

# Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in Orphir School and via Teams on Tuesday, 14 November 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr N Sclater, Miss R Black, Mrs B Clubley, Mr J Mackay and Mr A Marwick.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor K Leask.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor I Taylor.
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minute.....	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence .....	3
5. Consultation – PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan .....	4
6. Financial Statements .....	4
7. Requests for Financial Assistance.....	5
8. Publications .....	7
9. AOCB .....	7
10. Dates of Future Meetings .....	7
11. Conclusion of Meeting .....	8

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr S Pyke.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting of Orphir Community Council held on 22 August 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr M Clouston and seconded by Mr A Marwick.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Bus Shelter, Smoogro Road End**

The Chair advised that the shelter had still not received planning permission, despite the application being submitted on 11 February. The Head of Neighbourhood Services offered to look into the delay but advised that there had been queries from Roads Support regarding the application, and issues with processing planning applications within the prescribed timescales, and it was:

Resolved to await further information on the status of the application.

### **B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre Refurbishment**

The Chair advised that the centre was now closed until April 2024 and that the electrician and joiner were lined up to commence work shortly. The building warrant had been approved and the fee from the architect for his work was £750, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the £750 fee would be paid from CCGS, subject to approval.

### **C. Dog Bins**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure advised that there was a works order for the bin and that she would chase this up again, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### **D. Road Speed Limits**

The Community Council Liaison Officer read out a response from Roads Support, advising of the estimated cost of purchasing speed indication devices, and explaining that there is a rolling programme for the temporary SIDs which are used at ten different sites around Orkney. There is a five-phase programme that has the units in place for roughly six weeks at a time, so the time between visits could be 24 weeks.

Mrs B Clubley spoke to this item and pointed out that as soon as the speed smiley signs disappear, the speed of traffic increases again. As there were many people walking in this area, and not much pavement, members agreed it was dangerous and the possibility of an accident was high.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that they had data that supported members' concerns but said that it would be some time before the Council would be in a position to purchase more devices. She offered, in the meantime, to assist Orphir Community Council with investigating the possibility of purchasing their own devices, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services would obtain an actual cost for the purchase of speed indication devices, including installation, permits and permissions.

## **E. School Transport and Road Safety**

Members had previously been sent a copy of a response from the Team Manager (Resources), in relation to the query about school transport for a local school pupil, which advised of the reasons why this pupil could not receive school transport and directed members to the policy on this. Members still felt that there should be a solution to this issue and that it was too dangerous a stretch of road to expect a child to walk to school along, with no pavement. Members suggested that more than one run could be done, and that they suspected that there were empty seats on the bus that could be allocated to this child. Following extensive discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would speak to the parents of the child in the first instance and see if they wished the community council to query this further on their behalf.

## **F. Germiston and Hobbister Roads Repairs**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there were sections of the A946 between Smoogro and Orphir village that were on the programme for this financial year and that Germiston was on the programme for surface dressing next year. Sections of the A946 had been identified that required to be resurfaced and/or reconstructed but these would be prioritised along with everything else once the annual course visual inspections are complete. The Head of Neighbourhood Services suggested to members that they continue to report any issues directly to OIC Customer Services or via MyOrkney rather than wait to report at a meeting. She also explained the budget situation and that OIC could not do all of the work they would like to be doing on the roads. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To request that the Hobbister Road be prioritised as it was subsiding and had a lot of heavy traffic using it.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. West of Orkney Windfarm**

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from West of Orkney Windfarm, advising that their offshore consent applications had been submitted to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing and Operations Team, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **B. Winter Service Plan 2023/2024**

Members had previously been sent a copy of the Winter Service Plan for 2023/2024 and noted that amendments had been made in line with what they had requested. Mrs B Clubley also mentioned that the grit bin at the school was full of water, and the Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that this should be reported, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs B Clubley would report the grit bin to Customer Services.

## **C. National Islands Plan Consultation Events**

Members had been emailed information on two consultation events on 6 and 7 November relating to the National Islands Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **D. Scottish Civic Trust – My Place Awards**

Correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust had previously been forwarded to members, advising of the My Place Awards, which celebrate projects and people that work to improve places and communities in Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **E. Thank You Letter**

Resolved to note that a thank you note for financial assistance provided towards the bonfire and firework display had been received from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

## **5. Consultation – PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan**

Members were passed a copy of correspondence from Adele Lidderdale, who was carrying out a PhD research project around Our Islands, Our Future towards the development and implementation of the National Islands Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the survey, which members could complete as individuals.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £21,430.26.

## **B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre Fund**

Following consideration of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre Fund statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £40,145.11.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the capping limit was £2,063.40.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £13,755.42 available for allocation to projects.

# **7. Requests for Financial Assistance**

## **A. Orphir Community School – Outdoor Activities**

Following consideration of a financial request from Orphir School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of six pupils taking part in an outdoor education experience, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 per pupil, totalling £300.

## **B. Orphir Community School – Waterproofs**

Following consideration of a financial request from Orphir School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of purchasing new sets of waterproofs for the school, it was:

Resolved to fund the cost of the waterproofs from CCGS, subject to approval and confirmation of price.

## **C. Orphir Community Association – Christmas Tree and Lighting**

Members considered a financial request from Orphir Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of erecting the festive lighting in the village, and the purchase of the Christmas Tree, and it was:

Resolved to award £500 towards the lighting, and £220 towards the tree, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

## **D. Stromness Academy – Swiss Trip**

A request for financial assistance towards a geography trip to Switzerland had been received from Stromness Academy and circulated to members prior to the meeting. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £100 to both of the pupils from Orphir taking part in the trip, totalling £200, subject to confirmation of an Orphir address.

## **E. Orphir Community School – Halloween Party**

Following consideration of a financial request from Orphir School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of a Halloween Party, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards the event.

## **F. OASC – Coach Training**

Members considered a request for financial assistance towards an OASC Coach's participation in the Scottish Swimming Head Coach Training Programme. Members noted that they did not normally make awards to under 18's, however acknowledged that many swimmers would benefit from this individual undertaking the course, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards participation in the training course.

## **G. Fraser and Craig Burton – ND Open/Age Groups – Aberdeen**

A financial request had been received on behalf of Fraser and Craig Burton, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance towards both attending the North District Open meet in Aberdeen, and Craig travelling to the North District Age Group Championships in Inverness, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards each trip, totalling £150.

## **H. Glaitness Primary School – Nethybridge Trip 2024**

Following consideration of a financial request from Glaitness Primary School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance towards two pupils from Orphir attending the P7 Residential Trip to Nethybridge in May 2024, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards each pupil's attendance, totalling £100, subject to confirmation that they had Orphir addresses.

## **I. Harray Young Farmers - Speechmaking**

Members were provided with copies of correspondence from Harray Young Farmers, requesting financial assistance with the cost of one Orphir resident, Keri Ballantyne, attending the National Junior Speechmaking finals in Edinburgh on 9 December 2023, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

## **8. Publications**

The following publications had previously been emailed to members and were noted:

- VAO - Newsletter – August, September and October 2023.
- VAO - Training and Funding Updates – August, September and October 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action - Newsletter – August, September and October 2023.
- ORSAS Newsletter – September 2023.
- Orphir What's On – Autumn/Winter 2023.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – October 2023.

## **9. AOCB**

### **A. Orphir Cemetery Issues**

A member reported that at a recent funeral at Orphir Cemetery, operatives had still been pumping water out of a grave immediately prior to a burial, and asked if this could not have been done sooner. The Head of Neighbourhood Services acknowledged that this would be distressing for the mourners, and was deeply concerning, but that if it was done too soon before a funeral, it would fill in again before the burial. Members further advised that there was reported to be spring in the corner of the cemetery, and that the cemetery could be very prone to flooding if this was not addressed. The Head of Neighbourhood Services suggested that she would ask for this to be investigated, and that she would also advise the Registrar, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and ask for an update at the next meeting.

### **B. Presentations**

Members were asked if they would like to receive presentations at the next meeting from Orkney Renewable Energy and Orkney Native Wildlife Project, and it was:

Resolved to invite representatives of both organisations along to present at the next meeting.

### **C. Kirk Café**

One of the elected members commented on the success of the Kirk Café in Orphir, and stated how impressed he had been with the community spirit and what is happening in the parish. A member pointed out that the picnic bench outside the kirk was in a poor state of repair, and it was:

Resolved to inspect the picnic bench outside Orphir Kirk to ascertain whether it required to be replaced and discuss at the next meeting.

## **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Orphir Community Council would be held on Tuesdays 20 February and 23 April 2024 at 19:30 in Orphir School.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:35.