

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 26 August 2024 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Lynne Spence, Steven Brodie, Moyra Gordon, Robert F Leslie, John R Mowat and Rosemary Rhodes.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- 1 member of the local press.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Barbara J M Graham, Cathleen A Hourie and Chris J F Matthews.

2. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 17 June 2024 was approved, being proposed by Rosemary Rhodes and seconded by Steven Brodie.

3. Matters Arising

A. Benches

L Spence gave an update on work to date regarding maintenance of benches around Kirkwall, together with proposals for moving forward, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That L Spence should submit an application to the Orkney Towns Fund for a programme of bench refurbishment.
2. That members should provide L Spence with photos and/or a note of the location of benches around Kirkwall, so that the database could be updated.
3. That L Spence should liaise with the Community Justice service at Orkney Islands Council to determine whether they could assist with maintenance of benches.
4. That an application be made for assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme, amounting to £1,000, towards the purchase of materials for maintaining benches.

B. Conservation Verges – Review

The Clerk had still 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.

C. Former Street Names

R Leslie had submitted a number of photos showing renamed lanes in Lerwick, and it was:

Resolved that a similar project to ascertain whether streets and/or lanes within Kirkwall had been renamed, be submitted to the Orkney Towns Fund.

D. Glaitness Parent Council – Glaitness Play Area Renewal

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

Resolved to take no further action at this time.

E. Gate in Bignold Park at Meadowbank End

The Clerk had been advised by Orkney islands Council that there were currently no plans to do any further works beyond the temporary repair to the gate at the Meadowbank end of

the Bignold Park, however the temporary repair appeared to have solved the problem, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

F. 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.

G. Orkney Heritage Society – Request for Green Plaque

The Clerk advised that the green plaque advising of the site of the first hydro electric station in Kirkwall had been received and passed to the Orkney Heritage Society, who had reimbursed the cost of the plaque, and it would now be displayed ready for the unveiling as part of the Orkney Science Festival on 7 September 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

H. Common Good Fund

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that it was not possible to provide a map indicating Common Good property, and that details of the fund balance were available within Orkney Islands Council's draft statement of accounts, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

I. Local Place Plans

L Spence advised that she had met representatives of Development and Marine Planning on 25 July 2024 to discuss the possibility of updating Your Kirkwall as a Local Place Plan for Kirkwall and St Ola. She was advised that Orkney Islands Council currently had no capacity or resource to update Your Kirkwall, had no plans to undertake a refresh and were not actively tracking progress with projects contained in the document, which dated from 2018, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should recirculate Your Kirkwall to all members of the Community Council who should then email any suggestions for updating to the Chair and Vice Chair, with a view to progressing an updated Place Plan by the deadline of the end of March 2025.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Special Meeting held on 15 July 2024 was approved, being proposed by John Mowat and seconded by Rosemary Rhodes.

5. Matters Arising – Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

The Clerk advised that the Bonfire Committee had met and commenced arrangements for the 2024 event, with all permissions in the process of being applied for. Other Community Councils had been contacted requesting financial assistance, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

6. Correspondence

A. Defibrillator Registration

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Heart Support Group regarding registering defibrillators, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Attendance by NSI colleagues at Community Council Meetings

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of arrangements for attendance of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure senior managers at community council meetings, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, rather than attend every meeting, it was proposed that Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure senior managers would attend at least one meeting per annum.

C. Orkney Matters 2

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding arrangements for Orkney Matters 2, the Orkney Partnership's planning community engagement exercise, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, although the meeting had been rearranged to be held in the King Street Halls on 21 August 2024, due to unforeseen circumstances which were not communicated to the Community Council, the meeting had been further postponed.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 16 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 16 August 2024 of £20,822.29.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/25 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 16 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £2,892.02 had been approved, of which £592.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £2,041.79.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 16 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £6,163.46.

8. Financial Requests

A. Kirkjuvagr Dancers

Following consideration of an application from T Paterson requesting financial assistance towards her daughters' participation in the highland dancing competition at the Mey Highland Games held on 3 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of each of the dancers participating in the competition.

B. Highland Dancing, Mey Highland Games

Following consideration of an application from S Campbell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in the highland dancing competition at the Mey Highland Games held on 3 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of participation in the competition.

C. Kirkjuvagr Dancers

Following consideration of an application from D Ritchie requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in the highland dancing competition at the Mey Highland Games held on 3 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of participation in the competition.

D. Orkney Athletics Club

Following consideration of an application from S Webb requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in the Under 15 4J Studios Age Group Championships held at Grangemouth on 10 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of participation in the competition.

E. Highland Dancing Competitions

Following consideration of an application from T Russell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in various highland dancing competitions between August and November 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of participation in each of the four competitions.

F. Kirkjuvagr Dancers

Following consideration of an application from D Johnston requesting financial assistance towards her daughters' participation in the highland dancing competition at the Mey Highland Games held on 3 August 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of each of the dancers participating in the competition.

G. Highland Dancing

Following consideration of an application from S Campbell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in the Lorraine Bremner highland dancing competition to be held on 7 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given in respect of participation in the competition.

9. Consultations

A. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a consultation on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, for which responses were due by 25 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Islands Marine Region – Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a consultation on Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance for the Orkney Islands Marine Region, for which responses were due by 25 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that a community engagement event was scheduled to take place at the Pickaquoy Centre on 19 September 2024, after which a response could be considered at the next meeting.

C. National Care Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Scottish Government's survey on the National Care Service and a community engagement exercise in relation to the Island Communities Impact Assessment, for which responses were due by 30 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a collective response should be considered via email, as well as individual responses, to be submitted by the deadline.

D. Voice of Communities

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a survey to capture the unique experiences and perspectives of community groups which Highlands and Islands Enterprise were currently running, for which responses were required by the end of September 2024, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should request a copy of the survey questionnaire in order that a response could be submitted by the deadline.

10. Meetings attended by Members

A. Orkney Towns Fund

Aquatera had arranged a series of workshops in relation to the Orkney Towns Fund, with a workshop for Community Council members held on the afternoon of 18 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that several members had attended the afternoon workshop, with ideas for potential projects highlighted to the organisers.

B. Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

The Scottish Islands Federation had advised of an online workshop, held on 22 July 2024, to discuss and help develop the basis of the Island Communities Impact Assessment in relation to the Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind energy, and it was:

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

11. Publications

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

- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – June and July 2024.
- SEPA Updates – 20 and 26 June, 31 July 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – June 2024.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Newsletters – June and July 2024.
- VAO Newsletters – June and July 2024.
- Paths for All – eNews – June and July 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action – August 2024 Newsletter.

12. Any Other Competent Business – Island Games Legacy

Following discussion on possible options for a legacy project for the Island Games, it was:

Resolved that L Spence should seek costings for nine benches depicting each of the sports to be included in the Island Games to be held in Orkney in July 2025, for consideration at the next meeting, with funding potentially from a mix of Community Development Fund, Community Council Grant Scheme and General Fund allocations.

13. 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, 7 October 2024, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

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