

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in Orphir School and via Teams on Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 19:30

Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr A Dundas, Mr A Marwick and Mr N Sclater.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor J Richards.
- Councillor B Foulkes.
- Mr K MacPherson, Interim Head of Service for Property, IT and Facilities.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs P Damvelt, Clerk.
- Ms C Waters, Incoming Clerk.

- One member of the press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr A Dixon and Mr D Marwick.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 22 January 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr A Dundas and seconded by Mr M Clouston.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter – Smoogro Road

The Chair confirmed that the landowner had agreed that a bus shelter could be erected on the land at the end of Smoogro Road. It was agreed that the construction would include landscaping materials and a concrete base. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that plans would need to be provided to Planning, Transportation and Roads Support for agreement. The CC would also require to get quotes from a contractor for the works to lay a concrete base, and liaise with Roads Support on creating a layby. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would provide plans to Democratic Services to pass on to the Planning, Transport and Roads Departments of the Council.
2. That the Chair would be invited to a subsequent meeting with the Council and all interested parties to discuss and agree the plans.
3. That the Chair would contact the Men's Shed with regard to timescales and cost.

B. Footpaths/Community Planning - Link to Survey

The Chair advised that there were no further updates on this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Kirkyard Documents

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the advertisement for invitation to tender had been published week commencing 7 March 2022, and that the deadline was 18 March 2022. Tenders would then be circulated for agreement, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

4. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

A. Lease Agreement

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the community council agreed the terms of the lease with OIC.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would arrange for a copy of the lease to be recirculated for signature by the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.

B. Upgrade of Video and Audio Equipment

It was noted that having agreed the terms of the lease, the project to upgrade video and audio equipment could now continue, and it was agreed to pursue final quotes from suppliers in order to claim the HES funding on offer. It was also agreed that the return of the Longship would need to be arranged, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr A Dundas would ask for final quotes from the suppliers of the equipment and audio-visual material.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would contact the Lyness Museum with regards to the return of the Longship.

5. Correspondence

A. XpoNorth

An email had been circulated previously to members regarding information about XpoNorth, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. West of Orkney Windfarm

An email had been circulated previously to members with an introduction to the initial stages of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. OIC Marine Planning Update

An email had been circulated previously to members with the Spring 2022 update from the OIC Marine Planning Department, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Orkneyingasaga Centre Query

An email had been circulated previously to members with a question from Patricia Long regarding development of the Orkneyingasaga Centre, and asking that certain items be retained, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would reply regarding planned opening dates and retention of the family tree of the Earls.

6. Consultation - Verge Maintenance Plan 2022

Members had been previously sent a copy of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2022 from Orkney Islands Council, which was open for comments until 4 March 2022, and it was:

Resolved that feedback be provided that verges should be cut more than once a year for safety when walking on verges, due to no footpaths being available, and also for the prevention of invasive species, in particular ragwort.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance and Saga Centre 2021/2022

Following consideration of the financial statements as at 26 January 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of £20,626.31 in the general account and £36,958.80 in the Saga Centre account.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 January 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,610.40.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 26 January 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,755.42.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 26 January 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,518.00.

8. Request for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of a request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for financial assistance towards one competitor's trip to attend the North District Spring Championships it was:

Resolved to note that it had been agreed via email to award a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip, which had since been paid out.

B. Orkney Pilgrimage

Following consideration of a request from the Orkney Pilgrimage for financial assistance towards the upkeep of the St Magnus Way, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £200 from the general fund.

C. Orphir Community School

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Community School for financial assistance towards the purchase of books for the school library, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £1,000, subject to CCGS approval.

D. John Rae Society

Following consideration of a request from the John Rae Society for financial assistance towards the renovation of the Hall of Clestrain. it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £200.

E. Orphir Badminton Club

Following consideration of a request from Orphir Badminton Club for financial assistance towards the purchase of shuttles, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £224.90 subject to CCGS approval.

F. Badminton Trip to Shetland

Following consideration of a request from Robbie Clouston for financial assistance towards a trip to Shetland to represent Orkney at badminton, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £50.

9. Publications

The following publications, which had been previously emailed to members, were noted:

- VAO – Newsletter – February 2022.
- VAO - Training and Funding Updates – February 2022.
- Scottish Water – Nature Calls.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Orphir School Boundary

Mr A Dundas raised the question of the large number of new houses being built close to the parish boundary and whether the boundary of Orphir School could be extended to include those new developments in its catchment area. This would remove pressure on Kirkwall, in particular Glaitness, and also be beneficial to Orphir. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the question would be raised with the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, via Democratic Services.

B. BT Openreach Policy on Broadband

Mr A Dundas raised a concern regarding BT Openreach's policy to stop providing landlines and move every household to Broadband. Members agreed that there were many areas in Orkney with poor connectivity and those households would be left isolated when landlines are removed. Councillors responded regarding awareness of the challenges and also the planned works by BT, and it was:

Resolved to note the conversation and monitor the situation.

C. Bridge Repairs

The requirement for bridge repairs was once again raised, highlighting that unless a repair was carried out very soon, the bridge was in danger of collapse, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would bring this matter up with the relevant Council section.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held on Thursday, 14 April 2022, in person or via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.