

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held via Zoom on Thursday, 25 February 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs W Dunnet, Mr M Lynch, Mr N Macleod, Mr V Muir and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Councillor H Johnston.
- Sergeant R Morris, Police Scotland.
- Mr I Heggie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies had been received.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Members heard that Police Scotland would like to thank all parties involved including members of the public for their help and assistance during a recent large snowfall in Orkney. Roads continued to be monitored and members were advised that any measures to assist in reducing speeding within the villages should be requested from Orkney Island Council's Roads department, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Police Scotland representative left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 10 December 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr V Muir and seconded by Mrs A Stevenson, subject to the following amendments:

- Mrs W Dunnett should read Mrs W Dunnet.
- Item 4 E. Should read "and also that where black bins could not be used".
- Item 7 - additional point to acknowledge the refund of school trip donation from Stenness Primary School.

4. Matters Arising

A. Road Repairs

Members heard from Councillors that an additional £2.1 million has been assigned to roads for the year 2021, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Happy Valley Roof

Members heard that Orkney Island Council were responsible for the roof repairs if funds could be found. Members were also informed that the Clerk had sent two emails to friends of Happy Valley but, as yet, had no response, and it was:

Resolved that Mr V Muir would contact the chairman of Friends of Happy Valley and relevant departments within Orkney Island Council.

C. Securing Wreath

Members discussed the securing of the wreath and the design of a device to do so, and it was:

Resolved that Mr M Lynch would contact an appropriate person at The Smiddy.

D. Christmas Tree Storage and Lighting

Members discussed the new types of Christmas lighting for the year 2021, the storage of lights in the foreseeable future from 2021 onwards, and queried, as some of the lights may have been donated by members of the public, what was to happen to them on removal, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would seek advice from Democratic Services regarding the above points.

5. Correspondence

A. Late arrival of correspondence from Democratic Services

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding how information was issued to Clerks, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Fair Start Scotland - January 2021

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the work Fair Start Scotland was doing to help individuals get back into work, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Save the Date: R100 Roundtable

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence regarding a discussion on the roll out of 5G.

D. Scottish Government - Covid 19 Marketing Campaign

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccine, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Scottish Water - Annual Consultative Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Water, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding their annual general meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Orkney Ferries Replacement

Following consideration of information provided by Robert Leslie, SNP candidate for Orkney in the forthcoming Scottish Government elections, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Scottish Government - Clear Your Head Campaign

Following consideration of a publication received from the Scottish Government, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a campaign around mental health issues, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 11 February 2021 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £12,561.52.
2. That the Clerk would contact Democratic Services and enquire regarding the missing refund from Glaitness Primary School Trip.

B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund

After consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 11 February 2021, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £5,000.
2. To note that a donation of £1,000 had been provided by the community council from this fund to Orkney Food Bank.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 11 February 2021 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,273.20.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 11 February 2021 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for allocation was £3,534.95.

7. Financial Requests

A. OASC – Starting Blocks

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of new track starting blocks, it was:

Resolved to note that a general fund donation of £180 had been agreed and granted.

B. Firth Community Association – Kitchen Utensils

Following consideration of a late correspondence received from Firth Community Association, copies of which were circulated to members, requesting assistance with the cost of kitchen utensils, it was:

Resolved to award £500 towards the items, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

8. Consultation Documents

A. Equality Outcomes for 2021-2025

Following consideration of a consultation which had been received from Police Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding equality outcomes, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make.

B. DEFRA and Scottish Government - Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation

On consideration of the two consultations circulated by DEFRA and the Scottish Government, members heard that Orkney Island Council had submitted a report to the Scottish Government which also accounted information provided by various stakeholders. They also heard that various agencies travelled with the cargo to check on animal welfare, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that members had no comments to submit.

C. MIS Remote and Rural Scotland Research

Following consideration of consultations received from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a minimum income standard, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of a consultation on the current verge maintenance plan from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make.

E. Scotland's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Consultation

Following consideration of information on forthcoming consultation events, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the consultation.

9. Publications

The following publications had been circulated previously, and were noted by members:

- VAO Newsletter - December 2020 and February 2021.
- Connecting Scotland and Orkney Kickstart Updates for Community Councils – January 2021.
- VAO – Volunteering Summary – January and February 2021.
- What's on at CLAN – January 2021.
- VAO - Quit Your Way Orkney Smoking Cessation Service – February 2021.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Happy Valley Roof

Members again discussed the state of the roof at Happy Valley, and Mr V Muir agreed to contact the relevant people and report back to Clerk, and it was:

Resolved that feedback would be given to members at the next meeting or via email beforehand.

B. Positioning of Bin

Members discussed the possible siting of a waste bin to alleviate members of the public having to carry around bags of dog waste. Siting of the bin was discussed, and members felt positioning would be best at the A966 Firth to Rendall road at the end of the track up to the derelict property of Horaldsay, which joins up with the Redland Road, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Democratic Services regarding this matter.

C. Importing of Stone

Members discussed at length the importing of quarry stone from south and sought clarity on the situation. They heard from Councillors that there was currently an ongoing investigation through the Monitoring and Audit committee and that findings would be available to the public, and it was:

Resolved to note information provided.

D. Donation to Firth PTA

Members discussed the lack of take up from Firth Primary School for a possible Christmas donation, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Firth PTA regarding possible donation.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on Thursday, 29 April 2021 (perhaps via Zoom depending on tier rules), commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50.