

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 15 July 2024 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Lynne Spence, Steven Brodie, Moyra Gordon, Barbara J M Graham, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie, Chris J F Matthews, John R Mowat and Rosemary Rhodes.

In Attendance:

- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications) (via Microsoft Teams).
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Sandy Cowie, David Dawson, John Ross Scott and Ivan Taylor.

2. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

After hearing a presentation from the Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications), Orkney Islands Council, providing an update on meetings held with Team Swan and the Rotary Club, as well as consultation with and feedback from various environmental bodies, Orkney Islands Council and Police Scotland, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That a bonfire and fireworks event should take place at the Peedie Sea, but on a smaller scale and with quieter fireworks, with a maximum display duration of 15 minutes.
- B. That cars parked along Ayre Road should be requested to switch off head lamps.
- C. That areas around the Peedie Sea should be cordoned off to prevent wildlife, particularly swans, from getting too close to the bonfire.
- D. That the Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications), Orkney Islands Council, should draft a press release for approval by the Chair and Vice Chair, setting out the basis for the above revised arrangements for the 2024 event.
- E. That the Clerk, with assistance from the Rotary Club, should make all necessary arrangements for the bonfire and fireworks to be held at the Peedie Sea on Saturday, 2 November 2024, with 9 November earmarked in case of adverse weather.
- F. That, as well as the Clerk, the Chair, with the Vice Chair as substitute, should represent the Community Council on the Rotary Club's Bonfire Committee.
- G. That the Clerk should purchase quieter fireworks, up to a maximum value of £2,000, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
- H. That the Clerk should write to other community councils highlighting the concerns raised following the 2023 event and the actions taken to date and requesting financial assistance towards the event.
- I. That the Clerk should apply for a road closure and a public procession licence.
- J. That the Clerk should arrange for the event to be advertised in the local press.

3. Correspondence

A. Scottish Water – Bottle Refill Station

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council requesting suggestions for bottle refill stations in Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advise Orkney Islands Council of the following potential locations for a water refill tap:

- Bridge Street, near The Brig.
- Kirkwall Travel Centre.
- Pierhead areas/near ferry office.
- Papdale Play Park.

4. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Gymnastics Club

Following consideration of an application from S Webb requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Garioch Glitterball gymnastics competition on 23 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be made.

B. Orkney Gymnastics Club

Following consideration of an application from A Bruce requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Garioch Glitterball gymnastics competition on 23 June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be made.

C. KGS – Drama Trip

Following consideration of an application on behalf of a pupil and parent requesting financial assistance towards a drama trip in September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a donation of £30 be made in respect of the pupil only.
2. That the Clerk should advise the applicant of other potential funding sources.

5. Consultation – 20mph Engagement with Community Councils

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council seeking comments on proposals to implement permanent 20mph speed limits on various streets in Kirkwall, for which responses were required by 16 July 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advise Orkney islands Council as follows:

Whilst there was general agreement with the principles, there were some concerns over enforcement. Members also considered that driver attitude has to change. Also, given the increased volume of traffic now using roads in Kirkwall, public safety was paramount, particularly when attempting to cross the busy roads.

Some specific comments on the proposals:

- Berstane Loan should remain at 30mph.
- Work Road and Craigiefield Road should be reduced to 30mph (appears to remain at 60mph) and join up to the proposed 20mph at the pumping station on Weyland Road.
- Old Finstown Road - is there scope to amend the proposed 20mph out past the current development at Liberator, given that more development is planned further out?
- Could consideration be given to a one-way system around the Peedie Sea to solve the issue with junctions, particularly at the supermarkets?
- Are visual aids proposed, like in Finstown, as some people find these more useful in certain places, rather than trying to remember what the speed limit is?

6. Any Other Competent Business – Orkney Towns Fund

The Clerk had received notification regarding a community workshop to discuss and contribute to the allocation of the £20 million Orkney Towns Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note that the workshop would be held on Thursday, 18 July 2024 between 13:00 and 16:00 in the King Street Halls.

7. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:37.