

# Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in Firth Community Centre on Monday, 20 March 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mrs Winifred Dunnet, Mr Raymond Hourston, Ms Barbara Scollay and Mrs Ann Stevenson.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Jean Stevenson.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Ms Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Mrs Maureen Spence, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Ms Linda Aitcheson, Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillors Rachel King and Duncan Tullock.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 17 November 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr Raymond Hourston and seconded by Ms Barbara Scollay, subject to the following amendment:

Item 3B should read “and it was resolved to ask via the business letter, that the bin at Flett’s corner be moved a few feet to accommodate benches.”

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Finstown Traffic Management Study**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that the current plan involved extending the current 30mph limits at the entrances to the village and extending the current 20mph limit around the school. There would be 5 speed counters purchased, which would be placed at the entrances to the village on Old Finstown Road and the A965 entrances to the village. Members were told that if there were no objections to the current plan, a traffic order would be made and that only if objections were received from feedback, would these changes be sent to the Committee for consideration. It was hoped that traffic regulation orders would be published in the second week of April, and it was:

Resolved to note the updated information.

### **B. Weed Management in Finstown**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that under the verge maintenance plan, general weed spraying and verge maintenance took place at the start of the season. Members discussed and agreed that weeds were present in Finstown in very high volumes. This led to a general discussion on the roadworks in Finstown and the Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that the roads team had a plan of what needed worked on, however there had been delays because of bad weather, nevertheless, work was planned and would go ahead. The Head of Neighbourhood Services did warn that there would be disruption during the roadworks, with the possibility of a traffic convoy system being operated, between Flett’s Corner and Baikie’s shop, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services and the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, would chase up the matter of weed control with the relevant departments at OIC.

### **C. Kirkyard Extension**

There was a general discussion on how the area of land between the Kirkyard extension and the housing estate at the rear, could be best managed, given that it was owned by OHAL. The concern was that weeds would grow in this area and that it would become unsightly, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to OHAL on behalf of the Community Council, to ascertain their intentions for managing the area of land.

#### **D. Orkney's Tourism Infrastructure Design Phase**

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that members did not want to have a meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ask the consultants to provide a written up-date to members.

#### **E. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Following a brief discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services would ascertain if there was a map showing the verge areas in question and if there was, would provide it to members.

#### **F. Christmas Lights**

One member reported that the Community Council had been issued with an incorrect list of available Christmas lights which lead to the wrong lights being erected, and that red coloured wrap around lights had been ordered, but that white wrap around lights had been installed by mistake. This led to members asking for the location of the red wrap around lights and the Head of Neighbourhood Services agreeing to ascertain the answer to this question. The Head of Neighbourhood Services did advise members that where traffic calming controls were placed on lamp posts, it would not be possible to erect lights on these lamp posts. When asked by members if there were any plans to extend the streetlights, the Head of Neighbourhood Services replied that there were no plans to do so. Mr Owen Tierney at this point told members that he had heard that 30mph signs were not legal unless they were lit and the Head of Neighbourhood Services agreed to investigate, but said that she believed that the signs would be legal whether lit or not, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would investigate the location of the red wrap around lights and report back to members.
2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would investigate the legal position relating to speed signs and any lighting requirements.

#### **G. Quarry Group**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that the planning condition dictated that a community consultation had to be set up by the community with a view to forming a committee and that there was no set number of Committee members, that would be for the members to decide. The Head of Neighbourhood Services further reported that the Quarry Committee could be a sub-Committee of the Community Council or indeed a separate group. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed members that the Quarry must comply with planning conditions that are in place now, rather than when the extensions is completed and further stressed that Cursiter

Quarry does comply with current regulations and requirements and advised members that because the Quarry would be moving into the expanded area soon, it would be best to act timeously, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Firth and Stenness Community Council would set up a Quarry Committee, with Mr Raymond Hourston taking the lead.
2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would acquire a copy of the planning consent for the Quarry extension.
3. That the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, would disseminate this planning consent to the members.

## **4. Correspondence**

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the following:

- OIC – Woodlands Works including Happy Valley Report.
- OIC/VAO – Invite to attend Net Zero meeting with Convenor of Scottish Parliamentary Committee on 28 November 2022.
- LP3 Network – Black Friday deals on Live Trainings.
- West of Orkney Windfarm – Orkney Community Panel January 2023.
- Marine Scotland – Permission granted to European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) by Scottish Government to construct and operate Billia Croo Offshore Windfarm.
- SCOTO – Scottish Community Tourism Roadshow 2023 – 10 and 16 March 2023 Orkney.
- OIC Democratic Services – Memorials update and reminder of deadline for approaching Contractors to repair stones – 31 March 2023.
- OIC Covid Recovery Officer – Offer of advice regarding reinstating pre-covid community activities – deadline for request for advice end of March 2023.
- Scottish Islands Federation (SIF) – AGM/Members' Evening via Zoom – 2 March 2023.
- West of Orkney Windfarm – minutes of Community Panel and Community Panel Presentation.
- VAO – National Lottery Community Fund – Funding Information Event – 22-24 March 2023 – St Magnus Centre.
- Crofting Commission – looking for volunteers as Crofting Commission Area Representatives.
- OIC Democratic Services – funding information for Coronation events.
- Marine Scotland – EMEC – Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site – Variation of Consent Under Section 36c of Electricity Act 1989 – granted by Scottish Ministers.

- SSEN – On-line events – creating a home emergency plan – 22,25 February 2023, 3 March 2023.

Following consideration of correspondence, a copy of which had previously been circulated, a debate took place relating to correspondence “community ideas sought for Finstown improvements”. Members discussed and debated the following ideas:

- (a) More flowers or bushes planted along the shore in Finstown, although this might cause difficulties for grass cutting.
- (b) A bed for flowers or bushes in the middle of the grass area, to be cut around.
- (c) Improvements to toilet access, in the wake of a complaint being made about a fall on the path at the toilets, although Councillor Owen Tierney did report that he and others had inspected the area and could see no uneven slabs.
- (d) A look to the plan to improve Dounby, although Councillor Owen Tierney reported that what had been done in Dounby to improve the car park had already been carried out in Finstown.
- (e) A community garden.
- (f) A path or boardwalk at the school, although this might be difficult to maintain.
- (g) The donation box, which Mr Raymond Hourston reported was in hand.

Having received information from Councillor Jean Stevenson and the Head of Neighbourhood Services, that OIC were keen to hear community views and receive ideas, it was:

Resolved to discuss this matter at a future meeting.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 6 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £12,016.40

### **B. Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund**

Following consideration of the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund statement as at 6 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £5,000.

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was fully allocated and that the total capping was exceeded by £448.97 and

deducted from the balance on the general statement, and that the additional capping limit was fully allocated.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 6 February 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for allocation was £3,615.63.

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. Mrs I Linklater - Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Glasgow in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **B. Mrs K McIntosh – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs K McIntosh, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Glasgow in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North District Age Group Meet**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Inverness in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **D. Friends of Stenness Community School (PTA) – Netball Equipment**

Following consideration of a request from Friends of Stenness Community School (PTA), copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the purchase of indoor netball posts, netballs and rebound nets, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the School to ascertain a breakdown of costs and whether the School had made any approach to businesses for funding, with a view to considering the request when the information was received from the School.

### **E. Mrs K Gilmour – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs K Gilmour, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Glasgow in November 2022 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **F. Mrs K Gilmour – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs K Gilmour, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Edinburgh in February 2023 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **G. Mrs C Walker – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs C Walker, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in March 2023 for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **H. Mrs I Linklater - Athletics**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Glasgow in January/February 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **I. Orkney Folk Festival - 2023**

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Folk Festival, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the event, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £300 be granted, subject to the Clerk writing to the organisers and confirming that there could be no guarantee of similar funding support in future years.

### **J. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North District Age Group Meet**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in February 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **K. Girl Guiding Orkney – Theatre Trip**

Following consideration of a request from Girl Guiding Orkney, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a theatre trip in Aberdeen in March 2023, for one attendee, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25

### **L. Mrs R Brammah - Gymnastics**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs R Brammah, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Fyrish in February 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **M. Mrs K McIntosh – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs K McIntosh, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in February 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **N. Stenness Community School – Outdoor Education Trip**

Following consideration of a request from Stenness Community School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards an outdoor education trip to Hoy in May 2023, for one pupil, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **O. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North District Age Group Meet**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in March 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **P. Mrs K Gilmour – Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs K Gilmour, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Aberdeen in February 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

### **Q. Ness of Brodgar Trust**

Following consideration of a request from The Ness of Brodgar Trust, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the purchase of notice boards and other publicity, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the Trust to ascertain what would happen to the notice boards after 2024, what was the Trust's case for renewing notice boards for only 2 years and whether the Trust had made any approach to other organisations or businesses for funding, with a view to considering the request when the information was received from the Trust.



## **R. Mrs I Linklater - Athletics**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs I Linklater, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition and training day in Glasgow and Grangemouth in March 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

## **S. Mrs N Kenyon - Athletics**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a training/selection session in Falkirk in March 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

## **T. Mrs N Kenyon - Netball**

Following consideration of a request from Mrs N Kenyon, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a selection day in Glasgow in March 2023, for one competitor, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25.

## **U. Friends of Firth School – Netball Equipment**

Following consideration of a request from Friends of Firth School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the purchase of replacement netball kit for Firth Vikings, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the school to ascertain a breakdown of costs and to ask whether the school had made any approach to businesses for funding, with a view to considering the request when the information was received from the school.

## **V. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Pentland Pentaqua**

Following consideration of a request from OASC, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards a competition in Wick in March 2023, for two competitors, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation be granted for the trip at £25 for each competitor, totalling £50.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. HITRANS – Scottish Islands: Windracers Survey**

Following consideration of a HITRANS document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the use of windracers in the community, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. OIC – EIA – Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub**

Following consideration of an OIC document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Scapa Deep Water Quay and the Orkney Logistics Hub public consultation event on 1 December 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **C. European Marine Energy Centre Ltd (EMEC) - Application to Vary Section 36 Consent – Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site**

Following consideration of an EMEC document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a nil response from Firth and Stenness Community Council to the consultation on an application to vary section 36 consent, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **D. OIC Licensing – Consultation on Overprovision Assessment**

Following consideration of an OIC document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a consultation on overprovision assessment, replies requiring to be submitted by 17 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. OIC – SWECO – On-Line Consultation Portal – Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Base, Hatston**

Following consideration of an OIC document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an on-line consultation portal on the Scapa Deep water Quay and Orkney Logistics Base at Hatston, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Events postponed – New Dates to be Confirmed**

Following consideration of a West of Orkney Windfarm document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the postponement of the pre-application (PAC) event, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. SEPA – 2023 Opinion survey – Regulation and Flooding Service**

Following consideration of a SEPA document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a 2023 opinion survey on regulation and flooding service with a closing date of 17 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **H. West of Orkney Windfarm – Erroneous Leaflet Drop**

Following consideration of a West of Orkney Windfarm document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding new dates for the community consultation events on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **I. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-Application Consultation Notice**

Following consideration of a West of Orkney Windfarm document, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a pre-application consultation notice of events in Kirkwall, Sandwick and Stromness between 23 and 25 May 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **8. Publications**

The following publications had been circulated previously and were noted by members:

- VAO – Training and Funding update – November 2022, January 2023 and February 2023.
- VAO – Newsletter – November 2022 and December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023
- Orkney Harbours - Offshore Wind Newsletter December 2022.
- VAO – Small Grants Scheme 2023/24 Now Open.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Road Condition – Finstown**

Members discussed this item under 3 - Matters Arising – Item B Weed Management in Finstown. Further discussion surrounded the road signs at the end of Evie Road which were still very dirty, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services would chase this up with the relevant department at OIC.

### **B. Wildflower Planting**

Members had discussed this item under 4 - Correspondence – community ideas sought for Finstown improvements, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this matter at a future meeting.

### **C. Coronation of King Charles III**

A discussion took place on how to mark the occasion of the Coronation, with members agreeing that since the Community Council owned a Union Jack flag, there would be no need to purchase any additional items. This led to a debate on the schools' participation. The Clerk reported that she had contacted both schools and that Stenness Community School had replied, confirming that they would be marking

the event and asking if the Community Council would be offering any funding for school events. The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, informed members that OIC had applied for lottery funding, which would be distributed amongst Community Councils if successful, for specific spend towards Coronation events, purchases and activities only.

This generated a discussion on whether the Community Council could issue school and nursery children with a gift to commemorate the event. It was agreed that coins would be the most suitable and the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, reported that two other Community Councils were issuing coins to school children in their areas and further reported that Community councils could use the CCGS to purchase the coins, if the application to the lottery fund was unsuccessful, and it was:

Resolved that members would consider and select an appropriate King Charles III Coronation coin to be issued to school children and nursery children in the Firth and Stenness Community Council area.

## **D. Bag the Bruck**

Following a discussion on this year's Bag the Bruck activities, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would write to the schools to ask if they were planning any Bag the Bruck activities and if so, would invite them to apply for Community Council funding as soon as possible.
2. Where no other applications were received from other groups, the funding for Bag the Bruck would be split between Firth Primary School and Stenness Community School.

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

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held in Stenness Community School on Monday, 12 June 2023 at 19:30.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.