

Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 10 May 2021 at 19:00

Present:

Kim Burns, Lorraine A Craigie, David L Flett, Christopher Gee, Christine E Marcus, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale, 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.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

- 1 member of the local press.
- Sergeant Richard Morris, Police Scotland.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Moyra Gordon and Councillor David Dawson.

2. Appointment of Chair

The Clerk outlined options for the appointment of offices bearers, following which John Mowat, seconded by Kim Burns, moved that the existing office bearers be re-appointed.

Tom Rendall, seconded by Rikki Lidderdale, moved an amendment that the appointments should be made by secret ballot.

The result of a recorded vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:

Kim Burns, Lorraine A Craigie, David L Flett, Christopher Gee, Christine E Marcus, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie, Rikki A Lidderdale and Tom Rendall (9).

For the Motion:

John R Mowat (1).

The amendment was therefore carried.

After a secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Rikki Lidderdale – 5 votes.
- Tom Rendall – 4 votes.

Resolved that Rikki Lidderdale should be appointed Chair of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

After a secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Lorraine A Craigie – 2 votes.
- Robert F Leslie – 3 votes.
- Tom Rendall – 4 votes.

Resolved that Tom Rendall should be appointed Vice Chair of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.

4. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that the Clerk should be re-appointed as the Planning representative.

5. Appointments to Finance Sub-committee

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

- Chair.
- Vice Chair.
- Christine A Harcus.
- Robert F Leslie.

6. Police Scotland Matters

After hearing a presentation from the Police Scotland representative on local policing matters, including damage to public toilets, current COVID-19 restrictions, engaging with the public and the volume of controlled substances detected through the postal system, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation.

The Police Scotland representative left the meeting at this point.

7. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 15 March 2021 was approved, being proposed by Tom Rendall and seconded by Kim Burns.

8. Matters Arising

A. Town Centre Funding – Tankerness House Gardens

The Clerk provided an update on progress with the Town Centre Fund application for improvement works at Tankerness House Gardens, and it was:

Resolved to note that the funding application had been approved, planning permission and listed building consent had been granted and a meeting would take place shortly with officers from Orkney Islands Council and The Yard to progress the works.

B. Hanging Baskets

The Clerk advised that, as the update to be provided in respect of the provision of hanging baskets included commercially sensitive information, discussion should be deferred until the end of the meeting, after the press and public had been excluded.

C. Lane Exit at Meadow Crescent

The Clerk advised that no further correspondence had been received from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Community Council's request for the installation of staggered gates and, after hearing further representations from Councillor Scott that, as no further complaints had been received, the residents were content to maintain a watching brief on the situation, it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

D. Dog Litter Bins

The Clerk advised that no response had received from Orkney Islands Council regarding the request for additional dog litter bins and reminded members of the option to invite a representative from the waste management team to a future meeting, and after hearing representations from Councillor Richards regarding a member of the Youth Forum mapping out the location of bins across Papdale East, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, be invited to a future meeting to discuss waste management matters.
2. To note that Councillor Richards would liaise with the Community Learning and Development Officer in order to share the information on the mapping of dog litter bins with the Community Council, with a view to expanding the area covered.

9. Correspondence

A. Footbridge connecting Foreland Road and Crantit Trail

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Orkney regarding the footbridge connecting Foreland Road to the Crantit Trail which had recently been completed and was now open for use by the public, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Inganess to Scapa Footpath

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council in response to a query from a member regarding the condition of the Inganess to Scapa footpath, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the muddy sections, highlighted in the query from the member, were an ongoing seasonal problem, with the landowner entitled to graze the area, which meant that works to firm up the area would not be carried out, that the footbridges near Cattie Maggies and at Inganess bay had been repaired and that instructions had been issued to repair the boardwalk.

C. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

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

Resolved:

1. That, in principle, and should COVID-19 restrictions permit, the Community Council should hold the annual bonfire and fireworks at Pickaquoy, on a date in November 2021 to be confirmed, with assistance from the Rotary Club.
2. That the Clerk should represent the Community Council on the Rotary Club Bonfire Committee.

D. THAW Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from THAW Orkney regarding the success and difficulties THAW had faced in providing crucial services to some vulnerable members of the community, together with funding difficulties exacerbated by the increasingly competitive nature of bidding for third sector funding, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Community Renewal Fund

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Community Renewal Fund, a revenue fund established by the UK Government, to enable pilot projects and new approaches to community development to help inform the design of a future programme funded from 2022/2023 onwards via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should submit an application to the Community Renewal Fund for potential investment in Orkney's Community Wind Farm project.

F. Orkney Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council providing an update in respect of development of the Orkney Regional Marine Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Hoy North and Hoy Centre Online Consultation Event

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks regarding an online consultation event on the planned replacement of two 33kV submarine electricity cables running between the Orkney Mainland and Hoy North and Hoy Centre, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. OIC Harbour Authority – Expansion of Hatston Pier and Harbour

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland requesting feedback on what should be included within or excluded from the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment in respect of the marine elements of the proposed expansion of Hatston Pier and harbour by the OIC Harbour Authority, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. OIC Harbour Authority – Scapa Deep Water Quay

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland requesting feedback on what should be included within or excluded from the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment in respect of the marine elements of the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay development by the OIC Harbour Authority, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager advising of the annual grants to community councils for 2021/2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the annual grant to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council for financial year 2021/2022 was £6,746.48.
2. To note that the capping limit for the Community Council Grant Scheme for financial year 2021/2022 was £3,388.

K. Adoption of Planning Guidance

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of the adoption of various planning documents, and it was:

Resolved to note that Orkney Islands Council had recently approved the following documents:

- Housing in the Countryside Supplementary Guidance.
- Amenity and Minimising Obtrusive Lighting Planning Policy Advice.
- The Development Plan Scheme 2021.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 27 April 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 27 April 2021 of £12,097.82.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 27 April 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,985.09.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 27 April 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

11. Financial Requests

A. Kirkwall City Pipe Band

Robert F Leslie declared an interest in this item, being a member of the Kirkwall City Pipe Band, and was not present during discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence from Kirkwall City Pipe Band requesting financial assistance towards the cost of publishing a book commemorating the first 100 years of the Pipe Band, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £500 be given towards the cost of publishing a book commemorating the first 100 years of the Pipe Band, to be met from the Community Development Fund allocation.
2. That, should the project be ineligible for funding from the Community Development Fund, application should be made to Orkney Islands Council for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme.

B. Orkney Rowing Club

David L Flett declared an interest in this item, being a member of the Orkney Rowing Club, and was not present during discussion thereof.

Following consideration of an application from Orkney Rowing Club requesting financial assistance towards cleaning a local beach, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £150 be given, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

C. Rotary Club

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Rotary Club requesting financial assistance towards gathering bruck around the Peedie Sea, in and around the skate park and on Foreland Road, and it was:

Resolved that, although the application was retrospective, given the extenuating circumstances outlined in the application, a grant of £150 be given, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

D. Orkney Amateur Weightlifting Club

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Orkney Amateur Weightlifting Club requesting financial assistance towards two members attending a competition in Twickenham, and it was:

Resolved that, as the members were over 18 years of age and not in full-time education, no assistance should be given.

12. Consultations

A. The Orkney Partnership – Community Priorities

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a consultation on community priorities undertaken by the Orkney Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Islands Council – Winter Service Delivery

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of its winter service policy and service plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should submit any comments to the Clerk to enable a response to be submitted to Orkney Islands Council by the deadline of 7 June 2021.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that individual members should respond direct to the Democratic Services Manager by the deadline of 16 July 2021.

13. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletters – March and April 2021.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – March and April 2021.
- L McArthur MSP – Coronavirus: Latest Information and Advice – 16 and 24 March 2021.
- Orkney Zerowaste – April 2021 Newsletter.

- Scottish Rural Action – April 2021 Newsletter.
- Paths for All – eNews – 3 May 2021.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A. Norwegian Constitution Day

John Mowat advised that, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the normal arrangements for Norwegian Constitution Day on 17 May 2021 would again be restricted.

B. Scottish Rural Parliament

John Mowat gave a short presentation on the remaining two days of the Scottish Rural Parliament's online conference sessions held in March 2021.

15. 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, 28 June 2021, commencing at 19:00.

The press left the meeting at this point.

16. Hanging Baskets

The Clerk updated members regarding the provision of hanging baskets for 2021, following meetings of the Finance Sub-committee, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that, on 25 January 2021, the Community Council had delegated powers to the Finance Sub-committee to determine the specific arrangements for 2021.

B. To note that the Finance Sub-committee had met and agreed the following:

- Going forward, the Community Council would assume responsibility for all matters relating to the provision of hanging baskets in Kirkwall.
- That the Community Council should meet, in full, all costs associated with the provision of hanging baskets for 2021 only, as an acknowledgement of the hardship suffered by many businesses as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions during 2020 and the early part of 2021.

C. That the Clerk should investigate potential funding sources for assistance with the cost of providing the hanging baskets, in order to reduce the financial burden on the Community Council.

D. That the Finance Sub-committee should meet on 14 May 2021 at 10:00 to finalise arrangements for the provision of hanging baskets, include the Community Council's financial contribution and a press release.

Lorraine A Craigie, David L Flett and Christopher Gee experienced IT connection issues and were not present for parts of the meeting.

17. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:20.