

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in the Stenness Community School on Thursday, 7 November 2019 at 19:30

Present:

W Dunnett, A Stevenson, N Macleod and M Lynch.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- 3 Representatives from Orkney Island Council.
- Mr I Heggie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillor H Johnston, Councillor D Tullock and Mr V Muir.

2. Orkney Island Council Representatives for the Quanterness Proposal of Application Notice Presentation

Members were given a presentation from three representatives of Orkney Island Council regarding the wind turbine proposed site, with the following elements discussed:

- The aims of the project.
- Scale of the project.
- Siting of Quanterness turbines and why.
- Consultation process.
- Engagement with communities.
- Specifically, 4 question but any questions were welcomed.
- Dissemination of information attained.

During the presentation members asked various questions regarding the project including:

- Sustainability.
- Revenue raised.
- Life span.
- Overhead/Underground cables.
- Road flicker to the detriment of drivers.
- Payback to affected communities.
- Presentation locations, and it was resolved:

1. That members could either submit their responses via the clerk or submit privately their questions and concerns.

2. To note the contents of the presentation.

3. Police Scotland Matters

Resolved to note that there were no Police Scotland matters to report.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 22 August 2019 was approved, being proposed by Mrs A Stevenson and seconded by Mr N Macleod, subject to the following amendments:

Item 8c - Girl Guiding should read, "assistance towards the cost of 2 guides" with the word, "pupil" omitted.

AOCB G – Remembrance Sunday should read, “the clerk orders two wreaths” and not “the clerk orders a wreath”.

5. Matters Arising

A. Rennibister Wind Turbine Fund

Members acknowledged the explanation from Democratic Services that the monies gained from the turbine was included in the General finance statement, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Wooden/Stone Bridge from Finstown to Finstown School A966

Members discussed the reply received from Orkney Islands Council advising that the bridge had been inspected and works identified that require attention, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Refuse Bins Finstown Shore Front Car Park

Members discussed the reply received from Orkney Islands Council advising that they are unable to place more in bins in the area due to budgetary constraints, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk should ask Democratic Services to convey their disappointment with the result of the request.

D. Weeds throughout paving areas

Members discussed the reply received from Orkney Islands Council advising that this issue will be added to the current list for actioning and requesting photos of the areas of greatest concern, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk should ask Democratic Services to ascertain and reply back to the members as to what process was used for the weeding.

E. War Memorials Restoration

Members heard that the previous contractors, CS Services, had pulled out of the proposed restoration, and it was resolved:

1. That the clerk was to contact and inform the War Memorial Trust of the new situation.
2. That the clerk was to tender for new contractors should the War Memorial Trust confirm to proceed on this basis.

F. Quality of Pavement Resurfacing in Finstown

Members discussed the reply received from Orkney Islands Council advising that the footway in question was inspected and found to be acceptable, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Correspondence

A. Quanterness - Proposal of Application Notice to erect six wind turbines

Following brief discussion, it was:

Resolved that this item had been fully discussed during the earlier presentation.

7. Finance Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 25 October 2019 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining for approval was £8,569.88.

B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund

After consideration of the Rennibister wind turbine community fund statement as at 25 October 2019, it was resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining was £4,000.
2. That the clerk would seek advice from Democratic Services as to how the donation was calculated, and if it could be increased for the benefit of the more vulnerable in the community.
3. That the clerk seek guidance from Democratic Services as to how the monies donated can be spent.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 25 October 2019 and discussion thereof, it was resolved:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval of £662.00.
2. That members questioned why the App No 41707 had remained unclaimed and the clerk was to investigate further.
3. That the initials on APOP NO 41901 should read SCA and not S&FCA.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 25 October 2019 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,534.95.

8. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club (OASC) – Thurso Open 14 September 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 7 competitors taking part in the meet, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 per competitor be granted, totalling £175.

B. Netball Competition Edinburgh 13 September 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Ms M Flett, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter taking part in the above competition, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

C. Netball Competition Elgin 28 September 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Ms M Flett, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter taking part in the above competition, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

D. Netball Competition Glasgow 20 October 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Ms M Flett, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter taking part in the competition, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

E. Stenness Community Association (SCA) - Christmas Events December 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from SCA, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of Christmas festive events, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £200 be granted.

F. Firth Football Pitch Rabbit Problem

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mr R Bichan, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting support and assistance in their request to Orkney Islands Council to make the playing surface safe to play on, it was:

Resolved that the clerk inform Democratic Services of the members concerns regarding players health and safety.

G. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club (OASC) – Aberdeen North District Open 9 November 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from OASC, copies of which were read out to members, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of one competitor taking part in the above meet, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £25 be granted.

9. Consultation

A. Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of documents provided via email to members regarding the Winter Service Plan, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make at this time.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of documents provided via email to members regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make at this time.

10. Publications

Resolved to note there were no publications at this time for members consideration.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Grass Cutting – Finstown Cemetery

Members heard from Councillor Tierney that members of the public had brought to his attention the timely nature of the grass cutting, and it was resolved:

1. That the clerk contact Democratic Services regarding the timetable of grass cutting.
2. That the clerk ask Democratic Services if the grass cutting could go out to tender.

B. Biniquoy Road

Members heard from Councillor Tierney that it had been brought to his attention that a disabled person's bus had recently ended side on into a deep ditch.

Members expressed grave concerns on the grounds of health and safety concerning this situation, especially with winter approaching, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk should contact Democratic Services regarding the safety of disabled passengers.

C. Roof on Cottage – Happy Valley

Members discussed the condition of repair of the small cottage sited within Happy Valley. The external building now requires repair in order to maintain health and safety, and it was:

Resolved that the clerk informs Democratic Services of their concerns.

D. Christmas Tree Lighting 6 December 2019 at 18:30

Members discussed the arrangements for the Christmas tree lighting in December, and, it was resolved:

1. That the clerk purchases a Christmas tree each for Finstown and Stenness.
2. That the clerk contact Firth Church of Scotland to arrange the opening of the church after the tree lighting and to possibly provide entertainment.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on Thursday, 6 February 2020 in the Firth Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

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