

# **Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in the Birsay Community Hall on Thursday, 16 January 2020 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

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

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor D Tullock.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Mrs N Phillips, Clerk.
- Police Officer Joe Hall.
- Police Officer Barbara Ziesenitz.
- Eleanor Davison, RSPB Officer.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Councillors R King and H Johnston.

## **2. Police**

Police Officers B Ziesenitz and J Hall reported that they had no issues in the Birsay area now, it being a quiet community. They informed members that a few officers had been issued with tasers, and that the presence of these had seemed to be a deterrent that they have had to deploy on only one occasion in Orkney so far. They also informed members that their priorities were road safety and alcohol misuse. Members discussed how speeding was an issue, which the police officers agreed with and advised that there had been speeding tickets given out recently in the area. The officers mentioned their presence on social media for any police updates and press releases, and encouraged members to use the phone number 101 or call by the station to report any incidents, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The police officers left the meeting at 19:45.

## **3. RSPB Visit**

Members heard from RSPB Officer Eleanor Davison that a small section of cliff on the RSPB reserve at Marwick looked like it was potentially becoming unstable and could possibly fall away into the sea in the future. The RSPB Health and Safety Advisor had advised that the safety of visitors was paramount and that a physical barrier was to be put up to prevent visitors accessing the area. A proposed 30 meter-long fence was to be constructed that would not affect the core path through the area. The fence was on schedule to be in place by the end of March 2020, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The RSPB Officer left the meeting at 20:00.

## **4. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 3 October 2019 was considered by members and subsequently approved, being proposed by Mr A Spence and seconded by Mr S Spence.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar**

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

Resolved that members would approach alternative contractors with a view to obtaining a quote.

## **B. Slip at Buckquoy**

Members discussed that they were still waiting to hear back from Historic Environment Scotland regarding the slip at Buckquoy, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would follow this up.

## **C. Dounby Community Plan**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Dounby Community Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **D. Birsay Marker Stone**

Mr A Spence advised members that he had not yet been able to fix the Birsay Marker Stone, and it was:

Resolved that Mr A Spence would attempt to fix it when the weather improved.

## **E. Pontoon at the Geo**

Members were advised by Mr M Hay that the Pontoon had been moved on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and that there would be an article in 'Round about Birsay' stating how with help it was winched out to safety. Members were also advised how some steps had been damaged in the process, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would approach R Rendall to see if he could fix them.

## **F. Potholes**

Members were advised how a lot of work had been done to resurface the roads, however it did not seem to be enough and there was serious flooding at the Sabiston Mill and the corner where the Old Birsay Hall is, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk on behalf of members would write to roads to ask if they could resurface the roads.

## **G. Land at the Palace**

Members were advised how the benches at the Palace were covered by the council's liability insurance but not the land they sat on, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk on behalf of members would write to the landowner to inform her of this.

## **H. Grass Cutting in the Birsay Cemeteries**

Members discussed that the tree year kirkyard maintenance tender was due for renewal, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk on behalf of the members would put an advert in the Orcadian Newspaper.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Burial Grounds Code of Practice**

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the draft Burial Grounds Code of Practice, which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Birsay Post Office**

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services regarding changes to the Birsay Post Office, which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Thankyou Letters**

Thankyou letters were received from:

- The clerk to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council for a donation towards the cost of the fireworks display at the Pickaquoy centre in November 2019.
- Seafarers UK for raising awareness of the Merchant Navy Seafarers by flying the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day.
- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for financial assistance towards the Wick Far North Meet 2019.
- Two residents, who had attended a ballet presentation in Glasgow where Alana Smith-Saville had performed, whom the Community Council had previously sponsored.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following correspondence from Democratic Services regarding an overspend in the general account and consideration of the statements, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was resolved:

1. That the Birsay Energy Fund community benefit would go into and remain in the General Fund instead of the Wind Energy Fund account on this occasion.
2. Resolved to note the estimated balance of £2,193.31 as at 7 January 2020.

### **B. 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 7 January 2020.

## **C. 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 £662.00 remained available for approval as at 7 January 2020.

## **D. 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 7 January 2020.

## **E. 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 7 January 2020.

## **8. Financial Requests**

### **A. Netball Game in Dundee**

Members considered a previously circulated request from a parent, for financial assistance for her daughter to attend a netball game in Dundee, and it was:

Resolved to donate £40 towards this trip.

### **B. Dounby Community School**

Members considered a request from Dounby School for financial assistance for ten pupils towards their trip to Lagganlia in June 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved that £50 each would be awarded from the general account towards the trip.

## **9. Consultations**

### **A. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Winter Service Plan**

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan consultation document, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the clerk on behalf of members would request that two grit bins be provided for the Howe Road.

## **10. Publications**

Resolved to note that the following publications had been received and made available to members:

- VAO Newsletters and Training and Funding Updates – December, January and February.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Signs**

Members were advised that two interpretation boards were to be installed, one at the point of Buckquoy and one at the car park in the Palace, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Flooding at the palace**

Members reported that a member of the public was concerned about her property getting flooded, and it was:

Resolved that Mr S Spence would be approached to dig out some of the burn to divert the flow away from her property.

### **C. Newsletter**

Members were advised that the newsletter was required to be distributed, and it was:

Resolved that Mr K Spence would ask Birsay Kids Club to circulate it.

### **D. Hall Association**

Members were advised how the Hall Association had approached a member of the Community Council, and asked about possible funding towards some foldable round tables that would be an added attraction for holding wedding parties and thereby generating more income, and it was:

Resolved to ask the Hall Association to provide some prices for consideration by members.

### **E. Recognition Plaque at The Old Manse**

Members considered correspondence from two residents, copies of which had been previously circulated, to request help with funding for a commemorative plaque to George Low on The Old Manse, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk on behalf of members would request some more information about the plaque from the residents.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved that the next two meetings of the Birsay Community Council would be held in Birsay Community Hall on Thursdays, 2 April 2020 and 25 June 2020 at 19:30.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:30.