

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in North Walls School and via Teams on Wednesday, 24 April 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs R Thomson, Mrs T Avis, Mr A Clark, Ms A Kinsey and Mrs I Mathieson (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan (via Teams).
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Park (via Teams).
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs K Dobrzynski, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms P Johnston and Mr A Sinclair.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held on 21 February 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs T Avis and seconded by Mr A Clark.

Ms A Kinsey also requested more clarification on information provided by Councillor Hall at the last meeting regarding the Consultative Forum on Ferry timetable changes.

3. Matters Arising

A. Welcome to Janette Park

The Chair welcomed and introduced the new Stromness and South Isles Councillor, Janette Park, who was in attendance, and it was:

Resolved to note the introduction and to welcome Councillor Park to the meeting.

B. Rubbish Bins at Lyness

Following consideration of an update from the ILO regarding the request for Orkney Islands Council to reconsider the supply of rubbish bins at the Lyness waiting room, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and that the ILO would request the provision of a bin again from OIC in the Business letter.

C. Aggregate

Following consideration of an update from the ILO that, to date, there were currently 17 applicants for aggregate, and confirmation from the Community Council Liaison Officer that payment could now be done by BACS and details of the process for this would be forwarded to the ILO, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the update.
2. That the Community Councillors will confirm allocations at the next meeting, after the application closing date of 31 May.

D. Graemsay Queries

Following consideration of an update from Mrs I Mathieson about request from the Graemsay Community Association to look into required repairs to the School Road round to Windywalls and that the drains in the links need clearing to stop the current flooding issues, it was:

Resolved to note the update and that the work is due to be carried out in the next few weeks, with a possible start date of 29 April 2024.

E. Hoy Vale Road Repairs

Following consideration of an update from Councillor Hall stating that the repairs to the road at Hoy Vale would be carried out in the next 3-4 weeks, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

F. Rackwick Road Repairs

Following consideration of an update from Councillor L Hall and Mr A Clark regarding the required repairs to the Rackwick Road and that these had now been carried out, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

G. Winter Service Plan Request - Braebister Road

Following consideration of an update Councillor L Hall regarding the request for the Winter Service Plan to upgrade the Braebister Road to a Priority 2 (or 2s), stating that the plan was currently being considered, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

H. Delivery Access to the Scapa Flow Museum

Following consideration of an update from the ILO regarding the request for delivery drivers to have access to the rear of the museum and that OIC would have no issue with this with the understanding that drivers took full responsibility for their own vehicles and that OIC would not be liable for any damage due to the poor condition of the access road, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

I. Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of an update from the ILO that there had been four applicants for the Bag the Bruck funding, RNLi Guild, RSPB, Graemsay Community Association and North Walls School, each to be allocated a share of £300, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and for the ILO to raise the donation payments.

J. Orkney Ferries Notification on Ferry Changes

Councillor L Hall provided an update regarding the recent concerns raised by Mrs I Mathieson about the short notice period of the Graemsay refit date and advised that the Orkney Ferries Manager had stated that the vessel would now be sent away earlier in the year and that external passenger benches would also be fitted earlier to increase capacity. Councillor L Hall also advised that the suitability of the Moaness pier would continue to be assessed, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

K. OHAC/NHSO and CC Meeting Update

Following consideration of an update from Mrs T Avis who attended the recent Joint Isles Health and Care meeting whereby issues highlighted were the capacity for residents to stay on the Isles with the current care provisions, Aberdeen appointment issues and a discharge area being considered for The Balfour, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the update.
2. To note that Councillor L Hall had spoken to the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, inviting him to attend a future CC meeting to discuss resilience and that the ILO would further extend an invite to the next meeting on 12 June.
3. To ensure that the email from D Lace highlighting some community concerns would be re-circulated and raised at the next meeting, during this discussion.

I. DVLA Scrapped Vehicle Documents

Following consideration of an update from the ILO that details for the scrapped vehicles on Graemsay had been forwarded by the DVLA, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

4. Correspondence

A. Hoy Head Service – Change to 24 March 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the change to the schedule for Sunday, 24 March, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To note concerns raised about the lack of community consultation on the recent Saturday changes and that the Community Council should set up a special meeting to discuss the issue before taking it out for community consultation.
3. That a special meeting would be arranged on Wednesday, 29 May and that the ILO would extend an invite for the Flotta CC to attend the meeting.

B. Roads Inspector Hoy Visit - 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council to advise that a Roads Inspector would be visiting the island on 29 February along with an invite for a CC to meet with him whilst he was here, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note contents of the correspondence and that Mr A Sinclair had liaised with the officer while he had been on the island.

C. Free Webinar - Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding a webinar for Community Council members on the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership on 20 March 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. St John's Kirk – Letter of Thanks

Following consideration of correspondence from St Johns Kirk with a letter of thanks for the recent funding granted by the CC, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Disrupting Criminal Dumpers

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a new digital pilot targeting waste dumping criminals, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Mapping progress towards islands decarbonisation

Following consideration of correspondence from SIF regarding some information required to help the support their work with CES and CNI, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO respond to the request.

G. Local Place Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC Development Planning inviting CC's to create a local place plan, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would obtain a copy of the CAP for CC's to look at during the next CC meeting.

H. Pentland Floating Offshore Windfarm Announcement

Following consideration of correspondence from MD Marine Renewables advising of an application to vary the marine license for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Hoy Meeting Next Week

Following consideration of correspondence from RSPB to arrange a meeting to set up a community liaison group, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would contact RSPB to request an alternative date with more notice to inform the community.

J. Event in Hoy Kirk - April 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from the Friends of The Hoy Kirk inviting members to an event on 26 April, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

K. Sunken Graves

Following consideration of correspondence from K Sutherland raising concerns about the sinking of their relatives' graves, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would raise the issue on the Business Letter and respond to K Sutherland to advise the issue was being investigated.

L. Saturday Sailings

Following consideration of correspondence from D Johnston raising concerns that the community were not consulted about the changes to the Saturday ferries from Lyness to Houton, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would forward an apology for the lack of consultancy and to highlight that a future community consultation will be arranged in the near future.

M. Designing Homes for Cognitive Ageing

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland regarding a webinar on 17 April for Designing Homes for Cognitive Ageing, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

N. Why Not Scotland – Independent Screenings

Following consideration of correspondence from Scotland Big Picture regarding the availability of a screening of the 'Why Not Scotland' film, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the Gable End Theatre were considering the possibility of a screening.

5. Consultations

A. Proposed Nordic Sea Summer South Isles Service

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the consultation of the proposed Nordic Sea summer South Isles service, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and to monitor the service.

B. SEPA - Review of Areas most at risk of flooding

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA advising on a consultation on a review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland and a request to share the message across social media, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 28 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and for the ILO to post on the social media page.

C. OIC Housing Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC with details of the OIC Housing Survey to be completed by 29 April 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 17 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and the ILO would send a reminder email to CC's to collate their responses to be submitted as a collective.

D. Transport Scotland - Islands Connectivity Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of Community Consultation Events, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 17 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would share to the social media page.

E. The future of the universal postal service

Following consideration of correspondence from SIF regarding a request for a response to the recent Ofcom consultation which closed on 4 April, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Islands Connectivity Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from SIF requesting a response from CC's regarding the submission of the Islands Connectivity Plan by 3 May, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

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

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £19,299.84 as at 9 April 2024.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval of £121.45 as at 9 April 2024.

C. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £9,142.21 as at 9 April 2024.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note the funds remaining for approval of £1,658.47 as at 9 April 2024.

7. Financial Requests

A. Graemsay Community Association – Access Ramps

Following consideration of an application from the Graemsay Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the cost of access ramps for the Community Hall, it was:

Resolved to grant the sum of £1,000.00 toward the cost of the access ramps, subject to Community Development Fund approval, and that an application should be submitted on a project cost of £1,000.00.

B. Hoy Youth Hub

Following consideration of an application from Hoy Youth Hub requesting a donation towards the cost of the buildings and contents insurance for St Columba's Kirk, it was:

Resolved that the ILO would request a breakdown of the separate costs for buildings and contents as the CC would only consider funding for the building's aspect of the insurance.

8. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publication was made available at this meeting:

- VAO Newsletter February and March 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update April 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – January and February 2024.
- OIC Special Waste Collection Dates 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – March 2024.
- Scottish Water Spring Newsletter 2024.
- SEPA Publish – Scottish Waste from All Sources.
- Farm Diversification Drop in Event – 2 May 2024.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Mud on the Road at the Hoy Kirkyard

Following consideration of a complaint received by a member regarding the excess mud on the road outside the Hoy Kirkyard, it was:

Resolved to note the complaint and that the ILO request that a letter be sent by OIC Roads Support to the neighbouring farm to request the road be cleared.

B. Dumped Cars on the Beach

The ILO raised another concern that she had been made aware about regarding cars dumped on the beach near Hoy Kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved ILO to contact the Hoy Trust to clarify the ownership of the land that the vehicles have been abandoned on

C. Car Park at the Ayre

Following consideration of concerns raised by Mrs T Avis about the repairs that were needed to the car park at the Ayre, being that the footpath sign and several of the boards had become loose, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the concerns and that the ILO would add them to the business letter to request that OIC carry out the repairs.

D. Public Access to the agenda prior to CC meetings

Following consideration of a request from Ms A Kinsey for the agenda for future CC meetings to be made public in advance so that community councillors could be contacted by community members if they had a comment to make, it was:

Resolved to note the request and for the ILO put the agenda on social media and a couple of areas around the island prior to the meeting, on the understanding that there could be additions to the agenda after it had been posted and that any 'named' community members would be removed to ensure confidentiality.

E. Free Ferry travel for children on the Isles

Following consideration of a request from the Chair for an update on the free ferry travel for isles children, it was:

Resolved to note the request for an update and that Councillor L Hall advised he would look into the matter and provide more information.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council will be held on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 at the North Walls Community Centre at 19:30.

B. That there would be a Special Ferry Consultation meeting on 29 May 2024 at the North Walls Community Centre at 19:30, and that Flotta Community Council members would be invited to attend.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:55.