

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in Firth Community Centre on Tuesday, 2 July 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs W Dunnet, Mrs A Stevenson, Mr M Harcus, Mrs R Lyon, Ms B Scollay and Ms S Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed three new community council members to the meeting, Mr M Marcus, Mrs R Lyon and Ms S Spence, who had been elected at the public meeting prior to the meeting. Mr R Crichton had also been elected but was not present at the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information, and that apologies for absence had been received from Mr R Hourston and Councillor D Tullock.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 2 May 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Ms B Scollay and seconded by Mrs A Stevenson.

3. SSEN Update – Transmission Projects

Resolved to note that there were no representatives present at the meeting to provide an update, but that Orkney Heritage Society planned to hold a public meeting regarding concerns and the lack of available information.

4. Matters Arising

A. Quarry Group

Resolved to note that Mr R Hourston was not present and therefore no update was available.

B. Garden Waste at Cursiter Quarry

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there had been no response to the request for two smaller skips for garden waste at the recycling centre seeing as a larger one was not possible, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and to ask again for two smaller bins.

C. Festive Lighting

The brochure for festive lighting had previously been circulated to members for their consideration and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to order IPL259 Roman Petit x 2, IPL141W Iliade x 1, IPL133 Twist x 1, IPL130 Quadrille Petit x 1 and 5 x LED Braids TSL2W Warm White, and that this should be paid for from CCGS where possible, and subject to approval.

D. Planting at Heddle Quarry

Councillor J Stevenson advised that she had visited the area recently and did not think there was an issue, however it was noted that the rosa rugosa would grow quickly and that this should be monitored, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that this item should be removed from the agenda.

E. 20mph Sign at Kirkyard

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that this matter had been reported but it had not been dealt with as yet, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and await further information.

5. Correspondence

A. Annual Grants 2024/2025

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that the Community Council Annual Grants had been approved and giving details of allocations for all Community Councils, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. OHAL Committee Recruitment Event

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Housing Association Ltd, looking for new volunteers to join the Board, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the event was to be held the following day.

6. Consultations

A. Review of Orkney's Local Development Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of Orkney's Local Development Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Matters 2

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Partnership, inviting the community council to participate in their planned community engagement exercise, which was taking place this summer, with a meeting taking place on 6 June, a member advised that a write up of the main points would be circulated once all the meetings had taken place, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event has passed, but that there would be two online sessions happening where members could attend if they wished.

C. Review of Gambling Policy

Members had previously been sent correspondence advising that Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board was carrying out a review of its Gambling Policy. The deadline for comments was 28 June 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Application for Premises Licence – Pomona Inn

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board, regarding an application for premises licence for Pomona Inn, objections to which had to be made by 21 June 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the date by which objections may be made had passed.

E. BT Digital Voice Roadshow

Following consideration of correspondence from BT regarding a drop in session they were holding at Orkney Library on 23 July where you could go and speak to them about their new home phone service, Digital Voice, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

F. Oyster Restoration – Bay of Firth

Members considered correspondence from Northbay Innovations Ltd regarding a restoration project to re-introduce the now extinct native oyster to the Bay of Firth near Finstown. Following a short discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence, and that members had no issues with the proposal.

G. Study on Placemaking and Regenerative Tourism

Following consideration of correspondence received from Christie Hartley, a student based in Orkney at Leeds Beckett University, inviting people to take part in her research project on Community Views on Placemaking for Regenerative Tourism, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

H. 20mph Extents – Firth and Stenness

Members discussed correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a commitment made by The Scottish Government to implement 20mph speed limits on all appropriate roads within Scotland. Orkney Islands Council were requesting Community Councils review the proposals for the road network in their area and provide feedback and comments by 19 July 2024. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the road through Finstown, and mixed opinions were aired. It was agreed that the extension of the 30mph limits along with the recently installed speed indication devices had made a huge difference to the speed that vehicles were moving as they entered and travelled through the village in Finstown, however the devices needed to be positioned further out of the village to have best impact. It was suggested that driver frustration could be an issue if the limits were reduced further. Councillors advised that this consultation would guide what the officers within OIC put in their committee report and that further consultation would be required before any changes would be made.

Moving on to the Stenness proposals, members agreed that it was sensible to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in the areas marked, but that consideration should be given to reducing the speed limit on the main Kirkwall to Stromness Road through Stenness village.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to respond to the consultation advising that members agreed with the proposals for Stenness, but that they would support a review of the speed limit on the main road through the village, and that the majority supported the proposals for Finstown, although general feeling was mixed on some of the areas marked.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 1 July 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £11,693.76, which included funds of £5,000 from the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 1 July 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,644.10 and £765 remained available for allocation in the main and additional capping limits respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Members considered the CDF statement as at 1 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining available for allocation of £8,615.63.

D. Annual Accounts

Members had previously been sent copies of the annual accounts for Firth and Stenness Community Council for financial year ending 31 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the balance sheet and income and expenditure account for year ended 31 March 2024.

8. Financial Requests

A. Inga Aberdein – Swimming, Thurso

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance towards travel costs associated with her daughter attending a swimming gala in Thurso, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £25.

B. Stenness Community School – Bag the Bruck

Following consideration of correspondence from Stenness Community School, asking for financial assistance towards Bag the Bruck, it was:

Resolved to award £150 to Stenness Community School, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Firth Primary School – Netball Coaches

Following consideration of correspondence from Firth Primary School, asking for financial assistance of £100 each for the netball coach and assistant coach to attend a netball coaching course, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £200 towards the two coaches attending the course.

9. Publications

The following publications had previously been circulated to members and were noted:

- VAO – Newsletter May and June 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding update May 2024.
- Scottish Water Spring Newsletter 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – May and June 2024.
- Review of OLDP Newsletter – June 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – June 2024.

10. AOCB

A. Weekly Lists

Members asked if it would be possible for them to receive the weekly list from OIC of planning applications that had been validated, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the business letter, if Mrs A Stevenson and Mr M Harcus could be added to the distribution list.

B. Note of Thanks

Resolved to note that a thank you letter had been received from Stenness Community Association for financial support with the recent over 60's meal that they had provided.

C. Finstown Cleanliness

A member stated his disappointment with the lack of care around Finstown, for example the pavements and side of the road were a mess with weeds and dirt, leaves were accumulating and turning to mush, there was broken glass in places, and road signs need cleaning. He felt the village looked "down at the heel". He reported that he had reported some of these items to OIC and had been advised that

they would be attended to, but that nothing had been done. It was suggested that the community council could organise a tidy up. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, would arrange a walkabout with the member and type up a report on their findings, which could be submitted to relevant officers within OIC for comment and action.

D. Finstown Shore Subsidence

Resolved to ask Scottish Water and OIC for an update on works at Finstown Shore following recent subsidence.

E. Speeding Concern

Members resumed discussion regarding speeding through Stenness village and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would write to Police Scotland and detail the community council's concerns about speeding through both Stenness and Finstown villages later in the evenings, and at weekends, and ask what their approach was to deal with this problem.
2. To encourage residents to report instances of speeding to the local constabulary as and when they occurred.
3. To note that members felt that speed checks should be done more regularly.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held at Stenness School and via Teams on Thursday, 19 September 2024 at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 21:00.