

Minute of the Meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held in the Community Room, Hope School and via Teams on Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Ms F Lawtie, Mrs M Brooks, Miss K Budge, Mr R Jackson, Ms K Sinclair and Mr D Ward.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Councillor G Skuse (via Teams).
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Ms S Bray, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that there were apologies for absence from Mr R Smith, Mr R Bland and Councillor R Peace.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 1 February was approved, being proposed by Mr D Ward and seconded by Ms K Sinclair.

3. Matters Arising

A. Community Transport

Members discussed the proposed trial of a Community Transport bus for South Ronaldsay. Members asked what feedback had been received and if paper copies of the consultation could be put in local shops. Members discussed if a survey would be a better way of obtaining feedback than asking people to send emails, and it was:

Resolved to enquire what feedback had been received.

B. South Ronaldsay and Burray Flood Group

Members resolved to carry this forward to a future meeting for discussion.

C. Smiddy Museum

Members discussed possible improvements to the Smiddy Museum, it was suggested that Orkney Islands Council's Arts, Museums and Heritage team should be contacted and asked for advice.

Members also heard that the Culture fund had closed to applications on 27 October 2023 for projects taking place in Orkney between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Members discussed the formation of a subgroup who could look into ideas for the future. It was agreed that the Community Council could not afford to pay a custodian to open the Smiddy for longer hours and that this would depend upon having volunteers. The matter of charging an entrance fee was discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That there should be no charge for entry to the Smiddy but that donations should be requested, and that the Clerk would arrange for a sign to put up in the museum to this effect.
2. To contact the Arts, Heritage and Culture Team and ask if a representative would meet with members at the Smiddy Museum.
3. To contact Mr and Mrs H Mackenzie to ask if they knew of anyone who may wish to volunteer at the Smiddy and invite them to any meeting held at the museum.
4. To reserve £5,000 from the Community Development Fund for future improvements to the Smiddy Museum.

5. To ask Democratic Services if a bank account for donations could be set up.
6. To open the Smiddy Museum for the usual hours this summer.

D. Bus Shelter in St Margaret's Hope

Members discussed the provision of a bus shelter in St Margaret's Hope and where this should be located. Members agreed that they would like to have the bus shelter erected before winter. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to ask if someone could meet with Community Council members in St Margaret's Hope and show members the locations in the village that would be suitable/safe locations for a bus shelter so that members can choose from the options.

E. Hanging Baskets

Members discussed the provision and maintenance of hanging baskets in St Margaret's Hope and whether a photographic report was necessary when testing the brackets. Members heard that it was important to have proper paperwork for testing the brackets as this would be defensible in the case of any accident. Members also discussed how many baskets the Community Council could afford to put up, and if baskets could be gifted to properties with brackets or if the brackets should be taken down. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To contact Ms M Cromarty and the Marengo Gardening Club and ask if they would be able to plant up the baskets.
2. To contact Orklean and ask if they would be able to water up to 20 baskets.
3. To arrange for the brackets to be tested and find out how often this has to be done.
4. To ask Vidacomm if they would take down any brackets that failed testing.

F. Festive Lights

Members heard that the festive lights were being stored at South Ronaldsay Golf Club. Mr D Ward declared an interest and left the meeting. Members discussed giving a donation to the golf club.

Mr D Ward returned to the meeting.

There was a discussion about PAT testing and putting up the lights in both St Margaret's Hope and Burray next Christmas, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To contact local electricians and ask if they would be able to carry out PAT testing on the festive lights.

2. To give a donation of £200 to South Ronaldsay Golf Club and write a letter of thanks for storing the lights.

G. Defibrillator in Phone Box

Members heard that there was no electricity supply to the phone box but that thermal sleeves were available and that defibrillators may be available free of charge from the British Heart Foundation. Members discussed who would look after and maintain the defibrillator, possibly someone from the Development Trust, and if a solar panel could be fitted to the phone box. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would ascertain if the British Heart Foundation would provide a free defibrillator.
2. That the Clerk would obtain prices for defibrillators and thermal sleeves for the next meeting.
3. To ask if volunteers from Highland Park would be willing to paint the phone box, the propellor in Cromarty Square and the Smiddy Museum.

H. Email Discussions

Members resolved to carry this forward to the next meeting.

I. Footpaths in St Margaret's Hope

Members received information about traffic volumes and speed from the Roads Support Technician and were advised that there were no plans to put a pavement on the Braeburn side of the road at present although this would be reassessed if the land between Braeburn Court and Doctors Road was developed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information received.
2. To enquire if a mirror could be placed at the junction of St Margaret's Road and School Road to enable drivers to see approaching vehicles.
3. To ask if the provision of bus shelters and footpaths could be added to the Local Development Plan.

4. Correspondence

A. Portrait of His Majesty The King

Members received correspondence inviting application for a free portrait of King Charles III, and it was:

Resolved to apply for a portrait.

B. Road Chippings

Members received correspondence asking if the Community Council still provided chippings for road upkeep, and it was:

Resolved to advise that the Community Council could no longer provide chippings.

C. Flooding at St Peter's

Members received correspondence advising that the gateway into St Peter's kirkyard was flooded and had been for days, and it was:

Resolved to forward the correspondence to the roads department.

5. Consultations

Resolved to note that no consultations had been received for consideration.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 27 February 2024 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £11,666.70.

B. Smiddy Account

After consideration of the Smiddy Account statement as at 27 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £3,265.97.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 27 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £288.71.

D. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 27 February 2024 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £10,000.

7. Financial Requests

A. Netball

Members had received an application for funding towards the cost of travel to competitions for a member of the U19 Netball Scotland Squad, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 should be given from the general fund.

B. Orkney Folk Festival

Members considered an application for funding towards the costs of the Orkney Folk Festival, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 should be given from the general fund.

C. South Ronaldsay Community Association

Mrs M Brooks declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Members received an application for funding for the cost of the Community Levy for the South Ronaldsay Community Association, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council was not able to fund this.

D. Burray School Netball Club

Members had received an application for funding towards the costs of Burray School Netball Club, and it was:

Resolved that a grant award of £20 should be given towards the costs and that application should be made to Orkney Islands Council for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme on a project cost of £20.

E. P6 Outdoor Learning

Members had received an application for funding towards the cost of the P6 Outdoor Learning, and it was:

Resolved to enquire if this was supported by active learning before considering further.

F. P7 Residential Trip to Hoy

Members received an application for funding towards the cost of the P7 Residential Trip to Hoy for 10 pupils from Burray School, and it was:

Resolved that a grant award of £30 per pupil should be given towards the cost of the trip and that application should be made to Orkney Islands Council for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme on a project cost of £300.

8. Any Other Competent Business

A. Churchill Barriers

Members received information concerning the Churchill Barriers and discussed holding a survey, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that Mrs M Brooks would draft questions for a survey.

B. Stagecoach X1 Bus

Members heard that the X1 bus did not always follow the route through St Margaret's Hope village due to parked cars, and it was:

Resolved to request that the roads department repaint the yellow lines in St Margaret's Hope.

C. Islands Connectivity Plan

Members heard that Transport Scotland was developing an Islands Connectivity Plan, and that public sessions would be held in the near future, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Publications

The following publications had previously been circulated to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletters.
- VAO Training and Funding Update.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved to arrange the date of the next South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council meeting by email.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

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