

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church, Dounby on Wednesday, 4 March 2020

Present:

Mr G Brown, Mr I Flett, Mrs E Grant, Mr D Hamilton and Mr C Kirkness.

In Attendance:

- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mr A Stanger, Interim Clerk/Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms S Ranscombe, Community Engagement Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project (Item 2 only).
- Mrs S Shearer, Planning Manager, Orkney Islands Council (Item 3 only).
- Mr M Farquharson, Assistant Planner, Orkney Islands Council (Item 3 only).
- Mr D Scarth, Birsay Community Council (Item 3 only).
- Mr K Spence, Birsay Community Council (Item 3 only).
- Mr S Spence, Birsay Community Council (Item 3 only).

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr K Groundwater, Mrs K Ritch and Mr G Sinclair and Councillors H Johnston and R King.

2. Orkney Native Wildlife Project (ONWP)

Members were provided with an update from the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) on the Stoat Eradication Project. Members were advised that year one of the project has now passed, with traps having been deployed in various parts of Orkney. The CEO also handed out leaflets to members and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Community Engagement Officer of ONWP left the meeting at this point with thanks from the Chair.

3. Draft Plan for Dounby

The Planning Manager, Assistant Planner, and three members of Birsay Community Council joined the meeting at this point.

Members were provided with a detailed update from the Planning Manager on the progress made regarding the Draft Plan for Dounby and advised that it would be best for a 'Dounby Committee' to be formed, with representation from all the relevant groups. Members heard that the Draft Plan, which would be subject to sourcing the appropriate funding, had been split into the following four projects:

Getting Around:

- Improve walking and cycling.
- Improve parking opportunities.
- Reduce vehicle speeds.

Public Spaces:

- Key spaces.
- Market Green.
- Via Moss.

Forward Planning:

- Housing.
- Commercial and service centre.
- Co-op and deliveries.

Tourism:

- Camping and caravan sites.

- Cycling.
- Cruise ships.

Members then discussed the next steps with the Planning Manager, who confirmed that the formal Draft Plan should be available in the early Summer, and it was resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That in due course, a formal consultation including a public meeting would be held to display the proposals, and to decide how best to take the project forward.

The Planning Manager, Assistant Planner, and the three members from Birsay Community Council left the meeting with thanks from the Chair.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the general meeting held on 15 January 2020 was approved by members, being proposed by Mr C Kirkness and seconded by Mr G Brown, with the following minor amendment:

Item 11D. 'Kirkwall City Pipe Band' should read 'Kirkwall Town Band'.

5. Matters Arising

A. Speed Limits around Dounby

Following the presentation by the Planning Manager in Item 3, members agreed that this item was to be incorporated into the Draft Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Potholes and Resurfacing

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, confirming that there were no plans to resurface on the roads requested but that any defects had been added to programmed works, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That members were to encourage individuals to report any roads issues direct to OIC.

C. Kirk Car Park

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, confirming that OIC were unable to provide a grit bin or treat the car park, members discussed the current provisions at the Harray Hall, and it was resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That the Interim Clerk was to ask OIC for clarification as to why the Harray Hall has been provided with a grit bin in the past.

D. Grimeston Road - Visibility

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, confirming that the visibility issue was being addressed by Roads, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tender 2020

The Chair opened several tenders received for the Grass Cutting Contract for 2020, and following consideration and discussion by members, it was:

Resolved:

A. That a contract for each Kirkyard was awarded to three different contractors.

B. That the Interim Clerk was to write to all the tenderers confirming the outcome of each.

7. Correspondence

A. Orkney Disability Forum visit request

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Disability Forum, requesting to attend a meeting in the near future, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to invite Orkney Disability Forum to the next meeting on 27 May 2020.

B. Peedie Breeks Concerns

Following consideration of correspondence received from a concerned parent, regarding the possible closure of Peedie Breeks and the ongoing provision of childcare in the County, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Orkney Regional Marine Plan

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

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Orkney Marine Environment Project

Following consideration of correspondence received from OIC, regarding a survey request by the Orkney Marine Environment Project, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Westray Community Council – Mobile Signal Complaint

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, on behalf of Westray Community Council, requesting support for their complaint against Vodaphone and O2 for poor mobile signals recently, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to write to Vodaphone and o2 supporting Westray Community Council.

F. Bag the Bruck 2020

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, regarding the Bag the Bruck arrangements for 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Women’s Aid Orkney – Domestic Abuse Talks

Following consideration of correspondence received from Women’s Aid Orkney, requesting to attend a meeting to discuss the new Domestic Abuse Act, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to invite Women’s Aid to the meeting due to be held in August 2020.

H. West Mainland Tourist Brochure 2020 - Update

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Evie and Rendall Clerk, on behalf of the West Mainland Tourist Brochure Sub Committee, providing an update on the progress of the 2020 Brochure, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Benbecula Community Council – HIAL ATMS Petition

Following consideration of correspondence received from Benbecula Community Council, regarding a petition against the changes proposed by Highlands and Islands Airports, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. St Peter’s Car Park and Kirkyard Gate

Following consideration of correspondence received from a resident, confirming that there were large potholes in the St Peters car park and that the Kirkyard Gate was in need of repair, members were under the impression that this work had already been carried out, however following further discussion, it was resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk was to raise this issue with OIC.
2. That the Interim Clerk was to write to the resident to acknowledge the letter.

K. Memorial Bench at St. Peter’s Kirk

Following consideration of correspondence received from a resident, thanking members for their support with regards to the installation of the memorial bench at St Peters, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

8. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan from OIC, which has a deadline of 3 April 2020 for comments, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

9. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £3,378.15 as at 11 February 2020.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

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

Resolved to note that a balance of £1,641.51 remained available for approval as at 11 February 2020.

C. Community Development Fund

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for allocation was £9,640 as at 11 February 2020.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval was £2,500 as at 11 February 2020.

10. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club (OASC)

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had been previously circulated, for financial assistance towards the travel costs for two swimmers to attend the ND Age Group Championships Round Two in Aberdeen in February, it was:

Resolved to note that no assistance would be awarded at this time, due to both swimmers having received the maximum allocated donation available in this financial year.

B. Milestone Community Church

Following consideration of a request from Milestone Community Church, copies of which were distributed at the meeting, for financial assistance towards the Bag the Bruck event being run on 25 April, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £300 for this event, subject to approval from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

11. Publications

The following publications were made available to members and noted:

- VE Day 75 Celebrations.
- VAO Newsletter - January and February 2020.
- VAO Training and Funding Opportunities - February 2020.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Northbigging Road – Visibility Issues

Members discussed the ongoing visibility issues at the Junction at the bottom of Northbigging Road and agreed that this was of particular concern for larger commercial and agricultural vehicles. Members were also advised that the previous clerk wrote to Crossroads for their input, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk was to check if a reply had been received from Crossroads, and if not, to contact them again.
2. That the Interim Clerk was to raise this issue with OIC, citing safety concerns for larger vehicles.

B. Russland Walkway

Members were advised that the Russland walkway was in a very poor condition, not helped by vehicles using the tracks. Members agreed that this was a public right of way and a Core Path, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to raise this issue with OIC, asking for a physical inspection of the walkway.

C. Potholes on Roads

Members were advised that there were potholes on both the Linday and Lyde Roads, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to report this to OIC.

D. Water on Roads

Members were advised that there were issues with the drainage on both the Appiehouse Brae and Kierfold Road, with a lot of standing water on each road, and following discussion it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk was to raise this matter with OIC Roads.

E. Climate Change Officer Position

Members discussed the possible creation of the Climate Change Officer position, which was debated recently by OIC Councillors, and were in agreement with the Councillors who have opposed this. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk was to draft a letter, to be approved by the Chair, confirming members support to the Councillors who opposed the creation of the post.
2. That the approved letter was to be sent to all OIC Councillors and the Chief Executive.

13. Date of Future Meeting

Following a discussion of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held at the Milestone Community Church, Dounby on Wednesday, 27 May 2020.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:35.