

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in Dounby Community Centre, on Wednesday, 29 August 2018 at 19:00

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr I Flett, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mr C Kirkness and Mrs K Ritch.

In Attendance:

- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs L Leitch, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mr G Brown.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Following concern over the matter of dangerous speeds at which some tractors, with full trailer loads, are travelling through Dounby, it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had passed on the concerns to Sergeant Morris and that it would be raised with the Police again at the next meeting.

3. Minutes of Meeting Held on 13 June 2018

Resolved that the minute of the meeting held on 13 June 2018 was approved, being proposed by Mr K Groundwater and seconded by Mrs E Grant.

4. Matters Arising

A. Dounby Market Green

Members considered correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, detailing matters to be considered should the Community Council go ahead with their proposed plans for the development of the Dounby Market Green.

The ownership of the former fuel pumps was questioned and also whether or not they had been decommissioned and made safe. It was noted that if the pumps had not been made safe then there would be a cost element to the Community Council to decommission them.

The ownership of the actual Market Green was also questioned and whether or not it did belong to Orkney Islands Council. Councillor King suggested to members to invite the Planning Manager, Development and Infrastructure, to the next meeting to share their proposed plans for the Market Green. The Planning Manager was involved with the 3 Villages Masterplan which included Dounby. LEADER funding was also mentioned however due to the time element it was doubtful if all the necessary paperwork would be in place to meet the deadline. Members also heard that should any applications for funding be submitted in the future, that emphasis should be placed that the development of the Market Green would be a community facility.

Councillor Johnston joined the meeting at this point.

Following discussion over why the proposed ideas had been reached and how ideally members would like the car park to operate a one-way system to eliminate reversing problems, it was resolved:

1. That Planning Manager be invited to the next Community Council meeting.
2. That the Clerk contact the owner of the fuel pumps to confirm ownership and also to find out if the former pumps have been decommissioned.
3. To request evidence of ownership by Orkney Islands Council of the Market Green

4. That should plans progress for the Market Green then a Sub Committee be set up to move the project forward.

B. Road Issues

1. Flooding on Ballarat Road

Members considered correspondence received from Democratic Services which advised that the planned works were now complete. However there had been some areas that the Operations team had been unable to gain access to. The update also noted that the area will be monitored and if further works were still required then this would be investigated and implemented as required. Nevertheless, it had been observed that the area had recently flooded again, and it was resolved:

A. To note the contents of the correspondence.

B. To highlight to Orkney Islands Council that the area had flooded again.

2. The Dochart, Sandwick

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services which informed members that the road defect at The Dochart was still in hand, it was:

Resolved to leave this item of business to the next meeting to determine if any improvements had been made.

3. Stoneyhill Road

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services which advised that the works had been identified and carried out as required to the satisfaction of the Council's Road Inspector, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

4. Speed Limits

Members considered correspondence received from Democratic Services which noted that there were no plans to review or reposition speed limit signs in Dounby.

Following discussion members agreed that the matter be brought up again with Orkney Islands Council until a satisfactory conclusion was reached. Councillors also noted their disappointment in the response given that there are other areas within Orkney with similar concerns. The meeting agreed that the main reason that the speed signs should be repositioned was on safety grounds given that the sign is within a built-up area of a new housing scheme on the Swartland end of the Village. Members agreed that the speed limit sign on the A986 heading from Dounby to Birsay would be better located nearer Saither Farm turn off and the sign on the B9057 Vetquoy road would be safer if positioned after the corner at Curcabreck, and it was resolved:

A. To note the contents of the correspondence.

B. To ask Orkney Islands Council to review the positioning of the speed limit signs on the A986 from Dounby to Birsay, on the Swartland Road end of the village and also on the B9057 at Curcabreck.

5. The Lodge, Harray

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services which advised that the Community Council needed to consider dropping this issue and accept that it was not a road safety issue, it was reiterated that the high trees were causing vehicular damage to tractors, trailers and lorries. Following discussion on how to resolve the issue, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk write to the owners of The Lodge to highlight the problem and to ask if they could cut back the tops of the trees to allow clearance by high sided vehicles.

6. Path at Quilco

Members considered correspondence from the Roads and Environmental Operations Manager which advised that lack of resources meant that the path at Quilco would not be attended to for some considerable time. However, the Operations Manager had asked for clarification by a plan highlighting the exact area concerned and to be reported through the Council's Customer Service helpdesk where Environmental Services would add it to the extensive list of cleaning issues that required to be programmed, and it was:

Resolved for the area to be identified on a plan for onward transmission to the Council's Customer Service help desk.

C. Overflowing Drain at the Harray Hall

Members noted that work had commenced on the drain, and it was:

Resolved that the matter be included on the agenda for the next meeting to determine what stage the works were at.

D. Bins at Skail Beach Car Park

Since the previous meeting Mrs Ritch had checked what bins were in situ at the Skail Beach Car Park and after hearing that there were two small bins at the toilets and three in the car park, it was:

Resolved to note that the number of bins appeared to be sufficient and that no further complaints had been received.

E. Seafarers UK - Merchant Navy Day

The meeting heard that the Red Ensign had been purchased with the cost shared with Birsay Community Council. The flag would be raised on September 2nd in readiness for Merchant Navy Day on September 3rd and would be flown for one week, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

F. Merkister to Decca Station Sign

Members heard that the sign at the Merkister Hotel had been repaired and positioned again by the Harray Young Farmers Club. At the suggestion of Mrs Grant the Clerk had also asked the Club to cut the grass from the Merkister to Howaback and also the trail from St Michael's Church which forms part of the St Magnus Way however this had not been done to date. The meeting heard that the Young Farmers had been undertaking jobs to raise funds for their Club and also the "Are Ewe Okay" mental health awareness campaign, and it was:

Resolved for a thank you letter to be sent by the Clerk to the Harray Young Farmers Club for their help in repairing the sign.

5. Correspondence

A. Concern over Speed Limits and Speeding, Sandwich

Members considered correspondence received from a Sandwich resident over their concerns at speeding traffic within a 50mph zone on the A967 at the Sandwich crossroads and also north of the junction. The meeting heard that Councillor Tullock had spoken to the Team Leader, Roads Support, who had agreed to observe the situation with pairs of rubber strips to be laid to monitor traffic speeds. Councillor Tullock advised that he had also asked Inspector Bendall for the Police to monitor the situation and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the concerns also be included in the business letter to Democratic Services.
3. That the matter also be raised with the Police for an update at the next meeting.

B. Police Scotland – Community Resilience Planning

Following consideration of correspondence from Police Scotland informing members of the Community Resilience Planning, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Dounby Tree Lighting Ceremony

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and it was resolved:

1. That the 2018 Dounby Tree Lighting event would be held on Friday, 7 December at 18:30, and that the Clerk would complete and return the Event Management Plan.
2. That the Clerk would order two sets of tree lights as per previous years.
3. That the Clerk would write to the Dounby Co-op to ask if once again they would be willing to help fund the cost of the tree.

D. Orkney Islands Council Community Learning and Development Service – Digital Champion Training

Following consideration of correspondence from the Council's Community Learning and Development Service inviting members to their Digital Champion Training to be held on 5 September 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Thank You Letters and Messages

After hearing from the Clerk that thank you letters had been received in respect of financial assistance provided by the Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received from Harray SWI, Sandwick SWI, THAW Orkney, Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, NHS Fundraising Group, Dounby Community School and the Youth Enterprise Scheme, Orkney.

6. Consultation – Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005: Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy

Following consideration of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for submission of comments was 5 September 2018, and that no comments had been received.

7. Finance

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 17 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £5,459.86.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2018/19 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 17 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,542.33.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 17 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £9,640.00

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 17 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,500.

E. Voluntary Action Orkney Annual Subscription

After hearing from the Clerk that an invoice and membership renewal had been received from Voluntary Action Orkney for the annual subscription of £15 it was:

Resolved that the invoice for £15 would be paid and the subscription renewed for 2018/2019.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Midsummer Meet, Lerwick

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of three swimmers from the area competing in the Midsummer Meet in Lerwick, it was resolved:

1. To award £50 to two of the three swimmers towards the cost of the event.
2. To award £30 to the third competitor as they had already been awarded £20 for another trip within the current financial year.

B. Dounby Community School – Primary 6 Class trip to Hoy

Following consideration of correspondence received from Dounby Community School applying for financial assistance towards the cost of the Primary 6 Class trip to Hoy in September 2018, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given to each pupil from the Harray and Sandwick area taking part in the trip subject to the condition that the children had not already received their maximum travel assistance for the current financial year.

C. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council – Bonfire and Fireworks Night

Following consideration of a letter received from the Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council asking for a financial contribution towards the cost the annual Bonfire and Fireworks Night in Kirkwall it was:

Resolved to grant assistance of £100 subject to approval through the Community Council Grant Scheme.

9. Publications

Publications from the Orkney Police and HAGS Playground Equipment were made available to members at the meeting.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Update of Headstone Inspection Process in Orkney Cemeteries

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, updating members on the current Headstone Inspection Process taking place in Orkney's cemeteries, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Accessible Transport Event, Pickaquoy Centre

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, updating members on the Accessible Transport event to be held on 20 September 2018 at the Pickaquoy Centre, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Armistice Day 2018

Following discussion on the 2018 Armistice Day it was noted that the Clerk orders the poppy wreaths for each area with the Church Minister deciding who lays the wreaths. Members also remarked that the public would like to see Councillors present during the Armistice Day services wherever possible, and it was resolved:

1. To note the contents of the discussion.
2. For Councillor Johnston to remind all Councillors to attend service and wreath laying ceremonies wherever possible.

D. Resignation of Clerk

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer informed the meeting that the current Clerk would be standing down from her post given her Community Council work load, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report and that members thanked her for all the work she had put in as Clerk to the Community Council.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved to note the dates of the next meetings would be Wednesday, 7 November 2018 and Wednesday 30 January 2019 to be held in the Dounby Community Centre commencing at 19:00 (venue to be confirmed).

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting concluded at 20:34.