# Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm, on Wednesday, 29 January 2025 at 19:30

**Present**:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Erland Drever, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson and Robbie Thomson.

**In Attendance**:

* Councillor James R Moar.
* Councillor Raymie S Peace.
* Councillor Gillian Skuse.
* Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), Orkney Islands Council.
* Hazel Flett, Clerk.

Chair:

* Alan Scott in the Chair.

Order of Business**.**

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## 1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

## 2. Local Place Plans

Representatives from the Local of Ayre Walkway, Holm Sailing Club, Holm Community Association and Bowls were present during discussion of this item.

Following a presentation from the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), Orkney Islands Council, regarding the process for developing local place plans, and after a discussion on next steps, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the representatives should share information, including the PowerPoint presentation, with their groups.

B. That an open event be held in the Holm Community Centre on 23 March 2025, between 14:00 and 19:00, followed by a presence at the car boot sale scheduled for 6 April 2025.

C. That the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), Orkney Islands Council, should contact Davie Campbell to determine whether he would be willing to attend either of the events on 23 March or 6 April 2025.

D. That the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), Orkney Islands Council, should arrange a digital questionnaire for the community, as well as material for social media coverage.

E. That a decision be taken at the next meeting as to whether to proceed with a Local Place Plan, including the area to be covered.

The Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), Orkney Islands Council, together with the representatives from the local groups, left the meeting at this point.

## 3. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 13 November 2024 was approved, being proposed by Christine Muir and seconded by Bill Robertson, subject to the following clarification:

### A. Various Roads Matters

Resolved that paragraph 4(a)(2) should state that, under present financial circumstances, the Community Council would ask that the road from the war memorial to the Graemeshall burn be maintained at its original width, with the long-term aim to see it widened.

## 4. Matters Arising

### A. Proposal for Living Christmas Tree

The Chair had no further update on the proposal for a living Christmas tree, and it was:

Resolved to remove the matter from the agenda meantime, as it may feature in the Local Place Plan, should that be progressed.

### B. St Mary’s Christmas Decorations

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council which confirmed that the Community Council was now responsible for the purchase of new Christmas lights, installation of new or replacement power sockets, putting up and connecting the lights and storage, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should arrange for the one remaining wrap to be disconnected from the electricity supply.

2. That Martin Lee should identify appropriate streetlights for an additional 8 Christmas lights to be purchased and installed for winter 2025.

### C. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk had received correspondence from various individuals thanking the Community Council for financial assistance provided, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## 5. Correspondence

### A. 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.

### B. Webinar for Community Councils in Rural and Island 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 discussed poverty in rural and island communities, held on 15 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## 6. Kirkyard Maintenance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding kirkyard maintenance, including standardising the maintenance level in burial grounds across Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the amended specification for maintenance of burial grounds, including the following:

* The period of the contract being April to October, which would allow for the last cut at the end of September being undertaken in early October, should weather conditions be unfavourable.
* The number of cuts – 10 in total.
* An allowance for additional cuts, although this should only be in exceptional circumstances.
* Tenders could be invited for a period of up to three years.

B. That the Clerk should advertise the grass cutting for the Holm Kirkyard, including the new extension, for a period of three years, in “The Orcadian” newspaper, with a closing date to allow for the contract to start no later than 1 April 2025.

C. That powers be delegated to the Chair to accept a tender.

## 7. Financial Statements

### A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 23 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 23 January 2025 of £13,171.20.

### B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 23 January 2025, projects to the value of £5,543.69 had been approved, of which £588.29 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £450.79.

3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £765.

### C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 23 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,000.

### D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 23 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

## 8. Financial Requests

### A. KGS Football

Following consideration of an application from Y Rendall requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in the U15s Scottish School Shield held in Inverness on 21 November 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to a donation of £40 via email, which had subsequently been paid.

### B. St Andrews Primary School Parent Council

Following consideration of an application from St Andrews Primary School Parent Council requesting financial assistance towards a replacement trim track, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £2,200 be awarded, subject to assistance for the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

### C. KGS Football

Following consideration of an application from Y Rendall requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in the U15s Scottish Schools Cup held in Dunfermline on 16 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made.

### D. Island Games School Banner Legacy 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 a donation of £100 be made.

### E. St Andrews Primary School

Following consideration of an application from St Andrews Primary School requesting financial assistance towards the P7 residential outdoor activities trip to Lagganlia from 19 to 23 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 per pupil resident within the Holm area be given.

### F. 1st Kirkwall Guides

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

Resolved that a donation of £70 be made.

### G. Caledonia Under 17 Rugby

Bill Robertson declared an interest in this item.

The Clerk had received an application for assistance from S Robertson requesting financial assistance towards her son taking part in training trips to Dundee and a competition in Edinburgh, during January 2025, as part of the Caledonia Under 17 rugby squad, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made towards each training trip and competition attended.

## 9. 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 that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council suggesting that the one cut should take place around midsummer/July rather than October.

## 10. Meeting Attended by Members – Cross Party Group on Islands

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Islands held on 11 December 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## 11. Publications

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

* VAO – Training and Funding Updates – November and December 2024 and January 2025.
* VAO Newsletters – December 2024 and January 2025.
* Orkney Islands Council – Transportation Infographic.

## 12. Any Other Competent Business

### A. Disabled On-Street Parking Places

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the provision of an on-street parking place near 2 Graeme Park, St Mary’s, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that the Community Council had no objection to the proposal.

### B. Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries Campaign

The Clerk had received correspondence from Ron Bailey, assistant to Lord Foster and Parliamentary Advisor to the charity Electrical Safety First, seeking support for a campaign in relation to the safe disposal of lithium-ion batteries, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write a letter of support to the campaign.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on 2 April 2025 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

## 14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50*.*