

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall on Monday, 18 June 2018 at 19:00

Present:

Christopher Gee, Christine E Marcus, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale, Alastair M MacLeod, Steven Metcalf, John R Mowat and Tom Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor Barbara Foulkes.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Acting Sergeant Simon Hay, Police Scotland.
- One member of the local press.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of James Currie, David L Flett and Alan Ryrie and Councillors Norman R Craigie, David Dawson, Andrew Drever, Steve Sankey and Gwenda M Shearer.

2. Appointment of Chair

The Clerk outlined the process for appointing the Chair and, after a secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

Robert F Leslie 1 vote.

Tom Rendall 6 votes, it was:

Resolved that Tom Rendall be appointed Chair.

Tom Rendall took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Christine Harcus and Steven Metcalf joined the meeting at this point.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that Cathleen A Hourie be re-appointed Vice Chair.

4. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that Alastair M MacLeod be re-appointed Planning representative.

5. Appointments

A. Finance Sub-committee

Resolved that the following members be re-appointed to the Finance Sub-committee:

- Chair.
- Vice Chair.
- James Currie.
- Rikki A Lidderdale.

B. Kirkwall Places and Spaces Sub-group

Resolved that the following members be re-appointed to the Kirkwall Places and Spaces Sub-group:

- Cathleen A Hourie.
- Christopher Gee.
- Alastair M MacLeod.
- John R Mowat.
- Tom Rendall.

C. WellBeing Orkney Advisory Board

Resolved that Rikki A Lidderdale be re-appointed to represent the Community Council on the WellBeing Orkney Advisory Board.

6. Police Matters

The Acting Sergeant referred to the Orkney Policing Report for June 2018 from the Chief Inspector, copies of which had been circulated earlier that day, and it was:

Resolved to note the various matters contained in the policing report, including plans to train local officers on the use of tasers, the Police Scotland Youth Volunteer programme, local crime statistics and local staffing.

The Acting Sergeant left the meeting at this point.

7. Kirkwall BID

The Director of Kirkwall Business Improvement District (BID) had sent her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that there was no further update on Kirkwall BID, other than the Board was in the process of appointing a co-ordinator.

8. Adoption of Minutes

The Minute of the Meeting held on 30 April 2018 was approved, being proposed by Alastair MacLeod and seconded by Christine Harcus.

9. Matters Arising

A. Scotland's Tree of the Year

Following an update from the Chair on activities to promote the Big Tree and use of the care grant provided by The Woodland Trust, it was resolved:

1. That Christine Harcus should begin progressing some of the ideas for promoting the Big Tree, including photography competitions, each school in Orkney receiving a "baby Big Tree", a story competition and a small feature in the Kirkwall Flower Arranging Club's annual display in St Magnus Cathedral.
2. That Councillor John Ross Scott should seek information from Orkney Islands Council regarding annual maintenance of the Big Tree and report back in due course.

B. St Magnus Lane Toilets

Following an update from Councillor W Leslie Manson regarding the proposal to extend the opening hours of the toilets in St Magnus Lane, it was:

Resolved to note that, following a recent incidence of vandalism, discussions were ongoing between Orkney Islands Council and its insurers, details of which could not be disclosed at this time.

C. Paths in Warrenfield

Following an update from Councillor John T Richards regarding maintenance of paths within the Warrenfield area, it was:

Resolved to note that the path linking Quoybanks Crescent and Summerdale Drive had been improved, with the path between Warrenfield Drive and Quoybanks Place due to be improved later this year, as part of the micro asphalt programme.

D. Green Plaques

Following an update from the Chair regarding proposed wording for the green plaques commemorating Patrick Craigie and Christine Costie, it was resolved:

1. That the wording on the plaque commemorating Patrick Craigie should read:

“The house of Patrick Craigie, Provost of Kirkwall (1658-1670) who impoverished himself defending Kirkwall’s ancient rights and died in a debtor’s cell in the Tolbooth in 1682”.

2. On the motion of Christine Marcus, seconded by Alastair MacLeod, that the wording on the plaque commemorating Christina Costie should read:

“This was the home of Christina M Costie (1902-1967) Writer in the Orkney Dialect”.

3. That powers be delegated to the Chair to select an appropriate quote from her work to include on the plaque commemorating Christina Costie.

E. Memorial at Gallow’ha

Following consideration of correspondence from H Woodsford-Dean in response to the Community Council’s suggestions regarding the memorial at Gallow’ha, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Kirkwall Townscape Heritage Initiative was proposing to provide additional interpretative material at the bottom of Clay Loan.

F. Resurfacing of Junction Road with junction of Union Street

Following an update from Councillor John T Richards regarding water continuing to pool at the junction of Union Street with Junction Road following the recent resurfacing works, it was:

Resolved to note that Orkney Islands Council intended to undertake further works in the near future which was hoped would stop water pooling in the location.

G. Applications for Financial Assistance

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, Kirkwall Squash and Racketball, Kirkwall Grammar School and NHS Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided to the various organisations.

10. Correspondence

A. Road Closures for Special Events

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding road closures for special events, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the cost to be met by the Community Council in respect of road closures and other operational costs, incurred by Orkney Islands Council associated with the bonfire and fireworks to be held in November 2018 at the Peedie Sea, would be £72.

B. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer regarding annual grants to community councils for 2018/2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note the annual grant from Orkney Islands Council to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council for 2018/2019, amounting to £6,566.30.
2. To note that the capping level for the Community Council Grant Scheme for 2018/2019 was set at £3,322.

C. Kirkwall Markers

Following consideration of correspondence from Pidgin Perfect, a creative consultancy based in Glasgow, commissioned by Kirkwall Townscape Heritage Initiative to deliver a number of small-scale artworks for the town, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Christine Marcus should contact Pidgin Perfect and arrange a suitable time to meet representatives of the consultancy when they were in Kirkwall from 27 to 29 June 2018 and circulate information to other members.

11. Repairs at Cattie Maggie's

Following consideration of correspondence from A MacLeod regarding the condition of parts of the bridleway at Cattie Maggie's bridleway, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Councillor Barbara Foulkes should ascertain with Orkney Islands Council whether the bridleway formed part of the core paths network, confirm the exact location of areas in need of some improvement works, and report back in due course.

Councillor Steven Heddle left the meeting at this point.

12. Community Council Accounts

Following consideration of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the final certified accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018.

13. Financial Statements 2017-2018

A. General – 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

Following consideration of a financial statement for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 in respect of the Community Council's General Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 31 March 2018 of £8,046.78.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of a financial statement in respect of the Community Council Grant Scheme for 2017-2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the financial statement.

14. Financial Statements 2018-2019

A. General – 1 April to 31 May 2018

Following consideration of a financial statement for the period 1 April to 31 May 2018 in respect of the Community Council's General Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 31 May 2018 of £13,789.91.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of a financial statement in respect of the Community Council Grant Scheme for 2018-2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the financial statement.

C. Seed Corn Funding

Following consideration of a financial statement in respect of the Seed Corn Funding, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the financial statement.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of a financial statement in respect of the Community Development Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the financial statement.

15. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Athletics Club

Following consideration of correspondence from a young athlete requesting financial assistance towards representing Orkney at national athletics competitions in Inverness on 11 and 12 May 2018 and in Aberdeen on 19 May 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded for each event, subject to confirmation of participation.

B. Year of Young People – Youth Concert

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney's Year of Young People Ambassadors requesting financial assistance towards a youth concert to be held in the Orkney Theatre in August 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £150 be awarded towards internal travel costs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved

C. Scottish Schools Track and Field Competition

Following consideration of correspondence from S Milne requesting financial assistance towards his children's participation in the Scottish Schools Track and Field athletics competition held in Grangemouth on 8 and 9 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 per competitor be awarded, subject to confirmation of participation.

D. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club requesting financial assistance towards swimmers participating in three events, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the following grants be awarded, subject to confirmation of participation:

1. Pentland Trophy, Thurso, 19 May 2018 – a grant of £30 per swimmer, up to a maximum of 5 swimmers.
2. Long Course Time Trials, Aberdeen, 26 and 27 May 2018 – a grant of £30 per swimmer, but capped at a total grant of £40, taking the total amount awarded to Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for 2018-2019 to the maximum grant of £400.
3. Midsummer Meet, Lerwick, 16 and 17 June 2018 – no assistance as the maximum grant of £400 had already been awarded.

E. Scottish Draughts Association

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Draughts Association requesting financial assistance towards the biennial Open Championship to be held in Kirkwall in June 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £100 be awarded.

F. Orkney Area Young Enterprise Scheme

Robert Leslie declared an interest in this item and was not present during discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Area Team requesting financial assistance towards the young enterprise team from KGS attending the Scottish Young Enterprise finals in Glasgow in June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

G. Island Select Group

Following consideration of correspondence from A Shearer requesting financial assistance towards her child's participation in the Island Select Group, Match 3 of the YDL (Athletics) held in Aberdeen on 17 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

H. Orkney Gymnastics Club

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Orkney Gymnastics Club requesting financial assistance towards young gymnasts competing in a Glitterball Competition in Garioch, Inverurie on 30 June 2018, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £350 be awarded, subject to confirmation of the 16 named gymnasts participating in the event.

I. Orkney Octopush Juniors

Robert Leslie declared an interest in this item and was not present during discussion thereof.

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Orkney Octopush Juniors requesting financial assistance towards participation in the Under 14s British Octopush Junior Nationals to be held in Guildford on 7 July 2018, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £320 be awarded, subject to confirmation of the 14 named juniors participating in the event.

J. Girlguiding Orkney

The Clerk had received correspondence from Girlguiding Orkney requesting financial assistance towards a camp in Sanday from 22 to 24 June 2018, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Girlguiding Orkney seeking confirmation of the number of participants eligible in terms of the Community Council's policy and thereafter make the appropriate grant award.

K. Highland District Hockey

The Clerk had received correspondence from E Poke requesting financial assistance towards his child's participation in trials for the Highland District under 16s hockey squad on 16 and 23 June 2018, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded for each trial, subject to confirmation of participation.

Councillor W Leslie Manson left the meeting at this point.

16. Bonfire and Fireworks

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rotary Club regarding the bonfire and fireworks at Pickaquoy, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

A. That the event, to be held on Saturday, 3 November 2018, should be run by Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, who would make appropriate arrangements to promote the event, including an advert in the local press, with any associated costs being subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

B. That the event be used as a fund-raising event for the Rotary Club.

C. That the Clerk should represent the Community Council on the Rotary Club Bonfire Committee.

D. That the Clerk should liaise with the Rotary Club regarding the Event Management Plan, together with a risk assessment.

E. That a minimum grant of £1,500 be awarded towards the purchase of fireworks, at a maximum cost of £2,000, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

F. That the Clerk should write to those Community Councils who had responded favourably in 2017, to determine whether they wished to provide a donation towards the event in 2018.

17. Meetings Attended by Members - Community Conversations

Orkney Islands Council had arranged a series of community conversations, with one event held in the King Street Halls on 11 June 2018, and it was:

Resolved to note that several members of the Community Council had attended the event, which they all found to be beneficial and hoped that feedback would be forthcoming in due course.

18. Any Other Competent Business

A. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction

Following representations from a member regarding the state of the shrub bed at the Scapa junction, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the contractor to ascertain when the works would be undertaken.

B. Scapa Distillery

Following representations from a member regarding the number of pedestrians visiting Scapa Distillery and the potential road safety issue with long grass on the verge and no pavements beyond the junction leading down to Scapa beach, it was resolved:

1. That the Clerk should write to Scapa Distillery suggesting that, to maintain visitors' safety, they contact householders at the entrance to the distillery to ensure grass verges were cut, thereby enabling pedestrians to step off the main road, where the speed limit was 60mph.
2. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council outlining the safety concerns raised and enquiring whether the speed limit could be reduced, and/or a pavement installed, noting that many of the pedestrians visiting Scapa Distillery were tourists, often from a country where vehicular traffic was on the opposite side of the road, potentially causing confusion.

C. Kirkwall Micro Asphalt Footway Treatment

The Clerk had received correspondence from Democratic Services regarding Orkney Islands Council's intention to carry out Micro Asphalt footway treatment works at four locations within Kirkwall, and it was resolved:

1. To note the proposed works.
2. That Councillor John Ross Scott should check whether the proposed works to the pavement on the south side of Clay Loan were necessary, given the current condition of the pavement, and report back in due course.

D. The Pickaquoy Centre

The Clerk had received correspondence from Democratic Services regarding an application for variation of premises licence held by The Pickaquoy Centre, and it was:

Resolved to note the proposal to update the operating plan to align with recent developments at the Pickaquoy Centre.

19. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting should be held on Monday, 20 August 2018.

20. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:25.