

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in the North Walls Community Centre and via Teams on Wednesday, 7 July 2021 at 19:00

Present:

G Robertson, T Avis, C Bates, A Clark, A Sinclair, R Thomson and J Traynor.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton
- Councillor J Stockan
- Councillor M Thomson.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- K Dobrzynski, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- One member of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 23 June 2021 was approved, being proposed by A Clark and seconded by T Avis.

3. Matters Arising

A. Verges

Following consideration of a complaint regarding the encroachment of the verge by a resident placing a fence on the verge outside their property, and an update by Councillor M Thomson that the required width of the OIC verge is 2 metres, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the update.
2. That the ILO would take photographs of the fence in question and include in the Business Letter to Democratic Services.
3. That the ILO would advise OIC that no verges on Graemsay had been cut this year and ask how this will be resolved.

B. St Colm's Play Park

Following consideration of an email received from residents regarding damages to the fencing and gates and clarification of when the play park would be signed over to the Play Park group, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the update from Councillor J Stockan and the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) that the Play Park had been signed over to the Play Park Group on 27 January 2021 and that the draft lease had been drawn up in April 2021.
2. That the ILO would check if the fencing had recently been replaced or repaired and report back.

C. Orkney Ferries – Amended Fare Structure

Following consideration of a number of complaints from residents regarding the lack of consultation on implementation of a new fare structure., it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the complaints.
2. To note that the Chair had written a letter of complaint to Orkney Islands Council.

D. Aggregate

Following consideration of 14 applications for aggregate and the receipt of a quote from JMF Groat, it was:

Resolved:

1. To accept the quote from JMF Groat for the aggregate.
2. That the ILO would check with Democratic Services what funds were available for haulage and, once confirmed, would advise applicants of aggregate allocation.

E. Roadside Vegetation

Following consideration of correspondence from RSPB regarding the lack of communication or clarification of requirements for cutting back vegetation, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

4. Correspondence

A. Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Biosecurity Plan

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Native Wildlife Project on the revisions to the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Biosecurity Plan, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. HITRANS E-Cargo Bikes

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding availability of four HITRANS E-Cargo bikes for the community, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Application for Premises License – Emily’s Tearoom and Restaurant

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding an application for a License for Emily’s Tearoom and Restaurant, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had no objections to the application.

D. Healthcare Improvement Scotland Board Vacancy

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland regarding recruitment of a new board member, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Aggregate for Graemsay

Following consideration of correspondence from S Thomas regarding allocation of aggregate for Graemsay, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To note that the ILO had replied to advise that the allocation for Graemsay would not be until 2022.

F. Solar Batteries

Following consideration of correspondence from a resident of St Colm's, requesting that the OIC consider granting funds to help with the purchase of extra solar batteries for their existing solar panels, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To note that Councillor J Stockan had forwarded a reply to the resident.

G. Uplift of Bulky Household Goods

Following consideration of correspondence from the island's Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, regarding the uplift of bulky household items, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the CC would look into the viability of an amnesty scheme utilising the council lorry that currently commutes to the mainland once every six weeks.

H. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding annual grants for the 2021/2022 financial year, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council had received an annual grant of £4,379.67.

I. Calor Rural Community Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Calor Rural Community Fund regarding project applications, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Adoption of Planning Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the adoption of planning guidance, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Housing in the Countryside Supplementary Guidance, Amenity and Minimising Obtrusive Lighting Planning Policy Advice and the Development Plan Scheme 2021 had all recently been adopted.

K. Small Grants Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO regarding the Small Grants Scheme, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the scheme was now open for applications.

L. Agri-Environmental Climate Scheme – Improving Public Access

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services on behalf of the Rural Planner, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the creation or development of existing access routes, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

M. Lifeboat Museum Support Letter

Following consideration of correspondence from K Kirkpatrick regarding a letter of support from the Community Council for the Lifeboat Museum, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

N. Pre-booking for Ferry Foot Passengers

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the need to pre-book for foot passengers, it was:

Resolved to note that it was unlikely that Orkney Ferries would lift the need to pre-book as there was still limited capacity due to social distancing, the requirement for Test and Protect and the imminent implementation of an on-line booking system.

O. BP Feedback

Following consideration of correspondence which had previously been put round members from T Avis, regarding feedback on the draft update, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that T Avis replied advising that Community Councillors had not offered any feedback so the assumption was that they were happy with the update.

P. Rollout of Scottish Island Passport App

Following consideration of correspondence from HITRANS regarding a request for feedback on the Scottish Islands Passport App, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence

Q. Surface Dressing Update – May 2021

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding surface dressing over the summer months, copies of which had been circulated previously, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

R. Connecting Scotland – Phase 3

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services on behalf of the Scottish Government, regarding applications for funding for the Connecting Scotland – phase 3 project, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

S. 2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Boundary Commissions Secretariat regarding the 2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

T. Get into Summer

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Get Into Summer campaign, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that details had been posted to the Community Council Facebook page.

U. Orkney Inter-Island Transport Study

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the exclusion of Graemsay, Hoy, Walls and Flotta from the Inter Island Transport study, explaining that information would come for these areas at a later stage in the process, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That details of the response had been posted to the Community Council Facebook page.

V. Compound Charges

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Harbours regarding compound charges, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that up to date charge costs had been posted to the Community Council Facebook Page.

5. Consultations

A. Community Priorities

After consideration of the Orkney Partnership's consultation seeking views on community priorities, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 12 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

B. Hoy North and Centre Online Consultation Event

After consideration of the Invitation Hoy North and Centre Online Consultation Event, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 26 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the date of the consultation event.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021

After consideration of the consultation on the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 29 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open for comments until 16 July 2021.

D. Local Place Plan Regulations

After consideration of the Local Place Plan Regulations consultation, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 1 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make on the consultation.

E. Scottish Sea Farms - Scapa Flow Expansion Proposals

After consideration of the consultation on Scottish Sea Farms' Scapa Flow Expansion proposals, copies of which had been forwarded to members on 18 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make on the consultation.

E. Winter Service Policy 2021-2026 and Plan 2021-2022

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the Winter Service Policy 2021 to 2026 and the 2021-2022 Winter Service Plan, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the consultation.
2. That the ILO would ask OIC what plans are in place for gritting on Graemsay this year as the 'gritter' and tractor had been removed from the island.
3. That the ILO would ask that the Whaness Road, Hoy, is changed to a '2s'.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the community council's general financial statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £19,191.15 as at 23 June 2021.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £2,444.80 left to allocate in the main capping limit, £676 in the additional capping limit and £549.26 in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £4,935.04 as at 9 June 2021.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note the funds remaining for approval of £3,658.47 as at 9 June 2021.

7. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications were made available at this meeting

- Glasdon Essentials for Councils.
- Orkney Ferry Statistics for January and March 2021.
- VAO Newsletter - April, May and June 2021.
- VAO – Training Opportunities – June 2021.

8. Any Other Competent Business

A. Chemical Toilet Facilities

After consideration of a complaint from a member regarding the lack of facilities available to camper vans to empty their chemical toilets on both Hoy and other islands, members asked if it was possible to install a specific unit at Lyness to offer

the facility. Councillor J Stockan advised that it was currently not possible and that there were currently only two sites available on the mainland for this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the complaint.
2. That the ILO request that OIC look into the situation and formulate a plan.

B. Thank You Letters

Following consideration of various letters thanking the Community Council for their recent grant support, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the letters from the Hoy Kirk, Graemsay Community Association and the Island of Hoy Development Trust.

C. Internet

After consideration of a complaint by the ILO on behalf of a resident regarding the service, or lack thereof, by BT to connect the resident, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

D. Scapa Flow Museum Visit

After consideration of a request by the Community Councillors to visit the new Scapa Flow Museum, it was:

Resolved that the ILO would try and arrange a visit.

9. Date of Next Meetings

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 19:00 with an invite to be sent to the residents of Graemsay to attend.

10. Conclusion of Meeting

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