

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 15 May 2023 at 19:00

Present:

Moyra Gordon, Barbara J M Graham, Cathleen A Hourie, David W Hughes, Rikki A Lidderdale, Chris J F Matthews, John R Mowat, Tom Rendall and Lynne Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer (via Microsoft Teams).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Roddy Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection, Orkney Islands Council.
- Laura Bruce, Kirkwall BID Manager (for Items 1 to 6).
- Chris Webb, Head of Environment, Scottish Sea Farms (for Items 1 to 6).
- 1 member of the local press.

Chair:

- Hazel Flett, Clerk (for Items 1 and 2).
- Tom Rendall (for Items 3 to 17).

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1. Apologies

The Clerk intimated that Christine Marcus had resigned from the Community Council and that apologies for absence had been received from Robert F Leslie and Councillor Sandy G Cowie.

2. Appointment of Chair

The Clerk advised of the options available for the appointment of Chair, and it was:

Resolved that Tom Rendall be reappointed Chair of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

Tom Rendall took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

Following a secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Robert Leslie – 4 votes.
- Chris Matthews – 4 votes.
- Lynne Spence – 1 vote.

Lynne Spence was eliminated from the ballot.

Following a further secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Robert Leslie – 5 votes.
- Chris Matthews – 4 votes, it was:

Resolved that Robert Leslie be appointed Vice Chair of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, subject to confirmation.

4. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that the Clerk should be reappointed as the Planning Representative for Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

5. Appointments to Finance Sub-committee

Resolved that the following members be appointed to the Finance Sub-committee:

- Chair – Tom Rendall.
- Vice Chair – Robert Leslie (subject to confirmation).
- Barbara Graham.
- Rikki Lidderdale.

6. Presentations

A. Scottish Sea Farms

After hearing a presentation from Chris Webb on Scottish Sea Farms' proposal to achieve Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Certification for three sites operating from Scapa and St Margaret's Hope, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

B. Kirkwall BID

After hearing a presentation from Laura Bruce regarding Kirkwall BID's recent rebalot process, which resulted in a higher number of Yes votes, appointment of a new Chair, following Duncan MacLean stepping down after a number of years, as well as some projects being considered for the next five-year term of the BID, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

The Head of Environment, SSF and the Kirkwall BID Manager left the meeting at this point.

7. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 13 March 2023 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by Chris Matthews.

8. Matters Arising

A. Seatter Bridleway

The Clerk advised that Robert Leslie had not yet had an opportunity to remove the broken fencing along the Seatter bridleway, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

B. Door in St Olaf's Wynd

Rikki Lidderdale advised that the planning application had been submitted but was not yet validated as further information was required and that he would now approach Scottish Sea Farms for potential funding, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

C. The Big Tree – QR Code

Provision of a QR code on the Big Tree had been discussed during the presentation by the Kirkwall BID Manager at item 6B above, where it was noted that the BID

would host a webpage for the next five years, and further information was awaited from the Planning section of Orkney Islands Council regarding the plaque to be attached to the support in the Big Tree.

D. Road to Scapa Pier – Landslip

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Orkney Islands Council requesting that two overhanging areas on the road leading out to Scapa Pier be assessed as a matter of urgency following a recent landslip, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

E. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction

Cathleen Hourie reported that Clive Chaddock, together with individuals undertaking community justice work, had removed some of the ivy from the shrub bed and would submit further proposals for more substantial works to the Community Council in due course, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

F. Benches

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Orkney Islands Council to the request for further information regarding benches, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should continue to seek the requested information from Orkney Islands Council.

G. VAO National Lottery Community Fund – Funding Information Event

Barbara Graham reported that it was unlikely that provision of benches or repairs to the St Olaf door would be eligible for assistance from the National Lottery Community Fund, although the door might be eligible for assistance from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and she undertook to pass on contact details to Rikki Lidderdale, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

H. Funding for Coronation Events

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that the bid for lottery funding for Coronation Events was unsuccessful, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

9. Correspondence

A. EMEC – Falls of Warness Tidal Site

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland advising that variation of the section 36 consent proposed in the application made on 22 August 2022 on behalf of EMEC had been granted by the Scottish Ministers, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Bag the Bruck 2023

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding Bag the Bruck, organised by Greener Orkney to take place between 1 and 23 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, following approval via email, the Clerk had applied to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £300, to be split equally between any groups who applied prior to undertaking any beach/area clean.
2. To note that two applications had been received, from the Rotary Club and the 1st Kirkwall Company Boys' Brigade, both of whom had subsequently submitted claims which had been paid and extended their thanks to the Community Council for the assistance provided.

C. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-Application Consultation Notice

Following consideration of correspondence from West of Orkney Windfarm formally notifying of Offshore Wind Power Limited's intention to submit applications for marine licences from Marine Scotland for construction of the offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure, including details of pre-application consultation events, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that events would be held in Orkney at the Kiln Corner offices, Kirkwall; Sandwick Community Hall; the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall; and the Robert Rendall Building, Stromness, between 23 and 25 May 2023.

D. Coronation Events

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant, Elaine Grieve, regarding events during the weekend of the Coronation of His Majesty the King, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Notice of Works to Memorials

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that remedial works to three memorials at St Olaf's Cemetery and five memorials at St Magnus Cathedral, which were deemed high hazards during last year's inspections, would be carried out at the end of April/early May, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Orkney Islands Marine Region – Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council comprising PDF slides presented at a recent seminar for elected members on the new Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance, which was due to undergo public consultation later in the summer, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Third Sector Cost of Living Crisis Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Voluntary Action Orkney advising of the second tranche of the Third Sector Cost of Living Crisis Fund, for which applications required to be submitted by 28 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Playpark Equipment – Application for Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from a member of the public requesting the Community Council submit an application for assistance from a new fund established by Orkney Islands Council, entitled the Play Park Renewal Fund, in respect of the playpark at Soulisquoy behind Glaitness School, together with guidance notes in respect of the Play Park Renewal Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair and the Clerk should seek further clarification on the new scheme and that Garry Burton be invited to the next meeting.

I. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising of the annual grants to community councils for 2023/24, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the annual grant to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council for financial year 2023/2024 was £6,715.40.
2. To note that the capping limit for the Community Council Grant Scheme for financial year 2023/2024 was £3,726.

J. White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding the White Ribbon Campaign, a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair of the White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group be invited to give a presentation to the Community Council.

K. Health and Care Representative

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer requesting nominations for a health and care representative, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Tom Rendall should be appointed as the health and care representative for Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

L. Verge Maintenance Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer attaching Orkney Islands Council's feedback to responses from community councils on the Verge Maintenance Plan consultation, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the responses in respect of comments made by the Community Council, including that ragwort on the Old Finstown Road had been added to the list of injurious weeds in Schedule B to be treated this year which might not be removal by hand but in accordance with appropriate legislation, which might include spraying.

M. New Kirkwall Care Home

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council requesting the Community Council make arrangements for the naming of the new Kirkwall care home, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Glaitness School and Papdale Primary School requesting that each school submit up to five potential names, for consideration at the next meeting.

Councillor Steven Heddle left the meeting at this point.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 3 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 3 May 2023 of £17,204.47.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/23 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £3,796.72 had been approved, of which £3,796.72 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,387.97.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 3 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,163.46.

D. Seed Corn Funding

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 3 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.

11. Financial Requests

A. Applications approved via email since last meeting

Following consideration of correspondence requesting financial assistance, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the following applications for financial assistance had been approved, via email, since the last meeting:

- Papdale Primary School – P7 Outdoor Education Experience 2023 – grant of £375.
- Orkney Gymnastic Club (two separate individuals) – North District Competition, Inverness, 19 March 2023 – grant of £30 to each individual.
- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Inverness Graded Meet – 1 April 2023 – seven swimmers from the Kirkwall and St Ola area – grant of £30 for each individual swimmer noting that only six swimmers attended the event and the grant claimed was £180.

B. Move Orkney

Following consideration of an application from S Campbell requesting financial assistance towards four dancers competing with Move Orkney at the Scottish Championship Dance Weekend held in Glasgow in May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded to each of the participants, subject to confirmation of participation in the competition.

C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards two swimmers participating in the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships held at the Aberdeen Sports Village between 12 and 16 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded to each of the participants, subject to confirmation of participation in the competition.

D. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards two swimmers participating in the University of Aberdeen Open Age Group meet held at the Aberdeen Sports Village between 28 and 30 April 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded to each of the participants, subject to confirmation of participation in the competition.

E. SAYFC International Travel – Uncover India

Following consideration of correspondence from N Work requesting financial assistance towards a tour entitled Uncover India – High Deserts and Markets Tour, organised by the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Club, to take place between 22 July and 4 August 2023, copies of which had been circulated, David Hughes, seconded by Cathleen Hourie, moved that a grant of £40 be provided.

Barbara Graham, seconded by Chris Matthews, moved an amendment that no assistance be provided.

On a vote being taken 6 members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion and it was:

Resolved that no assistance be provided.

F. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards seven swimmers participating in the Thurso Mini Meet on 6 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, although policy permitted a grant of £30 be awarded to each of the participants, subject to confirmation of participation in the competition, in light of previous applications and awards made to Orkney Amateur Swimming Club in the current financial year, assistance be limited to £75, taking the total allocated in this financial year to the policy limit of £375.

G. Athletics and Gymnastics

The Clerk had received correspondence from T Russell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the North District Athletics championships on 12 and 13 May, and the summer Scottish floor and vault gymnastics competition in Perth on 10 and 11 June 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded in respect of participation in each event, subject to confirmation of participation.

Councillor John Ross Scott left the meeting at this point.

12. Consultation – Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the annual consultation on the winter service plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should submit a response to the consultation seeking clarification on the status of Blackhill Road, which was currently prioritised as a Route 2S, and enquiring whether car parks and pavements within schemes could be treated with salt/grit when capacity became available.

Councillor David Dawson left the meeting during discussion of this item.

13. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Papdale East Playpark – Opening Event

Members of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council had been invited to the opening of the Papdale East Play held on Friday, 21 April 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that a number of members had attended the opening event.

B. Project Neptune Consultation Meetings

The Chair of the Independent Ferries Community Board, Angus Campbell, had arranged drop-in sessions at the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on 3 May 2023 to listen to people's views on Project Neptune, a consultancy commissioned by the Scottish Government to consider the best arrangements for future provision of ferry services, and it was:

Resolved to note that no representative from the Community Council had attended the drop-in sessions.

14. Publications

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- Kirkwall BID – March and Spring 2023 Newsletters.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 17, 25 and 31 March, 21 and 28 April and 5 and 12 May 2023.
- Alistair Carmichael MP – The Week in Parliament – 19 and 31 March, 22 April and 13 May 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – March and April 2023.
- SEPA Updates – 28 March and 3 May 2023.
- VAO – Newsletters – March and April 2023.
- Paths for All – eNews – March and April 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – March and April 2023 Newsletters.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Scotland's Towns Bulletin – April 2023.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 3 July 2023, commencing at 19:00.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.