

Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 30 November 2020 at 19:00

Present:

Mr A Baird, Mr C Kirkness, Mr A Scott and Mr D Seatter.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Mrs E Drever, Ms J Holland and Mr D Hutchison.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 12 October 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr C Kirkness and seconded by Mr D Seatter.

3. Matters Arising

A. Faray Project

Members resumed consideration of the Faray Wind Project and discussed the benefits to the various communities, and it was:

Resolved that a letter of support for the project should be sent.

B. Village Path

After hearing a report that the Papay ILO had been unable to visit the island to date but that he had been looking for possible funding avenues, it was:

Resolved that a visit to the island should be arranged for January.

C. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Members were advised that the artificial tree that had been purchased had been damaged and was not useable in its present condition, and that a 14 feet tree had been purchased to be erected in its place this year. Members discussed the significant cost of the tree and the company's failure to replace the tree, as it was under warranty. Arrangements were made for the tree to be erected on 3 December, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the artificial tree was not being used this year.
2. That Friends of Kalisgarth should be encouraged to contact the local Trading Standards office for assistance, if they had not already done so.
3. To note that a Christmas tree had been purchased.
4. That the tree would be erected at Kalisgarth on 3 December 2020.

D. Christmas Lights

Members were advised that the Christmas lights had been purchased and were in the island, and that the application to Westray Development Trust for financial assistance had been successful. It was also reported that D Marcus had agreed to erect the lighting, and that application to the Community Council Grant Scheme on the cost of erection and shortfall cost on the lights had been successful. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the lights had been received.
2. To note that the application to the Community Council Grant Scheme for assistance towards the erection and shortfall cost of the lights had been agreed.
3. To note that the lights were due to be erected on 2 December 2020.
4. To note that financial assistance had been awarded toward the cost of the lights from Westray Development Trust.
5. That a letter of thanks should be sent to Westray Development Trust.

E. Maintenance of Ditches

Members were advised that only repairs that were in Category 1 were being undertaken at present and members should advise of any additional items that had not previously been raised, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and monitor the situation.

F. Ferries

The Chair advised members that he had had discussion with the Orkney Ferries Manager regarding the present booking system along with the difficulties regarding weekend bookings. The Orkney Ferries Manager had advised that he had to meet all relevant regulations and that the present booking system could not be amended, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report.
2. That the Chair would prepare a draft letter for submission to Orkney Ferries via Democratic Services.

G. Millburn - Flooding

Following discussion regarding the flooding at the Millburn, which was an ongoing problem, it was:

Resolved to note that a response had not yet been received from SEPA.

H. Play Park

Members were advised that the Head Teacher had been contacted and was of the opinion that the fence could be repaired and was going to arrange for this to happen, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would investigate the situation and forward photographs to Democratic Services if it was felt that repairs were still necessary.

I. Scrap Cars

Members were advised that the request to Westray Development Trust would only be discussed at their meeting due to be held on 3 December, and it was:

Resolved to await their response before discussing the matter further.

4. Correspondence

A. Awards for Community-Led Built Environment Projects

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding Awards for community-led built environment projects, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Proposed North Isles Waste Management Initiative

Following consideration of correspondence from Stronsay Waste Matters, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the proposed North Isles waste management initiative, members agreed that this was a positive idea in principle, and it was:

Resolved to forward members support towards such a worthwhile project.

C. Air and Ferries Consultative Forum

Following consideration of draft agendas for the transport consultative forum meetings, copies of which had previously been circulated, the Chair advised members that they were due to be held on 10 February 2021 and that any transport issues should be passed to him prior to the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Alternate Weekly Collection

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that the alternate weekly collection was recommencing, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

E. Connecting Scotland Scheme Phase 2

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Learning and Development Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, providing details on Round 2 of the Connecting Scotland Scheme Phase 2 which had just re-opened, it was:

Resolved to forward the information to the school.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £34,259.14 as at 18 November 2020.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 18 November 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £2,419, £669 remained in the additional capping limit, and £648 remained in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £5,000 remained available for allocation as at 18 November 2020.

6. Financial Requests

Members discussed the difficulties faced this year for community groups and the lack of opportunities to provide events for the community and as a means of fundraising to cover normal costs. The community council had not been in receipt of the normal number of financial requests this year and, subsequently, significant funds remained in the general account. Discussion was held on possible ways of providing funds to assist local groups, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To set aside £5,000 to provide a donation to each group that had taken a turn at running the Bargain Box in 2019.

B. To set aside a funding pot of £5,000 that groups could apply to for assistance towards running a fundraising event when circumstances allowed.

C. That the fund should be advertised, with a closing date, and applications invited from local groups.

D. That on receipt of applications, should additional funds be required, consideration would be given to this.

7. Publications

Resolved to note the following publications which had been previously circulated:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics - August 2020.
- VAO Newsletter – October and November 2020.

- S Clackson's Letter from School Place – October and November 2020.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report at this time.

B. Transport

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

9. Any Other Competent Business

Resolved to note that there was no further business to discuss.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of a date for the next meeting, members agreed that it should take place online again, and it was:

Resolved that the next meeting would be arranged by email.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:09.