

Minute of the Meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council held in Evie School on Monday, 28 April 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr E Harcus, Mr D Clarke, Ms F Georgeson and Mr M Hull.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mr T Hadley, Community Engagement Manager, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Miss C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr C Gunn, Mrs L Flett and Ms J Rawle and Councillor R King.

2. Presentation – Orkney Native Wildlife Project Update

The Community Engagement Manager was in attendance at the meeting and provided members with an update on the project. He explained that good progress had been made, especially in the East Mainland, where traps had been set early in the project. West Mainland areas were slightly behind due to traps being laid later. He reported that 467 stoats had been removed in Evie and 209 removed in Rendall, and that there were over 700 active traps across both parishes. He provided figures on native species numbers and explained that surveys had been carried out to study population changes. There had been a doubling of vole numbers, and Hen Harriers and waders were all showing an increase in numbers. He advised that it was more important than ever to report sightings as they were getting closer to complete eradication and members commented that the project must be effective as they had seen less of them. Following questions, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Community Engagement Manager left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Evie and Rendall Community Council held on 10 February 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Ms F Georgeson and seconded by Mr D Clarke.

4. Matters Arising

A. Grass Cutting Tenders

The Chair advised that it had been agreed via email to accept the tender that had been submitted by L Merriman for the cutting of both the old and new kirkyards in Evie and Rendall, for a period of one year, and that any additional cuts would be funded via CCGS, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that L Merriman's tender had been accepted for 2025.
2. To apply for CCGS funding to cover any additional cuts that may be required during the course of the season.

B. Local Place Plan

The Chair advised that a public meeting had been held and from that, a steering group had been established who had since met a number of times. Mr D Clarke advised that the group was still in the infancy stages and that the main challenge was getting more people involved so that ideas could be pooled together. Housing was one of the main issues that had been raised through the meetings so far, and

Councillor J Stevenson reported that Elected Members had received information at a seminar that day in relation to housing in the countryside and that they were aware it was an issue across the parishes. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the steering group would pursue the formulation of a place plan and report back to the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

A. Orkney Islands Council – Our Budget Challenge

Members discussed correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, relating to feedback from a recent Budget Challenge survey that had been carried out by the Council, which contained a link to the full report, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. Visitor Levy – Full Islands Act ICIA Required

Members discussed correspondence from Kathryn Johnson, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Highland Council Visitor Levy consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. Orkney Islands Games – Sports Schedule

Members had previously been sent the schedule for the events at this year's Island Games to be held in Orkney, with the advice that this was subject to change, and it was:

Resolved to note the schedule and that roads through the parishes would be closed on Monday, 14 July.

D. Verge Maintenance Responses

Correspondence had been circulated previously to members with feedback from Roads Support following the recent consultation on the Verge Maintenance Plan. Members noted that a response had been provided to their comments. Members discussed the decision to reduce the cuts to just one, and voiced concerns, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and that only one full cut would be carried out.

E. Notes of Thanks

Resolved to note that thank you letters for financial assistance provided had been received from S Tomalin, G Phaithiasong, C Gillon, P Lillie and Evie Primary School for the Hoy Trip.

6. Consultations

A. Winter Service Plan 2025

Members had previously been sent a copy of the Winter Service Plan consultation, so that they could suggest any areas where changes to the priority needed to be considered, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 30 June 2025.

B. SATE Survey

It was noted that information from 3X1 had been emailed to members on 16 April 2025, regarding them working with community councils across the country to understand what communities would like to see from Scotland's sustainable aviation sector as it continues to grow. A link had been provided to a survey, and it was:

Resolved to note the survey.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 April 2025 copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £6,583.64.

B. Npower Fund

After consideration of the Npower Fund statement as at 14 April 2025 copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £63,356.03.

C. Bugar Hill Renewables Fund

After consideration of the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund statement as at 14 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £9,602.77.

D. Hammars Hill Energy Fund

After consideration of the Hammars Hill Energy Fund statement as at 14 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £45,274.80.

E. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 14 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that both the OIC Main Capping Limit and the OIC Additional Capping Limit were over allocated.

F. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 14 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £11,636.86 remained available for allocation.

G. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn fund statement as at 14 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,395.00 remained available for allocation.

8. Financial Requests

A. D McGee, Rugby - Moray - 1 March 2025

Following consideration of a request from D McGee, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of himself and F McGee travelling to Moray for the U14 Caledonia North Culbean Challenge Semi Final, it was:

Resolved to award £90 per person for the trip, totalling £180, from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund.

B. D McGee, Volleyball – Aberdeen – 6 March 2025

Following consideration of a request from D McGee, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of M McGee travelling to Aberdeen for a Volleyball Festival, it was:

Resolved to award £90 towards the trip from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund.

C. D McGee, Rugby – Aberdeen – 30 March 2025

Following consideration of a request from D McGee, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of himself and M McGee travelling to Aberdeen for the U18 Caledonia Youth Bowl and Plate finals, it was:

Resolved to award £90 to M McGee, from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund, but not to D McGee as he had reached the maximum number of trips for the quarter January to March.

D. D McGee, Rugby – Thurso – 6 April 2025

Following consideration of a request from D McGee, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of himself and F McGee travelling to play in the Caithness Northern U13/14 Tournament, it was:

Resolved to award £90 per person for the trip, totalling £180, from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund.

E. D McGee, Rugby – Montrose – 17 May 2025

Following consideration of a request from D McGee, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of himself and M McGee travelling to the Montrose Sevens tournament, it was:

Resolved to award £90 per person for the trip, totalling £180, from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund.

F. Ploughing Match Committee – Insurance

Members considered a request from D Skea, organiser of the Evie, Rendall and Firth Ploughing Match, for assistance with the cost of one-day event insurance for the event, and it was:

Resolved to award £106.46, subject to CCGS funding.

G. E Littlejohn, Netball - Aberdeen/Inverness - 15/16 and 22 March 2025

Following consideration of a request from E Littlejohn, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of attending netball trips on 15/16 March and 22 March, it was:

Resolved to award £90 per trip from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund, totalling £180.

H. K Reid, Gymnastics – Alness – 16 March 2025

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance from K Reid on behalf of her daughter, who was taking part in a gymnastics trip to Alness on 16 March 2025, it was:

Resolved to award £90 from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund towards the trip.

I. J Pickles, Netball – Aberdeen/Inverness – 15/16 and 22 March 2025

Following consideration of a request from J Pickles, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of attending netball trips on 15/16 March and 22 March, it was:

Resolved to award £90 per trip from the Bugar Hill Renewables Fund, totalling £180.

J. Rendall Community Association – Pitch Maintenance

The Chair declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion thereof.

Members discussed an application for financial assistance from Rendall Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, asking for help with the cost of maintaining their football pitch over the summer season. The application explained that the pitch was to be used to host four games during the upcoming Island Games and that the cost last year had been £3,250. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award £3,300 from CCGS, with the CC share coming from Npower funding, subject to approval.
2. That the award was subject to support from one further member, as the decision was not quorate due to only three members being available to consider it at the meeting, and that the Interim Clerk would contact Mrs E Flett to confirm she was willing to support the proposal.

K. Bag the Bruck

Members had previously been sent applications from both Evie Primary School and Rendall After School Club, for financial assistance towards taking part in Bag the Bruck and, following consideration, it was:

Resolved:

1. To split the available CCGS funding of £300 between the two groups, subject to CCGS approval, and completion of the relevant forms.
2. That the bus hire of £198 that Evie Primary School incurred to take part in the event would be covered by the CC through CCGS, subject to approval.

L. Road Scheme Applications

Following consideration of three applications for assistance with the cost of purchasing road aggregate for private driveways, it was:

Resolved to award NPower funding for road aggregate of up to £300 to each of the following householders, on receipt of invoices:

- N Coward, Burgar House, Evie.
- S Charlesworth, Danefield, Rendall.
- N Baker, Hestival, Evie.

2. To note that N Coward had been awarded funding for this purpose in 2020 but that it had never been claimed and therefore he was eligible to receive this funding this year.

9. Publications

Resolved to note the following publications, which had previously been emailed to members:

- VAO Newsletter – March 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – February and March 2025.
- VAO Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – March 2025.

10. Any Other Competent Business – Hillside Road

A member advised that cones had been placed on the Hillside Road where there was a crevice at the side of the road which had become deeper due to the water running down the road, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would report this issue via the business letter to Democratic Services.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved to note that the remaining meetings of Evie and Rendall Community Council for 2025 were scheduled for 30 June, 15 September and 24 November, in Evie School at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:25.