

# Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 15 January 2021 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr I Deyell, Mr P Donnelly, Mr M Holbrook, Mrs H Scott and Mr I Scott.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms S Moore, Clerk.
- Mr O Gibb, Community Garden Project.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Ms A Duncan and Councillor G Sinclair

## **2. Presentation - Community Garden Project**

Mr O Gibb spoke to the members regarding his proposal of a not-for-profit organic food and gardening project on the island. He was hoping that the project would create employment on the island, perhaps job share opportunities for two people, using land that is not currently being utilised on the island. Members heard that the project would support both old and new growing types, incorporating the latest techniques with the existing infrastructure on the island.

It was reported that North Ronaldsay Trust was in support of the idea, and Mr Gibb had been in close contact with them to perhaps develop the land, install Polycrubs and build tool sheds around Treb when the purchase of the property had gone through. The project would begin at 0.5 acres with a hopeful start date being next summer. The Community Development Manager had been helping Mr Gibb with funding requests through various funding bodies, including OIC and Business Gateway.

The members encouraged Mr Gibb to produce an overview of his project on paper for the islanders to read and comment on for further feedback. As the project was still in the early stages, the members agreed to await an update and perhaps a funding request for the Community Council to support this new business.

The Chair thanked Mr Gibb for his presentation but stated that, at the moment, the project fell more within the remit of the North Ronaldsay Trust than North Ronaldsay Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

Mr O Gibb left the meeting at this point.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the general meeting held on 30 October 2020 were approved, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mr I Scott.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Scrap Cars**

The Clerk reported that the budget was close to being used up but was awaiting further invoices coming in to confirm the status of the budget, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. Plastic Benches**

Following discussion of plastic benches, it was noted that no-one on the island had submitted a tender for making the concrete bases for the plastic benches.

Following discussion of the sale of the old benches at the airport, it was noted that there were two offers from individuals on the island, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To award the benches to the highest bidder.
2. To investigate further solutions for the installation of concrete bases for the new benches.

## **C. Nurse Replacement**

Following discussion of the Nurse Practitioner replacement, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would get back in touch with NHS Orkney to try and arrange a meeting.

## **D. Stiles**

As Ms A Duncan was not present to give a report on the subject of stiles, it was:

Resolved to note that the matter was ongoing.

## **E. Hut at Kirkyard**

Correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advised members that there had been changes in regulations regarding grave digging which now required any individual willing to dig graves to provide and maintain their own grave digging equipment.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would ask the current grave digger to provide a list of items that he would need to make the task safer and the Community Council would cost these items and provide them.
2. That the Clerk would ask the current grave digger to conduct a risk assessment and a method statement to satisfy the new regulations.

## **F. Conversation with People of Scotland**

Councillor H Woodbridge advised that she had attended this meeting and had given feedback on the island's current healthcare situation, mentioning, among other things, ambulance waiting times and general access to health care. The report from this meeting has gone to government and an update would be forthcoming, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **G. NRCC Loan to NRT**

Following discussion of correspondence received from the Chairman of North Ronaldsay Trust, Mr J Scott, requesting an extension to loan until 1 April 2022, it was:

Resolved to grant the extension to the loan.

## **H. Road Aggregate**

Following discussion regarding the over allocation of road aggregates, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would contact everyone that had submitted an application for road aggregates and inform them that this scheme was only for maintenance of the area between the main road and to a residential house which is owned and occupied for the majority of the year.
2. That the Clerk would ask the applicants to reapply for chips, stating the length of the road they wish to maintain and inform them that, given the over allocation of aggregates, all applicants will receive scalplings regardless of what their initial order was.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Awards for Community-led Built Environment Projects**

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an invitation to nominate someone for an award for community-led projects, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Proposed North Isles Waste Management Initiative**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stronsay Waste Matters, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a North Isles Waste Management project, and discussion of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding a plastic waste recycling trial in Stronsay, it was:

Resolved:

1. To write to Stronsay Waste Matters to express an interest in participating in any North Isles scheme.
2. To note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Road Repairs**

Following discussion of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding the reporting of roads issues, and mechanisms for individuals to report road repairs, members voiced their dissatisfaction at the length of time that the island had been without any road repairs, and asked Councillors S Clackson and H

Woodbridge to take the issue of the current system of reporting road problems further as they felt it was not fit for purpose. Members also raised the issue of waterlogging on the roads and that the local road men cannot fix these problems without the Council authorising them to do so. The Democratic Services Manager advised that this is an Orkney wide issue that is currently being looked at. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to discuss these issues again at the next meeting.

#### **D. Trade, Spending and Fish Certificates**

Following discussion of correspondence received from the Scottish Government regarding fish certificates and food producing concerns, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

#### **E. Connecting Scotland, Phase 2, Round 2**

Following discussion of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Scottish Government's initiative to provide iPads, Chromebooks, and support to develop digital skills of those who are on low incomes, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

#### **F. Orkney Scam Action Group**

Following discussion of correspondence received from Orkney Scam Action Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the formation of a new local multiagency group whose aim it was to tackle scams, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

#### **G. Fair Start Scotland**

Following discussion of correspondence received from the Fair Start Scotland Delivery Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the help available from their organisation for those unemployed and looking for work, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

#### **H. Defibrillator Service**

Following an update from the Clerk that the nurse practitioner had order replacement pads through the Community Council for the community owned defibs, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 December 2020 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance in the General Fund was £13,942.79.

### **B. Turbine Fund**

Members considered the Turbine Fund statement as at 22 December 2020, and it was:

Resolved to note the balance in the Turbine Fund of £9,116.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 December 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the balances remaining were £71.13 and £527.40 in the main and additional capping limits and that the island capping limit was fully allocated.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 22 December 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £5,000.

### **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 22 December 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £122.

## **7. Financial Request – C K Trading**

Following consideration of correspondence received from CK Trading, requesting £560 to aid in the set-up of a new business on the island, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk would ask C K Trading to submit an application for Seed Corn Funding, advising them that it would not be the community council that would make the final decision on this application.

B. That the Clerk would advise C K Trading that any Seed Corn funding awarded would only be available for the setting up of the online side of their business, as the community council would not be supporting one business which competes with others on the island.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

The Transport Representative advised that the Clerk had previously sent a letter to Orkney Ferries regarding a back-up freight plane when a ferry was cancelled and the members felt the response that the back-up freight service only operated in the summer months was unacceptable. Following discussion, it was

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would write to the North Isles Councillors, requesting that North Ronaldsay get a back-up freight plane in the winter as well as the summer if there is a cancelled ferry, stating the need for a dedicated freight plane to bring perishables to the island and emphasising the chaos and distress it causes individuals on the island when perishables are sent out on the passenger plane.
2. That the Clerk would write to the North Isles Councillors to request that the emergency plan of initiating an OLECG meeting be brought forward to 2 weeks instead of 3.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that the Planning Representative was not present to give a report.

### **C. North Ronaldsay Trust Representative**

It was reported that the Trust was making progress in the purchase of Treb and a newsletter had gone out recently which covered most of their recent activities, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

## **9. Publications**

The following publications were made available to members:

- VAO Newsletter – October, November and December 2020.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – August and September 2020.
- Air and Ferries – Consultative Forum Meeting – Agenda and Papers for meeting to be held on 10 February 2021.
- Letter from School Place – November 2020.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November and December 2020.
- VAO – Community Engagement Project.
- VAO – Radiology Services in Scotland – Patient and Carer Survey.
- VAO – Scottish Government – Strengthening Scottish Charity Law Survey.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Waste Skips**

The Chair informed members that Orkney Ferries were going to buy their own cradle for use with North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray's scrap metal skips, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

### **B. Rabbits**

Mr P Donnelly raised the issue of the over population of rabbits on the island and referred to previous correspondence from 25 August 2020 regarding inviting Mark Reeves to come to the island for a survey of the situation, costing £500. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would apply for Community Council Grant Scheme funding on a project cost of £500.
2. That Mr P Donnelly would contact Mark Reeves about travelling to the island and would also contact Police Scotland with regards the current Covid-19 restrictions on travel within Orkney.

### **C. Cattle Grid at Pier**

The Chair raised the issue of the broken bars in the cattle grid at the pier, stating it was possibly dangerous, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact OIC to request the cattle grid be repaired.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 11 March 2021 via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 22:10.