

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams, on Monday, 18 April 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Rikki A Lidderdale, Tom Rendall, Lorraine A Craigie, Christopher Gee, Moyra Gordon, Robert F Leslie and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- 1 member of the local press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from David L Flett and Cathleen A Hourie.

2. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 14 March 2022 was approved, being proposed by Moyra Gordon, and seconded by Lorraine Craigie.

3. Matters Arising

A. Seatter Bridleway – Removal of Fencing

The Clerk had not yet received a response from Orkney Islands Council regarding the request to remove redundant fencing at the Seatter Bridleway, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

Post meeting note – following the meeting the Clerk received a response which stated that an officer had walked about 200m down the path from Berstane Road end and did not see any old fencing wire. As mentioned previously, planning permission was given for the land at the end of the bridleway, which was now fenced off and construction started.

The response also referred to the query regarding funding for upgrading the core path from Inganess to Scapa and the use of sheep's wool. Funding options for K14 – Inganess to Scapa Bay were being looked at. The sheep wool floating path was more suited to peat bogs, as the path still required to be edged, with aggregate transported to the site. For the specific site in question, new plastic boardwalks were a better alternative and easier to work with.

B. Bag the Bruck

The Clerk confirmed that two applications had been received, from the Rotary Club and the 1st Kirkwall Company Boys Brigade, for assistance towards Bag the Bruck events, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk would arrange for the grant to be paid out.

C. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received emails from Orkney Folk Festival, L Kemp (U17 and U13 Netball) and Orkney Amateur Swimming Club thanking the Community Council for financial assistance granted towards various events and competitions, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Doorway in Broad Street

As C Hourie was not present, no update was provided in respect of the condition of a doorway in Broad Street, Kirkwall.

Post meeting note – C Hourie had spoken to staff at Virgin Money who confirmed the doorway was their responsibility. Their Clerk of Works had taken photographs in 2021 when in Orkney and submitted a request to their Estates section for a like-for-like replacement. As the doorway was in a conservation area, it was suggested that contact be made with the Council's conservation officer to determine whether a like-for-like replacement was possible, following which the appropriate action would be progressed.

4. Correspondence

A. Scottish Flood Forum – Free Flood Assessments

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a visit to Orkney by Scottish Flood Forum in April 2022, including free property flood resilience assessments, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Notice of Memorial Inspections

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding memorial safety inspection and testing in St Olaf's Cemetery and at St Magnus Cathedral in April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Connecting Scotland – Provision of iPads

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the provision of i-Pads through the Connecting Scotland scheme for people who met specific criteria, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Services from Planning Aid Scotland for Community Councils

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding services which Planning Aid Scotland, a charity and social enterprise, provided in relation to planning issues in communities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Bus Parking overnight in Old Scapa Road

Following consideration of correspondence from a resident of Old Scapa Road regarding overnight parking of buses on the road/path at the Youth Hostel, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that further correspondence had been received from Police Scotland and Hostelling Scotland which indicated that the position had been resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

5. Hanging Baskets

The Clerk advised of progress being made with the provision of hanging baskets and enquired whether the Community Council wished to provide baskets on 8 Broad Street, a Council-owned property which was now vacant, and it was:

Resolved that, due to circumstances and time constraints, the Community Council should provide three hanging baskets at 8 Broad Street, Kirkwall.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 6 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 6 April 2022 of £18,696.98.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/22 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 6 April 2022, projects to the value of £3,027.72 had been approved, of which £2,727.72 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,451.37.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 6 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,964.42.

7. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Pilgrimage – Annual Maintenance Costs

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Pilgrimage requesting assistance towards annual maintenance costs in respect of the St Magnus Way, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of 55% of total costs, amounting to £825, be provided, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

B. Gymnastics

Following consideration of an application from M Want requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in a gymnastics competition at Bells

Sports Centre, Perth, from 1 to 3 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £20 be provided, subject to confirmation of participation.

C. 1st Kirkwall Company Boys' Brigade

The Clerk had received correspondence from the 1st Kirkwall Company Boys' Brigade requesting financial assistance towards their annual camp to be held in Westray from 15 to 18 July 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £130 be provided, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

8. Consultation – Winter Service Plan 2022-23

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 that any comments should be forwarded to the Clerk by mid-June 2022.

9. Publications

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

- L McArthur MSP – Covid-19: Latest Advice and Guidance – 15 March 2022.
- L McArthur MSP – Ukraine: Latest Update and Information – 16 March 2022.
- L McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 18 and 25 March and 1 April 2022.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – March 2022.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Scotland's Towns Bulletin – March 2022.
- L McArthur MSP – Covid-19 and Cost of Living: Latest Advice and Information – 30 March 2022.
- Paths for All – eNews, March 2022.
- Scottish Rural Action – April 2022 Newsletter.
- Kirkwall BID – Easter Newsletter.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter for Orkney Community Councils – 1 April 2022.
- VAO Newsletter – March 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Royal British Legion – Best Kept War Memorial Competition

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Royal British Legion, Kirkwall branch, regarding the annual best kept war memorial competition, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should respond to the Royal British Legion, Kirkwall branch, confirming that the Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial should be entered in the annual best kept war memorial competition.

B. Arcadia Park

The Clerk had received correspondence from B Mackenzie thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided towards the purchase of fruit trees and compost and inviting the Community Council to visit Arcadia Park to see recent developments, including whisky barrels donated by Highland Park Distillery for rose bushes, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That, as Community Councils would enter their own pre-election period on 24 April 2022, it would not be possible to arrange a visit, however, individuals should take time to visit Arcadia Park.
2. That the Clerk should write to B Mackenzie thanking him and his team for all the work carried out at Arcadia Park to date.

C. Housing – Communities Taking a Lead

The Clerk had received correspondence from Hope Cohousing advising of an open event and roadshow to be held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 13 May 2022, comprising a drop-in session and a discussion panel, regarding community-led housing, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 22 August 2022, commencing at 19:00, in the Garden Room at the King Street Halls, King Street, Kirkwall, bearing in mind any COVID-19 regulations and/or guidance in place at that time.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

This being the last meeting of the Community Council prior to the elections, the Chair thanked all members for their participation and contributions over the past five years. He also thanked the Clerk for all her support.

On behalf of the members, the Vice Chair thanked the Chair for his contribution, particularly during the last two years when the Community Council was unable to meet face-to-face.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 19:45.