

# Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre and via Teams on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 19:30

## Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson and Robbie Thomson.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse.
- Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Microsoft Teams).
- Peter Tinkler, Community Council Liaison Assistant (via Microsoft Teams).
- Liz Flett and Glynis Tait, Volunteer Sub-committee, Orkney 2025 (for Items 1 and 2).
- Tom Hadley, Community Engagement Manager, Orkney Native Wildlife Project (for Items 1 to 3).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

## Chair:

- Alan Scott in the Chair.

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## 1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Erland Drever and Richard Shearer.

## 2. Volunteering for Island Games 2025

Following a presentation from two members of the Volunteer Sub-committee regarding the volunteer programme for the Orkney Island Games in 2025, which covered a number of roles, including administration, IT, catering, sports runners and marshalls, it was:

Resolved to note that signing up as a volunteer for the Island Games 2025 could be done either online via the website or monthly, on the first Friday of every month until July 2024, in person at the 2025 office at 2 West Tankerness Lane, Kirkwall.

The members of the Volunteer Sub-committee left the meeting at this point.

## 3. Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Following a presentation from the Community Engagement Manager providing an update on the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update.

The Community Engagement Manager left the meeting at this point.

## 4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 24 January 2024 was approved, being proposed by Bill Robertson and seconded by Christine Muir.

## 5. Matters Arising

### A. Various Roads Matters

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding documenting concerns raised by community councils and an update on coastal erosion, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that all matters raised by community councils were included on a spreadsheet which was then prioritised on the basis of 1) scale of defect; 2) number of users on that road; and 3) incidents reported to Orkney Islands Council by the police. Each criteria was scored 1 – 5 and the list prioritised on that basis.

2. To note that, as previously advised to the Community Council, the roads around Holm were low priority, due to the relatively small number of users, therefore any repairs were likely to be several years in the future.

3. To note that, as defects arose on the more heavily used A roads, local roads could then be pushed further down the priority list.

4. To note that two areas identified by the Community Council as suffering from coastal erosion had been inspected by Orkney Islands Council, as follows:

- Although some erosion in the village section was noticed, this looked to be on firm rock and was not causing concern but would continue to be monitored.
- The section at the old kirk was more of a priority, therefore designs were being worked on with a view to extending the rock armour defence beyond the current area of erosion. Although this work was scheduled to take place in the summer, the area was being monitored so that, if any future storms caused further damage, the works would be brought forward.

5. That Martin Lee should record all roads matters raised by Holm Community Council on Orkney Islands Council's Customer Service Platform to ensure they were all recorded and responded to.

## **B. Orkney Flood Management Plan**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the local flood group in St Margaret's Hope, as well as information on setting up a local flood group in Holm, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Local Flood Risk Management Plan included an action to develop a Shoreline Management Plan for St Mary's, including any necessary adaptation to manage flood risk.
2. To note that, although the above action was due to be carried out within the lifetime of the Plan, namely 2022 to 2028, it was scheduled for this year but would be dependent on available resource and whether Orkney Islands Council required to take in additional support, which would be to identify any work that might be required, and not implementing any physical defences.

## **C. Proposal for Living Christmas Tree**

The Chair had nothing further to report on the proposal for a living Christmas tree, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

## **D. War Memorial**

Following consideration of a quote from The Yard Nursery in respect of planting around the upper part of the war memorial, hard pruning the existing shrubs and planting shrubs at the side of the memorial, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to accept the quote, in the price of £465, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

## **E. Financial Assistance – Review of Policy**

Following consideration of correspondence from St Andrews and Deerness Community Council, including their existing policy on financial assistance which had been reviewed in 2022 and 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that St Andrews and Deerness Community Council were not minded to include an additional category for travel out with Scotland.
2. To adopt St Andrews and Deerness Community Council's policy on financial assistance as follows:
  - £15 grant for travel within Orkney.
  - £40 for travel within the UK and out with Orkney.
  - £70 for travel out with the UK.
  - Any individual can claim travel grants up to a maximum of £240 in any given financial year, which could be any combination of the three travel grant rates as detailed above.
  - School curriculum travel would be considered on available finance at any given time.
  - All recipients of travel assistance must be individually named within the financial application and must resident in Holm in order to receive any travel grant awarded.

## **F. Parking at Holm Pier**

Following consideration of correspondence from S Harcus in response to matters raised at last meeting regarding parking at the Holm Pier, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That Shaun Hourston-Wells, Chair of the St Margaret's Hope Flood Group, should be invited to attend a future meeting.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Scottish Islands Passport – What's new for 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Passport regarding new developments for 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. King's Portrait Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a government funded voluntary scheme throughout the United Kingdom which allowed public authorities to apply for a free, framed portrait of His Majesty King Charles III, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to take no action.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 7 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 7 March 2024 of £14,735.29.

## **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2023/24 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 7 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 7 March 2024, projects to the value of £3,256.18 had been approved, of which £2,151.13 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,712.29.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

## **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 7 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

## **8. Financial Requests**

### **A. Orkney Folk Festival**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival requesting financial assistance towards the 41<sup>st</sup> festival to be held in May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £300 be made.

### **B. St Andrews Primary School**

Following consideration of an application from St Andrews Primary School requesting financial assistance towards pupils from Holm taking part in the P7 residential outdoor activities trip to Lagganlia, between 15 and 19 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 per pupil resident within the Holm area be made, subject to confirmation of participation in the trip.

### **C. Rockworks Community Sports Trust**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rockworks Community Sports Trust requesting financial assistance towards upgrading the Holm Rockworks pitch, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £1,000 be made, to be met from the Community Development Fund allocation.

### **D. Holm Community Association – 100 years**

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association regarding plans for celebrating 100 years since Patrick Neale Sutherland Graeme had gifted the hall to the parish, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £990 be awarded to Holm Community Association in respect of the purchase of display boards, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being awarded (additional capping limit).
2. That Robbie Thomson should contact Holm Community Association to determine whether the display boards could be purchased, and a receipted invoice provided to enable the grant to be claimed within the current financial year, namely 2023/2024.

## **9. Consultations**

### **A. NHS Orkney – Listening Event**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding consultation events organised by NHS Orkney on 14 February 2024 (online) and in the Pickaquoy Centre on 19 February 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Future of Universal Postal Service**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of a consultation by Ofcom relating to the future of the universal postal service, for which responses were required by 4 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should submit a response on behalf of Holm Community Council, supporting the option of reducing the number of delivery days from 6 to 5.

### **C. SEPA – Review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a consultation on areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland, for which responses were required by 24 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting.

## **10. Meetings Attended by Members**

### **A. Scottish Islands Federation**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding various meetings, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had not been represented at the following meetings:

- National Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care Support and Community Health – Online Meeting, 6 February 2024.
- SIF AGM, 8 February 2024.
- Cross Party Group on Islands in the Scottish Parliament – 28 February 2024.

## **B. Scottish Empty Homes Partnership**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a free webinar on 20 March 2024, organised by the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had not been represented at the webinar.

## **C. Water Safety**

Martin Lee had attended a meeting, on behalf of the Chair, to discuss water safety, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

## **D. Community Council Chairs' Meeting**

Martin Lee had attended an online meeting of Community Council Chairs, on behalf of the Chair, on 28 February 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that the resilience groups established during the Covid pandemic had been reconvened, with a proposal that meetings be arranged two or three times per annum to discuss matters of mutual interest.

## **E. Holm Community Association**

Martin Lee had attended a meeting of Holm Community Association on 21 April 2024 to advise them of the condition of the totem pole, suggesting that it be taken down, as discussed previously by the Community Council based on advice received, and it was:

Resolved to note that Holm Community Association were aware they were responsible for the totem pole and would make a decision in due course.

## **11. Publications**

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- Accounts Commission report on Orkney Islands Council.
- VAO Newsletters – January and February 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – February and March 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – March 2024.
- Scottish Water – Spring Newsletter 2024.

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Mapping progress towards island decarbonisation**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of work to support Community Energy Scotland and the Carbon Neutral Islands project in building up a picture of progress towards decarbonisation across the islands, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **B. SEPA – Disrupting Criminal Dumpers**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a campaign to increase public awareness on ways to detect, disrupt and remove illegal operators advertising on social media, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence, which was not considered an issue in Orkney.

## **C. Bag the Bruck**

The Clerk advised that, although no official correspondence had been received regarding Bag the Bruck, which was due to take place over the month of April 2024, organisations had contacted her requesting assistance, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £300 be made available, to be split between all organisations which contacted the Clerk prior to undertaking an event associated with Bag the Bruck, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

## **D. Request for Dog Waste Bin**

The Clerk had received correspondence from A Muir requesting a dog waste bin at the junction of Biggings Loan with the main A961, next to the bus shelter, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that a dog waste bin be provided.

## **E. Bus Shelters in St Mary's**

Councillor Gillian Skuse referred to correspondence received by the three elected members, which had also been passed to the Clerk, regarding the bus stops adjacent to Alfred Flett's workshop, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that covered bus shelters be provided at the following locations, which were currently only sign posted as designated bus stops:

- Near Storehouse Place.
- Near Ferryhouse Road.
- Seaward side opposite Alfred Flett's workshop.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on 8 May 2024 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

## **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:45.