

# Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 17 June 2024 at 19:00

## Present:

Steven Brodie, Barbara J M Graham, Cathleen A Hourie, Chris J F Matthews, John R Mowat, Tom Rendall, Rosemary Rhodes and Lynne Spence.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Roddy Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection, Orkney Islands Council.
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications), Orkney Islands Council.
- Liz Flett, Volunteer Sub-committee, Orkney 2025 (for Items 1 to 6).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- 1 member of the local press.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies .....	2
2. Appointment of Chair.....	2
3. Appointment of Vice Chair.....	2
4. Appointment of Planning Representative .....	3
5. Appointments to Finance Sub-committee.....	3
6. Volunteering for Island Games 2025 .....	3
7. Adoption of Minute .....	3
8. Matters Arising .....	3
9. Correspondence.....	5
10. Community Council Accounts .....	7
11. Financial Statements 2023/2024 .....	7
12. Financial Statements 2024/2025 .....	7
13. Financial Requests.....	8
14. Consultations .....	10
15. Meetings attended by Members .....	11
16. Publications.....	12
17. Any Other Competent Business .....	13

18. Date of Next Meeting.....	13
19. Conclusion of Meeting.....	13

## 1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Moyra Gordon and Robert F Leslie, and Councillors David Dawson, Steven B Heddle, Gwenda M Shearer and Ivan A Taylor.

## 2. Appointment of Chair

The Clerk advised of the options available for the appointment of Chair, and it was:

Resolved that Tom Rendall be reappointed Chair of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

Tom Rendall took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## 3. Appointment of Vice Chair

Following a secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Steven Brodie – 1 vote.
- Barbara Graham – 1 vote.
- Robert Leslie – 2 votes.
- Chris Matthews – 1 vote.
- Lynne Spence – 3 votes.

As there was an equality of votes, after a further secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Steven Brodie – 4 votes.
- Barbara Graham – 3 votes.
- Chris Matthews – 1 vote.

Steven Brodie was eliminated from the ballot.

Following a further secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Barbara Graham – 1 vote.
- Robert Leslie – 1 vote.
- Chris Matthews – 1 vote.
- Lynne Spence – 5 votes, it was:

Resolved that Lynne Spence be appointed Vice Chair of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

#### **4. Appointment of Planning Representative**

Resolved that the Clerk should be reappointed as the Planning Representative for Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

#### **5. Appointments to Finance Sub-committee**

Resolved that the following members be appointed to the Finance Sub-committee:

- Chair – Tom Rendall.
- Vice Chair – Lynne Spence.
- Barbara Graham.
- Chris Matthews.

#### **6. Volunteering for Island Games 2025**

Following a presentation from a member of the Volunteer Sub-committee regarding the volunteer programme for the Orkney Island Games in 2025, which covered a number of roles, including administration, IT, catering, sports runners and marshalls, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation.

The member of the Volunteer Sub-committee left the meeting at this point.

#### **7. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 11 March 2024 was approved, being proposed by R Rhodes and seconded by C Matthews.

#### **8. Matters Arising**

##### **A. Benches**

L Spence advised that no progress had been made since the last meeting with regard to cataloguing benches, and it was:

Resolved to continue discussion to the next meeting.

##### **B. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy**

The Chair read the following statement in respect of the progress with reviewing the bonfire and fireworks event at Pickaquoy:

We appreciate there will be public interest in this year's annual Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council Bonfire Night but until discussions with stakeholder organisations have been completed and all information gathered, we cannot make a final decision about the arrangements for this year's event.

Since the last meeting of the community council on 11 March, we held a meeting between members of this community council to discuss a way forward where all members in attendance were able to give their point of view,

Earlier this month I also met with representatives of Team Swan and then last week I met with members of the Rotary Club.

Democratic Services, working on the community council's behalf, are currently seeking to gather information from nature organisations and are taking environmental advice.

Once all information has been gathered it will be presented to members of this community council to decide on next steps.

We hope to be in a position for community councillors to decide on this before the school holidays, assuming all relevant discussions are completed by then and all options fully explored.

It was thereafter resolved to note the current position.

### **C. Conservation Verges – Review**

The Clerk had not yet received a response to the Community Council's query regarding the last time the extent of conservation verges had been reviewed, and it was:

Resolved to continue to the next meeting.

### **D. Former Street Names**

As R Leslie was unable to attend the meeting, there was no update on the proposal to consider recognising former street names, it was:

Resolved to continue to the next meeting.

### **E. Glaitness Parent Council – Glaitness Play Area Renewal**

The Clerk had not yet received a response from Glaitness Parent Council regarding use of the school play area, and it was:

Resolved to continue to the next meeting.

### **F. Gate in Bignold Park at Meadowbank End**

The Clerk had been advised that the Council's maintenance charge hand had been instructed to fix a gate latch to the existing gate and to remove the section of broken fence, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

### **G. Financial Requests**

Following consideration of notes of thanks received from various individuals and groups regarding financial assistance received from the Community Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **H. Orkney Heritage Society – Request for Green Plaque**

The Clerk had received a photographic proof of the proposed green plaque and, following approval from Orkney Heritage Society that the wording was correct, had placed the order, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

## **I. Levelling Up Funding Award**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding representation on Orkney Towns Board, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that elected representatives, which included community councillors, were specifically excluded from becoming Chair of the Town Board.
2. To note that an independent Chair would be appointed by Orkney Islands Council, in consultation with the local MP, and it was for the Chair, in consultation with the Council, to determine membership of the Board.
3. To note that, in terms of elected representatives, the Board must include two OIC Councillors and the local MP and may not include more than five elected representatives.

## **J. Common Good Fund**

The Clerk advised that no response had been received from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Common Good Fund, and it was:

Resolved to continue discussion to the next meeting.

## **K. Request for Public Toilet Facility at Inganess**

Although the Clerk had not yet received a response from Orkney Islands Council regarding the request for a public toilet facility at Inganess, B Graham advised that the member of the public who had originally requested the provision had now asked that this request be withdrawn, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advise Orkney Islands Council accordingly.

## **L. Public Toilet at Scapa**

Although the Clerk had not received a response from Orkney Islands Council as to when the public toilet facilities at Scapa would be reopened, she advised that the facility was now open to the public, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

## **9. Correspondence**

### **A. Campaign against Waste Criminals**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a campaign to increase public awareness of online waste criminals, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **B. Local Place Plans**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding an invitation to create Local Place Plans, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair and the Vice Chair should meet with the Development and Marine Planning team at Orkney Islands Council to determine how to progress a Local Place Plan based on a refresh of Your Kirkwall, produced in 2018.

## **C. The Peedie Retreat**

Following consideration of correspondence from The Peedie Retreat thanking the Community Council for submitting a letter of support for the project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **D. East Mainland Show Pavilion**

Following consideration of correspondence from the President of the East Mainland Agricultural Society requesting a letter of support for a project to provide a pavilion in the show park at Toab, as well as financial assistance towards the cost of the project, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should write a letter of support for the project and suggest that consideration be given to making the toilet facility available on a wider basis, given the lack of facilities across Orkney.
2. That a donation of £1,000 be made towards the project, subject to funding from the Community Development Fund allocation being approved.

## **E. Next Generation of Security Technology**

Following consideration of correspondence from HIAL regarding the installation of new security technology at airports, together with arrangements for HIAL airports, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **F. Annual Grants**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising of the annual grants to community councils for 2024/2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the annual grant to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council for financial year 2024/2025 was £6,880.91.
2. To note that the capping limit for the Community Council Grant Scheme for financial year 2024/2025 was £3,837.

## **G. Digital Voice Roadshow**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding drop-in sessions hosted by BT relating to the change from analogue to digital phone services that was scheduled for completion in January 2027, to be held at the Orkney Library on 23 and 24 July 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **10. Community Council Accounts**

Following consideration of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

## **11. Financial Statements 2023/2024**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 31 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 31 March 2024 of £18,227.22.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 31 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £4,978.02 had been approved, of which £4,978.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £679.19.

## **12. Financial Statements 2024/2025**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 30 May 2024 of £22,930.65.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £450 had been approved, of which £nil had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £3,507.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 30 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £7,163.46.

## **13. Financial Requests**

### **A. Scotland Climbing Development Squad**

Following consideration of an application from R McCaw requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in climbing training sessions as part of the 2024 Scotland Development Squad between January and November 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £15 be given towards each training session attended, noting that some training sessions had occurred before the application was submitted and were therefore ineligible for assistance.

### **B. Highland Dancing, Athletics and Gymnastics**

Following consideration of an application from T Russell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in various highland dancing, athletics and gymnastics competitions between March and June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a donation of £15 be given towards the highland dancing exams held in March 2024, bringing the total allocation for 2023/2024 to the policy limit of £375.
2. That a donation of £30 be given towards participation in each of the seven events listed for April to June 2024.

### **C. KGS Senior Football and North District Athletics**

Following consideration of an application from T Russell requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in football and athletics competitions in March and May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in each of the events.



### **D. Highland Dancing**

Following consideration of an application from S Campbell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Vikki Mackay Easter Festival of Highland Dance on 13 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **E. Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships**

Following consideration of an application from T Blowfield requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships in Aberdeen in April 2024, copies of which had been circulated it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **F. University of Aberdeen Long Course Meet**

Following consideration of an application from T Blowfield requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the University of Aberdeen Long Course Meet in Aberdeen between 26 and 28 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **G. Celtic Festival, Barbados**

Following consideration of an application from T Blowfield requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating as part of a dance squad in the Celtic Festival in Barbados from 15 to 19 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be given towards participation in the event.

### **H. Girlguiding Orkney – Trip to Bergen, Norway**

Following consideration of an application from Girlguiding Orkney requesting financial assistance towards an educational trip to Bergen, Norway in July 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be given towards each person participating in the event, totalling £120.

### **I. North District Athletics Competition**

Following consideration of an application from S Webb requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the North District Athletics competition in Inverness on 11 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **J. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – C Squad**

Following consideration of applications from A Bruce requesting financial assistance for her daughters participating as part of the C Squad in a swimming gala in Thurso on 4 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of each of the swimmers participating in the event.

### **K. Orkney Youth Development Group – U13 Football, Shetland**

Following consideration of an application from L Millar requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in the under 13s OYDG football squad in Shetland between 23 and 24 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **L. Gymnastics Competition, Motherwell**

Following consideration of an application from L Allan requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in a gymnastics competition in Motherwell between 24 and 26 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **M. Scottish Schools Athletics**

Following consideration of an application from S Webb requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Scottish Schools Athletics competition between 6 and 9 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

### **N. Gymnastics**

The Clerk had received an application from L Millar requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Garioch annual Glitterball gymnastics competition on 23 June 2024, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given towards participation in the event.

## **14. Consultations**

### **A. SEPA – Review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland, for which responses were due by 24 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **B. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service regarding a consultation on the future of the SFRS, Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say, for which responses were due by 30 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Review of Orkney Local Development Plan**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding surveys and a call for ideas which would feed into the review of the Local Development Plan, for which responses were due by 30 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should, if they so wished, respond to the surveys on an individual basis.

### **D. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Review of Gambling Policy**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board's review of its Gambling Policy, for which responses were due by 28 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make no comment.

### **E. Traffic Calming Measures on Muddisdale Road, Kirkwall**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding traffic calming measures on Muddisdale Road, Kirkwall, for which responses were due by 28 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make no comment.

## **15. Meetings attended by Members**

### **A. Kirkwall Airport Community Engagement Forum**

The Chair had attended the Kirkwall Airport Community Engagement Forum which met online on 14 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Airport Manager had set up the meeting, after many years with no meetings, as an introductory forum.

### **B. Cross Party Group on Towns and Town Centres**

Scottish Towns Partnership had arranged an online meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Towns and Towns Centres on 18 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that L Spence and C Matthews had attended the meeting, which included information on 20-minute town centres, and focussing on reinvigorating town centres, which should not just be about shops, but residential space as well.

### **C. Scottish Empty Homes Partnership**

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership had organised a webinar on 20 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that, although some members had registered to attend, due to other circumstances had been unable to attend.

### **D. NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Designing Homes for Cognitive Ageing**

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland regarding a webinar on designing homes for cognitive ageing held on 17 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had not been represented at the webinar.

### **E. Scottish Parliament – Cross Party Group on Islands**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation and Scottish Rural Action regarding the online meeting of the Cross Party Group on Islands held on 22 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Cross Party Groups were used to raise the profile of specific issues, following which a report might be produced to influence policy within the Scottish Parliament.

### **F. Scottish Islands Federation – Addressing Depopulation Action Plan**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of an online meeting held on 5 June 2024 regarding Addressing Depopulation Action Plan and the role of the National Islands Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **16. Publications**

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

- Scottish Forum of Community Councils – Newsletter – March 2024.
- Scottish Water – Spring Newsletter 2024.
- SEPA Updates – March, April, May and June 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – March, April and May 2024.
- SEPA Publish – Scottish Waste from All Sources.
- VAO Newsletters – March, April and May 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action – March, May and June 2024 Newsletters.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Newsletters – April and May 2024.
- Paths for All – eNews – April and May 2024.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership joints forces with Historic Environment Scotland.
- SSEN – May 2024 Newsletter.
- Review of Orkney Local Development Plan – June 2024 Newsletter.

## **17. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Orkney Matters 2**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the current run of Orkney Matters meetings, with the Kirkwall event due to be held in the King Street Halls on 9 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. SSEN Subsea: Mainland Orkney-Shapinsay**

The Clerk had received correspondence from SSEN requesting a meeting with members of the Community Council to provide a further update on the Mainland Orkney-Shapinsay subsea cable, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair was awaiting confirmation on the time and date of the meeting.

## **18. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 19 August 2024, commencing at 19:00.

## **19. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:24.