

# Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 4 November 2020 at 19:30

## Present:

Jacqui Hirst, Martin Lee, Kenny Rendall and Shelagh Sneesby.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.
- Councillor Andrew Drever.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- Sergeant Simon Hay, Police Scotland.

## Chair:

- Jacqui Hirst in the Chair.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Bill Robertson and Councillor Steve Sankey.

## **2. Police Scotland Matters**

After hearing a presentation from the Police Scotland representative on police matters, including speed checks in the local area, operational matters and equipment, and Police Scotland's response to COVID-19, including additional duties relating to Scottish Government guidance, regulations and legislation, it was:

Resolved to note the presentation.

Sergeant Simon Hay left the meeting at this point.

Shelagh Sneesby joined the meeting at this point.

## **3. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 2 September 2020 was approved, being proposed by Kenny Rendall and seconded by Jacqui Hirst.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Policy on Financial Assistance**

Following consideration of proposed amendments to the policy on financial assistance, it was:

Resolved that Martin Lee would circulate further amendments to the proposed policy document for consideration at the next meeting, including the following:

- Each applicant entitled to four payments of £25 in any financial year.
- Exceptional events, such as the Islands Games, to be considered on individual merit.
- No retrospective applications – although an applicant could apply for financial assistance before the Community Council considered the request, they could attend the event at their own risk.

### **B. Tourist Brochure**

Martin Lee had received a draft of the 2021 tourist brochure, including space for businesses in the East Mainland to purchase, which the Clerk had circulated to all members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Martin Lee should draft a letter, which the Clerk would then circulate to businesses in Holm, together with a full-size draft of the tourist brochure, to gauge interest in demand.

2. That, for 2021, businesses should not be charged the £100 fee for taking an advertising space on the tourist brochure, given the effects of COVID-19 on the 2020 season.

3. That, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme assistance being approved, the Community Council should meet one third of the cost of printing 15,000 copies of the tourist brochure, for one year, as the information contained therein should be updated each year.

### **C. Post on Kirkyard Gate**

The Clerk had received a response from Orkney Islands Council regarding the broken gate at the “old” end of the Holm Kirkyard, where the hinge had broken and the gate fallen off/blown open, and it was:

Resolved to note, although the Burial Grounds Officer would try to inspect the gate this week and add it to the repairs list, unfortunately there was quite a list and no budget left, but if any other enquiries were received in respect of the gate, it would be attended to in due course.

### **D. Embankment near St Mary’s Pier**

The Chair confirmed she had visited the embankment near St Mary’s Pier and confirmed that the grass did appear to have been cut since the last meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that all members should continue to check the area to ensure the grass continued to be cut.

### **E. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club thanking the Community Council for financial assistance towards coaches undertaking training, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **F. Condition of Road Signs**

Councillor Norman Craigie provided an update on a meeting with John Wrigley, Head of Roads and Environmental Services, Orkney Islands Council, regarding the condition of road signs, and it was:

Resolved to note that the condition of roads signs across Orkney had been noted but, with limited and/or no budget, any improvement would not be undertaken in the short term.

### **G. Pothole at Wilderness Junction**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the pothole at the Wilderness junction, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, as revenue budgets had been frozen, the Roads operational team was only permitted to attend to Category 1 defects and, although the pothole

had been investigated several times and reported by Councillors, it did not qualify as a Category 1 repair.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Tree Lighting**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding tree lighting ceremonies, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council should not arrange a Christmas tree lighting ceremony this year, either inside or outside, given the restrictions arising from COVID-19, including catering and social distancing, together with the limited time remaining to undertake the associated paperwork for an external event, including an Event Management Plan and risk assessment, as well as applying for other permissions that may be required.

### **B. Waste and Recycling Services**

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council to community councils providing an update on delivery of waste collection services in the COVID-19 period, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Festive Lighting**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding arrangements for festive lighting, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Orkney Islands Council had completed an initial review of existing street lighting columns and festive lighting/decorations and, as a result, some older decorations would not be erected for the 2020 season, including the shooting star type decorations.
2. To note that, for 2021, the Council was recommending that all existing decorations be removed and replaced with smaller, lighter decorations which met windage requirements of the column manufacturers, which would be handed over to the relevant community council to maintain in perpetuity.
3. That consideration be given in due course to replacing the street lighting Christmas decorations for 2021, noting that column wraps were now in place through Burray village, which could be replicated in St Mary's village.

### **D. Acts of Remembrance**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding arrangements for acts of Remembrance, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the guidance from Scottish Government on Remembrance events.

2. To note that Councillor Andrew Drever had collected the wreath and was finalising arrangements for a small commemoration at the Holm war memorial on Sunday, 8 November, which would meet, as far as possible, relevant COVID-19 regulations.

### **E. Invitation to Web Workshop on Rural Connectivity**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a stakeholder workshop on the 5G New Thinking project, a project involving a number of partners trying to tackle the problem of improving rural connectivity using next generation and 5G connectivity, and it was:

Resolved to note that the virtual workshop would be held on 11 November 2020.

### **F. Scottish Civic Trust**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust regarding the Awards for Community-Led Built Environment projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 October 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 22 October 2020 of £14,135.51.

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

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 October 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,863.23.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 22 October 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £6,500.

### **D. Seedcorn Funding**

Following consideration of the Seedcorn Funding statement as at 22 October 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

## **7. Financial Requests**

### **The Loch of Ayre Walkway Association**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association providing further information in respect of the project to improve facilities at the Loch of Ayre, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council should provide grant funding of £4,550, in respect of the undernoted works, to be met from the Seedcorn allocation, if applicable, with the remaining balance met from the Community Development Fund:

- Build and erect a bird hide on land at south end of loch – £3,000.
- Signage (particularly re keeping dogs on lead and remove fouling) – £550.
- Timber etc to improve existing walkway – £150.
- Picnic tables – £850.

## **8. Consultation Documents**

### **Scottish Government – Islands Communities Impact Assessments**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government regarding a consultation on guidance and templates for completing an Islands Communities Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were required by 9 November 2020.

## **9. Publications**

The following publications had been received by the Clerk and were circulated to members via email:

- VAO Newsletters – September and October 2020.
- VAO – Training and funding Updates – September and October 2020.
- VAO – Volunteering Summary – November 2020.
- CLAN Support and Wellbeing Centre – Re-opening for Appointments.
- Scottish Water Newsletter – September 2020 – Routemap to Net Zero Emissions.
- Climate Challenge Fund Autumn Newsletter.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Donations from Tree Lighting Ceremony**

As the Community Council had decided not to hold a tree lighting ceremony this year, consideration was given to the charitable donations which would normally be provided, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £250 should be given to both the Salvation Army and Orkney Foodbank, as a gesture of goodwill given the continued demand on their

services with few opportunities to fundraise as a result of ongoing restrictions arising from COVID-19.

## **B. Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Again, as the Community Council had decided not to hold an event this year, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council asking that the overall advert for tree lighting ceremonies across Orkney should, if possible, include a note that Holm would not be holding an event this year.

## **11. 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 Wednesday, 20 January 2021, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50.