

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Primary School and via Teams on Monday, 25 November 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs L McAdie, Mr T Craigie, Ms J Gowland, Mr L Flett, Mrs N Linklater, Mr D Paterson and Miss R Russell.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Peace.
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Welcome and Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minute	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Consultation Documents	2
5. Correspondence	3
6. Financial Statements	6
7. Financial Requests	6
8. Publications	8
9. Any Other Competent Business.....	8
10. Dates of Next Meetings	9
11. Conclusion of Meeting	10

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and especially Ms J Gowland, who was attending her first meeting as a Community Council member, having been elected at the public meeting prior to this meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the welcome and that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Moar and G Skuse.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 28 August 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr L Flett and seconded by Mrs N Linklater.

3. Matters Arising

A. Ayrenergy Ltd Report

The Chair advised that an annual report was required to be submitted to Ayrenergy before 31 December 2024, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a report to Ayrenergy Ltd, detailing the funding awarded from the Ayrenergy account by 31 December 2024.

B. Grit Bin - Hall of Brecks Junction, Deerness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services advising that the Roads Team would, this winter, provide an additional grit bin to be located at the Hall of Brecks Junction, Deerness, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Mr L Flett had advised that the grit bin was on site.
2. That the Clerk would write to Democratic Services expressing members thanks for the new grit bin at Hall of Brecks Junction, Deerness.

4. Consultation Documents

A. National Care Service

Following consideration of the National Care Service consultation and an invitation to attend the Island Communities Impact Assessment online session to be held on 18 and 19 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Post-School Education and Skills Reform

Following consideration of the Post School Education and Skills Reform: Consultation on Legislation, which required a response by 20 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

C. Boundary Scotland – Review of Parliamentary Boundaries

Following consideration of the Boundary Scotland consultation – Review of Parliamentary Boundaries, which required a response by 26 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that there was no change to the boundaries in the Orkney Islands.

D. Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies

Following consideration of the Community Council Survey: Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies, which required a response by 15 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the survey.

E. Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) - Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO inviting members to complete their survey, how should VAO support charities and community groups in Orkney, which required completion by 24 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

F. Private Water Supply - Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from Ms H Anderson, PhD Researcher, University of Stirling inviting members to complete her survey investigating private water supply quality in Scotland and requesting that the link is shared with this community, it was:

Resolved to note that two members had completed this survey and that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

G. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

Following consideration of the consultation, Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024, which required a response by 16 December 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the St Andrews and Deerness parishes polling district had no changes proposed and the polling place remained St Andrews Community Centre.

5. Correspondence

A. Winter Treatment Contracts

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC inviting interested parties with plant equipment for hire who wished to assist during periods of extreme weather or for civil engineering works to make contact with OIC, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

B. Mr R Bailey, Parliamentary Researcher – Lithium Batteries

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr R Bailey, Parliamentary Researcher inviting members to support the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal (used in e-bikes and e-scooters) and following discussion regarding the dangers of combustion and disposal of lithium batteries, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would write to Mr R Bailey, Parliamentary Researcher to advise that this Community Council recognised the dangers of lithium batteries and their disposal and supported his campaign, and to also request further information in order to raise awareness in the community.

2. That the Clerk would write to the Rt Hon A Carmichael MP and to Liam McArthur MSP to raise Community Council members concerns regarding the dangers of lithium batteries and their disposal (used in e-bikes and e-scooters) and to request more information from them on how their use and the dangers of combustion and disposal is being scrutinised and monitored by parliament.

C. Orkney Towns Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services on behalf of the Orkney Towns Fund, inviting members to participate in a community engagement event on 1 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had circulated the posters to local outlets for display.

D. Winter Service Plan 2024-2025

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services which provided members with responses from Roads Support to comments received during the Winter Service Plan 2024-2025 consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkneycommunities.co.uk 2024 AGM

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkneycommunities.co.uk inviting members to participate in their 2024 online AGM, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

F. Request for a Bus Shelter and Dog Waste Bins to be located at Lighthouse Corner, Deerness

Members considered correspondence from Ms A Woodfield, a Deerness parishioner requesting members give consideration for the siting of a bus shelter and dog waste bin at Lighthouse Corner, Deerness. The Chair advised that she had e-mailed the Service Manager Transportation, OIC and she had advised that there may be funding available in the next financial year for bike shelters, which could be used as a bus shelter. Ms J Gowland advised that Sustrans funding may be available for

this type of project. She also advised that the parking area may have to be sacrificed at this location in order to site a shelter. Ms R Russell asked if there was a requirement in Tankerness for a bus shelter also and the Clerk advised that there had been a suggestion for one to be located at the Heatherhouse/Brae of Fea/Rerwick junction, Tankerness where a number of children congregated for the school bus, and tourist bus passengers, visiting Rerwick, waited for the bus service. Location of the shelter and neighbouring landowners was discussed.

Members proceeded to discuss where dog or waste bins were located in Deerness, at Newark, the Geo, and the Gloup and advised that an additional dog waste bin at the Lighthouse Corner would be advantageous. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would write to Democratic Services requesting a bus or bike shelter be considered for two locations, Lighthouse Corner, Deerness and Heatherhouse/Brae of Fea/Rerwick Junction, Tankerness.
2. That the Clerk would write to Democratic Services requesting a dog waste bin/refuse bin be located at Lighthouse Corner, Deerness.

G. TWM Digital Speed Display Signs

Following consideration of correspondence from TWM Traffic Control Systems advertising their digital speed display signs, and following a comment from Ms R Russell stating that these signs would be ideal for built-up areas like Toab and at the Deerness Shop, some discussion took place regarding their effectiveness at reducing speeding traffic however concern was raised by members at their perceived cost, and it was:

Resolved to note this information but that no action would be taken.

H. Orkney Matters 2

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting members to attend the online meeting on 29 October 2024 and participate in the conversation regarding "what matters to you in Orkney", it was:

Resolved that no members had attended the Orkney Matters 2 meeting, however, the Chair and Ms R Russell had attended a previous meeting,

I. Scottish Southern Energy Network (SSEN)

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN regarding their revised community toolkit which, in the event of a power cut, provided priority services to vulnerable customers, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

J. Scottish Water

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Water with their news release regarding information to protect property and pipes from water damage this winter, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

K. Thank You Letters

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received from Mrs D Scott, Mrs K Craigie, Miss A Brough, Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, Deerness Community Centre Association, Ms Y Harcus, Miss A Lennie and Girlguiding Orkney for financial assistance provided.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the 2024/2025 General Finance statement as at 1 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £17,660.43.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £2,516.58 remained in the main capping limit for allocation to projects.

C. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 5 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £23,085.16.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Development Fund as at 5 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £5,000 remained available for allocation from the CDF.

7. Financial Requests

A. Travel Assistance

1. Mr J Rosie

Members considered correspondence from Mr J Rosie requesting travel assistance for his participation in a swimming competition in Thurso, and it was:

Resolved to award Mr J Rosie a £40 travel assistance grant for his participation in the swimming competition.

2. Miss A Nicolson

Members considered correspondence from Miss A Nicolson requesting travel assistance for her participation the Violet Leitch Festival of Dance in Canisbay, Caithness, on 5 October 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award Miss A Nicolson a £40 travel assistance grant for her participation in the dance competition.

3. Misses A and C Nicolson

Members considered correspondence from Miss A and C Nicolson requesting travel assistance for their participation in the Tanya Horne Winter Festival of Dance in Caithness on 17 November 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award Miss A and Miss C Nicolson a £40 travel assistance grant each for their participation in the dance competition.

B. St Andrews SWI

Members considered correspondence from St Andrews SWI requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the 2024 St Andrews Halloween Party, and it was:

Resolved, unanimously, to grant St Andrews SWI £94 towards the cost of the 2024 St Andrews Children's Halloween Party, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Deerness/Toab Group of Parents

Members considered correspondence from a Deerness/Toab Group of Parents requesting financial assistance for the 2024 Deerness Halloween Party, and it was:

Resolved, unanimously, to grant the Deerness/Toab Group of Parents £60 for the 2024 Deerness Halloween Party, subject to approval from the CCGS.

D. St Andrews Senior Citizens

Members considered correspondence from St Andrews Senior Citizen's requesting financial assistance for the 2024 Christmas lunch for fifty senior citizens and, unanimously, it was:

Resolved:

1. To approve a grant totalling £8.00 per attendee to St Andrews Senior Citizens towards their 2024 Christmas lunch for fifty local senior citizens, totalling £400, and subject CCGS approval.

2. That, in order to claim the grant, a list of St Andrews resident senior citizens in attendance should be supplied to the Clerk along with invoice/s for costs.

E. Deerness Bairns Party Group

Miss R Russell declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Members considered correspondence from the Deerness Bairns Party Group requesting financial assistance for the 2024 Deerness Bairns Christmas Party for Deerness, Tankerness and Toab children, and it was:

Resolved, unanimously, to grant the Deerness Bairns Party Group of Parents £300 for the 2024 Bairns Christmas Party, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Publications

The following publications had been made available for members to view and were noted:

- VAO - Training and Funding Update – August, September and October 2024.
- VAO – Newsletter - September and October 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action - Newsletter – August, September and November 2024.
- OIC and BT – PSTN Switch to Digital Services in 2027.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Road Conditions in Orkney

The Chair advised that she had been alerted to water lying on the Stove Road, Deerness, nearby Stove, which was causing potholes to form, which required repair, and offlets requiring cutting to release the water build-up from the road. Ms J Gowland advised that Halley to Lighthouse Corner, the back roads of Deerness, as well as the junction where the Halley Road met the Greentoft Road, Deerness all suffered from similar issues and required investigation and remedial work. Mr D Paterson advised that the Aikers to Heatherhouse Road, Tankerness also required inspection and remedial work. Members noted that budgets were tight however all roads in Orkney required inspection and remedial works as they were deteriorating badly and especially with regard to offlet cutting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk report to Democratic Services water lying on various roads in Deerness and Tankerness, as highlighted in the discussion on this item.
2. That the Clerk writes to Democratic Services requesting that all roads in Orkney be inspected and remedial works undertaken especially offlet cutting and ditching.

B. “Welcome to Deerness” Sign

Ms R Russell advised that many Deerness residents would like to have a “Welcome to Deerness” sign located on the verge at or nearby the Rocket House/Dingieshowe, Deerness. The Head of Planning and Community Protection advised that planning permission would not be required. The CCLO advised that consideration be given by

members that if OIC would not pay for this sign would members wish to consider payment from their CCGS allocation, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk writes to Democratic Services to request that a “Welcome to Deerness” sign be considered by OIC and, failing that and subject to cost, that consideration could be given by the Community Council to purchase the sign plus erection, which would qualify for assistance from the CCGS.

C. Public Meeting Minute 3 October 2024

Mr D Paterson asked when members would receive the public meeting minute from 3 October 2024. The CCLO advised that a draft minute could be released for members attention only and that brief bullet points would be more effective for release to the public and that she would progress this with the Chair accordingly, and it was:

Resolved that the CCLO and Chair would progress the release of the draft minute of the public meeting held on 3 October 2024 to members and brief bullet points from this meeting for public attention.

D. Local Place Plan (LPP)

The Chair advised that members of the public in attendance at the public meeting had thought the Dounby Place Plan was too advanced and comprehensive and not suitable for rural parishes such as St Andrews and Deerness. She further suggested that it would be more valuable to have a LPP than not. The Clerk advised that members of the public had requested that a list of suggestions be progressed only. The Chair advised that in order to source external funding for projects it would be important to have a LPP and she would be prepared to complete this on behalf of the community. Ms J Gowland advised that she had recently completed a LPP for a community in the Western Isles and she would be happy to assist with the production of a basic LPP. The Chair advised that Mrs N Linklater could assist with the LPP also. The Chair asked members if they wished to have a LPP or not or perhaps only a version of a LPP. Mrs N Linklater advised that, initially, she thought members required viewing and considering the draft minute of the public meeting held on 3 October 2024 and that consideration of a LPP should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms J Gowland thought that St Andrews and Deerness parishes were well serviced and possibly only had some areas wanting such as connectivity etc. The CCLO advised that, currently, Stenness was preparing a draft LPP and employment of a consultant with funding for this sourced through the Community Led Local Development Fund. Ms J Gowland advised that cost would depend on complexity and scale of the LPP and further advised that within the Plan there was criteria that had to be met, and it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the LPP would be the only item for discussion at a separate special meeting in the New Year.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Following consideration of 2025 meeting dates for St Andrews and Deerness Community Council, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that a Wednesday evening was most suitable to members.

B. That a special meeting will be held at 19:30 on 22 January 2025 to discuss the LPP only.

C. That general meetings would be held on 26 February, 11 June, 27 August and 12 November 2025 in St Andrews Primary School at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:24.