

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 31 August 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mr C Kirkness, Mrs K Ritch and Mrs H Woodsford-Dean.

In Attendance:

- Mrs H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Mr M Bailey, Community Engagement Officer, VAO.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Election of Office Bearers	2
3. Adoption of Constitution.....	2
4. Adoption of Minutes	2
5. Matters Arising.....	2
6. Correspondence	3
7. Consultations	4
8. Financial Statements	4
9. Applications for Financial Assistance.....	5
10. Publications	7
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	7
12. Dates of Next Meetings	9
13. Conclusion of Meeting	9

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr G Brown and Mr G Sinclair, and Councillor R King.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Election of Chair

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr D Hamilton be elected Chair of Harray and Sandwick Community Council.

B. Election of Vice Chair

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr C Kirkness be elected Vice Chair of Harray and Sandwick Community Council.

C. Planning Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr G Brown be elected Planning Representative for Harray and Sandwick Community Council, and that he had already intimated his willingness to take on this role, should he be elected.

3. Adoption of Constitution

Following discussion of some small amendments that had been made to the constitution to take into consideration that the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils had been recently revised, it was:

Resolved to adopt the constitution for Harray and Sandwick Community Council.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the general meeting held on 16 March 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mrs K Ritch and seconded by Mrs E Grant.

5. Matters Arising

A. Festive Lighting

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the lights had been delivered to the Roads depot and that arrangements would need to be made regarding their installation and future storage, and it was:

Resolved that a meeting should be set up in the near future to discuss arrangements.

B. Rats in Harray Kirkyard

There was no further update on this item, despite a video and further photographs being provided by the CC and sent to the Burial Grounds Officer. Members were certain that there had been rat boxes on the steps between the old and new kirkyards and that there were no grass cuttings left in the kirkyard, as had been suggested. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would take this matter back to the relevant officer for further investigation.

C. Car Park at Bay of Skail

There was no update on this item but members agreed that they would like to carry out works similar to what they had done at the Market Green car park recently, to fill potholes and bring it up to a better standard. Ownership of this area was also discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr C Kirkness would make enquiries.
2. To add this to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

D. Car Park at St Peter's Kirk, Sandwick

Members again discussed the car park, and it was suggested that OIC Roads did not maintain this area but that perhaps the community council could also do some remedial works here. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact OIC Roads for information prior to discussion at the next meeting.

6. Correspondence

A. West Mainland Tourist Brochure

Following consideration of correspondence from the Clerk to Evie and Rendall Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the decision to put the WMTB online, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To note that there was only one box remaining of the printed brochure.

B. Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Members considered the correspondence from Copenhagen Offshore Partners on the consents application and EIA for the Pentland Offshore Windfarm project, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Crown Estate Scotland's Sustainable Communities Fund

Members considered correspondence from the Stakeholder Assistant, West of Orkney Windfarm, relating to a fund created to support local regeneration and sustainable development, copies of which had previously been provided, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Speeding FPN in Dounby

Members considered correspondence from A Gordon Prentice, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding speed limits and his recent visit to Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. OIC Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Directorate

Members considered correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and who was responsible for the different areas of work.

F. Thank You Letters

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received from Orkney Pilgrimage, Orkney Folk Festival, and the Harray Public School Reunion Group, for financial assistance provided.

G. Merchant Navy Day

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Seafarer's Charity, advising that Merchant Navy Day would be held on 3 September and asking that the red ensign be flown, if possible, and it was:

Resolved that the red ensign would be flown, if possible.

7. Consultations

Resolved to note that no consultations had been circulated.

8. Financial Statements

A. Annual Accounts

Following consideration of the Annual Accounts for Harray and Sandwick Community Council for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the income and expenditure account and balance sheet.

B. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,784.15 as at 23 August 2022.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £1,084.99, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £743 as at 24 August 2022.

C. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note that the balance remaining available for allocation was £9,640 as at 24 August 2022.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note that the balance remaining available for approval was £2,500 as at 24 August 2022.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Harray Public School Reunion

Resolved to note that a £200 donation had been agreed via email towards the event, which had been held in August 2022.

B. VAO Membership

Members had previously been sent a copy of the reminder to renew the VAO membership subscription. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to renew the membership for 2022/2023 at a cost of £15, and to apply to utilise CCGS funding to cover the cost.

C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club - Various

1. Scottish National Age Group Championships, Glasgow, April 2022

Members had previously been sent a copy of Orkney Amateur Swimming Club's application for financial assistance towards Eve Wood attending the SNAG Championships, and it was:

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

2. North Atlantic Challenge Meet, Shetland, May 2022

Members considered Orkney Amateur Swimming Club's request, copies of which had previously been circulated, for funding towards Eve Wood attending the North Atlantic Challenge Meet in Lerwick and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that this swimmer had now received the maximum grant available in any financial year.

3. Thurso Mini Meet, Thurso, May 2022

A financial request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for assistance towards the cost of Ruaridh Custer and Hannah Morrice attending the Thurso Mini Meet had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to make a £50 donation towards each swimmer's attendance, totalling £100.

4. Scottish Disability Sport National Championships, Grangemouth, April 2022

A financial request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for assistance towards Irving Norquoy's attendance at the Scottish Disability Sport National Championships had previously been sent to all members, and it was:

Resolved to award £50 from the general fund towards Irving's trip.

5. Midsummer Meet, Shetland, June 2022

Members had previously been sent a copy of Orkney Amateur Swimming Club's application for financial assistance towards Leah Robertson attending the Midsummer Meet at the Clickimin Leisure Centre in Lerwick, and it was:

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

6. North District Pentaqua, Inverness, June 2022

A request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club had previously been circulated, which was for financial assistance with the cost of Arwen West attending the North District Pentaqua Meet in Inverness, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £50 should be made.

D. Kirkwall and St Ola CC – Bonfire and Fireworks

A request from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council for financial assistance towards the annual bonfire and fireworks in Kirkwall was read out by the Interim Clerk, and it was:

Resolved to make a donation of £100 towards the event, subject to CCGS approval.

E. Parys Hamilton – U19 Scotland Netball Squad

The Chair declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

A request from Parys Hamilton was read out by the Interim Clerk. Parys had recently been selected for the national under 19 netball squad and would require to travel down to Glasgow once a month to train for a weekend at a time. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £50.

F. CC Policy for Financial Requests

Members had a discussion around their financial policy and whether it needed to be revised, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would provide the rates for the other community council areas so that they could consider their rates at the next meeting.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – July 2022.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – July 2022.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Jubilee Celebrations

Members queried what had been spent from the grant provided towards Jubilee celebrations, and whether it would be in their gift to make donations towards the groups that had helped with the events. The Interim Clerk advised that the amounts had been split with Birsay Community Council and that there was still some funding leftover from the £500 allocated to Harray and Sandwick Community Council.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to write thank you letters and offer a £60 donation to Dounby Athletic Club, Milestone Kirk, West Mainland Traditional Music Project and to Kristen Norquoy's chosen charity.

B. Christmas Events

Members agreed that a tree should be ordered, the same as last year's, as well as two sets of lights. The tree lighting event would be held on Friday, 2 December, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would order the relevant items.

C. Harray Hall Car Park

Members queried what was happening with the maintenance works required at the Harray Hall car park, as the Council had previously agreed to carry it out, but nothing had been done. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure confirmed that there had definitely been some correspondence on this since the last meeting and agreed to liaise with the Roads Support Manager on this matter.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would seek a report on this for the next meeting.

D. Warm Hubs

A member brought up the subject of warm hubs, for those needing access to a warm space during the forthcoming winter period due to rising energy costs. She queried

whether this was something that the community council could set up or assist with. Another member advised that the West Mainland church had already proposed to set up a Warm Hub in the Milestone Kirk and that a trial period would be beginning shortly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Dounby Tidy Up

A member reported that a member of the public had kindly been clearing the paths at Quilco of weeds and suggested that the community council go out and do the remaining areas around the village to finish it off. Remaining members were in agreement.

Members also reported that some of the road signs around Dounby needed to be replaced, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members would agree a date amongst themselves to carry out a Dounby tidy up.
2. That Mrs H Woodsford-Dean would contact Greener Orkney to see if they would be interested in assisting the group.
3. That the Interim Clerk would report the road signs to the relevant Council section.

F. Subsidence near St Peter's Kirk

A member advised that there had been some subsidence on the road at the rear of St Peter's Kirk and that this was now posing a risk. It was agreed that this had been raised before but that it was not thought to be Council responsibility, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

G. Bench at Harray Kirkyard

A member advised that a wooden bench had been donated for use at the Harray Kirkyard, to replace another that was beyond repair, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask permission from the Burial Grounds Officer, Orkney Islands Council, prior to this new bench being positioned at the kirkyard.

H. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Members agreed that the tree lighting ceremony would be held on Friday, 2 December 2022, and asked that a tree be ordered as well as two sets of lights, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would make the necessary arrangements for tree and lights, as well as complete the EMP.

2. That Mrs K Ritch would organise selection boxes for the school children.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, and reflecting on the previous discussion, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Harray and Sandwich Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 2 November 2022 and Wednesday, 25 January 2023 both at 19:00 in the Milestone Kirk.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

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