

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held in the Birsay Community Hall on Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 19:30

Present:

K.Spence, D Scarth, Miss K Coghill, M Hay, A Spence and S Spence.

In Attendance:

Councillors R King and O Tierney.
Mrs L Leitch, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from R Delday.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Resolved to note that there were no Police Scotland matters.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting Held 9 November 2017

The minute of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 was approved, being proposed by M Hay and seconded by S Spence.

4. Matters Arising

A. Replacement Sign at Sand Geo

After hearing that the replacement sign had been ordered and that the stand would be fabricated once the notice was complete, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

B. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

Members heard that the Chairman has discussed the proposals for the area of land to be used for car parking with the Council's planning department who confirmed that full planning would be required. Members were also informed that the following documents and requirements were needed in support of the application: the car park would need to be 1.5 metres from the road edge, an application for planning was required to be submitted together with a site plan, location plan, details of materials to be used, details of drainage, land ownership certificates and planning fee. Following discussion, it was agreed that plans would need to be drawn up first and, it was:

Resolved that the Chairman would organise for plans to be drawn and make arrangements for the necessary supporting documentation.

C. Hoolan Energy

Distributed at the meeting was an update from Hoolan Energy summarising the discussions held with the company in December with the Community Council. A representative from Aquatera had also been present at the meeting and it had been agreed that members from both Birsay and South Ronaldsay would convene to discuss, in further detail, community benefit from the two Hoolan Energy projects in Orkney. After discussion, it was:

Resolved that the matter would be taken further once Community Council representatives had met with Aquatera.

D. West Mainland Brochure

Members heard that two Birsay delegates had attended a Sub Committee meeting to discuss the West Mainland Tourist Brochure. The Sub Committee had agreed for a further 25,000 copies of the tourist brochure to meet the demand for the tourist season ahead. Cost for printing was £3,200 which would be met from the five West Mainland Community Councils applying for £640 each in Grant Scheme. The format of the brochure will be reviewed again in time for the 2019 tourist season. The Chair also informed the meeting that the demand for the current brochure had been high, in particular due to the good map detailed on the leaflet. Brochures had been distributed to the tourist sights and had not gone to the cruise liners and coaches as first anticipated and, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should apply for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme on a project cost of £640.
2. That the Sub Committee was due to meet on 28 February 2018 to discuss the brochure further.

E. Road Issues – Marwick Road and Lower Stanger, Birsay

Members considered correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, informing members that the Team Leader Roads Support would be investigating concerns and attending to accordingly issues raised at the last meeting. The temporary plate on the Marwick Road was secure and a repair would be planned and programmed in the new year and, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Stoneyhill Road End, Harray

Members noted that at the Harray side of the Stoneyhill Road end, part of the ditch had been filled in but had not been finished and was considered dangerous. After debate, it was:

Resolved to note the members' concerns in the business letter.

G. Gates at Palace Kirk

Resolved that no update was available and this matter would be carried forward to the next meeting.

H. Continuation of Pavement past Quilco Housing Scheme, Dounby

Members considered correspondence, which had been distributed at the meeting, advising that the Community Council's comments had been noted. However, there was no budget available for the provision of a new section of footpath. After noting that the project will be considered for Capital Project Appraisal the next time round, it was agreed by members that for safety reasons the pavement needs to be extended due to the number of new houses further on. The West Mainland Councillors thought

that funding may be available through Sustrans. Although the pavement had previously been discussed by the Dounby Group, no further updates or information from the committee had been received. The Chair also remarked that the pavement had been highlighted by the Community Council three years ago and, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence to keep the issue at the forefront.

I. Harray Road End – Lighting at Bus Shelter

Following consideration of correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting, which advised that solar stud lighting from the Harray Road end car park leading to the bus shelter would be considered should any external funding be obtained. It was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Correspondence

A. NHS Orkney – Appointment of Non-Executive Directors

After consideration of correspondence received from NHS Orkney advising that they would be advertising for three non-executive members, particularly women, to join their board, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Scottish Health Council – Invitation to National Health and Social Care Standards

After consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Health Council inviting members to their Voices Scotland Taster Session being held in Kirkwall on 31 January, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Local Energy Scotland – Invitation to Webinar

After consideration of correspondence received from Local Energy Scotland inviting members to participate in a Webinar to discuss shared ownership on 22 February 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Thank You Letters and Messages

After hearing from the Clerk that thank you messages had been received in respect of financial assistance provided by the Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note that messages of thanks had been conveyed by Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council and a thank you letter had been received from Dounby School.

6. Consultations Winter Service Plan 2017/18

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2017/18, copies of which had been previously circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that members did not wish to make any representations on the document.

7. Finance

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £224.68 and for £2,000 to be transferred from the Birsay Energy Fund and credited to the general funds.

B. Birsay Energy Fund

After consideration of the Birsay Energy Fund statement as at 10 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £16,260.26.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2017/2018 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 10 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,251.41.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 10 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £8,183.37.

E. Seedcorn Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 10 January 2018, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £21.64.

F. Travel Assistance Grants Awarded

Travel grants awarded by the Community Council were considered in length and, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the amount given towards travel would remain the same with £25 being awarded for travel within Orkney.
2. That the amount of £30 would be given for travel to Caithness.
3. That the amount of £50 would be given for trips within the UK (excluding Caithness) for a maximum of three trips per each financial year.
4. That overseas trips would be awarded the amount of £100.
5. That only residents of school age and in full time education would be eligible for travel assistance.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Mrs C Atkinson – Netball Festival, Ellon

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs C Atkinson applying for financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter competing in a netball festival held in Ellon, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £50 be given towards the cost of the trip to Ellon.

B. Stenness Community School – Lagganlia Trip 2018

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Community School applying for financial assistance towards the cost of one pupil, who resided in Birsay, participating in the school trip to Nethy Bridge, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £50 be given towards the cost of the Nethy Bridge trip.

C. Mrs C Atkinson – Under 13's Netball, Aberdeen

Following consideration received from Mrs C Atkinson applying for financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter competing in a Netball Festival to be held in Aberdeen, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £50 be given towards the cost of the trip.

Noted that this item of business would be carried forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

9. Publications

The following publications were made available to members:

- Orkney Policing Report – October 2017.
- Orkney's Creative Future.
- NHS Scotland.
- Police Scotland Online Safety Campaign.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Slip at Buckquoy

Concern over the poor condition of the Slip at the Point of Buckquoy had been raised prior to the meeting. The area had become eroded and undermined. Members thought that the Council owned the car park at the top of the slip although there was dispute over the ownership of the actual slip. Members heard that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) may have an interest in the land which had been built by them in the seventies. Maintenance had been carried out historically by the Community and it was thought that repairs would be needed very soon but at present did not constitute a danger. Councillor King informed the meeting that she is waiting to hear back from HES and ahs also asked for the Community Council to be kept up to date. Members also advised that the path was never finished and could HES also notify when they intend to complete the last section of the path. After discussion, it was:

Resolved that this matter be brought to the next meeting when a reply from HES had been received.

B. Road Across the Links

Birsay residents had asked if something could be done to improve the road across the links. Members thought that the road only needed a scrape with a loader bucket and, it was:

Resolved for the Chair to contact the landowner to ask permission for the road to be scraped.

C. Fallen Headstone in Birsay Kirkyard

After hearing that two headstones had fallen in the Birsay Kirkyard, it was:

Resolved for this matter to be included in the business letter to Democratic Services.

D. Parking at the Palace, Birsay

The meeting heard that there was an apparent parking issue at a property near the Palace which was obstructing bus access. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that this issue be brought to the next meeting once details of ownership and rights of way were clarified and the situation had been monitored.

E. Bag the Bruck 2018

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been distributed at the meeting, advising members of arrangements for the annual Bag the Bruck event to be held from April 2018, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the Clerk should apply for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme on a project cost of £300.
3. That the £300 would be split equally between the groups applying to take part in the Bag the Bruck prior to the event date.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Birsay Community Council would be held on Thursday 29 March 2018 in the Birsay Hall, commencing at 19.30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:52.