

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall, on Monday, 25 November 2019 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Cathleen A Hourie, Kim Burns, Lorraine A Craigie, David L Flett, Christopher Gee, Moyra Gordon, Christine E Harcus, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale, Steven Metcalf and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

- Mrs H Flett, Clerk.

- Orkney Islands Council:
 - Darren Richardson, Head of Infrastructure and Strategic Projects.
 - Sweyn Johnston, Strategic Projects Director.
 - Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer (Communication and Engagement).

- 1 member of the local press.
- Temporary Sergeant Hugh Mooney, Police Scotland.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Sandy Cowie and Barbara Foulkes.

2. Police Scotland Matters

After hearing an update from Temporary Sergeant Hugh Mooney regarding various safety campaigns, including festive safety, road safety, Pubwatch and Shopwatch, it was:

Resolved to note the updates in relation to Police Scotland matters.

Temporary Sergeant Hugh Mooney left the meeting at this point.

3. Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Following a presentation from Sweyn Johnston on the background to Orkney's Community Wind Farm project, together with the latest details in respect of the proposed wind farm at Quanterness, for which a planning application was due to be submitted in early 2020, together with an update from Kirsty Groundwater on the latest meetings held as part of the pre-application process, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentations.

Sweyn Johnston and Kirsty Groundwater left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 7 October 2019 was approved, being proposed by Steven Metcalf and seconded by John Mowat.

5. Matters Arising

A. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction

There was no further update from Cathleen Hourie on proposed financial assistance towards the shrub bed at the Scapa junction.

B. Traffic Issues at Watersfield Development

After hearing an update from Councillor David Dawson on traffic issues at the Watersfield Development, it was:

Resolved to note that following a public meeting held in October 2019 for residents within the area, it had been agreed that, for a trial period, a section of Burnett Brae, between Watersfield and Weyland, would be closed to see what effect that would have on traffic patterns in the immediate and surrounding areas.

Darren Richardson left the meeting at this point.

C. Bridle Path at Inganess

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of works completed to the stile and handrail near Wideford Farm and provision of an additional boardwalk over a muddy section, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the damaged boardwalk still required repair however due to livestock being kept in the area, together with the recent wet conditions, no work would be done until it dried out and that the farmer would be contacted regarding the grazing of sheep in particular, given the damage caused to a section of the core path.

D. Bonfire and Fireworks Display at Pickaquoy

After hearing an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to thank all those who turned up, on the rescheduled date, to help steward the event which was considered to be a success.

E. Arcadia Park

After hearing an update from the Chair on the visit to Arcadia Park on 24 November 2019, it was:

Resolved to commend the work undertaken to date, noting that a lot of work was still to be done before the project was complete.

F. 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements

Following consideration of a news release issued on behalf of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland regarding the 2019 review of electoral arrangements within the three island council areas, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation on proposals for amending the boundaries in the Kirkwall wards, including taking Kirkwall airport into the Kirkwall East ward, closed on 2 December 2019.

G. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from the undernoted individuals and/or groups thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided, which had been forwarded to members via email:

- Scotland Under 17 Netball Team – individual member.
- KGS Volleyball Team – individual member.

H. Town Centre Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council requesting suggestions for projects which might benefit from town centre funding from the Scottish Government, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to again defer consideration to the next meeting.

6. Correspondence

A. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council informing members of the outcome of the consultation on the verge maintenance plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Winter Service Plan

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

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Proposal of Application Notice to erect six wind turbines at Quanterness

Christine Marcus declared an interest in this item and was not present during discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the pre-application process, prior to submission of the planning application, for the proposed erection of six wind turbines at Quanterness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that the Community Council was generally in support of the proposed development, and that members could, if they so wished, submit their own individual responses.

Councillor Gwenda Shearer left the meeting during discussion of this item.

D. Care Home – Kirkwall

Following consideration of correspondence from local residents regarding the delay in progressing the new care home in Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the latest position with regard to the development and planning of the proposed new care home to be sited in Kirkwall.

Councillor Steven Heddle left the meeting at this point.

7. Policy on Financial Assistance

Following consideration of proposals from the Finance Sub-committee regarding a review of the policy on financial assistance, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the following policy be adopted, with effect from 1 April 2020:

1. Grant assistance for travel within Orkney to be removed.
2. The per capita grant to be reduced from £30 to £20.
3. The tiered approach reduced to three levels, as follows:
 - Up to 10 people – £20 per person.
 - 11 to 15 people – total grant of £225.
 - 16 or more people – total grant of £275.
4. The policy applies to persons aged 18 years and under (resident within the community council area).
5. Any application from a person aged over 18 years will be considered on individual merit.
6. Only applications from constituted groups will be considered (see exception at 8 below for regional or national squads).
7. Maximum grant to be claimed in any financial year to be capped at £275 (reduced from £400).
8. Individuals attending training/competitions as part of a regional or national squad (i.e. not Orkney-based) to continue to be offered £10 for each session attended, capped at £100 in any financial year.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 8 November 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 8 November 2019 of £6,918.06.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2019/20 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 November 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £0.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 8 November 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,688.42.

9. Financial Requests

A. Under 17s Netball

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Want requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter participating in Under 17 netball trips, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be given in respect of the following trips:

- Strathclyde Sport, Glasgow – 19 and 20 October 2019.
- Edinburgh, 16 November 2019.

Councillor John A R Scott left the meeting at this point.

B. Orkney Gymnastics Club

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Want requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter participating in a competition in Inverness on 3 November 2019, as part of the Orkney Gymnastics Club, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, as Orkney Gymnastics Club had already reached the maximum grant of £400 in the current financial year, no further assistance be provided.

10. Consultations

A. Scottish Government – Historic Marine Protected Areas

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government regarding a consultation on proposals to designate historic marine protected areas in Scapa Flow and for the wreck known as the Queen of Sweden, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation document.

B. Orkney Mental Health Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the draft Orkney Mental Health Strategy for the period 2020 to 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting, noting that members could submit an individual response, if they so wished.

C. Draft Planning Policy Advice

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding draft Planning Policy Advice in respect of Amenity and Minimising Obtrusive Lighting, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation document.

D. Burial Grounds Code of Practice

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a revised Burial Grounds Code of Practice, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation document.

11. Publications

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

- Scottish Water – Newsletter – October 2019 – Renewables and Low Carbon Energy.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – October 2019.
- Scottish Health Council – Newsletter – October 2019.
- VAO Newsletter – October 2019.
- VAO – Volunteering Summary – November 2019.

12. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Transport Scotland – National Transport Strategy

Transport Scotland had arranged a stakeholder event in respect of the draft National Transport Strategy held in Kirkwall and St Ola Community Centre on 9 October 2019, and it was:

Resolved to note Moyra Gordon's report on her attendance at the stakeholder event, including that the strategy was an aspirational document, with the objectives and an action plan to be developed as the next stage.

B. Improvement Service – Transient Visitor Levy Consultation

The Improvement Service had arranged a number of public information sessions in respect of the Scottish Government's consultation on the proposed transient visitor levy, with the event in Orkney held on 20 November 2019, and it was:

Resolved to note Cathleen Hourie's report on her attendance, along with Lorraine Craigie, at the public information session.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Marine Planning Visit

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a visit by the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee on 29 November 2019, as part of the inquiry into Marine Planning Partnerships and Regional Marine Plans, and it was:

Resolved to note that members should register their interest for the event, which was planned for Friday, 29 November 2019, at Kirkwall Grammar School.

B. Electric Car Club

Robert Leslie advised that, subject to the charging points being up and running, Orkney Housing Association Limited's e-car club would launch the following week, when members could hire an electric car for personal use.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council would be held on 20 January 2020 in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall, commencing at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:20.