

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council via Microsoft Teams at 19:00 on Wednesday, 10 February 2021

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr G Brown, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mr C Kirkness, Mrs K Ritch and Mr G Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J McGrath, Interim Clerk/Community Council Liaison Officer.

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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 general meeting held on 11 November 2020 was approved by members, being proposed by Mr G Sinclair and seconded by Mr K Groundwater.

3. Grass Cutting Tenders 2021

The Interim Clerk shared information on the tenders which had been received for the grass cutting contracts for 2021 and, following consideration and discussion by members, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the contracts for Harray kirkyard, Sandwick kirkyard and the Strathborg seating area were awarded to two different contractors.

B. That the Interim Clerk was to write to all the tenderers confirming the outcome of the tender exercise.

4. Matters Arising

A. St Peters Car Park and Kirkyard Gate

The Interim Clerk advised that she had asked for the old gates to be removed, but that there was no timescale for when this would be done, or the new gates installed. Members asked that this be chased up, as they were keen to have the new gates as soon as possible, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would enquire with the relevant department as to when the new gates would be installed.

B. Northbigging Road – Visibility Issues

Mrs E Grant advised that she had spoken with the householders concerned, and they were open to discussing the issue and trying to find a solution that was agreeable to all. They had asked that the community council's proposal be put to them in writing to allow them to consider it fully, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would write a letter to the householders outlining the proposal to take their boundary fence in slightly from the road.

2. To discuss this item at the next meeting.

C. Water on Appiehouse and Kierfold Roads

The Interim Clerk advised that the issues discussed at the last meeting had been passed on to Roads Support. It was further reported that offlets and run offs were needing cleared at Kierfold and that there was a bad pothole in the proximity of Decca Station Houses, Sandwick, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would report the pothole at Decca Station Houses and ask if there was a schedule of works planned.
2. To continue to report and monitor problem areas.

D. Festive Lighting

The Interim Clerk read out information from the Roads Support Manager, advising that he did not anticipate the Council providing storage facilities for any of the decorations. The details of the proposal was due to be the subject of a report and a policy to be submitted to the Development and Infrastructure committee later in the year, and members were advised that community councils would be provided with an update at a later date.

Members went on to discuss LED braid wraps for the lamp posts and noted that other areas in Orkney had erected these recently. The Interim Clerk gave rough costs for purchase and advised that these would require planning permission and to be put up/connected by a contractor on the Council's approved list. It was agreed that the community council should consider purchasing some of these lights for their area, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would obtain further information on the LED braid wraps for members to consider at the next meeting.

E. Harray Hall Car Park

The Interim Clerk gave a verbal report which advised that priority was being given to the road network and associated infrastructure and, consequently, the Council was unable to commit any resources to carrying out work at the car park, and did not envisage any changes to this in the foreseeable future.

Councillor R King advised that if someone had fallen in the car park recently, as had been reported by a member, then this was a health and safety/accessibility issue. She encouraged the community council, in conjunction with the hall committee, to draw up a list of how many people/groups used the hall in normal times and write a strong letter in support of having this issue looked into further. It was agreed that, even during lockdown, members of the public had parked there regularly, folk used the public toilet at the rear of the hall and the bus was parked there every day.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mr G Sinclair would speak to the hall committee about submitting a letter regarding the state of the car park.

5. Correspondence

A. Roads Repairs and Reporting

Following consideration of correspondence Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding what road repairs were currently being carried out, and to report all issues so that a county-wide list could be written up, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Project Updates – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Following consideration of correspondence from Highland Wind Limited, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Connecting Scotland Phase 2, Round 2

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Learning and Development Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Dounby Village Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the Planning Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that the plan had been put on hold, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkney Scam Action Group

Following consideration of correspondence from Sergeant S Hay, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of a new local multi-agency group formed to tackle scams, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Application for Variation of Premises License – Orkney Brewery

Members had previously been forwarded an application for variation of premises license for the Orkney Brewery, and had submitted no representations, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Fair Start Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from the Fair Start Scotland Delivery Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of help available to people who found themselves unemployed and looking for work, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. R100 Roundtable

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding the R100 roundtable event, chaired by Liam McArthur MSP, to discuss the roll out of 5G, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mr G Brown had attended the online event.

I. Scottish Government - Clear Your Head Campaign

Members had been previously forwarded information on the Scottish Government's Clear Your Head campaign, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Scottish Government – Covid 19 Marketing Campaign

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Scottish Government's Covid 19 marketing campaign, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Consultations

A. VAO – Radiology Services in Scotland

Following consideration of the consultation, circulated by VAO and previously forwarded to members, regarding radiology services in Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

B. Police Scotland – Equality Outcomes 2021-2025

Following consideration of the consultation document from Police Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

C. VAO – Scottish Government - Strengthening Scottish Charity Law

Following consideration of the consultation on Scottish Charity Law, which had been forwarded by VAO and circulated to members via email, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan

Members had been emailed a copy of the 2020 Verge Maintenance Plan, and asked to provide any comments prior to the new plan being written up, and it was:

Resolved to note that any comments should be passed to the Interim Clerk by 31 March 2021.

E. DEFRA and Scottish Government – Animal Welfare in Transport

Members had been emailed details of two consultations which were currently running, one by the Scottish Government and the other by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on animal welfare and livestock transportation, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadlines for submitting responses to these consultations were 25 and 26 February 2021.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £7,096.22 as at 29 January 2021.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £2,707.01, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £669 as at 29 January 2021.

C. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for allocation was £9,640 as at 29 January 2021.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval was £2,500 as at 29 January 2021.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunches

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed, via email, to fund the cost of Senior Citizens lunches which had been organised by Sandwich Community Association from CCGS, up to a maximum of £250.

B. Defibrillator at Sandwich Hall

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed, via email, to assist with the cost of installing a defibrillator at the Sandwich Hall, using CCGS funding of £200.

C. Grant Refund – Dounby Primary School – Lagganlia Trip

Resolved to note that Dounby Primary School had returned the grant funding that had been provided for the 2020 Lagganlia Trip, as it had not been able to go ahead.

9. Publications

The following publications had been received and made available to members via email:

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2020, and January 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – November 2020 and January 2021.
- What's On at CLAN – January 2021.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Dounby Civic Amenity Site

Members asked if there was any update on the reopening of the Civic Amenity site in Dounby and were advised that the situation was still under review. Due to the challenges related to Covid-19 and carrying out the winter maintenance schedule, it was not possible to open at the present moment. Members were asked to remind residents of continuing kerbside collections and HWRC's at Hatston and Cursiter Quarry. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to monitor the situation.

B. CC Vacancy

Members discussed what to do about the vacancy on the community council, and it was:

Resolved that potential candidates would be approached with a view to holding a public meeting to elect to the vacancy in the near future.

C. Dounby Farm Planning Application

It was reported that the planning application for two replacement houses at Dounby Farm had been refused, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Road Safety Issues

It was reported that vehicles had been overtaking the school bus and other vehicles at the rise of the brae at Howe Road, which was seen as dangerous. It was suggested that double white lines or a sign should be considered to deter drivers from overtaking at this location.

It was also reported that there were road safety issues regarding pupils getting off the school bus at the Harray end of the Lyde Road, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would write a letter to the education department regarding the school bus issue.
2. That Councillor H Johnston would speak to the Roads Support Manager regarding the overtaking issue.

E. Verge Maintenance

Members commented that a lot of the verges were being ruined by drivers cutting in and churning up the sides of the roads, filling up the water runs. Councillor D Tullock

advised that the Council were aware of these issues and that something would need to be done as many issues were getting worse, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

F. Teams and Zoom Training

The Interim Clerk advised that Democratic Services had organised training to be held later in the month on using Teams and Zoom for any members that were interested, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Following a discussion regarding dates for the next meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next two meetings of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held either online or in the Milestone Church, Dounby, on Wednesdays 21 April and 9 June 2021, both commencing at 19:00.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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