

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall, on Monday, 16 March 2020 at 19:00

Present:

Tom Rendall, Cathleen A Hourie, Kim Burns, Lorraine A Craigie, David L Flett, Moyra Gordon, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale and John R Mowat.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor John T Richards.

- 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 Christopher Gee, and Councillors Andrew Drever, Steven Heddle, Leslie Manson, John Ross Scott and Gwenda Shearer.

2. Police Scotland Matters

Temporary Sergeant Hugh Moonie had advised that he was unable able to attend the meeting, following Scottish Government guidance on Coronavirus to avoid personal attendance at meetings where practicable.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 was approved, being proposed by Lorraine Craigie and seconded by John Mowat.

4. Matters Arising

A. Hall of Clestrain Development

Following consideration of correspondence from the John Rae Society regarding the Hall of Clestrain development project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that following the last meeting, the Clerk had sent a letter of support to the John Rae Society.

Robert Leslie joined the meeting at this point.

B. Shrub Bed at Scapa Junction

With regards to maintenance of the shrub bed at the Scapa Junction, Cathleen Hourie advised that she was continuing to be passed from department to department, and would continue to do so until the Community Council advised further, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

C. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received notes of thanks from E Want and E Wallace regarding financial assistance granted at the previous meeting, which had been passed to members by email, and it was:

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

D. Town Centre Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from Councillor John Richards regarding potential projects which might be eligible for funding from the Town Centre Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Scottish Government had recently allowed a twelve-month extension whereby project approval was extended to 31 March 2021, with the funding to be spent by 30 September 2021. This would give the Community Council an opportunity to consider any further projects in Kirkwall.

E. Care Home, Kirkwall

Following consideration of further correspondence from Mr and Mrs B Leslie and a response from the Interim Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council, regarding provision of a new care home in Kirkwall, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising of the Community Council's concerns that the proposed facility was not adequately sized, asking whether the facility would be future proofed for expansion and the possibility of including a nursery, or was the design too far advanced to permit such an addition.

F. Junction of Palace Road/Watergate

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the provision of bollards on Broad Street, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that although bollards may not have been shown on drawings used for consultation prior to final approval of the scheme, these were required by the Roads Authority for two principal reasons:

- Where required by a safety audit to assist separation of vehicles and pedestrians and to provide guidance and encourage slower speeds by vehicles.
- To prevent vehicles from parking on pavements.

G. Future of Peedie Breeks Nursery

Following consideration of correspondence from a concerned parent regarding the closure of Peedie Breeks Nursery and the potential impact on families, and requesting that the Community Council write to Orkney Islands Council supporting the request for a similar flexible childcare provision, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council endorsing the provision of early years childcare in principle, and in the absence of any private sector provision, to welcome such an initiative from the local authority.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish Community Councils and VE Day 75

Following consideration of correspondence from the Improvement Service regarding commemoration of VE Day 75 on 8 May 2020, including paying tribute to the millions of women who contributed so much to the war effort during 1939 to 1945, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Preparation of Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding arrangements for preparation of the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Bonfire and Fireworks Display

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rotary Club of Orkney thanking the Community Council for financial and active support received in respect of the bonfire and fireworks display held in November 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the annual Bag the Bruck event to be held between 18 and 26 April 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £300 be awarded, split equally between any organisation who applied prior to the event, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

E. Westray Community Council

Following consideration of correspondence from Westray Community Council seeking support for its complaint to O2 and Vodaphone regarding lack of mobile signal including emergency signal, particularly during January 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to O2 and Vodaphone supporting the complaint made by Westray Community Council.

F. HIAL ATMS Plans

Following consideration of correspondence from the Chair of Benbecula Community Council seeking a third petitioner from the Northern Isles to support a petition to the Scottish Parliament against the changes Highlands and Islands Airports were proposing to all its island airports and at Dundee and Wick, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that Rikki Lidderdale should contact the Chair of Benbecula Community Council to ascertain what was required and, if deemed appropriate, would support the petition.

G. Community Benefits Toolkit, Webinar and More

Following consideration of correspondence from Local Energy Scotland regarding its free and impartial support to help with planning for, managing and evaluating community benefits from renewable energy projects including a toolkit, webinar, enablement grants, frameworks for contractors, case studies and the Community Benefit Register, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 6 March 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £6,684.53.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2019/2020 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 March 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £0.27.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 6 March 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

7. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Climbing Club

Following consideration of correspondence from a parent requesting financial assistance towards his daughter's participation in the Scottish Development Climbing Finals in Glasgow in March 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

B. KGS S1 Football – Portsoy Football Festival

Following consideration of correspondence from a parent requesting financial assistance towards his son's participation in the KGS S1 football team at the Portsoy football festival in May 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that, as the event was due to take place in May 2020, the new policy would apply therefore no assistance should be provided and the Clerk should advise the applicant accordingly.

C. Papdale Primary School

Following consideration of correspondence from Papdale Primary School requesting financial assistance towards residential trips for P6 and P7 pupils to Hoy in September 2020 and Lagganlia in June 2020 respectively, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £275 be awarded in respect of the P7 trip to Lagganlia in June 2020, subject to confirmation of participation.

D. Orkney Folk Festival

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival requesting financial assistance towards the 38th Folk Festival taking place from 21 to 24 May 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £255 be awarded in respect of travel costs within Orkney, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

E. Netball Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from a parent requesting financial assistance towards her daughter's participation in Netball district games in Aberdeen on 14 March 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £30 be awarded subject to confirmation of participation, and that the Clerk should advise the applicant of the new policy to take effect from 1 April 2020.

8. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2019

Following consideration of a consultation document from Orkney Islands Council on the Verge Maintenance Plan 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting that additional cuts of the verges along the Old Finstown Road be undertaken, given the ever-increasing number of walkers using that route.

B. Supplementary Guidance: Housing in the Countryside

Following consideration of a consultation document from Orkney Islands Council on draft Supplementary Guidance in respect of Housing in the Countryside, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation documentation.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletters – January and February 2020.

- VAO – Volunteering Summary – February and March 2020.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – February 2020.
- Paths for All eNews – January 2020.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Best Kept War Memorial Competition

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Kirkwall Branch of the Royal British Legion regarding arrangements for the best kept war memorial competition for 2020, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should enter the Kirkwall and St Ola War Memorial in the 2020 competition, under the category of memorial without a garden.

B. Barrier No 2 Survey

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of the survey on options for wave over-topping at Barrier No 2, the closing date for which was 15 April 2020, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence which had been passed to members by email.

C. Counselling Services

Robert Leslie advised that he had attended the public meeting regarding the provision of counselling services following the closure of OACAS, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Coronavirus – Support Group

A member referred to the Orkney CV Mutual Aid Group established to assist with a response to Coronavirus issues, with the objective of the group being to provide assistance where support was not covered by charities or other organisations. He queried whether the Community Council would provide financial assistance, possibly to assist with the cost of producing leaflets. After discussion, it was agreed that an application would require to be made to the Community Council and that similar applications should be made to all community councils, as this would affect the entire county, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

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 would be held on 11 May 2020 in the Garden Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall, commencing at 19:00, subject to further advice regarding attendance at meetings and/or potential postponement due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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