

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall, on Monday, 7 October 2019 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Cathleen A Hourie, Kim Burns, Lorraine A Craigie, Christopher Gee, Moyra Gordon, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale, Steven Metcalf and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

- 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 David L Flett and Christine E Harcus and Councillors Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes and Steven B Heddle.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Resolved to note that there were no Police Scotland matters.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 19 August 2019 was approved, being proposed by Moyra Gordon and seconded by Kim Burns.

Robert Leslie and Rikki Lidderdale joined the meeting at this point.

4. Matters Arising

A. Shrub Bed at Scapa

After hearing an update from Cathleen Hourie regarding potential funding for clearing and replanting the shrub bed at the Scapa junction, it was:

Resolved to note that a response was still awaited from Robertsons.

B. Traffic Issues at Watersfield Development

After hearing an update from Councillor David Dawson regarding proposals for a public meeting to consider ongoing traffic issues within the Watersfield housing development, it was:

Resolved to note that a public meeting covering issues raised by residents within the Watersfield housing development would be held on 6 November 2019 in the Sound Archive, Laing Street, Kirkwall.

C. Bridle Path at Inganess

After hearing an update from the Clerk on behalf of Councillor B Foulkes regarding a request to cut back bushes on the core path below Wideford Farm, it was resolved:

1. To note that path K14 from Inganess Bay to the A961 was covered by ground maintenance, with the type of management being strimmer only.
2. To note that the path was inspected in June, and issues identified resulted in some branches being cut back in the vicinity of Caldwell Cottage and some sections along the path near Wideford Farm, as part of furniture (stiles, gates and boardwalks) maintenance and drainage improvements.
3. To note that maintenance of structures was prioritised over drainage which in turn was prioritised over vegetation issues outwith the grounds maintenance contract.

4. That, following confirmation of the exact section of the path which John R Mowat mentioned at a previous meeting, the Clerk should advise Orkney Islands Council accordingly, so that any necessary works could be carried out.

5. That the Clerk would chase up the outstanding works on the damaged boardwalks initially identified by Robert F Leslie and seek confirmation that the works had now been completed.

D. Bonfire and Fireworks Display at Pickaquoy

Following consideration of the proposed Event Management and Contingency Plan for the event, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Clerk on matters raised at the most recent meeting of the Bonfire Committee, it was resolved:

1. To approve the Event Management and Contingency Plan, as submitted.
2. That the Community Council should meet 50% of the total cost associated with the Red Cross attending the event, currently £300 plus VAT.
3. That Community Councillors and Elected Members should advise the Clerk whether they would be available to assist with stewarding the event on the night, or to watch the bonfire from 12 noon.

E. Timetable for Headstone Reinstatement

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council setting out a timetable for reinstating headstones in various kirkyards in Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that works to reinstate headstones in St Olaf's Cemetery and the Cathedral Kirkyard were due to be completed by 9 October and 26 November 2019 respectively.

F. Community Wind Farm – Community Benefit

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding potential community benefit from the Community Wind Farm project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that a report on the guiding principles and delivery mechanism options for community benefit was due to be considered by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee in September, with the report recommending that further community consultation be undertaken regarding location specific community benefit and Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council is to be a key consultee in that process.

G. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from the undernoted individuals and/or groups thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided, which had been forwarded to members via email:

- E Poke.

- Senior Inter-County hockey, Shetland, 27 July 2019.
- Highland District Hockey – District Final in Edinburgh, 14/15 September 2019 and training session in Inverness on 1 September 2019, noting that further financial assistance had been approved via e-mail regarding a further training session on 8 September 2019.
- Orkney Amateur Football Association – Senior Inter-county Football, Lerwick, 27 July 2019.
- Girlguiding Orkney – Tartan Gig, Glasgow, 31 August 2019.

H. Water Bottle Refill Station on Broad Street

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council acknowledging the Community Council's representation in respect of the planning application for the proposed installation of a water bottle refill station on Broad Street, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

I. Arcadia Park

Following consideration of correspondence from OACAS providing an update on works progressed at Arcadia Park, together with future developments, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact OACAS to arrange a suitable date for members of the Community Council to undertake a visit to Arcadia Park.

J. Burial Grounds – Restrictions on Lair Depths

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding potential restrictions on lair depths in burial grounds, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that, following an independent report and SEPA's subsequent response, the Council had advised that there was likely to be no restriction on double interments in the extension to St Olaf's Cemetery although this would be subject to final planning approval.

K. OHAC Strategic Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the final approved OHAC Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had submitted a response, on behalf of the Community Council, to the consultation on the draft OHAC Strategic Plan.

5. Correspondence

A. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

Correspondence from the undernoted individuals and/or groups thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided had been circulated:

- S Spence – National Youth Brass Band of Scotland – Easter and Summer Camps.
- Doors Open Day – September 2019.
- 1st Kirkwall Company Boys Brigade – Annual Camp, Invergarry, near Fort William, 12 to 17 August 2019.

B. St Magnus Centre

Following consideration of correspondence from the St Magnus Centre requesting the Community Council's support for a potential upgrading project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the St Magnus Centre endorsing the project, which would see a well-used venue in Kirkwall be upgraded to include better insulation and improved kitchen facilities.

C. 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements

Following consideration of correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland advising of the public consultation in respect of electoral arrangement proposals for the Orkney Islands Council area, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the proposals affecting the Kirkwall East ward boundary near Kirkwall Pier and including an area around Kirkwall Airport, currently within the East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray electoral ward.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 27 September 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 27 September 2019 of £6,956.96.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2019/2020 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 27 September 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £0, with the capping limited exceeded by £95.60.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 27 September 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,688.42.

7. Financial Requests

A. Scotland U17 Netball Team

Following consideration of correspondence from C Tulloch requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter participating in the Scotland Under 17 netball long squad, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £10 per training event attended between 21 August 2019 and March 2020, together with the Netball Europe competition to be held in Cardiff at the beginning of March 2020, if selected and subject to confirmation of participation, be approved.

B. Orkney Gymnastics Club

Following consideration of correspondence from four individual parents requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their children participating, as part of the Orkney Gymnastics Club, in a competition held in Fyrish on 28 September 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, as Orkney Gymnastics Club had already reached the capping limit of £400 for financial year 2019 to 2020, no further assistance be provided.

C. Orkney Gymnastics Club

Following consideration of correspondence from one parent requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her child participating, as part of the Orkney Gymnastic Club, in a competition to be held in Inverness on 3 November 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. That as Orkney Gymnastics Club had already reached the capping limit of £400 for financial year 2019 to 2020, no further assistance be provided.
2. That the Clerk should advise any further applicants participating, as part of the Orkney Gymnastics Club, in any future gymnastic competitions within the current financial year, that no further assistance would be provided.

D. KGS Volleyball Team

Following consideration of correspondence from one parent requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her child participating as part of the KGS team in the Scottish Schools Volleyball Festival and Competition in Aberdeen on 10 October 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

E. Review of Policy

Following consideration of the requests from individual members of Orkney Gymnastics Club which identified a potential anomaly within the current policy, it was:

Resolved that the Finance Sub-committee should meet to review the policy on financial assistance and report back to the next meeting.

8. Publications

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

- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – August and September 2019.
- VAO – Newsletters – August and September 2019.
- VAO – Volunteering Opportunities – September and October 2019.

9. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Crimestoppers Scotland Charity

After hearing a report from C Hourie regarding the Communita event organised by Crimestoppers Scotland held in the Pickaquoy Centre on 10 September 2019, it was:

Resolved to note the report on attendance.

B. Patient and Public Representatives Group

After hearing a report from Tom Rendall on his attendance at a PPRG meeting at the Balfour Hospital, it was:

Resolved to note the report on attendance.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Road Naming at Carness

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council requesting suggestions for a new road through a housing development off Carness Road, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should provide the following suggestions to Orkney Islands Council:

- Robert Miller Road – Robert Miller was a Kirkwall man who married in spite of the Press Gang (reference, Mackintosh WR, Around the Orkney Peat Fires (Ninth Edition)).
- Iceland Skerry View – Iceland Skerry is a skerry situated in the near vicinity.
- Thunberg Road – after Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenage environmental activist on climate change whose campaigning has gained international recognition.

B. Town Centre Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of potential town centre funding, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note that the Council had received a capital grant allocation from the Scottish Government, amounting to £200,000, as part of the Town Centre Fund, to support economic investments which encouraged town centres to diversify and flourish.

2. To note that the grant funding must be committed by 31 March 2020, projects completed by 30 September 2020, and only projects in Kirkwall and Stromness town centres being eligible.

3. To defer consideration to the next meeting, to enable members to consider projects which might be eligible for the Town Centre Fund capital grant allocation.

C. Scotland's National Transport Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Transport Scotland regarding consultation on the draft National Transport Strategy, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note that Scotland's National Transport Strategy was currently open for consultation until 23 October 2019, with the NTS Engagement Team in Orkney on 9 October 2019.

2. That Moyra Gordon should attend the engagement event on 9 October 2019 to be held in the Kirkwall Town Hall.

D. Closure of Peedie Breeks Nursery

After hearing representations from several members regarding the announcement that Peedie Breeks Nursery would be closing in July 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the current situation, including the assurance from Orkney Islands Council that alternative childcare provision would be in place by July 2020.

E. Grounds Maintenance

After hearing representations from several members regarding ongoing issues relating to grounds maintenance, including grass cutting and weed control, it was:

Resolved to note that, although alternative grounds maintenance regimes had been instigated, it would take some time for the right balance to be struck between regular cutting and leaving some areas to naturalise.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council be held on 25 November 2019 in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall, commencing at 19:00.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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