

# Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams on Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr David Hamilton, Mr Colin Kirkness, Mr Graham Brown, Mrs Evelyn Grant, Mr Kevin Groundwater and Ms H Woodsford-Dean (via Teams).

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Councillor Jean Stevenson (via Teams).
- Councillor Duncan Tullock.
- Councillor Owen Tierney
- Ms S Shearer, Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr P Tinkler, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
- Mr E Harvey, Birsay Community Council.
- Mr S Spence, Birsay Community Council.
- Two representatives of Access Orkney.
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note apologies had been received from Ms K Ritch, Ms D Clouston and Mr R Delday.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr G Brown and seconded by Mr C Kirkness.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Ian Findlay Path Fund/Dropped Kerbs**

Sarah Wilkins introduced herself as the Secretary from Access Orkney. Members outlined the issue surrounding wheelchair access throughout Dounby, which on some routes, necessitates unsafe road use. Members stated that there was a lack of dropped kerbs or dropped kerbs that need upgrading in Dounby. Sarah Wilkins stated that she would approach the Council and put forward requirements needed for disability access. Councillor King stated that she wished to be involved in this matter as part of her role within Orkney Health and Care and also pointed out that this links in well with the wider development of Dounby.

Mrs E Grant provided her contact details so that Access Orkney could provide updates on any developments.

Representatives from Access Orkney left the meeting at this point.

Members were informed that the deadline had been missed for the Ian Findlay Path Fund. The Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, stated that the Ian Findlay Path Fund was predominantly designed for community pathways, as long as the path does not have access onto public roads. She also stated that there were other funding bodies available, and she would provide plans to members so that members can mark where they wish to see pathways made available. She will then sift through this and see where funding can be sought. The dropped kerb areas can also be highlighted on the plan. Once plans have been received, members will arrange to meet and put their ideas back to the Council.

Councillor King also wished to see areas marked on the plan that have areas for rest, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, would forward plans of the Dounby and surrounding areas to the Clerk, who will then forward onto members for consideration and marking up.
2. That Members will arrange to meet to highlight areas of concern for dropped kerb access and also path access.

## **B. Orkney Quiet Routes**

The Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, introduced the Quiet Routes pilot project, which would identify stretches of roads which will fit the funding criteria. Data has been collected to identify the safest and quietest routes, which will be highlighted to drivers by means of signage. After discussion, a number of routes were discussed around the Harray and Sandwick area. Members were encouraged to have a look at the map provided and forward any suggestions on before the end of March, and it was:

Resolved to note the information above.

## **C. Strathborg**

Mr G Brown stated that the trees (160 trees and 60 willows) had arrived, and arrangement was in place to plant these trees on Saturday, 16 March at 10:00. All guards and stakes had arrived, and Radio Orkney has been notified to announce for helpers, along with poster distribution and notification on Facebook. Orkney Tree Project were due to attend the planting and would be on hand for advice, and it was:

Resolved to note the information above.

## **D. Distribution of Agenda Papers**

Ms H Woodsford-Dean stated that the previous agenda and papers had insufficient postage, and asked if reassurance could be given that this would not be repeated. Members suggested that a return address be placed on the envelope, and it was:

Resolved to note that a return address will be placed on all future agenda correspondence.

## **E. Verge Cutting**

Councillor Tierney had received no further updates, but members still wished to know who cut the verges to the 30mph limits, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, will enquire as to who is responsible for cutting the verges to the 30mph limits.

## **F. King's Portrait Scheme**

Following information circulated to members of a free King's portrait on offer, it was agreed that Mrs E Grant would enquire at the Milestone Kirk and the Chair would enquire at Smiddybrae, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair will enquire at Smiddybrae and Mrs E Grant will enquire at the Milestone Kirk as to whether they would like a portrait.

## **G. Market Green**

The Chair stated that he met with Mr C Kirkness and a representative from OIC at the Market Green. It had been agreed that the Christmas tree site would be moved closer to the junction on a raised area, and the cabling would extend from the toilet

block. The Jubilee Tree will be placed in the middle of the green. It was also advised that the project would be completed in two stages, and it was:

Resolved to note the information of above.

## **H. Dog Mess**

An email had been received from a member of the public voicing concerns that waste was still not being picked up from dog owners. A suggestion was put forward for dog waste bins, but it was pointed out that general waste bins can be used. The Community Council Liaison Officer stated that she would chase the signs that were going to be put up around the area, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would chase up the installation of the signs.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Openreach Orkney Project**

Correspondence had been previously forward via email an update on the position with Openreach Voucher scheme to the Dounby community, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Accounts Commission Report on Orkney Islands Council**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Accounts Commission including an audit report of Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. BSc Honours Project - Scottish Rainforest**

Members considered correspondence from Douglas Gunn, a BSc (Hons) student of Environmental Management from SRUC and The University of Edinburgh, copies of which had previously been circulated. As part of his honours project, he was investigating whether the Scottish population's understanding and perception of the Scottish rainforest impacts the conservation of this special habitat, and had circulated a survey, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. National Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care Support and Community Health - Online Meeting**

Following consideration of correspondence from SIF regarding a meeting planned for Tuesday, 6 February, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **E. VAO - Small Grants Scheme 2024/2025**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from the VAO Small Grants Scheme 2024/2025, supported by Repsol Sinopec and Liam McArthur MSP. It advised that constituted groups and organisations with charitable objectives could apply for a grant of up to £500 to help with their projects and activities, and it was:

Resolved to note that applications could be submitted until 1 March 2024.

## **F. Scottish Islands Passport – What’s New For 2024?**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from Scottish Islands Passport, outlining updates from their app, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **G. Cross Party Group on Islands**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from the Scottish Islands Federation concerning a lunchtime meeting on Wednesday, 28 February which took place online and focused on the National Islands Plan which is currently under review by the Scottish Government, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **H. Free Webinar for Community Council - Scottish Empty Homes Partnership**

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from Empty Homes Advice Service, part of the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership which works to identify empty homes across Scotland with the aim of bringing them back into use, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **5. Consultation - NHS Orkney Listening Event**

Members had previously been sent information from NHS Orkney who wanted to hear about what matters most to their patients and community. NHS Orkney aimed to hold two public drop-in events and an online virtual session to hear feedback from patients, families and communities. This was to provide opportunities to share feedback, views, experiences and ideas to help shape their future plans, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 8 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,109.21.

## **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining for approval in the main and additional capping limits were £0.03 and £743.00 respectively.

## **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 8 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £2,892.16.

## **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Members had previously been sent copies of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 8 January 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that there was no balance available to allocate to projects.

# **7. Applications for Financial Assistance**

## **A. Dounby School Hoy P7 Trip**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Dounby Primary School, requesting financial assistance towards the P7 Hoy trip for 7 pupils it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £20 be given to each pupil, to be donated as from 1 April 2024.

## **B. Jenna Miller – U15 Orkney Netball District Team in Dundee and Aberdeen**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Jenna Miller requesting financial assistance towards a trip to the U15 Netball District Team in Dundee and Aberdeen in March 2024, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £60 be given to Jenna Miller.

## **C. Orkney Folk Festival**

Following consideration of correspondence received from organisers of the Orkney Folk Festival requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the event, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £200 be given.

## **D. Harray SWI – Senior Citizens Party – June 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Harray SWI requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the Senior Citizen's party in June 2024, it was:

Resolved that a CCGS donation up to the value of £450 be given, subject to CCGS approval.

## **8. Publications**

Resolved to note that the following publications had been forwarded to members:

- VAO – Newsletter – February 2024.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – February 2024.
- Orkney Ferries – Statistics – January 2024.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Christmas Lights**

Members were shown the new Christmas Lights catalogue. The Chair asked that when the full catalogue was published, if lights can be highlighted that are suitable for high windage. The Chair also asked if the lights can be turned off at the end of January, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request whether:

- The lights can be highlighted from the new catalogue that are suitable for high winds.
- The lights in Dounby can be turned off at the end of January.

### **B. Grit Bin – Sandwick Hall**

A member stated that the bin still hadn't been delivered to Sandwick Hall car park, and asked if this could be chased, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request for this to be chased.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next two meetings of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesdays 22 May and 28 August 2024 commencing at 19:30 in Milestone Community Church.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

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