

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, and via Teams on Monday, 22 January 2024 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Roddy Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection, Orkney Islands Council.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.
- 1 member of the local press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Rikki A Lidderdale, Moyra Gordon and Barbara J M Graham, and Councillors Steven B Heddle, John A R Scott and Gwenda M Shearer.

2. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 27 November 2023 was approved, being proposed by Lynne Spence and seconded by Cathleen Hourie, subject to the following amendment:

Benches

Resolved that paragraph 5(A)(i) of the Minute should be amended to refer to a document, rather than an interactive map of benches.

3. Matters Arising

A. Benches

The Clerk advised that a response had still not been received from Orkney Islands Council to the questions submitted following the October 2023 meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should again request a response from Orkney Islands Council in relation to the five specific questions submitted.

B. Orkney Digital Forum

Following consideration of correspondence from L McArthur MSP regarding an online digital forum held on 15 December 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that John Mowat had attended the online digital forum, where topics included the telephone network analogue switchover to digital, and the potential implications for emergency situations, if there was no mobile phone signal.

C. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, the meeting with Team Swan scheduled for 18 January 2024 had been postponed, and it was:

Resolved to note that the meeting would be rearranged on a date to be confirmed to enable further consideration at the next meeting of the Community Council.

D. Financial Requests – Notes of Thanks

Following consideration of notes of thanks received from various individuals and groups regarding financial assistance received from the Community Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney 2025 – Swimming – Appeal for Endorsement

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney 2025 Swimming Co-ordinator regarding an application for assistance to purchase a new LED display board, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, following approval from members via email, the Clerk had submitted a letter of support in relation to the project.

B. R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Papdale East Playpark Association (PEPA) – Letter of Support

Following consideration of correspondence from PEPA regarding a feasibility study in relation to the next phase of development at the Papdale East Playpark, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, following approval from members via email, the Clerk had submitted a letter of support in relation to the project.

D. Site K9, New Scapa Road

Following consideration of correspondence from Bracewell Stirling Consulting regarding a public consultation event in relation to K9, a development site off New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that a public exhibition event would be held at Orkney Builders (Contractors) Ltd head offices at 10 Crowness Road, Kirkwall, on 29 January 2024.

E. Application for Variation of Premises Licence – Scapa Distillery Visitor Centre

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding an application for a variation of the premises licence in respect of the Scapa Distillery Visitor Centre, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council should not make any representations in respect of the application for variation of the premises licence.
2. That Roddy Mackay should pass on the Community Council's concerns, to the relevant service within Orkney Islands Council, regarding road safety, with potentially increased numbers of pedestrians walking from Kirkwall to the Scapa Distillery, and that priority should be given to any project which increased safety, including path networks.

F. Additional Tranche of CDF Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of an additional tranche of CDF funding, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council had received an additional allocation of £5,000 which could be used to meet shortfalls on any major projects being undertaken within the community which might also receive funding from the main Community Development Fund, and/or to lever in money from any other outside funding source.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 10 January 2024 of £14,365.87.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/24 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 10 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £4,978.02 had been approved, of which £4,978.02 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £679.19.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 10 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,163.46.

6. Financial Requests

A. UKA (Highland Dancing) Workshops, Aberdeen

Following consideration of an application from B Mendes requesting financial assistance towards her daughters attending UKA Highland Dancing workshops in Aberdeen on 9 and 10 February 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded to each participant, subject to confirmation of attendance.

B. Highland Scholarship Event, Aberdeen

Following consideration of an application from B Mendes requesting financial assistance towards her daughters attending a Highland Dancing scholarship event in Aberdeen on 20 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded to each participant, subject to confirmation of attendance.

C. Highland Dancing Competition

The Clerk had received an application from S Campbell requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Tanya Horne winter highland dancing competition in Wick on 19 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded, subject to confirmation of attendance.

7. Consultations

A. Local Development Plan Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the start of the review of the Local Development Plan, for which responses were required by 7 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated it was:

Resolved that members should submit any comments to the Clerk prior to the deadline.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the verge maintenance plan, for which responses were required by 29 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should respond advising that ragwort was prevalent at Walliwall Quarry and around the area of Galt View.
2. That Roddy Mackay should find out when the list of conservation verges was last updated.

C. Winter Services Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the winter services plan, for which responses were required by 29 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting, to enable a comprehensive response to be submitted.

8. Meetings attended by Members – Improvement Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a Community Council Webinar organised by the Improvement Service with Open University Scotland, held on 18 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Cathleen Hourie had attended the webinar, which had provided lots of useful information which was free to access.

9. Hanging Baskets

Following discussion on the provision of hanging baskets throughout Kirkwall Town Centre for 2024, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the Community Council should continue the scheme to provide floral hanging baskets in the town centre during 2024 for private businesses and households only.
- B. That a grant of £2,000 be awarded towards the provision of hanging baskets, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
- C. That businesses and private individuals participating in the scheme should be requested to meet the cost of a basket, less the Community Council Grant Scheme funding.
- D. That the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements to secure a contract for the provision of hanging baskets during 2024.
- E. That powers be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair to accept a tender for the provision of hanging baskets.
- F. That the Chair and Vice Chair should contact the successful tenderer to agree the length of time the hanging baskets should remain on the buildings.

10. Planters at War Memorial

Following discussion on the continued provision of flower tubs at the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the Community Council should provide flower tubs at the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial containing Royal British Legion colours.
- B. That a grant of £150 be awarded towards the provision of the flower tubs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

11. Publications

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

- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Scottish Towns Conference 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – November and December 2023 Newsletters.
- Paths for All – eNews – November and December 2023.
- VAO Newsletters – November and December 2023.
- Liam McArthur MSP – Holyrood Highlights – 1 and 8 December 2023.
- Alistair Carmichael MP – The Week in Parliament – 3, 8 and 9 December 2023.
- SEPA Updates – December 2023 and January 2024.
- Scottish Islands Passport – Update – 11 December 2023.

- Scotland's Towns Partnership – Newsletter – December 2023 and January 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – December 2023 and January 2024.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. BBC Children in Need – Big Sky Fund

The Clerk had received correspondence from VAO regarding two online information sessions regarding the BBC's Children in Need Big Sky Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note that the online events would be held on 23 January and 8 February 2024.

Post meeting note:

Lynne Spence had attended the online event on 23 January 2024 and provided the following update:

- The fund, which was to support emotional wellbeing of 8-13 years, was on a first come first serve basis, and related to projects looking at talking about their feelings, being active, learning, taking notice and giving more.
- Local councils, the NHS and Community Councils were unable to apply to the fund.
- Any activities could not be held within the school day, nor be used to delivered within core statutory projects within schools.

B. Scottish Water

The Clerk had received correspondence from Scottish Water regarding checking for leaks and bursts, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Brandyquoy Park

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that Brandyquoy Park was currently closed to allow for the installation of a new piece of equipment, and it was:

Resolved to note that the works were anticipated to be complete by the end of February and that signs were being erected to advise the public that the park would be reopening in March 2024, allowing time to complete a safety inspection.

D. Laing Street

After hearing representations from Lynne Spence regarding the daily closure of Laing Street and the apparent use as a car park for works vehicles, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council highlighting the concerns that a full closure of Laing Street during the working day did not appear to be required, and that the position should be reviewed.

E. Former Street Names

After hearing representations from Robert Leslie regarding recording former street names, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting to enable Robert Leslie to submit photos of Lerwick street names as examples.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council should be held on Monday, 11 March 2024, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.