

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in the Birsay Community Hall on Thursday, 7 June 2018 at 19:30

Present:

K.Spence, Miss K Coghill and R Delday

In Attendance:

- Councillors R King, O Tierney and D Tullock
- One officer from Police Scotland and Mrs L Leitch, Clerk

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of D Scarth and Sergeant Morris, Police Scotland.

2. Election of Office Bearers

Noted that no election of office bearers could be undertaken due to no quorum of members being present.

3. Police Scotland Matters

The meeting heard that parking in Kirkwall and Stromness had recently come under the jurisdiction of the Orkney Police. Members were also updated on the development of the Drugs Dog charity. The Officer asked members for their help in distributing notices which he had taken along to the meeting which notified the public of essential telephone numbers should they be needed in the event of emergencies, and the information was:

Noted.

The Police officer left the meeting at this point.

4. Minute of the meeting held on 29 March 2018

Due to no quorum being present, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 March 2018 were not approved with this item being carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Matters Arising

A. Replacement Sign at Sand Geo

After hearing that the replacement sign was ongoing, the information was:

Noted.

B. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

The Chair informed the meeting that the necessary plans were currently being drawn up and the information was:

Noted.

C. Signs

Members heard that the 'No Dog Fouling' sign and also Parking sign for the Palace car park had been erected. Parking within the area at the Palace was discussed again, and it was:

Noted that the signs had been erected.

D. Slip at Buckquoy

The Chair advised that he had traced the owner of the Buckquoy Slip who had agreed for the necessary repairs to be undertaken. Repairs were underway and the Chair asked for the Clerk to circulate an email to the members for their approval to purchase cement in order to complete the works sooner rather than later. The Community Council were encouraged to pursue Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for a contribution towards the cost of the repairs and also to advise that the work had been carried out. The meeting also heard that the new handrail at the Slip was being ordered and installed by Orkney Islands council, and it was:

Noted:

1. that the clerk would contact all members of the Community Council for their approval to purchase cement so the repairs could be completed, and
2. that the members present agreed that HES should be contacted to advise that the repairs had been carried out and to ask whether they would be willing to make a contribution towards the costs.

E. Road across the Links

Noted that the Chair had spoken to a local contractor regarding the work.

F. Fallen Headstones

The meeting heard that Orkney Islands Council were carrying out a safety review of the county's cemeteries, and that any headstones deemed unsafe would be laid flat and facing up. Members also heard that, should families wish for stones to be reinstated, it was the responsibility of the family. It was noted that some of the fallen headstones at the Palace were lying face down and members queried whether or not they could be turned over and, following discussion, it was:

Noted that any queries over the fallen headstones would be directed to the Works and Inspection manager at the Council, via Democratic Services.

G. Proposed Cuts to Support for Learning Staff

Following the previous meeting, the Clerk advised that a letter supporting Councillor Clackson's motion to overturn the proposed cuts to the Support for Learning budget had been submitted. The intended cuts had since been reversed and members heard that a review will continue of the Support for Learning Service, with any areas flagged for attention to come before the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee before being presented to full council, and the information was:

Noted.

H. Distribution of 'Roon About Birsay' newsletter

The meeting heard that donations had been awarded to the Birsay Drama Group and Birsay Mums and Toddlers for their help in distributing the Birsay newsletter. It had been brought to the attention of the Clerk that the Birsay Kids Club had also delivered the newsletter in the past, and it was:

Noted that the members present felt that a donation of £100 should be given to Birsay Kids Club, and that it should be awarded, subject to agreement by a quorum of members.

6. Costa Head Wind Farm

A copy of the minutes from the recent meeting of the steering group was distributed to those present.

The steering group had asked if locals would be able to invest in the wind farm and whether or not this could be factored into the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Seeking a specialised lawyer to look at MOU, once drafted, has also been discussed, and it was thought that a CARES enablement grant may be able to help with the costs. After hearing that the date of the Planning Committee had been changed to July, the information was:

Noted.

7. Correspondence

A. Seafarers UK – Merchant Navy Day

Following consideration of correspondence received from Seafarers UK inviting the Community Council to fly the red ensign in commemoration of Merchant Navy Day to be held on 3 September 2018, it was:

Noted that members felt that, should the remaining members plus Harray and Sandwick Community Council agree, the cost of the flag to be flown in Dounby should be divided between the two Community Councils.

B. Community Conversation Meetings

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, which informed members of the dates of the forthcoming Community Conversation meetings, the information was:

Noted.

C. Thank You Letters and Messages

After hearing from the Clerk that thank you letters and messages had been received in respect of financial assistance provided by the Community Council, it was:

Noted that thank you letters received from organisers of the Orkney Folk Festival, NHS Orkney Fundraising Group, Birsay Mums and Toddlers and a message of thanks had been received from Birsay Drama Group.

8. Consultation – Scottish Water - Shaping the Future

Scottish Water's consultation on the future of water and waste water services had been discussed at the March meeting, where concern was raised at the serious problem over escalating number of geese, particularly on the Boardhouse Loch, and whether or not the water treatment was removing any pollutants left by the birds, and it was:

Noted:

1. that the deadline for submission of comments was 31 August 2018: and
2. that D Scarth had previously agreed to compile a response to the consultation for submission by the Clerk for the deadline for comments.

9. Finance

A. Community Council Annual Grants 2018/19

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services advising members that the annual grant awarded to Birsay Community Council for 2018/19 was £3,839.84, it was:

Noted that Annual Grants had been awarded.

B. Financial Statements as at 31 March 2018

After consideration of the General Finance Statement as at 31 March 2018, it was:

Noted that the balance as at 31 March 2018 for the Birsay Community Council was £1,769.44 and the Birsay Energy Fund balance was £14,349.26.

C. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 May 2018, it was:

Noted that the balance was £3,931.97.

D. Birsay Energy Fund

After consideration of the Birsay Energy Fund statement as at 22 May 2018, it was:

Noted that the balance was £14,349.26.

E. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2018/19 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 May 2018, it was:

Noted that the balance remaining for approval was £1,607.28.

F. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 22 May 2018, it was:

Noted that the balance remaining for approval was £8,183.37.

G. Seedcorn Fund

Following consideration of the Seedcorn Fund statement as at 22 May 2018, it was:

Noted that the balance remaining for approval was £21.64.

H. Community Council Certified Annual Accounts

Following consideration of the certified Annual Accounts as at 31 March 2018, copies of which were distributed at the meeting, it was:

Noted that the Annual Accounts as at 31 March 2018 had been received.

10. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Dounby Centre Mini Bus

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Dounby Centre, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the running costs of the mini bus, and after hearing that the vehicle is used regularly by local clubs, it was:

Noted that the members agreed that a proposed donation of £1,000 should be given towards the running costs of the mini bus, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval, and also if a quorum of members were in agreement.

B. Mrs Atkinson – Under 13s Netball, Perth

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs C Atkinson, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter playing for the Under 13s Orkney netball squad in Perth, it was:

Noted that the members present felt that a donation of £50 should be awarded towards the cost of the netball trip, subject to approval of a quorum.

C. Mrs C Atkinson – Inverness Caledonian Thistle, Dublin Cup, Ireland

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs C Atkinson, copies of which had previously been circulated requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her son playing for Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the Dublin Cup, Ireland, and after hearing that he had already received the full quota of donations for trips to the mainland for the current financial year, it was:

Noted that this item of business would be carried forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

D. Thaw Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence received from THAW Orkney, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their ongoing project, it was:

Noted that this item of business would be carried forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

E. Year of the Young People – Youth Concert

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney's Year of Young People Ambassadors, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their proposed Youth Concert to be held in August, it was:

Noted that the members present agreed that the Clerk should try and determine if any Birsay residents would be participating in the concert.

F. Maintenance of the Benches at the Whalebone

Members heard that an invoice from a local joiner had been received in respect of the annual maintenance of the benches at the whalebone, which had been paid, and it was:

Noted that the maintenance was carried out each year and that the cost is met by the Community Council.

11. Publications

Publications from the Orkney Partnership and Glasdon were made available to members at the meeting.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. No Show by Members

Disappointment was expressed at the lack of communication by some members who had not taken the time to submit their apologies. Due to there not being a quorum present, no full decisions could be taken and it was agreed by those who had attended as being very frustrating, and it was:

Noted that the matter would be raised at the next meeting.

B. Dounby Development Group

Councillor King informed the meeting that it was hoped that the Dounby Development Group would have a stand at this year's Dounby Show and any offer of help during the day would be much appreciated, and the information was:

Noted.

13. Dates of Future Meetings

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Birsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 23 August 2018 and Thursday, 1 November 2018 both commencing in the Birsay Hall at 19:30.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:42.