

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Primary School and via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 19:15

Present:

Mrs L McAdie, Mr T Craigie, Mr L Flett, Mr D Paterson, Mr I Rendall and Miss B Russell.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
 - Councillor R Peace.
 - Councillor G Skuse.
 - Mr R Cunningham, Democratic Services Manager.
 - Mr M Harvey, Embedded Sustrans Officer.
 - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
 - Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.
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- Six members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs N Linklater.

2. Quiet Road Consultation

Following consideration of a briefing note from Democratic Services regarding the proposed pilot project to create Quiet Routes in Orkney, some members had requested that a presentation be given on the Quiet Routes proposal, and the Embedded Sustrans Officer gave this presentation.

He explained that this was a pilot project; anticipated to be funded by Orkney Islands Council and Hitrans and pilot projects were being considered in the West Mainland and Isles also to encourage walking and cycling on rural single track roads; less than four metres wide. In order to be considered as Quiet Route, any road must have safe traffic speeds of forty mph or less. The purpose of this pilot project was to reduce emissions, inequalities, encourage active life and sustainable growth. The Orkney Matters consultation had highlighted this as a key issue whereby increased green space for walking and cycling would be welcomed in Orkney and these routes connecting Kirkwall to Sheila Fleet Jewellery and the Auld Kirk Café was one of the most popular routes. He advised that, if created, then there would be no change to the infrastructure however, additional signage for the attention of the public and tourists would be introduced. Hitrans funding would be used to provide equipment to collect the data from these proposed routes. The data would be collected between March and September 2024 recording vehicle usage and speed with a report formed for the Development and Infrastructure Committee meeting in June 2024. This route had been identified as connecting Kirkwall via the Airport shoreline core Path onto the Barns section of the Old Tankerness Road and into Tankerness branching out as far as the Kirkwall Airport Junction and via the Mount by Bossack Quarry to the Millhouse, Tankerness, along the Shore Road and onto the Churchyard Road stopping at the St Andrews Community Centre. The route also branched off at the Sandesquoy junction along to the Groatsetter junction. Questions were invited from all present: and in attendance-

The Chair questioned how a report could be formed in June for the committee meeting when only a few months' data would have been collected from the roads in Tankerness and was advised that data would continue to be collected until September 2024. Councillor J Moar advised that the Whitecrest Park area speed limit, currently, was 40 mph and questioned if it should be reduced further. Various members of the public expressed concern with regard to dangerously speeding traffic on these routes and in particular in built up areas, Whitecrest Park and Annfield housing, with some calling for reduced speeds or further reduction in speed in these areas to 30 mph. At the Airport junction it could be 50 mph. The Chair advised that drivers could get confused on the roads if there was a number of differing speed limits in sections of the route. One member of the public, a horse-rider, advised that he had a camera attached to his riding helmet to monitor traffic and reduced speeds would be welcomed for all road users; encouraging more people to use this route. Mr I Rendall asked if Quiet Road can meet a main road as this did not create a circular route and to create a circular route you entered the main Kirkwall/Deerness Road at the St Andrews Community Centre, Groatsetter junction or the junction, above the airport. The Embedded Sustrans Officer advised that this was not ideal. Mr I Rendall and Mr T Craigie also advised that consideration required

to be given to workers as this was a commuter area and any changes required to work for all users. Mr D Paterson advised that effectiveness of any changes lay with all road users as it was about showing more respect and courtesy to other road users and perhaps education was required on how to drive in a rural community with single track roads. It was noted that agricultural vehicles travelled along these routes and OIC traffic travelling to Bossack Quarry also required using these roads.

Councillor R Peace suggested that a Quiet Route and traffic management were two separate issues and this was agreed by the Embedded Sustrans Officer. The Embedded Sustrans Officer advised that the information gained regarding speeding traffic would suggest these were not suitable routes for Quiet Routes. He advised that it had been hoped to support tourists and have a connecting bus service from the town to local attractions. Councillor G Skuse advised that there were no attractions for tourists in the East Mainland. Mr I Rendall advised that this would not be a suitable route for cyclists from cruise ships and Councillor G Skuse advised that this would not happen as this was now a matter being addressed by the police. The core path along the airport shoreline was very wet and was impacted by coastal erosion in parts and would require much improvement. Mr D Paterson and Mr T Craigie suggested the Yinstay Road could create a circular Quiet Route via the Hall of Tankerness Road and return to Kirkwall along the core path and a member of the public suggested that this could be extended to Sheila Fleet's premises and could be looped back to Kirkwall by Bossack Quarry. A member of the public advised that if Quiet Routes were created without some speed restriction implemented then it would be a pointless exercise. The Embedded Sustrans Officer advised that it had been noted from data recording in the Highlands on 20 mph routes that long straight roads were not the design specification required for a safe Quiet Route, the design specification was for narrow roads to reduce speed.

The Chair advised that speed limit restrictions were the first priority. The Old Tankerness Road to the Barns required improvement. This would be a long process with further consultation with OIC and the public. The Embedded Sustrans Officer advised that there was some Covid Recovery funding available, which could fund improvement to the core path and possibly also Sustrans funding or the Ian Findlay path fund from Paths for All, he would investigate these funds and report back to this Community Council. Currently, HIAL grass cut the core path and the Clerk advised that this Community Council had, many years ago, suggested to HIAL that the Old Tankerness Road leading to this core path be upgraded and this could be beneficial to HIAL in the event of an emergency situation at the airport. The Chair and Embedded Sustrans Officer thought this would be worth progressing and investigating with HIAL. The potential is that it will take a considerable time to achieve the data recording; this will not be sign posted and would take some time to implement. In the meantime Councillor G Skuse advised to report all concerns with speeding traffic in Tankerness to Customer Services, OIC. A member of the public suggested there required to be improved advertising of public consultation regarding this matter. The Chair advised that this is the pilot project stage and the Embedded Sustrans Officer advised it has not been posted on OIC's website. The Clerk advised that the Community Council had a website for posting public information and the Embedded Sustrans Officer thought that he could possibly progress some public information via this website. The Chair advised that there was a lot of work to do by firstly gathering the speed data before the wider public can be consulted on any proposed Quiet Route. She further advised that consideration was required as to

whether this project was being progressed from the correct angle and perhaps, it requires speed restrictions before consideration of a Quiet Route. She asked if any route was being considered for Deerness and was advised not at this pilot project stage. However, future projects may be possible. She noted that the only route to Deerness was along the main Kirkwall/ Deerness Road; a very busy road. The Embedded Sustrans Officer advised that he would hope to report back to this Community Council in April 2024 with a Briefing Note for sharing. Mr D Paterson asked if the route was free from potholes. Mr I Rendall and Mr T Craigie advised that there were issues at the top of the Brae of Fea's junction to the Skibbowick Houses as many children gathered at this corner to access the school bus and it was a blind corner with visibility issues. It was noted that the overgrown foliage from the house opposite this junction had been cut back improving the visibility.

The Chair thanked the Embedded Sustrans Officer for his presentation, and it was:

Resolved to await further update from the Embedded Sustrans Officer

The Embedded Sustrans Officer and five members of the public left the meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr I Rendall and seconded by Mr L Flett.

4. Matters Arising

A. Offlets, Ditches and Flooding Issues

The CCLO advised that these works were in progress. Mr T Craigie advised that some offlets had been dealt with in Tankerness and Councillor J Moar advised that the Denwick Road, Deerness was also being progressed by machine, and it was:

Resolved to note the updated information on progress of offlets cutting.

B. Resignation – Mr P Thomas and Appointment of Contact for Deerness Kirkyard Grass Cutting Contractor and Inspector of Deerness Kirkyard

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr P Thomas advising that he was relocating out of Orkney and therefore resigning his position as a Community Council member with immediate effect, the Chair advised that with Mr P Thomas's resignation, an appointment was required to be made from members to the position of contact for Deerness Kirkyard grass cutting contractors and inspector of Deerness Kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved that Mr L Flett volunteered to be the contact for the Deerness Kirkyard grass cutting contractor and inspector of the Deerness Kirkyard.

5. Correspondence

A. Briefing Note - Grass Cutting Tenders

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services regarding reductions in burial ground grass cutting budgets for community councils and limiting the amount of money allocated to each community council. It was noted that this community councils' current grass cutting contracts expired in the year 2026 and would only be subject to this restriction following the end of this contract, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

B. University of Strathclyde

Following consideration of correspondence from the University of Strathclyde Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) inviting members to participate in their stakeholder survey on how to improve things for children and young people who get into conflict with the law in Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

C. R100 Programme

1. R100 and Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising that those residents not currently in a R100 contract or commercial build plans, can access a subsidy of £5,000 from the R100 Broadband Voucher Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

2. R100 Programme Update – St Andrews and Deerness

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services providing information including maps detailing premises that have fibre connections available, premises due to be upgraded and properties eligible for a voucher under the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

D. Scottish Civic Trust (SCT)

Following consideration of correspondence from SCT inviting entries to the My Place Awards for projects that improved places and communities in Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

E. Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising that a grant fund was available aimed at supporting community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing within the adult population, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

F. Scottish Islands Passport Team (SIPT)

Following consideration of correspondence from SIPT regarding new features on the Scottish Island Passport app, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Councillor G Skuse – Funding Available to S4GI Mast located Areas

Members considered correspondence from Councillor G Skuse inviting the community to access available funding from the Community Benefit Fund WHP Telecoms, the Infrastructure provider for the Scottish 4G Infill (S4GI) Programme. The Orkney communities with activated S4GI masts are Burray and Deerness. Projects considered for funding must be located within a 10km radius of the S4GI mast. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had sent this information to local shops and outlets for public information.

H. Scottish Community Councils with Open University Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Community Councils inviting members to participate in a webinar on 18 January 2024 with skills support for community councils from the Open University Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Community Development Funding (CDF)

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising that OIC had made an additional allocation of £5,000 to each community council, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Improvement Scotland providing updated information and inviting the community to participate in a survey on their future corporate strategy, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

K. Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO)

1. BBC Children in Need – Big Sky Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Voluntary Action Orkney advising that a new BBC Children in Need fund, Big Sky fund had opened for organisations based in Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles and inviting interested parties to attend online sessions, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

2. Small Grant Scheme 2024/2025

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO inviting constituted groups and organisations with charitable objectives to apply for a grant up to £500 to assist with projects and activities, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

L. Accounts Commission

Following consideration of correspondence from the Accounts Commission regarding their investigation into the performance of OIC and progress steps for improvement of performance, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

M. Scottish Island Federation (SIF)

1. National Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care and Community Health

Following consideration of correspondence from the SIF inviting members to attend an online meeting on 6 March 2024 with the Scottish Government in regard to the National Improvement Framework for adult social care and community health, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

2. Cross Party Group on Islands - National Island Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the SIF inviting members to participate in an online meeting on 28 February 2024 with regard to the National Island Plan, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

N. London Hearts

Following consideration of correspondence from London Hearts advising that grant funding was available for the procurement and supply of life-saving defibrillators throughout the entire UK, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Councillor J Moar had progressed with Deerness Stores the availability of funding for the purchase of a defibrillator however had not received a response from Deerness Stores.
2. To note that the Chair had telephoned Sheila Fleet Jewellery/Auld Kirk Café but had not received a response.

O. King Charles III Portrait

Following consideration of correspondence from the Cabinet Office advising that the UK Government was offering one free portrait of King Charles III to any community council that wished to apply before 28 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

P. Empty Homes Advice Service

Free webinar for Community Councils was held on 20 March 2024.

Resolved to note the information provided.

Q. Variation of Premises Licence Application – Deerness Distillery

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding a Variation of a Premises Licence application for Deerness Distillery, and following a proposal from Mr L Flett advising that this would be a welcome addition to the community, it was:

Resolved, unanimously, that the Clerk writes to Democratic Services to advise that this Community Council would welcome the extension and additional facilities at Deerness Distillery, Deerness.

R. Holm Community Council

Members considered correspondence from Holm Community Council requesting an update on this Community Council's financial assistance policy, as they wished to mirror that of this Community Council. The reason for this being that both Community Councils cover the catchment area for St Andrews Primary School and Holm. Holm Community Council members wished to ascertain if this Community Council would consider raising the policy limits and give consideration for an additional category supporting travel/events out with Scotland. The Clerk advised that she had forwarded this Community Council's current travel assistance policy to the Holm Community Council Clerk and following some research, advised that there were very few financial grants made for travel within the UK and outside Scotland, it was:

Resolved to retain the current policy and not add an additional category.

S. Volunteers for Island Games 2025

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising that the Volunteer Sub-Committee would welcome an invitation to a meeting of this Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

T. Future of the Universal Post Service

Members considered correspondence from the Scottish Island Federation (SIF) regarding Ofcom's consultation on the future of the universal postal service with two options for consideration for letter delivery. Following some discussion, members formed a response whereby they thought that reducing the number of delivery days

to five would be acceptable however a further reduction to three days unacceptable, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk submits a response to the SIF on behalf of members.

U. Thank You Letters

Following consideration of thank you letters received from Deerness Community Centre Association, St Andrews Senior Citizens, Mrs A Brown, Mrs V Foubister, Miss A Brough and St Andrews SWI for financial assistance provided, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Draft Local Transport Strategy

Following consideration of the consultation document, Draft Local Transport Strategy which requires a response by 12 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been received from members to the Draft Local Transport Strategy consultation.

B. Heat in Buildings Consultation Session

Following consideration of the online consultation event, Heat in Buildings consultation session for the Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands on 5 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

C. Orkney Local Development Plan – Development Plan Scheme Newsletter

Following consideration of the consultation notification, Orkney Local Development Plan – Development Plan Scheme Newsletter which requires a response by 7 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been received to the initial consultation of the Orkney Local Development Plan.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Following consideration of the consultation document, Proposed Verge Maintenance Plan 2024, which required a response by 29 March 2024, members raised some concerns regarding the growing season and timing of the cuts; currently, June and September and with regard to additional cuts required at junctions. However, it was noted that any member of the public could report this directly to Customer Services, OIC and request a safety cut off the verge, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk writes to Democratic Services requesting that the last verge cut of the season could be brought forward to early September.

2. To note that any member of the public could request a safety grass cut by contacting Customer Services, OIC.

E. Winter Service Plan 2024

Following consideration of the consultation document, Winter Service Plan 2024 which required a response by 29 March 2024, and much discussion regarding exceptional circumstances, snow clearance, Safety and Resilience Team Proposals, available equipment, training and delivery of snow clearance, farmer assistance, grit bins and salting and gritting of roads, it was:

Resolved:

1. To welcome discussion on alternative methods and operators of equipment with local snow clearance.
2. To request a second grit bin to be located at the Horries Road junction at the Hall of Brecks, Deerness.

F. Mr D Gunn – Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr D Gunn regarding his Honours Project exploring the topics of ecological conversation and the Scottish rainforest and requesting completion of the questionnaire by the community, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had posted it on the community council website.

G. NHS Orkney Listening Event

Following consideration of the public consultation, NHS Orkney Listening Event with two drop-in events on 19 February and 24 February 2024 and an online virtual session on 14 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the 2023/2024 General Finance statement as at 7 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £15,612.36.

B. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 7 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £17,698.16.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 7 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £5,000.00.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 7 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note, that in the 2023/2024 financial year, that there was £505.02 available in the main capping limit only from the CCGS.

8. Financial Requests

The Clerk explained that despite Miss J Pottinger having sent her financial applications for education and travel assistance on 8 August 2023 to the Community Council e-mail account, for some unknown reason, the Clerk had not received the e-mail and attached applications. Following discussion with the CCLO, these applications were presented for consideration by members at the meeting.

A. Education Grant – Miss J Pottinger

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss J Pottinger regarding an education grant towards travel and accommodation costs associated with her Open University BSc (Hons) Chemistry studies, it was:

Resolved to grant an education grant totalling £500 to Miss J Pottinger.

B. Travel Assistance

1. Miss J Pottinger

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss J Pottinger for travel assistance to represent Team Scotland in the 4 Nations Graded badminton competition in Glasgow, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance of £40 to Miss J Pottinger.

2. Misses J and A Scott

Following consideration of correspondence received from Misses J & A Scott for travel assistance for two Under-15 Sirens district squad netball competitions in Aberdeen and Dundee on 26 and 27 January 2024 and in the Under-15 Orkney netball squad, two competitions in Dundee and Aberdeen on 1 to 3 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance of £80 each to Misses J and A Scott.

3. Mr R Groundwater

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr R Groundwater for travel assistance for the rescheduled County A Team Badminton competition in Wick, the Chair asked the Clerk if she had been advised of the new date for this match and requested that the Clerk ascertain this date with regard to the Groundwater family's financial applications, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk ascertains the rescheduled date for the inter-county "A" squad match against Caithness in order to determine the application.
2. To grant travel assistance of £40 to Mr R Groundwater.

4. Miss J Groundwater

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss J Groundwater for travel assistance for the rescheduled County A Team Badminton competition in Wick and also Under 18 badminton competitions in Shetland and Caithness in March 2024. She will also play in the Scottish Cup Quarter final for the KGS netball team in Inverness on 20 February 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. That, as per item 8B3 above, the Clerk ascertains the rescheduled date for the inter-county "A" squad match against Caithness.
2. To grant travel assistance of £40 per trip totalling £160.00.

5. Mr S Groundwater

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr S Groundwater for travel assistance for the rescheduled County A Team badminton competition in Wick and also Under 18 badminton competitions in Shetland and Caithness in March 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. That as per item 8B3 above, the Clerk ascertains the rescheduled date for the inter-county "A" squad match against Caithness.
2. To grant travel assistance of £40 per trip totalling £120.

6. Mr F and Miss E Cooper

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr F and Miss E Cooper for travel assistance for the Under 18 intercounty badminton competition in Shetland in March 2024, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance of £40 each to Mr F and Miss E Cooper totalling £80.

7. Miss A Nicolson

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss A Nicolson for travel assistance to participate in the Mina Mackay Festival of Dancing in Keiss, Caithness, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance of £40 to Miss A Nicolson.

8. St Andrews Primary School (SAPS)

Following consideration of correspondence received from SAPS requesting travel assistance for 13 local pupil's participation in a residential outdoor activities trip to Lagganlia from 15-19 April 2024, Mr D Paterson advised that SAPS were only requesting £438.77 funding, and it was:

Resolved to, unanimously, grant travel assistance to SAPS totalling £438.77.

9. Mr L Rosie

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr L Rosie requesting travel assistance to participate in a team event with Orkney Amateur Swimming Club in Inverness, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance of £40 to Mr L Rosie.

C. Deerness Community Centre Association (DCCA)

Ms B Russell declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from DCCA requesting financial assistance for the 2024 season cost of grass cutting around the Deerness Community Centre (DCC), it was:

Resolved to grant DCCA £750 for the 2024 season grass cutting at DCC, subject to approval from the CCGS.

D. 2024 Orkney Folk Festival

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Orkney Folk Festival requesting financial assistance towards the Tankerness event of the 2024 Orkney Folk Festival, it was:

Resolved to grant Orkney Folk Festival £250 for the event to be held in Tankerness, subject to approval from the CCGS.

9. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – November, December 2023, January and February 2024.

- VAO - Training and Funding Update – November, December 2023, January and February 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action - Newsletter – November, December 2023, January, mid February and February 2024.
- Elancity – Leaflet.
- Scottish Water Spring Newsletter 2024.

10. Any Other Competent Business - Dangerous Rutting at Verge

A member of the public requested members to consider reporting to OIC a dangerous rutted area on Wideford Brae, St Ola. He advised that the rutting had been caused by erosion from the heavy rain not being diverted from the road. He advised that he had reported this to Customer Services, OIC and had received no acknowledgement or action. Some members knew of an incident at this area on Wideford Brae, caused by this rutting at the verge, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That, following this meeting, the CCLO would report this issue online to Customer Services, OIC.

B. That the Clerk would report the dangerous rutting on Wideford Brae, St Ola to Democratic Services requesting an urgent need for remedial action before another incident occurred.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 26 June 2024 in St Andrews Primary School at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:34.

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