2022.
- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Command – Newsletter - January 2022.
- Scotland's Census February 2022.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Picnic Benches

Members discussed the use of community council funds to further enhance Firth Park and the shoreline car park with picnic benches, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk contacts Allan's of Gillock to price picnic benches and then inform members of the details for possible purchases.

B. Dog Fouling - Cemetery

Members heard that it had been noted by a concerned member of the public that dog fouling was observed within the cemetery, it was:

Resolved that fouling notices would be checked, and appropriate measures taken.

C. Christmas Tree within Firth Park Garden

Members heard that some members of the public had requested that a Christmas tree could be sited within the shelter of Firth Park, and it was:

Resolved to raise this issue at a future meeting for consideration nearer the time.

D. Wreath Holder within War Memorial

Resolved to note that the manufacture and installation of a wreath holder had been a success.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on Thursday, 21 April 2022 at Stenness Community School (aided by Microsoft Teams), commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.