

Minute of the Meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 25 January 2021 at 19:30

Present:

E R Marcus, C Gunn, Mrs E Flett and Ms L Wilson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Ms M Ward, Service Manager, Orkney Women's Aid.
- Mrs L Leitch, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from J Stevenson.

2. Talk from Women's Aid Orkney

The Chair welcomed the Service Manager, Orkney Women's Aid (WAO) who had previously asked if she could attend a meeting to update Community Council members.

The meeting heard that WAO was set up in 2000 to support women and children affected by domestic abuse in Orkney. Over the last two decades they had grown both in size and expertise to meet the need of the local community. WAO provided free confidential information, temporary refuge and support to women and their children affected by domestic abuse. Members also were informed that any men approaching the organisation for help are signposted to other areas of support. The Service Manager informed the meeting of their long-term goals which included increasing public knowledge and funding, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the talk.

The Service Manager left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 7 December 2020 was approved, being proposed by C Gunn and seconded by Mrs E Flett.

4. Matters Arising

A. Vodafone and O2 Mobile Phone Signals

After hearing that, to date, only an acknowledgement of the Community Council's complaint on poor mobile signals had been received from both O2 and Vodafone, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

B. Evie and Rendall Community Council Facebook Page

Members heard that the Evie and Rendall Community Council Facebook page had been set up at the beginning of January 2021, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

C. Parish Boundaries

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Planning Manager of Development Management advising that due to the technical process in how planning neighbour notifications are generated can result in addresses straddling a parish boundary. After noting that the database was used by all authorities in Scotland and that it had no impact on any parish boundaries, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To forward the response to the resident who had submitted the query.

D. Seawall at South Aittit

Members considered correspondence received from Democratic Services advising that the Road Services Technician had undertaken a site visit to inspect the sea wall at South Aittit. Even although the wall was not technically a core path asset and given that it was part of the route, the Council could help. It was suggested that the Community Council could put out the work for tender. However, this would be with the caution that Development and Infrastructure has limited funds and would not mean that OIC accepts future responsibility for the sea wall. In addition, the work would need to be completed and invoiced before the end of March 2021 to allow for inclusion in this year's budget. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact Heddle Construction and BDS to determine if anything could be done and, if so, at what cost.

E. Update on Evie Community Park

Resolved to note that no response had been received from the contractor and that the Chair would also contact him by phone.

F. Vacancy on Community Council

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services that given the current climate, it would be very difficult to hold an election to fill the current vacancy as normally a widely publicised public meeting is held to ensure that no one is excluded from standing for election to this vacancy, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Correspondence

A. Fair Start Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence received from Fair Start Scotland, a new employment support service helping people in Scotland to find work, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Scottish Government's R100 Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence received from Liam MacArthur, MSP inviting members to attend a Reaching 100% (R100) Roundtable event on 5 February 2020 to discuss the Government's rollout in Orkney and wider broadband deployment, it was:

Resolved that C Gunn and Mrs E Flett noted their intention to join the online discussion.

C. Connecting Scotland and Kickstart Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council updating members on the Scottish Government's Connecting Scotland programme to extend their provision of devices and support to develop digital skills to people who are socially isolated and meet certain criteria, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Housing Development in Evie

Following consideration of correspondence from a local resident looking for views from the Community Council members on a current planning application recently submitted for the siting of seven houses, it was:

Resolved that the writer should raise any issues with the developer and not the Community Council.

6. Maintenance of the Evie and Rendall Kirkyards and Evie War Memorial

After hearing from the Clerk that the tender for the maintenance of the Evie and Rendall Kirkyards and Evie War Memorial was due for renewal, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the maintenance of the Evie and Rendall Kirkyards and Evie War Memorial should be advertised inviting tenders in time for the next meeting.

B. That the contract should run for one year only.

7. Finance

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £3,366.90.

B. NPower Fund

After consideration of the NPower Fund statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £41,319.90.

C. Burgar Hill Renewables Fund

After consideration of the Burgar Hill Renewables Fund statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £6,904.57.

D. Hammars Hill Energy Fund

After consideration of the Hammars Hill Energy Fund statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £33,467.68.

E. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,045.47 remained available for allocation.

F. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £6,480.30 remained available for allocation.

G. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 11 January 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,395.00 remained available for allocation.

8. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Care and Repair

The Chair declared an interest in this item of business and was not present during discussion.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Care and Repair, copies of which had previously been circulated, applying for financial assistance towards the cost of installing a wet room for a Rendall resident, it was:

Resolved that a maximum of £500 be awarded on receipt of evidence of expenditure which should be met from the Npower Fund.

B. Road Repairs to Udonthani, Norseman Village

Following consideration of correspondence received on behalf of Mrs Phaithaisong, copies which had previously been circulated, applying for grant funding for improvements to the driveway at Udonthani, Norseman Village, through the Road Repairs Scheme, it was:

Resolved that a grant of up to a maximum £250 be awarded, subject to the roads scheme criteria.

9. Any Other Competent Business - Update on Road Repairs

The Chair advised the meeting that he had spoken recently to an OIC worker who had been checking the areas which had been identified as needing attention during heavy rain. However, the day that the roads were being checked had been a dry one following a consecutive run of dry days and therefore no areas needing attention were obvious. Following a lengthy discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ask through the business letter if someone from Roads Support had been out to inspect the areas identified by the Community Council as needing attention, and if so, what had been the outcome of their inspections.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council would be held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 22 March 2021, commencing at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:40.