

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in North Walls School, on Friday, 18 May 2018 at 18:45

Present:

Mrs M Groat, Mr C Bates, Mrs G Robertson, Mr A Sinclair, Mrs R Thomson and Mrs J Traynor.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Mrs T Avis, Island Link Officer.
- Mr P Rickard, Manager, THAW Orkney.
- PC A Inverarity, Police Scotland Officer.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Mr A Clark and Councillor R Crichton.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Appointment of Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that M Groat be appointed Chairperson of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council.

B. Appointment of Vice Chairperson

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that G Robertson be appointed Vice Chairperson of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council.

C. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that G Robertson be appointed Planning Representative of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council.

D. Appointment of Transport Representative

Resolved that C Bates be appointed Transport Representative of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council.

E. Appointment of Deputy Transport Representative

Resolved that R Thomson be appointed Deputy Transport Representative of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council.

3. Minute of Meeting held on 16 March 2018

The minute of the meeting held on 16 March 2018 was approved, being proposed by Mrs R Thomson and seconded by Mr A Sinclair.

4. Matters Arising

A. THAW Orkney

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the Manager of THAW Orkney, who made a presentation about the history of THAW and services that the organisation offered in Orkney. He concluded by saying that THAW was asking all Community Councils for financial assistance to help them match other funding sources. The Chair thanked him for the information and said that a decision on funding would be made at the finance meeting in June, and it was:

Resolved to defer the application until the Finance meeting in June.

B. Police Scotland

The Chair welcomed the Police Scotland officer to the meeting, who reported on various local issues such as recent thefts, abandoned vehicles, untaxed and uninsured drivers, and speeding. He explained that the Police wanted to help the community in resolving these issues. Members asked if any special Constables had come forward and he was able to confirm a couple of members of the community had indeed come forward. Members further discussed issues around speeding and Councillor Stockan noted that Orkney Islands Council had now received a new “smiley face” speed check machine and that this could be requested for use on the island, and it was:

Resolved to request the use of the speed check machine in the business letter to Democratic Services.

The Chair thanked the officer for attending the meeting.

C. Island Link Officer

The Clerk informed members that Democratic Services had agreed to the proposal to use the Hoy Centre, North Walls Healthy Living Centre and the Development Trust office. This idea would be launched at the Services and Support Day at North Walls School on 24 May. A date in early July to commence opening the office was agreed as there was now a short time frame between Community Council meetings. It was also agreed that a further priority for the ILO would be to take forward the Community Resilience Project, and it was:

Resolved to include the information in the business letter to Democratic Services.

D. Community Resilience Project

The Chair told members that there had been a very useful meeting with some members of the Community Council, SSEN and the Civil Contingencies Officer. The Clerk showed members one of six emergency packs that had been received and asked members what they wanted to be done with them. The Chair said that the items discussed would now be incorporated into a blank template and a further meeting arranged. The Clerk also informed members that the Community Council had made two applications to SSEN Community Resilience Fund for 2018, one for Hoy and Walls, the other for Graemsay, following advice from the Civil Contingencies Officer, and that grants would be decided in September, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would continue to work on the project.

E. North Walls School Transport Meeting

The Chair reported that a useful meeting had taken place at the school to discuss transport issues on the island. It was noted that most concerns that were raised were being dealt with already, but one new idea was the option for creating new paths and cycle paths, and it was:

Resolved to ask Democratic Services for more details about funding a possible feasibility study into the creation of footpaths and cycle paths on the island.

F. Design of Housing in the Countryside

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, the Chair told members that a very useful meeting had been held with the Senior Planner and Architecture and Design Scotland representatives, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

G. Bag the Bruck

The Clerk informed members that seven groups had taken part in the event this year; Graemsay Community Association, Longhope Lifeboat Guild, RSPB, Haey Hope, North Walls School, North Walls Parent Council and the Youth Club. In total approximately 180 plus bags had been collected and disposed of, and it was:

Resolved that each group be allocated £50 with £300 being from the Community Council Grant Scheme and £50 in a donation.

H. SSEN Consultation

After consideration of correspondence from SSEN regarding their consultation about the new electricity cable to Orkney, it was:

Resolved that the situation be monitored.

I. Hoy Wind Farm

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding Hoy Wind Farm, the Clerk passed round an email from a member of the Community and the Chair read out another email. The Chair reminded members that the role of the Community Council was to represent the community and not their own views, and that it appeared from the meeting regarding this proposal that there were both people for and against the scheme. Members discussed the point raised in the email regarding incorporating more viewpoints into the Scoping Opinion that was with the Scottish Government, and it was:

Resolved that members considered that viewpoints from other locations would be expected to be included if the project gets beyond this initial stage and that it should be emphasised to both the Scottish Government and Orkney Islands Council that the Community Council and Community expect to be fully consulted at every stage of this project.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish Transport Awards 2018

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the nomination of Orkney's island airfields in the Scottish Transport Awards 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Sustainable Fisheries

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Sustainable Fisheries, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding community engagement, it was:

Resolved to pass the details to North Walls School.

C. Plastic Recycling

After consideration of correspondence from a member of the community about recycling milk bottles, copies of which had previously been circulate, members discussed whether these could be collected locally and then shipped to mainland as apparently, they are high quality plastic. Members also discussed the issue with cardboard going in the waste paper container, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to Democratic Services regarding the plastic issue and put a notice in the Blether regarding paper recycling.

D. Calor Rural Community Fund

After consideration of correspondence from Calor regarding their Rural Community Fund, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Ferry Services Consultation Forum

After consideration of correspondence from the Transportation Planner, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding the next Ferry Services Consultative Forum meeting, the Transport Representative said he was unavailable to attend, and it was:

Resolved that R Thomson attended as Deputy Transport Representative.

F. Hoy Post Office

After consideration of correspondence from the Post Office, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the temporary closure of the Hoy Post Office, members discussed the possibility of this service reopening. It was pointed out that it need not be on the same basis as the previous service, and could be seen as an opportunity for employment for a few hours a week and it was:

Resolved that details be advertised in the community.

G. Healthcare Improvement Scotland

After consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding healthcare improvement in Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Letter of Thanks

The Chair read out a card from North Walls School thanking the Community Council for the grant towards the Nethybridge trip, and it was:

Resolved to note the letter of thanks.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Kirkwall Urban Design Framework

After consideration of the Kirkwall Urban Design Framework consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

B. Amended Core Paths Plan Consultation Land Reform

After consideration of the consultation on the Amended Core Paths Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

C. Orkney Harbours Masterplan

Members discussed the consultation on the Orkney Harbours Masterplan, and suggested the following be considered:

- Establishment of a marina at Longhope Pier.
- Hoy Pier should be extended so that it can be used at all states of tide.
- West Pier at Lyness should be brought back into use.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to include these comments in the business letter to Democratic Services.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the Community Council's general financial statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £14,828.15, as at 10 May 2018.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,082.00, as at 10 May 2018.

C. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £5,705.03, as at 10 May 2018.

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 10 May 2018.

E. Annual Grants

Resolved to note the new balance and for the Clerk to advertise the Grant Schemes to the Community in preparation for the Finance meeting in June.

8. Request for Financial Assistance – Year of Young People

Following consideration of the application from Orkney's Year of Young People ambassadors for financial assistance towards a youth concert, it was:

Resolved to defer the application to the Finance meeting in June.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Removal of Stone

After consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the removal of stone from beaches, members discussed the information provided, and it was:

Resolved that an item be included in the Blether regarding the legal position regarding the removal of stone from beaches.

B. Cattle Grids

Councillor Thomson told the meeting that the cattle grid at Rysa was to be removed and filled in. He also explained that the Council would do the same at the cattle grid at Wee Fea but if they did that the land owner would then have to fence off the land, therefore the landowner had agreed to repair the cattle grid, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

C. Roads

Members discussed the run-off of water and gravel at the bottom of the road near the Royal Hotel, this problem being made worse as the drains were standing higher than the road. It had also been noted that some of the gabions lining the road at Sandside in Graemsay had burst open, and members considered that these should be repaired before the winter, and it was:

Resolved to include in the business letter to Democratic Services.

D. Lyness Museum

Councillor Stockan updated the meeting regarding the tender process at Lyness museum. Due to a lot of building work taking place in Orkney i.e. the hospital, local contractors did not have the capacity to bid currently so there may be delays in the work being done. It was queried whether the museum could reopen if the delay was expected to be lengthy, but Councillor Stockan explained that this was unlikely as lots of the exhibits had been put into storage and the Hoy Hotel was to be hosting a temporary display meantime.

Members also asked whether the possibility of opening the oil tanks had ever been investigated. Councillor Stockan reported that there were still some parties interested in using them as storage, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would take place on Friday, 15 June 2018 at 18:45 to consider financial applications.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting concluded at 20:35.