

# **Minute of the Meeting of Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council held in the Friends Room, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Monday, 27 January 2025 at 19:00**

## **Present:**

Tom Rendall, Lynne Spence, Steven Brodie, Moyra Gordon, Cathleen A Hourie, Robert F Leslie, Chris J F Matthews, John R Mowat and Rosemary Rhodes.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor Sandy G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor John Ross Scott.
- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications).
- Janette Mackie, PEPPA.
- Lauren Currie, PEPPA.
- 1 member of the public.
- 1 member of the local press.
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

## **Chair:**

- Tom Rendall in the Chair.

## **Order of Business**

1. Apologies .....	2
2. Papdale East Play Park .....	2
3. Core Paths .....	2
4. Adoption of Minute .....	2
5. Matters Arising .....	2
6. Correspondence .....	4
7. Hanging Baskets .....	5
8. Flower Containers at War Memorial .....	6
9. Financial Statements .....	6
10. Financial Requests .....	7
11. Consultation – Verge Maintenance Plan 2025 .....	8
12. Meeting attended by Members – Cross-Party Group on Islands .....	8
13. Publications .....	8
14. Any Other Competent Business .....	9
15. Date of Next Meeting .....	9

16. Conclusion of Meeting .....	9
---------------------------------	---

## 1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

## 2. Papdale East Play Park

Following a presentation from representatives of PEPPA regarding the next phase of development at the Papdale East Play Park, advising that the plans for the play park equipment were being updated given that the original plans were drawn up pre-Covid, and would include various types of equipment as well as enhanced biodiversity, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation, including that the Community Council would be asked to provide a letter of support when funding applications were due to be submitted.

Lynne Spence joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Janette Mackie and Lauren Currie left the meeting at this point.

## 3. Core Paths

Resolved to note that the presentation from representatives of Orkney Islands Council regarding core paths had been postponed until the next meeting in March 2025.

## 4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 2 December 2024 was approved, being proposed by Cathleen Hourie and seconded by Rosemary Rhodes.

## 5. Matters Arising

### A. Bonfire and Fireworks at Pickaquoy

After hearing an update from the Chair on activities since the previous meeting, including meetings with various stakeholders, it was:

Resolved that a sub-group, comprising the undernoted members, be established to progress work in identifying a suitable site for the event in 2025, including meeting with various stakeholders, such as Team Swan, RSPB, SSPCA and NatureScot:

- Chair.
- Vice Chair.
- Steven Brodie.
- Robert Leslie.
- John Mowat.

### B. Benches

The Vice Chair had nothing further to report on the maintenance of benches which would be undertaken by the Community Justice Service, however, the Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the potential development of a

national database of benches, as well as a request from a member of the public who wished to donate a memorial bench and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the information collated by the Community Council to date be shared with the organiser of the proposed national database on benches.
2. That the Vice Chair should contact the person wishing to donate a memorial bench to ascertain where they would like to see the bench placed.

### **C. Former Street Names**

R Leslie advised that, although he had received an initial response from the Chair of the Orkney Heritage Society regarding a project to document former street names, a further discussion would take place prior to consideration at a future meeting on whether or not to proceed, and it was:

Resolved to note the current position.

### **D. Local Place Plans – Your Kirkwall**

The Vice Chair advised that she had contacted Planning Aid Scotland, who had been involved in developing Your Kirkwall, and had received advice on how to progress a Local Place Plan, including potential funding opportunities. The Vice Chair had also contacted Public Health Scotland's Place Team, where further information had been obtained, including online tools and questionnaires, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council should explore further the information available online from Public Health Scotland.
2. That the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council seeking further information on timelines for submitting a completed Local Place Plan, given the original date of March 2025.
3. To explore the possibility of collaborating with the Orkney Towns Board and other funding opportunities.

### **E. Island Games Legacy (Benches at Peedie Sea)**

The Vice Chair provided a comprehensive update on progress with the provision of benches at the Peedie Sea as a legacy for the Island Games, including potential funding opportunities, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Common Good Fund comprised mostly of fixed assets, rather than cash, which might be available to fund projects.
2. To note that potential designs for the initial bench would be available shortly.

3. To note that the Vice Chair had discussed potential sites for the three benches at the Peedie Sea with Orkney Islands Council and was awaiting costs on concrete plinths to set the benches on, as well as an area for a wheelchair to sit alongside the benches.

## **F. Proposal of Application Notice – Orkney Bike Park, The Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Bracewell Stirling confirming that the proposed bike park at the Pickaquoy Centre would be accessible by e-bikes but not petrol engined motorbikes, and would be fenced off as part of the Pickaquoy Centre grounds, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **G. Streets for Everyone Project**

The Engagement Co-ordinator, Sustrans, had advised that she would be willing to meet representatives from the Community Council to discuss the Streets for Everyone project in more detail, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair should ask Sustrans whether there was any information it could share with the Community Council.

## **H. Financial Requests**

Following consideration of notes of thanks received from various individuals and groups regarding financial assistance received from the Community Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **I. General State of the Peedie Sea**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that they periodically opened the gates to flush the Peedie Sea with salt water which then controlled weed growth and maintained the water quality. This had last been carried out in November 2024. The main problems with the weed growth were during the summer months, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

# **6. Correspondence**

## **A. Peedie Sea Project**

Following consideration of correspondence from Sustrans advising of the Peedie Sea project, which focussed on revisiting the 2018 Urban Design Framework (Your Kirkwall) priorities by developing accessible paths, enhancing the landscape and improving facilities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair had met with the Engagement Co-ordinator, Sustrans, on 12 December 2024.
2. To note that the project was scheduled to pause in March 2025.
3. That the Clerk should contact Sustrans advising that the Community Council would be prepared to meet, online, to hear feedback.

## **B. MyOrkney**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of MyOrkney, the online portal for contacting the Council, to pay for items, report issues and request or apply for services, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **C. AbilityNet Event**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a digital voice roadshow to be held on 30 January 2025, from 10:00 to 16:00 at the Pickaquoy Centre, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **D. Webinar for Community Councils in Rural and Islands Areas**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of a webinar for community councils arranged by the Improvement Services, whereby representatives from the Poverty Alliance would discuss poverty in rural and island communities, held on 15 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Vice Chair had attended the webinar, which had led to the contact at Public Health Scotland regarding place plans referred to at item 5D above.

Councillors John Ross Scott and Ivan Taylor left the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **7. Hanging Baskets**

Following discussion on the provision of hanging baskets throughout Kirkwall Town Centre for 2025, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the Community Council should continue the scheme to provide floral hanging baskets in the town centre during 2025 for private businesses and households only.
- B. That a grant of £2,000 be awarded towards the provision of hanging baskets, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.
- C. That businesses and private individuals participating in the scheme should be requested to meet the cost of a basket, less the Community Council Grant Scheme funding.

D. That the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements to secure a contract for the provision of hanging baskets during 2025, including load testing the brackets.

E. That the Clerk should seek to identify external funding to assist with the cost of providing hanging baskets, as well as load testing the brackets.

F. That powers be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair to accept tenders for the provision of hanging baskets and load testing the brackets.

G. That the Chair and Vice Chair should contact the successful tenderer to agree the length of time the hanging baskets should remain on the buildings.

## **8. Flower Containers at War Memorial**

Following discussion on the continued provision of flower tubs at the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Community Council should provide flower tubs at the Kirkwall and St Ola war memorial containing Royal British Legion colours.

B. That a grant of at least £180 be awarded towards the provision of the flower tubs, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

C. That the Clerk should advise Eddie Ross, Royal British Legion, Kirkwall, that the poppy wreathes placed at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday 2024 had been blown across the street during adverse weather, with some found in Albert Street, which had been returned to the war memorial, and asking whether the wreaths could be better secured in future.

## **9. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 13 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 13 January 2025 of £9,196.48.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2024/25 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 13 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that projects to the value of £6,010.82 had been approved, of which £4,935.82 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £170.51.

## **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 13 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,163.46.

## **10. Financial Requests**

### **A. Orkney Gymnastics Club**

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance from A Bruce towards her daughter participating in the Scottish Gymnastics 2-piece competition held in Edinburgh on 17 November 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be made.

### **B. Island Games School Legacy Banner Project**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Island Games Ceremony Lead requesting support to enable primary schools to take part in an Island Games legacy banner project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advise the Island Games Ceremony Lead that the Parent Councils for each primary school in Kirkwall be contacted in the first instance, given that this project was considered a curriculum activity, and, should the Parent Councils be unable to provide the funding requested, either in full or part, the Community Council would, at that stage, reconsider the application.

### **C. Badminton**

Following consideration of applications for financial assistance from L Leask towards her son participating in the Highland Junior under 17s badminton championships on 8 February 2025 and the Orkney/Shetland under 15s badminton inter-county on 22 February 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be made in respect of each competition.

### **D. Badminton**

Following consideration of applications for financial assistance from L Leask towards her daughter participating in the Highland Junior under 13s badminton championships on 9 February 2025, the Orkney/Shetland under 15s badminton inter-county on 22 February 2025 and the Highland Junior Restricted under 13s badminton competition on 15 March 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be made in respect of each competition.

### **E. 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkwall Girl Guides**

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance from 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkwall Guides towards four Guides taking part in the Amsterdam Adventure 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made in respect of each Guide taking part.

## **11. Consultation – Verge Maintenance Plan 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the verge maintenance plan for 2025, for which responses were due by 28 February 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that the Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council clarifying that The Weeds Act 1959 placed a responsibility on landowners/occupiers to control the spread of certain injurious weeds, such as ragwort, which may be enforced by the serving of a notice. The Roads (Scotland) Act placed a duty on the Local Authority, as Roads Authority, to manage and maintain the public road network. Therefore, Orkney Islands Council was ultimately responsible for any ragwort growing within the road's boundary.
- B. To note that, strictly speaking, Orkney Islands Council did not automatically have to remove ragwort, but it would need to do so when served by a notice by Ministers. It was deemed easier to manage the control of ragwort rather than letting it become too widespread in verges and neighbouring fields. Therefore, once notified by the public, any areas of concern would be added to the list for treatment and addressed at the appropriate time of year.
- C. That members should report any ragwort and also encourage the public to report any ragwort growth, so that the areas could be included on future verge maintenance plans.
- D. That no further comment be made on the verge maintenance plan for 2025.

## **12. Meeting attended by Members – Cross-Party Group on Islands**

Robert Leslie and Chris Matthews agreed to sign up to attend the online meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Islands on 11 December 2024, however both had been unable to attend, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

## **13. Publications**

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

- Scottish Water – Winter 2024 Stakeholder Newsletter.
- SEPA Updates – December 2024 and January 2025.
- VAO Newsletters – December 2024.
- Scotland's Towns Partnership – December 2024 Newsletter.
- Orkney Islands Council – Transportation Infographic.
- Scottish Rural Action – Christmas 2024 Newsletter.
- VAO – Training and Funding Updates – December 2024 and January 2025.
- Paths for All – eNews – December 2024.
- SSEN – Customer Service and Connections Newsletter - December 2024.



## **14. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Mainland Orkney-Shapinsay Subsea Cable**

The Clerk had received correspondence from SSEN regarding a presentation of photos and a cross section of the cable, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair, together with Rosemary Rhodes and John Mowat, should meet representatives of SSEN on 30 January 2025 for photos and the presentation.

### **B. 1 King Street, Kirkwall**

The Clerk advised that a planning application for stripping slates from the roof and demolishing part of the building at 1 King Street, Kirkwall, had been submitted and validated, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advise Orkney Islands Council that it wished to be formally consulted on the planning application.

John Mowat left the meeting at this point.

## **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, 24 March 2025, commencing at 19:00.

## **16. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.