

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams on Wednesday, 28 August at 19:30

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr C Kirkness, Mr G Brown, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater and Mrs K Ritch.

In Attendance:

- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor D Tulloch.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs H Keveren, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms H Woodsford-Dean and Mr G Sinclair.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 22 May 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr C Kirkness and seconded by Mrs K Ritch.

3. Matters Arising

A. Dounby School – Play Park Fund

A representative from the Play Park Fund had been invited along to the meeting to give a talk on the potential funding required however, was unable to attend the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to invite a representative to attend the next meeting in November.

B. Orkney Quiet Routes/Local Place Plan

Following consideration of maps and correspondence, which had been distributed, the Chair advised that a joint meeting was to be held with Birsay and Harray and Sandwick Community Councils and relevant Orkney Islands Council officers, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That potential dates of 23 or 24 September be set for a joint meeting to be held in the Milestone Community Church.
2. That the Clerk would liaise with Birsay Community Council to ascertain which date suited best.

C. Dog Waste Signs

The Chair reported that he had collected and distributed several of the signs around the village and that members of the community had thanked the Community Council for taking appropriate action, and it was:

Resolved to note the information above.

D. Christmas Lights

The Chair advised that the new Christmas lights which had been ordered were yet to arrive and that five of the 9 ft lights, which were redundant, had been accepted by organisations in the community. He also suggested that it would be good to obtain quote for putting up and taking down the lights in the village for Christmas 2024, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To enquire with Birsay Hall if they would like one of the redundant lights.

2. That a quote for the work required in putting up and taking down the lights should be sourced.

E. Grit Bin – Sandwich

Members considered an email from the Service Manager (Roads and Grounds) confirming that as Sandwich Hall was on a P2 route with no known issues at that location a bin would not normally be provided. Members felt that this was unsatisfactory as it was a public car park, like the one at the Harray Hall, and requested that this was investigated further, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request via business letter that the members dis-satisfaction be relayed to the Service Manager.
2. To ask what the cost of supplying a grit bin and the cost of supplying grit throughout the winter would be.

F. Bus Parking – Dounby School

The Chair advised members that Stagecoach had responded stating that they had permission from Orkney Islands Council to park their bus in the Dounby School Car Park, and it was:

Resolved to the note the information above.

G. 20mph Speed Limit Flashing Light - Dounby

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that there had been various issues with the lights which were to be checked and repaired, if possible, and it was.

Resolved to note the information above.

H. Buses on Linday Road

An enquiry had been submitted to the relevant department regarding buses using the road up past Linday on a regular basis, and it was:

Resolved that a response was awaited.

I. Speed Check Lights – ‘Smiley Face’

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer reported that there had been faults with some of the ‘Smiley Face’ lights which was delaying the rotation off them and at this stage it was difficult to give a timescale for when they would be in Dounby. It was felt that as Dounby was on the main road through the West Mainland, consideration should be given to the possibility of having them permanently sited, similar to Finstown. Members noted that this may be part of discussions during the Local Place Plan meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the update.

2. That discussion should be had regarding the permanent siting of Speed Check Lights in Dounby at the joint meeting with Birsay Community Council.

J. Recycling Centre – Dounby

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer reported that staff had been out and greased and carried out checks on all the doors on the recycling bins to ensure they were operating. It was confirmed that the site was not large enough to operate an entry and exit system. Members advised that there was a large pothole at the entrance to the recycling centre which required to be fixed, and it was:

Resolved to request via business letter if the pothole at the entrance could be repaired.

4. Correspondence

A. Annual Grants 2024/2025

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising members of the allocations of grants for each Community Council for the coming financial year, it was:

Resolved to note that the annual grant for Harray and Sandwick Community Council was £4,454.15.

B. Digital Voice Roadshow

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding drop-in sessions hosted by BT relating to the change from analogue to digital phone services that was scheduled for completion in January 2027, to be held at the Orkney Library on 23 and 24 July 2024, copies of which had been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. 2024 SURF awards

Following consideration of correspondence from SURF Scotland Regeneration Forum, advising that that the 2024 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration had been launched at a special online event, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. NS&I CC Attendance

Members consider correspondence which had been received from the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, thanking members of the Community Council for the valuable work they do for the community and advising that a member from Neighbourhood Services would no longer be in attendance at every Community Council meeting. They would, however, ensure that they were present for at least one meeting every year. Members felt their input was beneficial and asked if it may be possible to alter the agenda so that they could attend for the first part only of a meeting, and it was:

Resolved to advise via business letter that it would be beneficial if a member of the NS&I team could attend for the first part of each meeting.

E. Request by letter to visit Cruaday Quarry

A request had been received and discussed via email asking if permission would be given to taking a group of geologists to Cruaday Quarry, and it was:

Resolved to advise that the property was not in the ownership of Harray and Sandwick Community Council.

F. Orkney Towns Fund Community Workshop

Following consideration of correspondence, which had been emailed previously, advising of workshops being held in July regarding the Orkney Towns Fund, it was:

Resolved that the date had already passed.

G. SSEN - £3m Community Fund

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) inviting applications for its new Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund. The deadline for the funding this year was imminent so it was felt that this may be something that could be looked into further for another year, and it was:

Resolved to forward the correspondence to Dounby School Parent Group for their attention.

H. Thank you letters

Members were advised that letters of thanks had been received from Birsay Drama Group and E Wood for the contributions awarded to them, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

5. Consultations

A. Community Views Sought for Study on Placemaking for Regenerative Tourism

Following consideration of correspondence C Hartley who was looking for residents of Orkney's West Mainland electoral ward aged 18 years or over to complete a short anonymous survey as part of a research project, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the deadline for comments had passed.

B. Sustainable Development Goals action and Scottish Community Councils

Following consideration of correspondence from Scotland's International Development Alliance team a survey, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

C. 20mph Engagement with Community Councils

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that the Scottish Government had made a commitment to implement 20mph speed limits on all appropriate roads within Scotland by the end of 2025 and as part of this, all Scottish Local Authorities had to assess the road networks against certain criteria to establish if 20mph speed limits would be appropriate. Members were invited to provide feedback on the proposed plans, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Water Safety Questionnaire

Following consideration of correspondence from the Safety and Resilience Officer, Orkney Islands Council, regarding the development of a water safety policy and providing a link to their water safety questionnaire, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline had passed.

E. Survey Request from Helen Nicholson

Following consideration of correspondence from H Nicholson regarding her survey on Scottish Resilience with a more specific look into Community Preparedness within Scottish Local Authorities, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline had passed.

F. Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore Wind Energy – ICIA

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Federation regarding a workshop on the Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind energy, it was:

Resolved to note that the date of the workshop had passed.

G. Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance, it was

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and the deadline of 25 October 2024.

H. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan Consultation Draft and supporting assessments, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and the deadline of 25 October 2024.

I. National Care Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Scottish Government's National Care Services short survey for completion, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. Annual Accounts

Following consideration of the Annual Accounts for Harray and Sandwick Community Council for financial year ending 31 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the accounts.

B. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 19 August 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,640.76.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 19 August 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining for approval in the main and additional capping limits were £2816.35 and £765.00, respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 19 August 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £5,000.

7. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Letter of Support/Funding – Orkney West Mainland Agricultural Society

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Orkney West Mainland Agricultural Society (OWMAS) requesting a letter of support and finance assistance for a feasibility study into the development and use of the show park and pavilion and what could be done to increase its usage, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, due to the tight timescale, a letter of support had already been submitted.

2. To invite a representative of the group along to both the Local Plan Meeting in September and also the next meeting in November to allow them to discuss their plans in more detail.

B. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council – Bonfire and Fireworks

Following consideration of correspondence received from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council requesting assistance towards the Annual Bonfire and Fireworks 2024, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £100 and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.

8. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications had been forwarded to members:

- VAO – Newsletter – May, June and July 2024.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – June and July 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – June 2024.
- Review of OLDP Newsletter – June 2024.
- ORSAS Open Day Information.
- OHAL Committee Recruitment Event – 3 July 2024.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Lochside Viewpoint – Stoneyhill Road

Members were advised by the chair that the benches at the Lochside Viewpoint, on the Stoneyhill Road, were broken and unsafe. He also advised that Orkney Islands Council funded the viewpoint initially and continue to maintain the road and empty the bin however, they would not replace the benches. Members felt that benches would be beneficial at a number of spots around the community so funding options should be investigated along with quotes for recycled benches, which would last longer than wooden benches. It was also suggested that individuals/businesses may wish to contribute to or sponsor benches, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would look for possible funding options.
2. That the Clerk should get quotes for recycled benches.
3. That the possibility of sponsorship from individuals or businesses for benches should be considered.

B. Speed Limits on A986 Harray to Dounby

Following consideration of correspondence from a resident living on the A986 expressing their concerns about the speed motorists drive along the road near the Merkister junction. Councillor King had been in contact with the resident advising that

at a site visit was to be undertaken in the coming weeks and in the meantime traffic counters would be put out as soon as possible, and it was:

Resolved to await the traffic counter results.

C. Dounby Tree Lighting

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Dounby Tree Lighting would be held on 6 December 2024.
2. That, due to the development work in progress at the Market Green, the CC should seek permission for the crowd to gather in the Smiddybrae car park rather than arrange for Road closures.
3. That a tree should be ordered from W Shearer.
4. That selection boxes for all the pupils in the Dounby School and Nursery should be purchased.
5. That all costs would be shared with Birsay Community Council on a two thirds and one third basis.
6. That Community Council Grant Scheme should be applied for on all eligible costs.

D. St Peters Kirk/Skaill Road

Members were informed by the Chair that a complaint had been raised from a member of the public that the road leading from the St Peters Kirk carpark to the beach was full of potholes. This had been raised previously and as the road was privately owned it would not be the responsibility of Orkney Islands Council.

Members were also informed that a complaint had been raised about the number of camper vans using the car park across from the toilets at Skaill Beach. Again, as this was privately owned it was not an issue for the Community Council.

The Chair also advised that the works already agreed to be carried out at St Peters Kirk car park will be done as soon as possible, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would advise the members of the public that both issues were relating to private property.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesdays 13 November 2024 and 29 January 2025, commencing at 19:30 in Milestone Community Church.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:10.