

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at 20:00

Present:

Mrs L McAdie, Mr D Alexander, Mrs L Anderson, Mrs G Barnby, Mr L Flett and Mr I Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor A Drever.
- Councillor N Craigie.
- Councillor S Sankey.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

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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 10 November 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr I Rendall and seconded by Mr D Alexander.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Sergeant S Hay, Police Scotland, introducing himself as the East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray Liaison Sergeant and advising that PC A Inverarity was St Andrews Primary School's allocated officer, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

B. East Mainland Tourist Brochure (EMTB)

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, suggesting that the three East Mainland Community Councils form a new EMTB sub-group with two representatives elected from each of St Andrews and Deerness, Holm and South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Councils and administrative support could be provided by Democratic Services, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would represent St Andrews and Deerness Community Council.
2. That the Chair would seek updated quotes for the revised brochure in advance of the first meeting of the EMTB sub-group.
3. That the Chair was willing to undertake the administrative functions required for the EMTB sub-group.

C. 2021 One-Year Grass Cutting Tenders

The Clerk opened the 2021 grass cutting tenders and one tender had been received for Deerness Kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To award the 2021 Deerness Kirkyard grass cutting contract to Mr J Wick.
2. To re-advertise grass cutting tenders for St Andrews and Hall of Tankerness, both in the press and locally, with a closing date of 12 March 2021.

D. 2021 Bag the Bruck Scheme

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that due to Covid 19 restrictions the annual Bag the Bruck would not be going ahead this year. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there would not be a 2021 Bag the Bruck event.
2. That members welcomed the removal of refuse accumulated at Dingshowe, Toab and the establishment of a larger refuse bin.

E. 2021 Insurance Costs

Following consideration and discussion of the 2021 insurance costs, it was:

Resolved to note that Democratic Services would automatically include insurance costs in the CCGS statement for 2021/2022.

F. Refund of Grants Awarded

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that as a result of the current Covid 19 restrictions, any individual or organisation may wish to refund a grant previously awarded, if unused, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the recipients of two recent grants requesting the unused monies be repaid to the Community Council before 31 March 2021.

G. Christmas Lights for Toab and Deerness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs G Barnby following her investigation into the cost of purchasing, storage, maintaining and erecting two differing types of Christmas lights suitable for erecting on lamp posts in Toab and at Sands Park, Deerness, and at the Deerness Community Centre, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the cost of twenty lights would be in the region of £2,000 - £4,500 and it would need to be clarified if this was a VAT inclusive price.
2. To note that maintenance and erection costs would need to be established.
3. To note that planning permission would also be required.
4. That storage could be available in St Andrews Community Centre and that Councillor N Craigie would enquire into the costs involved.
5. That Mrs G Barnby would continue to investigate the costs associated with the purchase of Christmas lights for Toab and Deerness and report back to the next meeting for further consideration.

H. Closed Off Track in Tankerness

Councillor S Sankey advised that the Orkney Local Access Forum (OLAF) had not held a recent meeting, and it was:

Resolved

1. That Councillor S Sankey would report the matter at the next meeting of OLAF.
2. That the Chair would seek advice from the Planning Section, OIC.

I. Speed Limit Countdown Marker Signs for Toab and Deerness

Members considered correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding speed limit countdown markers for Toab and Deerness. The correspondence informed that the Roads Support Manager, OIC, had advised that works to install these signs had been funded from a "Cycling Walking and Safer Streets" external grant and that St Andrews and Deerness CC would be included in future projects as and when funding became available, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

J. Road issues Reported to Orkney Islands Council

Following discussion of the list of previously reported road defects or new road repair notifications, it was:

Resolved to note that some of these road defects had already been repaired and the remainder would be added to the Live List accordingly.

K. 2020 Education Grant

The Clerk advised that five education grants had been paid to applicants totalling £2,528.20, with one grant cancelled due to the applicant's course being cancelled and a lesser allocation paid to one applicant as the expenditure was reduced, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

L. Landslide at the Brough of Deerness

Members considered correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that Development and Marine Planning were working with the Engineering Services Team to establish and appraise options to address the landslide, including improving the full route from Mull Head to the Brough of Deerness. A report was to be prepared and considered by all stakeholders including the Community Council with input requested, and it was:

Resolved

1. To note that Councillor S Sankey advised that this issue was currently being assessed regarding progress, costs and contractor availability and it was hoped that this work could be undertaken prior to the forthcoming tourist season.

2. That Mrs L Anderson would report the issues regarding dog fouling, additional bins and refuse collection required at the Covenanters' Memorial.

M. Continuous Damage to Roadside Verges

Mr D Alexander advised that he had been notified by a member of the public regarding further damage to roadside verges in Tankerness and in Deerness, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would submit full details of the locations of verge damage, including photographic evidence, to Democratic Services for investigation.

4. Consultation Documents

A. Police Scotland

Following consideration of the consultation document "Meeting the Policing Needs of a Diverse Scotland – Police Scotland – Equality and Diversity Outcomes 2021-2025", which required a response by 14 January 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no response to the consultation document.

B. DEFRA and Scottish Government Consultation on Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation

Following consideration of the consultation documents from DEFRA and Scottish Government on Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation, which required a response by 25 and 26 February 2021 respectively, it was:

Resolved that individual responses were required to this consultation.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the consultation document on the Verge Maintenance Plan, which required a response by 31 March 2021, some discussion took place regarding previous responses and action accordingly, and it was:

Resolved that members should forward any comment to the Clerk prior to the deadline of 31 March 2021.

D. Scotland's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Consultation

Following consideration of the consultation, Scotland's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Consultation, and inviting members to attend the online consultation event on 16 February 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that members had not participated in the consultation event.

5. Correspondence

A. Orkney Scam Action Group

Following consideration of correspondence from Sgt S Hay, Orkney Scam Action Group, inviting members to follow this group on social media with the aim of

“Tackling Scams Together” and requesting that members complete the short survey, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Fair Start Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence received from Fair Start Scotland requesting to join a virtual meeting to discuss how Fair Start could potentially provide support to this community, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

Mrs L Anderson left the meeting at this point.

C. Connecting Scotland and Orkney Kickstart Updates

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the Connecting Scotland programme, who would provide iPads, internet connectivity and support to develop digital skills for people who were socially isolated or lonely and meet the criteria, and also the Orkney Kickstart programme, to support young people into employment and help grow businesses, and it was:

Resolved to note the Clerk had circulated this information locally.

D. Orkney Ferries Replacement

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr R Leslie, the Orkney SNP candidate for the forthcoming Scottish Government elections, regarding replacing the Orkney Ferries fleet and referring members to a link to a historic presentation from Dr A Baird outlining the case for catamarans versus monohulls, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Net-Zero Government: Addressing the Climate Change Emergency

Following consideration of correspondence from the Public Sector Executive inviting members to participate in a calendar of events hosted by leaders in climate change, decarbonisation and sustainability, it was:

Resolved to note that the first event would be taking place on 10 March 2021.

F. R100 Roundtable Event

Following consideration of correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP inviting members to participate in an online discussion on the Scottish Government’s R100 rollout in Orkney, with the event scheduled for 5 February 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the date for this event had already passed.

G. A Minimum Income Standard for Remote and Rural Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from a Loughborough University researcher, requesting volunteers to participate in the Scottish Government funded

research project to access and better understand the needs and costs experienced by people who live in St Andrews and Deerness parishes and in remote and rural Scotland, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

H. 5G New Thinking Project

Following consideration of correspondence from Strategic Advisor, Renewables and Connectivity, inviting members to participate in a second virtual workshop regarding more information and investment in the 5G new Thinking Project to improve connectivity in rural areas, it was:

Resolved to note that this virtual event would be held on 25 February 2021.

I. The Circular Economy and the Planning System

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, inviting members to register to attend the free online events from Zero Waste Scotland and Planning Aid Scotland regarding Scotland achieving, through the circular economy, its zero-carbon target by 2045, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Scottish Water – Leaks and Bursts

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Water advising that the community should report any incidence of water leaks and bursts in Orkney as, following the recent thaw, there was a higher than normal water flow in Orkney, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

K. Thank You Letter

Following consideration of a thank you letter received from St Andrews Senior Citizen Club, for financial assistance provided, 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 8 February 2021 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £9,461.53.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 February 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £2,146.33.

C. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 8 February 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £10,986.14.

7. Financial Requests - Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Members considered correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club (OASC), requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of four new track start blocks. Following much discussion, it was:

Resolved, unanimously, to approve a £300 grant to OASC towards the purchase of four new track start blocks, subject to eligibility under CCGS.

8. Publications

The following publications had been made available for members to view and were noted:

- Climate Challenge Fund – Newsletter.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletters (3).
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Community Engagement Leaflets (2).
- Elancity – Leaflet.

9. Any Other Competent Business - Live List

Following consideration of the live list, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk remove from the live list; item 5, Marine Farms, item 12, Recurring Flooding at Toab/Holm junction, Toab, item 13, Serious Flooding at Deerness Kirkyard, item 15, Two Unstable Gravestones in St Andrews Kirkyard and Other Relevant Headstone Issues, item 19, Drainage, Flooding and Surface Water Issues at St Andrews Primary School, item 20, Waste and Recycling Services and item 23, Speed Limit Marker for Toab and Sands Park, Deerness and with regard to the School Travel Plan.

B. That the Clerk include in the business of meeting letter another request for passing places on Halley Road, Deerness and between Heatherhouse Road end and the Rerwick Junction, Tankerness.

C. To note that Bossack Civic Amenity Site would open when social distancing allowed and therefore could be removed from the live list also.

D. To note that the Chair advised that she would contact the Rural Planner to ascertain whether all works had been completed with regards to the flooded footpath and steps at the Covenanter's Memorial.

E. To note that the Clerk was requested to again report to OIC items 7 and 8 Flooding, Off Let and Ditching issues in St Andrews and Deerness, item 9

Improvements to wet/flooded area on the Walkway, Tankerness, item 14,
Subsidence area on Churchyard Road, Tankerness.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of possible date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 27 April 2021, online or in St Andrews Primary School, commencing at 20:00.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:48.