

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in the Birsay Community Hall on Thursday, 27 June 2019 at 19:30

Present:

Mr R Delday, Miss K Coghill, Mr M Hay, Mr D Scarth, Mr A Spence, Mr K Spence and Mr S Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tulloch.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Ms S Shaw, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Care.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs N Phillips, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Councillor H Johnston.

2. Presentation from Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Care

The Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Care, distributed copies of the new Draft Strategic Plan for 2019-2022, which she explained was a condensed replacement of the old plan and gave information on what the priorities of Orkney Health and Care were for the next five years. It was stated that consultation for the plan would be open until 9 August. Members also heard that stands would be present at this year's Dounby and County shows, where the community could put their opinions and requirements forward. It was stated that an email address was available for anyone who wished to get an electronic response. Sheltered Housing, provisions for people with health conditions and requirements for the varied age range of residents were discussed. Members discussed ways in which Orkney Health and Care could raise awareness to the community of what they are about. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Chief Officer left the meeting at this point.

3. Election of Office Bearers

A. Election of Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr R Delday be appointed Chairperson of Birsay Community Council.

B. Election of Vice Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Miss K Coghill be appointed Vice Chairperson of Birsay Community Council.

C. Planning Representative

Resolved that Mr A Spence remain as Planning Representative for Birsay Community Council.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 4 April 2019 was considered by members and subsequently approved, being proposed by Mr K Spence and seconded by Mr D Scarth.

5. Matters Arising

A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

Members discussed approaching other contractors as only one quote had been received, and it was:

Resolved that Mr K Spence would approach other contractors with a view to getting a quote.

B. Slip at Buckquoy

Members were advised that interim work on the slip had been done and that it was still fit for purpose at present, but that further work would be required, ideally before the winter. It was discussed that the slip could be a Health and Safety issue, and that Historic Environment Scotland would be willing to do the works as they required to have access to the causeway but had a limited budget. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would follow this up, with the assistance of Mr K Spence.

C. Headstone Inspections

Councillor O Tierney advised that training on how to put headstones back up had been recently provided by a specialist company to some local contractors and OIC employees. It was hoped that this would help enable Orkney Islands Council to erect the headstones that had been wrongly taken down at a quicker rate, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Lairage

Members were advised that the equipment stored on private property was owned by private companies and nothing to do with the Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Fisherman's Hut

Members were advised that the contractor had been busy but had said the work would be done within the next month, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Gates at Birsay Kirkyard

Members were advised that the work at the Birsay Kirkyard had been completed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Correspondence

A. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, informing the Clerk of the grant amounts allocated for the new financial year 2019/2020, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Merchant Navy Day

Following consideration of correspondence from Merchant Navy Fund, copies which had previously been circulated inviting communities to raise awareness of the UK's dependence on Merchant Navy seafarers. Members were informed that a flag would be flown at Smiddybrae Nursing home on 3 September, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. SSEN – Finstown Substation

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN, copies of which had been previously circulated, informing that the planning application for the substation in Finstown had been submitted, it was:

Resolved to note the item.

D. Arquiva – Communications Installation

Following consideration of correspondence from Arquiva, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of the proposal to erect a communications mast at the Boardhouse Exchange, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Hoolan Energy – Costa Head Wind Farm

Following consideration of correspondence from Hoolan Energy, advising that the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division had issued planning consent for Costa Head Wind Farm following their appeal. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the item.

F. Land at the Palace

Members considered correspondence from Liz Allen, the new land owner at the Palace where the community council has picnic benches erected. She was questioning who would be responsible for liability insurance and if there was any agreement with British Telecom regarding the red telephone box there. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would follow this matter up.

G. Letters of Thanks

Members were advised by the Clerk that letters of thanks for financial assistance provided had been received from Orkney Schools Concert Band, Orkney Folk Festival and Dounby School for this year's P7 trip to Lagganlia, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Financial Statements

A. Community Council Accounts – 2018/2019

Following consideration of the Certified Accounts of Birsay Community Council as at the financial year ending 31 March 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statements, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £2,922.44 as at 4 June 2019.

C. Birsay Energy Fund

Following consideration of the Energy Fund statements, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £16,771.42 as at 4 June 2019.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

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

Resolved to note that a balance of £2,335.30 remained available for approval as at 4 June 2019.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Development fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £8,138.37 remained available for approval as at 4 June 2019.

F. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note that £21.64 remained available for approval as at 4 June 2019.

8. Financial Requests

A. OYDG – Various Trips 2019

Members considered a request for financial assistance which had been received from Orkney Youth Development Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, on behalf of Archie Atkinson, Lewis Gray and Marcus Grieve, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £50 to each competitor for each of the three trips, totalling £450, providing that all three competitors attend all three trips.

B. Athletics Competitions – Taylah and Tegan Spence

Mr A Spence declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from A and P Spence, copies of which had previously been circulated, towards both of their daughters competing at the Island Games in Gibraltar in July, and Tegan competing at the North District Championships in Aberdeen in May, it was:

Resolved to award £100 to each daughter for the Island Games trip, and a further £50 towards Tegan's attendance at the North District Championships.

C. Orkney Islands Games Association – Ellen Hay

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from the Orkney Island Games Association, a copy of which was provided at the meeting, towards the cost of one local competitor attending the Island Games in Gibraltar in July, it was:

Resolved to award £100 towards the Birsay competitor's attendance at the 2019 Island Games.

D. Stromness Youth Football Club – Edinburgh Cup – Orrin Dick

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Stromness Youth Football Club, a copy of which was provided at the meeting, towards the cost of one local competitor attending the Edinburgh Cup International Youth Football Festival in August, it was:

Resolved to award £50 towards the Birsay competitor's attendance at the Football Festival.

E. Dounby Community School - P6 Hoy Trip

Mr M Hay declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Dounby Community School, a copy of which was provided at the meeting, towards the cost of taking twelve primary 6 pupils to Hoy in September, it was:

Resolved to award £25 for each pupil towards the trip, totalling £300.

F. Dance School of Scotland – A Smith-Saville

Members considered a request for financial assistance from A Smith-Saville, a copy of which was provided at the meeting, towards the cost of attending the Dance School of Scotland in the forthcoming term. It was agreed that it should be suggested that she apply to OIC for assistance through the Talented Young Performers Fund, and that members would like to provide some funding to assist with her trips over the course of the year, and it was:

Resolved to award £150 towards the costs involved in attending the Dance School of Scotland.

G. Various Football Trips – Archie Atkinson

Members considered a request for financial assistance from C Atkinson on behalf of her son, a copy of which was provided at the meeting, towards the cost of attending training and games as part of the Inverness Caledonian Thistle squad, and the Edinburgh Cup Youth Football Festival (previously discussed at Item 8A above). Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the maximum assistance for the 2019/2020 financial year had already been provided to the competitor, as at Item 8A above.

9. Consultations

A. Supplementary Guidance - Housing in the Countryside

Following consideration of the consultation document on the Supplementary Guidance for Housing in the Countryside, copies of which had previously been circulated, members discussed their reluctance to participate as they felt their comments would be ignored. Councillors encouraged members to always give feedback and voice their opinions, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the deadline for comment was 20 June 2019, which had been extended to allow Birsay CC to respond.

B. Winter Service Plan 2018/2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council, consulting on the Winter Plan, copies of which had previously been circulated, members discussed any comments they would like to put forward, and also reported that the road at Sabiston Mill corner was flooding badly in periods of wet weather, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would respond to the consultation asking if the Howe Road could be upgraded to 2S and report the flooding issue at Sabiston Mill.

C. OHAC Draft Strategic Plan 2019/2022

Following consideration of a consultation document received from Orkney Health and Care, copies of which had previously been circulated and discussed at Item 2, it was:

Resolved to note the item and deadline for comments of 9 August 2019.

D. Draft Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 1

Following consideration of notification of a consultation received from Marine Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members could email Marine Services with suggestions or go online and fill out the questionnaire by 22 July 2019.

E. National Islands Plan

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Government about the National Islands Plan consultation, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation period ended on 6 July 2019.

F. Community Transport Survey

Following consideration of a consultation received from VAO and Orkney Islands Council Transport, regarding Community Transport, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

10. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications had been received:

- VAO Newsletters/Training and Funding Updates – April and May 2019.
- Scottish Water Newsletter – June 2019.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Roon About Birsay Newsletter

It was reported that the next newsletter would be circulated at the end of August, with another published late November. It was also suggested that Birsay Toddler Group should be awarded a donation of £50 for their assistance with delivery of the latest newsletter, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that a £50 donation be processed to Birsay Toddler Group.

B. Birsay Marker Stone

Members heard that the Birsay Marker Stone was broken and a quote of approximately £500 had been received to replace it, and it was:

Resolved that Mr A Spence would have a look to see if the marker stone could be repaired.

C. Road Chips

Members heard that a local resident had enquired whether chips would be available for the road near her house, and it was:

Resolved that there was no roads scheme running at present and that the Clerk would make the resident aware.

D. Pontoon at the Geo

Members heard that Mr M Hay was waiting to hear back from the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, about plans to remove the pontoon from the Geo, and it was:

Resolved to wait to hear back from the Executive Director and discuss at the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Birsay Community Council would be held in Birsay Community Hall on Thursday, 3 October 2019 at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:35.