

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in the Stenness Community Centre on Tuesday, 26 November 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Ms W Dunnet, Mr R Crichton, Mr M H Marcus, Mrs R Lyon, Ms B Scollay, Miss S Spence and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Mrs N Bremner, Consultant - Stenness Place Plan.
- Mr D Campbell, Voluntary Action Orkney - Stenness Place Plan.

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1. Stenness Place Plan

Representatives of the Stenness Place Plan provided members with an update on the progress of the Stenness Place Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr R Hourston and Councillors J Stevenson and D Tullock.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 19 September 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr R Crichton and seconded by Miss S Spence.

4. Matters Arising

A. Garden Waste

The Chair advised that the minute stated “Resolved to monitor the situation” however she wished to receive an update on the situation regarding the skip for garden waste, and it was:

Resolved to ask for an update on whether a skip could be provided for garden waste.

B. Finstown Cleanliness

The Chair raised concerns regarding two vehicles that remained in the car park, one of which had a flat tyre, and what arrangements could be made to find out about their removal. The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, advised that enquiries could be made with Orkney Islands Council. Miss S Spence asked if a more subtle approach could be taken by possibly contacting the owners first. Mr M Marcus advised that he would contact the owners and provide an update. The Chair also advised that despite the Head of Neighbourhood Services advising at the last meeting there were no resources available for the cleaning of path, there had been Orkney Islands Council operatives cleaning the paths on Heddle Hill, and it was:

Resolved to note the Mr M Marcus would provide an update on the vehicles and that members appreciated that the paths on the Heddle Road had been cleared.

C. Finstown Shore

The Chair asked why the minute said, “To note that no signage was proposed”. The Interim Clerk advised that the Head of Neighbourhood Services had advised at that meeting that no signage was to be put up in the area that was eroding. Members discussed that this should be reconsidered as lots of folk walked along the shore area which could be seen as a health and safety issue due to the erosion, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council to erect a sign in the area advising that there was a possibility of shore edge collapsing due to coastal erosion.

Mrs A Stevenson joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

D. Speeding Concerns

The Chair asked why the minute referred to speeding getting worse “especially in Stenness” as it was a problem in most areas. The Interim Clerk advised that the report of speeding on this occasion referred in particular to Stenness hence the reference in the minute, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Community Council Attendance

Mrs A Stevenson asked if the attendance at one meeting a year by Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure officers would be covered by their attendance at the meeting on 19 September 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Orkney Pilgrimage

The Chair stated that the item regarding funding to Orkney Pilgrimage should have stated that it was for the St Magnus Way, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

Mr R Crichton asked why these items were being raised at this point as the minute had been proposed and adopted as a true reflection of the meeting. The Chair agreed and continued with the agenda.

5. SSEN Update – Transmission Project

There were no representatives from SSEN present at the meeting, however, a written update had been provided by email advising members of planned single lane closures with temporary traffic lights and future meetings being held, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

6. Matters Arising

A. Quarry Group

Members had previously been sent information requested at the last meeting however as Mr R Hourston was not available to attend the meeting, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting.

B. Festive Lighting

The Interim Clerk advised members that the new lights had been received and delivered to E Frasers and that members had agreed by email to the cost for the

erection of the new lights and connecting the lights for 2024 should be funded from Community Council Grant Scheme. Mr R Crichton advised that he had report that one of the lights in Stenness was not working, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the reports and to apply for Community Council Grant Scheme on the cost of connecting the lights for 2024.

C. Finstown Cleanliness

Mr M Marcus advised that cleaning had been undertaken on paths and signs at various parts of Finstown by himself and his father however it was an ongoing project as time and weather allowed, and it was:

Resolved to note the update from Mr M Marcus.

D. Speeding Concerns

Resolved to note that an update was awaited on this item.

E. Tree Lighting

Members received an update from M Marcus advising that all arrangements were in place for the tree lighting and that Mrs E Slater had been asked to switch on the lights. He also asked that funding be made available to Firth Community Association for the cost of refreshments, and it was:

Resolved to note that arrangements were in place for the tree lighting and members agreed to funding the cost of refreshments for the event.

7. Correspondence

A. Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Members had previously been forwarded information from Orkney Native Wildlife asking if they would be interested in a visit to update them on the project, and it was:

Resolved to invite Orkney Native Wildlife to a future meeting.

B. Native Oyster Restoration Project

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding the Native Oyster Restoration Project, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024-2025

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2024-2025 comments and where it said, "can the reaction temperature be lowered from 2 degrees to 1 degree", it was:

Resolved to query if the temperature being lowered was a local or national decision and how the temperature in different areas of Orkney was determined.

D. Thank You Notes

Resolved to note that thank you notes for financial assistance awarded had been received from K McIntosh, Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, Orkney Pilgrimage and Firth Primary Parent Council.

8. Consultation - Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies

Following consideration of Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies document, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses had already passed.

9. Finance Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 12 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,607.24, which included funds of £5,000 from the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 12 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £1,582.97 and £765 remained available for allocation in the main and additional capping limits respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Members considered the CDF statement as at 12 November 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining available for allocation of £6,615.63.

10. Financial Requests

A. K Chalmers – Highland Dancing

Mrs A Stevenson declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion.

Following consideration of a request from K Chalmers on behalf of E Chalmers attending a Highland Dancing Competition in Caithness on 17 November 2024, a copy of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £30.

B. K McIntosh – Netball

Following consideration of a request from K McIntosh on behalf of J McIntosh towards a trip to Aberdeen to play netball with the Orkney U17s District Squad on 27-28 September 2024, a copy of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £30.

C. K McIntosh – Netball

Following consideration of a request from K McIntosh on behalf of J McIntosh towards a trip to Aberdeen to play netball with the Orkney U17s District Squad on 8-10 November 2024, a copy of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £30.

D. K Gilmour – Netball

Following consideration of a request from K Gilmour on behalf of F Aberdein towards a trip to Aberdeen to play netball with the Orkney U17s District Squad on 27-28 September 2024, a copy of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £30.

E. K Gilmour – Firth School Outdoor Education

Following consideration of a request from K Gilmour on behalf of M Aberdein towards taking part in the Firth School's Outdoor education activities week, a copy of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Firth School had received funding for this trip at the meeting of 12 September 2024, therefore no grant was awarded.

F. Stenness Community Association – Christmas Party

Mrs R Lyon and Ms B Scollay declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion.

Following consideration of correspondence from Stenness Community Council requesting assistance towards the cost of a Christmas Party for the children in the parish, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £300 should be awarded towards the cost.

G. K Chalmers – Highland Dancing

Mrs A Stevenson declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion.

Following consideration of a request from K Chalmers on behalf of E Chalmers attending a dance competition in Aberdeen on 18 January, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £30.

11. Publications

The following publications had all previously been emailed to members and were noted:

- VAO – Newsletter – September, October 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – October 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – October 2024.

12. AOCB

A. Governance and Procedure at Meetings

Miss S Spence asked if there was a procedure to follow regarding the arrival at decisions on items. Mr R Crichton said that normally discussion would be held and when there was a consensus regarding an item the decision would be arrived in that process however if there was not a consensus a vote could be held, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

B. Speed Limits in Stenness

Following the presentation of the Stenness Place Plan, members were asked if they would consider providing a letter of support in relation to the issue of speeding through Stenness village and the ongoing consultations for the Stenness Place Plan in a bid to reduce the speed from 40mph to 30mph through the village, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council would fully support efforts to reduce the village speed limit from 40mph to 30mph to create a safer, more family-friendly environment.

C. Planning

Mrs A Stevenson asked why the wording had changed regarding the number of days allowed for asking to be a consultee on any planning application and why it was such a short period of time, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would find out and let her know.

13. Dates of Future Meetings

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held at 19:30 on the following dates:

- 6 February 2025.
- 1 May 2025.
- 3 July 2025.
- 18 September 2025.
- 27 November 2025.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.