

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall on Monday, 26 November 2018 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, James Currie, David L Flett, Christopher Gee, Christine E H Marcus, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale, Alastair M MacLeod, Steven Metcalf and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Richard Ritch, Kirkwall THI Manager, Orkney Islands Council.
- One member of the local press.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Cathleen A Hourie and Alan Ryrie and Councillors Norman R Craigie, Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes, Steve Sankey and Gwenda M Shearer.

2. Police Matters

A representative from Police Scotland had been unable to attend the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

3. Kirkwall BID

The Director of Kirkwall Business Improvement District (BID) was unable to attend the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

4. Kirkwall THI

Following a presentation from the Kirkwall Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Manager, it was:

Resolved to note progress being made with the Kirkwall THI project, including building repair work, the Kirkwall interpretation project and the public realm project.

Councillors Steven B Heddle and John A R Scott joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

The Kirkwall THI Manager left the meeting at this point.

5. Adoption of Minutes

The Minute of the Meeting held on 8 October 2018 was approved, being proposed by Alastair MacLeod and seconded by Steven Metcalf.

6. Matters Arising

A. Green Plaques

Following an update from the Chair regarding the green plaques, it was:

Resolved to note that Spencer Rosie would be contacted regarding the remaining two plaques being erected.

B. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction

Following an update from the Chair regarding maintenance of the shrub bed at the Scapa junction, it was:

Resolved to note that the Blide Trust had recommended that the shrub bed should be completely redone for next year as the shrubs were overgrown and too high.

C. Road Safety in vicinity of Scapa Distillery

Following an update from the Chair regarding road safety in the vicinity of Scapa Distillery, it was:

Resolved to await any further progress or development prior to the next meeting and thereafter to determine what further action, if any, the Community Council should take regarding road safety in the vicinity of Scapa Distillery.

D. Traffic Issues at Watersfield Development

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer and residents in the vicinity of Burnett Brae regarding traffic issues at the Watersfield development, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note that the Chair and Vice Chair, together with D Flett, had met with the Team Leader, Roads Support to discuss traffic issues at the Watersfield development, in light of representations received from R Lennie.
2. To note that, contrary to reports in the media, although supportive of the petition organised by R Lennie being submitted to Orkney Islands Council, the Community Council had not indicated support for removal of the bollards at Burnett Brae.
3. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council indicating the Community Council's support for additional traffic calming measures, together with introduction of a 20mph zone.

E. Scotland's Tree of the Year – Promotion and Use of Care Grant

Following an update from the Chair on the recent competitions to promote the Big Tree, it was resolved:

1. To note that the winners of each of the three competitions, namely story writing, photography and primary school art, had received their winners' certificates prior to this meeting.
2. To note that all schools who participated in the art competition would receive a peedie Big Tree, which Christine Marcus would deliver, together with certificates for all the other prize winners within the age categories.
3. To note that the actual award had been returned to the Woodland Trust by Liam McArthur, with the Community Council to receive a replica for public display.
4. That, once the prizes for the competitions had been paid out, further consideration should be given as to how the remaining balance of the care grant should be spent.

F. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Gymnastics Club and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence thanking the Community Council for financial assistance awarded.

7. Correspondence

A. Headstone Inspections

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services providing an update on the headstone inspection process in various Orkney cemeteries, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. Room in Roof Insulation

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding a new Government grant scheme for loft roof insulation, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that a representative of Insulation King be invited to a future meeting to give a short presentation.

C. Tourism Week

Following consideration of correspondence from Destination Orkney regarding Orkney's first every Tourism Week, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Tourism Week was due to take place from 26 to 29 November 2018, with the aim of informing and inspiring both local tourism businesses and the wider community, and that the Chair would attend the tourism conference scheduled for 29 November.

D. Orkney Transmission Reinforcement

Following consideration of a press release from SSEN on its initial response to the latest round of consultation on the Orkney transmission reinforcement project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence advising how SSEN had altered its initial plans as a result of concerns raised during the latest round of consultation, including lowering the building plant outside Finstown and putting cables through Hoxa underground.

E. Grass Cutting

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council seeking comments in respect of prioritisation of grass cutting within the community council area, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising as follows:

1. That, although no tweaks could be suggested, the Community Council did not want to see a repeat of this year's grass cutting, particularly around the Peedie Sea area, which was considered the gateway to Kirkwall, while other areas, not so obvious, appeared to be cut and maintained more regularly.
2. Confirmation as to whether Orkney Islands Council had adopted a "meadow" policy and, if so, what it entailed.
3. That consideration should be given to clearing weeds, as well as grass cutting, with the area around Orkney Library highlighted as one particular area with a weed problem.

F. Safer Streets 20mph Bill

Following consideration of correspondence from Mark Ruskell MSP in respect of his Safer Streets Bill, which had now been formally introduced to the Scottish Parliament as the Restricted Roads (20mph Limit) (Scotland) Bill, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note that the bill had moved to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee for scrutiny who had launched their own consultation, with views to be submitted by 28 January 2019.
2. That members should pass on any views to the Chair and/or the Clerk so that consideration could be given to submitting a response prior to the closing date.

8. Financial Statements

A. General – 1 April to 12 November 2018

Following consideration of a financial statement for the period 1 April to 12 November 2018 in respect of the Community Council's General Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 12 November 2018 of £8,708.14.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme 2018-2019

Following consideration of a financial statement in respect of the Community Council Grant Scheme for 2018-2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval as at 12 November 2018 of £235.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of a financial statement in respect of the Community Development Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation as at 12 November 2018 of £3,688.43.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Glaitness School

Following consideration of correspondence from Glaitness School requesting financial assistance towards the P7 multi-activity trip to the Nethybridge Centre, Inverness-shire, from 29 April to 3 May 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £350 be awarded, subject to confirmation that the 17 pupils took part.

B. Orkney Netball

Following consideration of correspondence from E Poke requesting financial assistance towards his daughter's participation in three netball trips with Orkney Netball, on 24 November 2018, 26 January 2019 and 16/17 February 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded in respect of each netball trip, subject to confirmation of attendance.

C. Under 16 Scottish Hockey Squad

Following consideration of correspondence from E Poke requesting financial assistance towards his daughter's participation in a national trial for the Under 16 Scottish hockey squad in Glasgow over the weekend of 18 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

D. Under 17 Netball

Following consideration of correspondence from K Brown requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in an Under 17 netball trip to Glasgow on 1 and 2 December 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

10. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Community Council Conference

Following a report from the Chair on attendance at the Community Council Conference held in the Kirkwall Town Hall on 7 November 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the matters discussed at the conference including how to chair a meeting, conduct at meetings, planning matters, including the role of the planning representative, and presentations from two Community Councils highlighting the differences, namely an island community council and a community council receiving significant wind turbine income.

B. Scottish Rural Parliament

Following a report from J Mowat on his attendance at the Scottish Rural Parliament held in Stranraer from 15 to 17 November 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation on the matters discussed at the Scottish Rural Parliament.

C. Transport Scotland

Transport Scotland had organised various community engagement sessions on the next Northern Isles Ferry Services contract, and it was:

Resolved to note the report from the Chair on his attendance at the session held in the Albert Hotel, Kirkwall, on 18 November 2018.

D. The Orkney Partnership

The Chair had been invited to attend the meeting of the Strong Communities Delivery Group of the Orkney Partnership, held in the VAO Board Room on 22 November 2018, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair was unable to attend the meeting.

11. Publications

The Clerk had received the following publication which was made available to members:

- The Orkney Partnership – Community Planning News – Autumn 2018.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Meeting with Scottish Water

The Clerk reminded members of the meeting with representatives from Scottish Water and Orkney Islands Council to be held in the King Street Halls on 27 November 2018, and it was:

Resolved to note that six members had indicated they would be able attend the meeting, which would provide an update on the drainage modelling for Kirkwall.

B. Lower Speed Communities

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council inviting a representative to attend a workshop on lower speed communities to be held in the Kirkwall Town Hall on 28 November 2018, and it was:

Resolved that J Mowat should attend the workshop on behalf of the Community Council.

C. Reuse Facility at Hatston

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a funding bid for setting up a reuse facility adjacent to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Hatston, and it was:

Resolved that a representative from Orkney Islands Council be invited to the next meeting to give a short presentation on the proposed project.

D. Women's Aid Orkney

The Clerk had received correspondence from Women's Aid Orkney regarding development of a programme of talks about the organisation and domestic abuse, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Women's Aid Orkney requesting a representative to provide a short presentation to the March 2019 meeting.

E. War Memorial

R Leslie referred to leaching on the war memorial, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council highlighting the problem and requesting that consideration be given to cleaning the war memorial.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

Following consideration of dates for meetings in 2019, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council should meet on the following dates:

- Monday, 21 January 2019.
- Monday, 18 March 2019.
- Tuesday, 7 May 2019.
- Monday, 1 July 2019.
- Monday, 19 August 2019.
- Monday, 7 October 2019.
- Monday, 25 November 2019.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:30.