

Minute of the Meeting of Harray and Sandwich Community Council held in the Milestone Community Church and via Teams on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr D Hamilton, Mr C Kirkness, Mr G Brown, Mrs E Grant, Mr K Groundwater, Mrs K Ritch and Ms H Woodsford-Dean (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor R King
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mr J Wells, RSPB.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms J Smith-Saville, West Mainland Link Officer/Clerk (via Teams).

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Discussion with RSPB – Peatland Restoration	2
3. Adoption of Minute	2
4. Matters Arising	2
5. Correspondence	4
6. Consultations	6
7. Financial Statements	7
8. Applications for Financial Assistance.....	8
9. Publications	9
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	9
11. Date of Next Meeting	10
12. Conclusion of Meeting	11

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Jean Stevenson.

2. Discussion with RSPB – Peatland Restoration

The Chair welcomed the RSPB representative to the meeting, and he informed members that following a view from Peatland Action, it was decided to pause the original peatland restoration plans for January to March 2024 and instead work on restoring a larger area starting in Autumn 2024. This would include the area at Black Moss of Evrigert as was previously planned, but now extended further North and East. The works would also include some maintenance works to the access track up to Fibla Field to allow access by diggers.

Members asked if any publicity had been circulated regarding the restoration, and whether a presentation in community halls would be beneficial. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, suggested that the Communications Team at Orkney Islands Council may possibly be able to help with publicity, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The RSPB representative left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 13 March 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr K Groundwater and seconded by Mr C Kirkness.

4. Matters Arising

A. Orkney Quiet Routes

The Chair asked if maps of the marked areas could be posted out to members. Once these have been received, a special meeting can be arranged with Birsay Community Council to discuss this further, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a request be made for the maps to be posted to members.
2. That the Clerk would circulate availability to members for a convenient date for members of Harray and Sandwick and Birsay Community Council to meet.

B. Bus Shelter - Dounby

The Chair confirmed that Bus Stop markings had now been painted in front of the bus stop, and it was:

Resolved to note the information above.

C. Verge Cutting

Councillor O Tierney updated members and confirmed that the grass verges would be cut up to the 30mph limits this year, and it was:

Resolved to note the information above.

D. War Memorial – St Peter’s Kirkyard

Following the decline of funding from Scottish Sea Farms for the restoration of the war memorial, members decided to consider this another year, and it was:

Resolved to add this to agenda again next year.

E. Dog Waste Signs

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the signs were ready for collection from Environmental Health, and members could place these around the areas of concern. Mr G Brown had already circulated an email to members, stating that the Council were no longer supplying free dog waste bags. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, informed members that they were in the process of printing stickers which could be placed on waste bins, informing the public that dog waste can be placed in them. Councillor R King stated that if the Dounby Show Park was having issues surrounding members of the public not collecting dog waste, that the West Mainland Agricultural Society ought to take appropriate action, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would collect the signs from Environmental Health and pass them to a community council member.

F. Christmas Lights

The Chair enquired as to whether the five broken 9ft lights could be offered to Community Halls and Dounby School. The lights were presently being held by the Chair and would require these to be donated before the new lights arrive. These lights still worked but need to be fixed to a wall. The Community Council Liaison Officer confirmed the lights could be donated. It was agreed that the festive decoration catalogue would be viewed following the meeting, and agreed that the Clerk contact Dounby School and the Community Halls to see if they would like them, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk contact Dounby School, Milestone Kirk and local Community Halls to see if they would like to utilise the redundant lights.
2. That members would decide on which replacement festive decorations they wished to order at the conclusion of the meeting.

G. Grit Bin – Sandwick Hall

It was reported that the bin had still not been delivered, despite numerous confirmations that it would be put in place. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure stated that she would chase, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Correspondence

A. Volunteering for Island Games 2025

Correspondence had been previously forward via email requesting the Community Council to promote volunteering for the Island Games, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Mapping progress towards island decarbonisation

Following consideration of correspondence from SIF, which was currently doing some work to support Community Energy Scotland (CES) and the Carbon Neutral Islands (CNI) project in building up a picture of progress towards decarbonisation across the islands, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Disrupting Criminal Dumpers

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA outlining that the number of adverts on digital platforms promoting illegal waste collection services hit an all-time high, SEPA was tackling environmental criminality in the online world, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. SSEN PSR Digital Toolkit

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN requesting Community Councils' help in reaching people who may need extra support during power cuts, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Local Place Plan

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from Orkney Islands Council inviting communities the opportunity to prepare a Local Place Plan in their area. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, informed members that this was a similar exercise to the Dounby Plan. The Chair suggested that a special meeting was organised with Birsay Community Council to discuss this, along with Quiet Routes. Once a date was set, an invite to the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, would be sent, so that she can attend the meeting and help with discussions. It was agreed to hold the meeting in the first week of September, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To organise a special meeting with Harray and Sandwick Community Council and Birsay Community Council for the first week of September.
2. To invite the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, once a date is set.

F. Scottish Ministers – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from the Scottish Government stating that Scottish Ministers had granted the variation to the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm consent. The Scottish Ministers had also varied the two associated marine licences under section 30(7) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Webinar - Designing Homes for Cognitive Ageing

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland where presenters will talk about 'Designing homes for healthy cognitive ageing: a co-productive approach', and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Why Not Scotland? - Independent Screenings

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, inviting communities to have their own screenings on their new feature-length documentary, Why Not Scotland?, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Dounby Parent Council meeting invite

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from Dounby Parent Council to attend their next parent council meeting on Thursday, 2 May at 18:30, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Neurodiversity in the Workplace Scotland Conference

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from COSLA regarding a conference on 23 May 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

K. Fair Work Practices in Scotland

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from the Fair Work Convention and Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland Committee on how to prevent and respond to harassment and bullying in the workplace, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

L. Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters

Correspondence had been forwarded via email from the researcher for Lord (Don) Fostero asking for support for their campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. The future of the universal postal service

Members had previously been sent information from SIF concerning a consultation from Ofcom outlining a number of possible changes for the universal postal service, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. SEPA launch consultation on review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland

Members had previously been sent information from SEPA concerning the launch of a consultation reviewing areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. OIC Housing Survey

Members had previously been sent information from Orkney Islands Council who have been analysing the results of a recent housing strategy, and note that there is a gap in our data, in that we have not received any responses from local community councils, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Transport Scotland - Islands Connectivity Plan Events

Members had previously been sent information from Transport Scotland regarding Islands Connectivity Plan consultations to be held in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National Public Consultation

Members had previously been sent information from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service outlining the first stage in their engagement with communities, staff, representative bodies, partners, elected members as they consider changes to the emergency service they deliver across Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Cross Party Group on Islands and NIP Review consultation analysis

Members had previously been sent information from SIF concerning a National Islands Plan meeting with members of the Young Islanders Network (YIN) who sit on the NIP Delivery Group, followed by Francesco Bertoldi, Islands Team Leader in the Scottish Government. SIF also shared the analysis of the NIP review consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Invite to attend a focused discussion group - The SFRS National consultation

Members had previously been sent information from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National concerning a consultation on the future of the Fire and Rescue Service, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Review of the Orkney Local Development Plan

Members had previously been sent information from Orkney Islands Council informing members of a survey where members can get involved to help shape Orkney's towns, villages and rural areas and suggest where development should and shouldn't happen, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Review of Gambling Policy - Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

Members had previously been sent information from Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board as they were carrying out a review of its Gambling Policy in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 during 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Orkney Matters 2 Events

Members had previously been sent information from Orkney Islands Council inviting members to participate and publicise the Orkney Partnership's planned community engagement exercise to take place this summer, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 14 May 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,534.98.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 14 May 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 fully allocated and £743.00 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 14 May 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

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

D. Seed Corn Fund

Members had previously been sent copies of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 14 May 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that £0.00 remained available for approval to projects.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Milestone Community Church – Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Milestone Community Church for a donation towards Bag the Bruck, which had already been circulated and agreed by email, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £300 be given from CCGS funding.

B. Birsay Youth Drama Group

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Birsay Youth Drama Group requesting financial assistance towards a trip to the SCDA Scottish Youth Final in Bathgate, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £60 each be given to BYDG towards Keira Sinclair, Aoife Spence, Alissa Omand and Amber Seator's attendance.

C. Dounby Football Club – Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of correspondence received from Dounby Football Club requesting a donation towards Bag the Bruck, it was:

Resolved that the request be declined, as a full allocated donation amount had already been given for this financial year.

D. Eve Wood – Porto International Meet – June 2024

Following consideration of correspondence received from Emma Wood requesting financial assistance towards the cost of a trip for Eve Wood to the Porto International Meet in June 2024, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £60 be given to Eve Wood.

E. Dounby Senior Citizen’s Group Summer Lunch

Following consideration of correspondence received from Carolyn Kirkness requesting financial assistance towards the cost of a summer lunch trip for the Dounby Senior Citizen’s Group, it was:

Resolved that a CCGS fund donation of up to £100 be given to the Dounby Senior Citizen’s Group upon evidence of receipts.

F. Invoice 2535 from Voluntary Action Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence, which had previously been circulated to members, requesting payment of an invoice from VAO, it was:

Resolved to note that the invoice from VAO has been passed through for payment.

G. Dounby School – Play Park Fund

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Dounby School Parent Council requesting funding towards the school play park, it was:

Resolved that members are willing to donate but wish to discuss the matter further and invite a representative from the parent council to attend the next Community Council meeting in August.

9. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – March, April 2024.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – March, April 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – March 2024.
- Scottish Water Spring Newsletter.
- Farm Diversification Drop In Event – 2 May 2024.
- Do you have your Parish ready for D-Day 80?.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Bus Parking at Dounby School

Members were informed by the Chair that a complaint had been submitted from the Dounby Primary School Parent Council concerning the continued parking by Stagecoach. The bus took up 7 to 8 parking spaces, which are needed for school or

community events. A request was made by members to contact Stagecoach, and ask if the bus can be parked elsewhere, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Stagecoach and ask if the matter can be resolved.

B. 20MPH Speed Limit Flashing Light Sign

A member stated that the speed limit sign, warning drivers of a 20mph speed limit during school hour drop off/collection was very faint, and could this be reported, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request for this to be looked at.

C. Buses on Linday Road

A member stated that buses were using the Linday Road, which is not suitable for buses. Members have requested that a sign be erected stating “No Buses”, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request for a “No Buses” sign to be put in place.

D. Speed Notification Sign “Smiley Face”

Members asked to know when Dounby will get the speed checker in the village. The Community Council Liaison Officer stated that these were placed in situ on a rota basis. Enquires had been made into the cost of purchasing these, but a set will cost in the region of £10,000, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, via business letter, would request that the relevant department be contacted to find out when Dounby will have the speed check lights temporarily installed in Dounby again.

E. Recycling Centre - Dounby

A Member requested that the recycling bin doors be checked, as they are very stiff to open. The Chair also requested if an “in” and “out” exit be put in place, as it is a very small area to turn a vehicle around, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request, via the business letter, to have the doors of the recycling bins checked, as they are very stiff to open.
2. To query, via the business letter, if an “in” and “out” exit could be put in place at the recycling area, as it is a small area to turn a vehicle around.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Harray and Sandwick Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 28 August 2024 commencing at 19:30 in Milestone Community Church.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.