

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in the St Andrews Primary School on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs L McAdie, Mrs L Anderson, Mrs G Barnby, Mr W Bruce, Mr L Flett and Mr I Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Sankey.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr D Alexander, and Councillors N Craigie and A Drever.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 was approved, being proposed by Mr W Bruce and seconded by Mr L Flett.

3. Matters Arising

A. East Mainland Tourist Leaflets (EMTL)

The Chair issued members with a draft proof of the East Mainland Tourist Leaflet (EMTL) which included blank example boxes for business adverts. Expressions of interest from businesses had already been received with costs for this still to be finalised.

Discussion took place regarding the style of publication and the Chair advised that Visit Orkney had in the past confirmed the newest version of the brochure was favoured by members of the public and was very similar to the West Mainland leaflets. The Chair also advised that if an additional leaflet for businesses was required then this would be at an additional cost, which the Clerk advised would be offset by the revenue generated from the business advertisement.

The Chair advised that a meeting of the sub-committee had not taken place for some considerable time, however she would like to suggest to members and the sub-committee that, in the meantime and for the 2020 tourist season, that ten thousand copies of the previous EMTL were reprinted and invoiced before 31 March 2020, as Visit Orkney required more copies.

Councillor S Sankey stressed the importance of ensuring all the relevant information was included and accurate, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the EMTL sub-committee would have to reconsider business advertising, including the size and production cost accordingly.
2. That members approved the reprint of ten thousand copies of the existing EMTL.
3. That the Holm, and South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Councils, and the EMTL sub-committee should consider printing ten thousand copies of the existing EMTL for the 2020 tourist season.
4. That until print costs of a new EMTL were known, no change to the balance of grant available from the St Andrews and Deerness Community Council Grant Scheme (CCGS) was required.
5. That a proof of the new EMTL was required to be made available to all three Community Councils by 25 August 2020, with the final draft completed by December 2020.

6. That the current version of the EMTL required to be proof-read by the EMTL sub-committee and updated.

B. 2020 One-Year Grass Cutting Contract

Following consideration by members of a draft grass cutting contract including the description of work, general conditions and obligations, it was:

Resolved:

1. That members approved a one-year grass cutting contract.
2. That the Clerk would update the draft accordingly and that the closing date for receipt of tenders was 9 April 2020.
3. That the Clerk would advertise the grass cutting contract in local outlets, on the Community Council website and in the "Orcadian" newspaper for one week only.
4. That the Clerk would check with Democratic Services that the advertisement cost was paid from the Council's kirkyard budget.

C. 2020 Bag the Bruck Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been previously circulated, advising that the 2020 Bag the Bruck event would take place from 30 March to 7 April 2020, the Chair asked members if they wished to apply for Community Council Grant Scheme (CCGS) funding towards this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would apply for the £300 grant available from the CCGS.
2. That the Clerk would advertise the 2020 Bag the Bruck scheme in local outlets and on the Community Council website.

D. 2020 Insurance Costs

Following consideration and discussion of the 2020 insurance costs, it was:

Resolved that an allocation of £100 be made from the CCGS and that the Clerk would submit the relevant application.

E. St Andrews Primary School (SAPS)

Following consideration of correspondence from SAPS advising that they had not participated in the 2019 Bag the Bruck scheme, and therefore would not be claiming the grant allocated accordingly, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Deerness Community Party (DCP)

Following consideration of correspondence received from DCP advising that they no longer wished to proceed with a funding application, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Gravestone Inspections and Remedial Works

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding gravestone inspections and remedial works, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Road Visibility issues at Tankerness Junction above the Airport

Following consideration of correspondence received from a member of the public, regarding road signs causing visibility issues at the Tankerness Junction above the airport, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would respond on behalf of members thanking them for their concern, advising that this was being dealt with by OIC, and that any further concern regarding this issue should be raised with OIC directly.

I. Recurring Flooding at Toab/Holm Junction, Toab

Members considered correspondence received from Mrs G Barnby advising that she had again reported the serious flooding at the Toab/Holm Junction to OIC Customer Services. It was noted by many members that this was a recurring dangerous issue, that remedial works were required and that a professional inspection of the drainage and capacity of the manhole was required. Mrs G Barnby further advised that Councillor N Craigie had also reported this OIC and she suggested that flood signs would assist with awareness in the meantime, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor S Sankey would investigate progress with Councillor N Craigie and provide an update to the Clerk.
2. That any member witnessing the flooding should report this to Customer Services, OIC and provide photographic evidence if possible.

J. Covenanter's Memorial Footpath, Deerness

Mrs L Anderson advised members that the Covenanter's memorial footpath in Deerness was flooded and the steps eroded on the shore footpath, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor S Sankey would report this to the Core Paths Team, OIC.

4. Consultation Documents

A. Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

Following consideration of the consultation document, Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, and an invitation to an open information session on this consultation, it was:

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

B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan consultation document, which required a response by 3 April 2020, the Clerk advised that she had received one response from the Chair, and it was:

Resolved that the corporate response to the consultation would be as per the Chair's comment.

5. Correspondence

A. VE Day 75

Following consideration of correspondence received regarding the celebrations arranged to mark VE Day 75, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Peedie Breeks Nursery

Following consideration of correspondence received from a concerned member of the public, regarding the current situation with Peedie Breeks Nursery, Councillor S Sankey provided members with an update from an OIC perspective, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would reply to the member of the public advising that members sympathised with their predicament and support the provision of more childcare in Orkney.

Mrs L Anderson left the meeting at this point.

C. Preparation of the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the preparation of the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Questionnaire regarding Consultations in Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from a student at Heriot Watt University, requesting that members complete a survey regarding consultations in Orkney, it was:

Resolved that some members had submitted their individual responses to this already.

E. Orkney Marine Environment Project (OMEP) Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting members to complete the OMEP survey, it was:

Resolved that some members had submitted their individual responses to this already.

F. Highlands and Islands Air Traffic Management Strategy

Members considered correspondence received from the General Manager, Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), regarding the engagement session on the Highlands and Islands Air Management Strategy, and following further discussion between members and Councillor S Sankey, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Orkney Native Wildlife Project (ONWP)

Councillor S Sankey declared an interest in this item and did not participate in the discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Engagement Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project, requesting to attend a meeting to provide a short update on the project, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to ONWP inviting them to attend the 14 April 2020 meeting.

H. Women's Aid Orkney (WAO)

Following consideration of correspondence from WAO requesting to attend a meeting to provide a talk on WAO, the new Domestic Abuse Act and domestic abuse within Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Westray Community Council

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, on behalf of Westray Community Council, requesting that a letter of complaint be sent to Vodafone and o2 regarding the recent lack of mobile signal in Orkney, it was:

Resolved that members were not aware of any issues with mobile phone signal and to note the information.

J. Scotland's Beach Awards 2020

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting Community Council's to submit an entry to Scotland's Beach Awards, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

K. Switched on Towns and Cities Feasibility Study Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting members to complete the Switched-on Towns and Cities Feasibility Study Survey by 14 March 2020, it was:

Resolved that to date only one member had submitted a response to this survey.

L. Thank You Letters

Following consideration of thank you letters received from a local father, Deerness Community Centre Association, Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, and 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 28 January 2020 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £7,125.44.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2019/2020 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 28 January 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,110.23.

C. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 28 January 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £8,419.34.

7. Financial Requests

A. St Andrews Primary School

Following consideration of correspondence received from St Andrews Primary School, requesting travel assistance for sixteen pupils towards a trip to Lagganlia, the Clerk advised that under the current travel assistance grant policy, one Toab schoolboy had previously received the maximum grant available, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To grant fifteen pupils £30 travel assistance each, totalling £450.
2. That the Clerk was to advise St Andrews School that one schoolboy had previously received the maximum travel grant available and therefore no assistance would be available towards his travel.

B. Toab Mother

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Toab mother, requesting travel assistance towards her daughter's participation in five different events in the UK, it was:

Resolved that, under the current travel assistance policy and previous grants allocated, members could only approve travel assistance of £30 per event for four of the events, totalling £120.00.

C. Friends of St Ninians (FOSN)

Following consideration of correspondence received from FOSN, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of a geophysical survey of Newark archaeological site and cemetery in Deerness, it was:

Resolved to grant £200 to FOSN towards the geophysical survey, subject to approval from the CCGS.

D. Tankerness Mother – Badminton Competitions

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Tankerness mother, requesting travel assistance towards her daughter's participation in the under-15 badminton competition in Shetland and her son and daughter's participation in the Scottish Schools Badminton Union (SSBU) Secondary competition in Perth, it was:

Resolved to grant the Tankerness mother £30 travel assistance towards her son's badminton competition and £60 travel assistance for her daughter's two badminton competitions.

E. Deerness SWI

Following consideration of correspondence received from Deerness SWI, requesting travel assistance for four members participation in the Variations on a Theme competition in Cupar, Fife, it was:

Resolved to grant Deerness SWI £30 travel assistance for each of the four members, totalling £120.

F. East Mainland Agricultural Society (EMAS)

Mr L Flett declared an interest in this item and was not present during the discussion thereof.

Members considered correspondence received from EMAS, regarding a financial application for the fifty per cent discounted planning application fee if applied for in the name of this Community Council, and also grant assistance for the remaining fifty per cent planning application fee for a proposed new shed. Following some discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That members agreed EMAS could apply for permission in their name in order to receive the discounted planning fee.
2. That approval for any grant funding towards the fifty per cent balance remaining of the planning fee was not awarded.

G. Toab Brothers

Following consideration of correspondence received from two Toab brothers, requesting travel assistance towards three squash competitions each, it was:

Resolved:

1. That one application each was retrospective and therefore no travel grant could be paid for this competition.
2. To grant £30 travel assistance each towards their participation in the two squash competitions, totalling £120.

8. Publications

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

- Climate Challenge Fund – Newsletters.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletters.
- The Convenor, OIC – Electronic Christmas Card.
- Scottish Government – Planning and Building Newsletters.
- Glasdon – Leaflets.
- Broxap – Catalogue.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Live List

Following consideration of the live list, it was noted as follows:

1. That Mr W Bruce advised that he had monitored the Deerness Kirkyard with regards to flooding and it would appear that the OIC remedial works were effective, and it was:

Resolved that he would continue to monitor this until summer 2020.

2. Members discussed the ongoing subsidence issue on the Churchyard Road and agreed that this represented a serious danger to road users and was in need of immediate repair, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would once again write to Democratic Services to highlight the issue.

3. Mrs G Barnby advised that for a trial period, the morning pick-up for secondary KGS pupils in Toab was now one stop at St Andrews Primary School. She further advised that it was working well and that one parent had sent her a message of thanks, and it was:

Resolved that this item could now be removed from the live list.

4. In the absence of Mr D Alexander, members briefly discussed the work required on unstable gravestones, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Mr D Alexander for an update on works and if completed, this should then be removed from the live list.

B. Potholes in Deerness

Members were advised of various large potholes in need of repair in Deerness from Lighthouse Corner to Stove, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would report this to Democratic Services.

C. Potholes in Tankerness

Members were advised of various large potholes in need of repair on the Scarpigar Road in Tankerness, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would report this to Democratic Services.

D. Damage to Verges by Stagecoach Buses

Members discussed the damage sustained to various verges, off-lets and ditches by Stagecoach Buses on the Scarpigar Corner Junction, Rerwick Junction, Corner at Nearhouse Road End/Kenmore and Sandesquoy Junction, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to Democratic Services to voice their concerns on this issue.

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, 14 April 2020 in the St Andrews Primary School, commencing at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:55.