

# Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 8 March 2021 at 19:00

## Present:

Mr A Baird, Mrs E Drever, Miss J Holland, Mr A Scott and Mr D Seatter.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Mr N Blowfield, Environmental Technical Officer.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Mr D Hutchison and Councillor H Woodbridge.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 30 November 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr A Scott and seconded by Mr D Seatter.

## **3. Scrap Cars**

The Chair declared an interest in this item. He briefly introduced the Environmental Technical Officer to the meeting and provided information on current prices for scrap and did not take part in any further discussion.

The Vice Chair took the Chair for this item.

The Environmental Technical Officer provided members with information on the End of Life vehicle scheme, whereby individuals with cars to scrap could have them taken away free of charge. He answered questions on the scheme, and also offered to meet again with the Community Council if they had any queries around waste-related issues.

Members discussed scrap cars and it was agreed that in the first instance, the End of Life vehicle scheme should be promoted within the community and folk encouraged to apply to it, and the operation of a Community Council-run scheme would be shelved meantime. It was also agreed that members of the community should be encouraged to contact the Community Council if there were any issues, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That the Interim Clerk would draft an advert on the End of Life vehicle scheme which would be displayed around the island and in the relevant publications.

C. That Community Council members would encourage community members to make use of the scheme.

D. That the operation of a Scrap Car scheme would be considered again at a future meeting, if necessary.

Miss J Holland joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

The Environmental Technical Officer left the meeting at this point.

## **4. Grass Cutting Tenders**

Members had previously agreed, via email, to advertise the grass cutting tenders for Westside, Pierowall and Rapness kirkyards and the war memorial, for a one-year

period. The Interim Clerk advised that one tender had been received for each of the areas and, following analysis of the tender details, it was:

Resolved:

A. To award the tenders for grass cutting for the 2021 season to Mr John Rendall.

B. That the Interim Clerk would advise the applicant that he had been successful.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **A. Faray Turbine Project**

Members considered correspondence from the Project Officer, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided an update on the Community Wind Farm project as at 10 December 2020, members noted that the full planning application was due to be submitted, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Village Path**

After hearing a report that the Island Link Officer for Papa Westray had not been able to visit the island to date, members voiced concerns about missing out on possible funding, and it was:

Resolved that members would like the Link Officer for Papa Westray to visit the island as soon as possible.

### **C. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Members advise that the ceremony had gone ahead, very quietly and in line with restrictions. They also advised that the group who had purchased the tree had accepted compensation from the company for the faulty lights, so agreed that there was not much more the Community Council could do about that matter, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Christmas Lights**

It was reported that the lights had been erected and remained on. Discussion was had around whether to take the lights down or to leave them up and it was agreed to get a costing for this before making a decision.

The Interim Clerk advised that they need to apply for planning permission on the lights and agree a maintenance schedule.

Members were also advised that the Grant Claim Form had been returned to Westray Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the lights were in situ.

2. That the Interim Clerk would contact the local contractor to ascertain a cost for removing the lights each season.
3. That a planning application would be submitted in due course.
4. To discuss this item again at the next meeting.

## **E. Ferries Issues**

The Chair advised that he had not sent a letter as agreed at the last meeting, but that the present situation with the online booking system was that the software was ready and Orkney Ferries were nearing the testing phase. Councillor G Sinclair also advised that RET was a massive unknown as there were still a lot of calculations to be done and discussions on fare structure, and that there was no scope for any improvement to the North Isles service in terms of number of sailings, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and monitor the situation.

## **F. Flooding at Millburn**

The Interim Clerk advised members that she had not been able to get in touch with the local SEPA office so had sent them a letter, but no response had been received so far. She also advised that SEPA were not carrying out site visits at present, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and keep the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **G. Play Park Fence**

Members were advised that the Education Department were still trying to get a quote for the additional repairs required, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Orkney Scam Action Group**

Members considered correspondence from Police Sergeant Simon Hay, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided information on the recent setting up of a local multiagency group to tackle scams, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Fair Start Scotland**

Members considered correspondence from the Fair Start Scotland Delivery Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a service aimed at helping people who find themselves unemployed and looking for work. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that members should forward any information to the Interim Clerk.

### **C. Stronsay CC – Ferry Catering**

Following consideration of a letter from Stronsay Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the removal of the cafeteria service on the North Isles ferries due to Covid-19, members discussed this issue. They sympathised with the restrictions the service were working under, but were in agreement that there was sure to be some way of providing a basic service, which would be particularly appreciated by those that were using the ferry on a daily basis, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would write a letter of response to Stronsay Community Council, advising that Westray Community Council would support the reopening of the cafeterias.
2. That, if nothing happened, Westray Community Council could pursue this issue themselves at a future meeting.

### **D. R100 Roundtable**

Following consideration of correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an event to discuss the rollout of the Scottish Government's R100 programme and wider broadband deployment, it was:

Resolved to note that two members had attended this meeting and that information from BT was awaited.

### **E. Scottish Water – Annual Consultative Meeting**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Corporate Affairs Manager (North), Scottish Water, regarding their annual Consultative Meeting, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had since taken place.

### **F. Scottish Government – Clear Your Head Campaign**

It was noted that correspondence from the Engagement Officer, NHS Orkney, had been forwarded regarding the Scottish Government's Clear Your Head Campaign, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **G. Connecting Scotland and Orkney Kickstart Scheme**

Members noted correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, copies of which had previously been emailed, regarding schemes to provide support and develop digital skills, and to assist young people into employment, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the email.

## **H. Orkney Ferries Replacement**

It was noted that correspondence from Robert Leslie, SNP Candidate for the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections, had been circulated to members for their reference. It contained a presentation on ferry replacement which outlined the case for catamarans versus monohulls and included a mix of potential financial models. It was confirmed that Transport Representatives were provided with an update on the Outline Business Case work at the recent Ferry Consultative Forum meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **I. Scottish Government – Covid-19 Marketing Campaign**

Members noted that they had previously been forwarded an email containing information on the Scottish Government's Covid-19 Marketing Campaign, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **J. 5G New Thinking Project**

An email had previously been circulated to members regarding a workshop, which had been held on 25 February 2021, to discuss rural connectivity and 5G, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had since taken place.

## **K. Planning Aid Scotland – Circular Economy and the Planning System**

Members considered correspondence from the Manager, Planning and Policy, Planning Aid Scotland, regarding free events for community councils and community groups to provide an introduction to the Circular Economy as Scotland moves towards its zero-carbon target, and it was:

Resolved to note that the events had since taken place.

## **L. Scottish Water – Tracing Leaks and Bursts**

Correspondence from Scottish Water regarding an appeal for information on leaks and burst pipes had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided on reporting faults.

## **M. EU Settled Status Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding support for local EU citizens to apply to the Settled Status Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance Statement**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £34,432.22 as at 16 February 2021.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 16 February 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £1,621.98, £669 remained in the additional capping limit, and £648 remained in the island capping limit.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £5,000 remained available for allocation as at 12 February 2021.

## **8. Financial Requests**

### **A. Westray School – Various**

Members discussed a financial application received on behalf of Westray Primary classes 3-5, copies of which had been previously circulated. Requested was assistance with providing pupils with refurbished laptops and iPads, as well as funding towards a hotbin composter and a digital weather station. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award funding of £250 towards the project, subject to CCGS approval.
2. To advise the applicant to return to the Community Council for additional funding towards this project should they have a shortfall.

### **B. Covid Funding**

Members resumed discussion of the funding which they would like to distribute amongst community groups and charities on the island. It was agreed to send the amount of £5,000 to Westray Development Trust to divide out between all groups who had taken responsibility for the Bargain Box in 2019. As there were no events in the pipeline for the foreseeable future, it was agreed to hold off on plans to distribute the remaining funding, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would liaise with Westray Development Trust regarding the Bargain Box funding.

## **9. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Police Scotland – Equality Outcomes 2021-2025**

Following consideration of the consultation from Police Scotland on their Equality Outcomes, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed on 14 January 2021.

### **B. DEFRA and Scottish Government – Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation**

Members discussed the consultations that had been run by both DEFRA and the Scottish Government, copies of which had been circulated, regarding animal welfare and livestock transportation, and it was:

Resolved to note that a number of members had forwarded their own individual responses to the consultations.

### **C. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Orkney Islands Council's Verge Maintenance Plan for 2020 had been circulated for comment prior to the 2021 version being completed, and it was:

Resolved to note that any comments should be submitted by 31 March 2021.

## **10. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Planning**

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report at this time.

### **B. Transport**

Resolved to note that transport issues had been discussed earlier in the meeting and that there was nothing additional to report.

### **C. Kalisgarth**

Resolved to note that the representative was not present at the meeting.

## **11. Publications**

Resolved to note the following publications which had been previously circulated:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – September, November and December 2020.
- VAO Newsletter – December 2020 and January and February 2021.
- S Clackson's Letter from School Place – December 2020 and January and February 2021.
- Loganair Statistics – January and February 2021.

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Westray Development Trust Representative**

It was reported that Westray Development Trust had asked again for a representative from the Community Council to join their meetings. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council could not nominate one single person but would take it in turns to attend WDT meetings meantime.

### **B. SEPA Issue**

The Chair advised that he had received correspondence from a local resident regarding issues with a property sale and SEPA stipulations. Following discussions, it was:

Resolved to respond to the resident advising that this matter was outwith the jurisdiction of the community council and suggesting that they contact the Citizens Advice Bureau.

### **C. Environmental Concerns**

The Chair advised that he had received correspondence the previous day from a local resident regarding issues with the dumping of redundant vehicles and machinery, fly tipping and the general state of the island. The resident advised that immediate action was needed and called on the community council to lead the way. Members agreed that there were areas of untidiness and that it did not look good for visitors to the island, but that the community council did not have any powers as people were entitled to keep what they wanted on their own land. It was agreed that there were plenty of instances over recent years where the community council had attempted to run schemes to assist with keeping the island tidy, such as Bag the Bruck, scrap car schemes and organising grass cutting tenders, etc. As not all members had had sight of the correspondence, it was:

Resolved to circulate the correspondence and to provide a response to the resident in due course.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Westray Community Council would be held online on Monday, 7 June 2021, unless otherwise agreed.

## **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:55.