

Minute

General Meeting of the Council

Tuesday, 6 October 2020, 10:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors J Harvey Johnston, Alexander G Cowie, Norman R Craigie, Robin W Crichton, David Dawson, Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards, Stephen Sankey, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Graham L Sinclair, James W Stockan, Magnus O Thomson, Owen Tierney, Duncan A Tullock and Heather N Woodbridge.

Clerk

- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.

In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.
- Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.
- Gillian Morrison, Interim Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care.
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Karen Greaves, Head of Executive Support.
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

Observing

- David Hartley, Communications Team Leader.

Apology

- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Andrew Drever – Item 12.1.
- Councillor John T Richards – Item 12.1.
- Councillor Stephen Sankey – Item 12.1.
- Councillor John A R Scott – Item 12.1.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer – Item 12.1.

Chair

- Councillor J Harvey Johnston, Convener.

1. Special General Meeting of the Council

Minute of Meeting held on 30 June 2020

On the motion of Councillor James W Stockan, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Special General Meeting of the Council held on 30 June 2020 as a true record.

2. Planning Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 1 July 2020

On the motion of Councillor Robin W Crichton, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 July 2020 as a true record.

3. Special General Meeting of the Council

Minute of Meeting held on 13 August 2020

On the motion of Councillor J Harvey Johnston, seconded by Councillor James W Stockan, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Special General Meeting of the Council held on 13 August 2020 as a true record.

4. Planning Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 19 August 2020

On the motion of Councillor Robin W Crichton, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19 August 2020 as a true record.

5. Licensing Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 20 August 2020

On the motion of Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Barbara Foulkes, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 20 August 2020 as a true record.

6. Monitoring and Audit Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 27 August 2020

On the motion of Councillor John T Richards, seconded by Councillor David Dawson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Monitoring and Audit Committee held on 27 August 2020 as a true record.

7. Planning Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 2 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor Robin W Crichton, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 September 2020 as a true record.

8. Development and Infrastructure Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 8 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor Graham L Sinclair, seconded by Councillor Andrew Drever, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Development and Infrastructure Committee held on 8 September 2020 as a true record, with the exception of Items 10 and 11, which were moved by Councillor Graham L Sinclair and seconded by Councillor James W Stockan.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Development and Infrastructure Committee held on 8 September 2020.

9. Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 9 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee held on 9 September 2020 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee held on 9 September 2020.

10. Orkney Health and Care Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 10 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor Rachael A King, seconded by Councillor Stephen Sankey, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Orkney Health and Care Committee held on 10 September 2020 as a true record.

11. Licensing Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 11 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Barbara Foulkes, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 11 September 2020 as a true record.

12. Policy and Resources Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 22 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor James W Stockan, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22 September 2020 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22 September 2020, subject to the following item of amendment:

12.1. Pickaquoy Centre Trust – Budget Shortfall

Councillors Andrew Drever, John T Richards, Stephen Sankey, John A R Scott and Gwenda M Shearer declared non-financial interests in this item, being Council-appointed trustees of the Pickaquoy Centre Trust, but concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.

After hearing representations from Councillor John A R Scott, the Council resolved:

12.1.1. That matters relating to the budget shortfall experienced by the Pickaquoy Centre Trust be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

13. Monitoring and Audit Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 24 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor John T Richards, seconded by Councillor David Dawson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Monitoring and Audit Committee held on 24 September 2020 as a true record, with the exception of Item 5.3, which was moved by Councillor David Dawson and seconded by Councillor John A R Scott.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Monitoring and Audit Committee held on 24 September 2020.

14. Local Review Body

Minute of Meeting held on 25 September 2020

On the motion of Councillor Robin W Crichton, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Local Review Body held on 25 September 2020 as a true record.

15. Policy and Resources Committee

Minute of Special Meeting held on 1 October 2020

On the motion of Councillor James W Stockan, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 1 October 2020 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 1 October 2020.

Councillor Magnus O Thomson joined the meeting at this point.

16. Governance Arrangements

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Executive Support, the Council:

Noted:

16.1. That, at the Special General Meeting held on 23 March 2020, the Council agreed temporary amendments to the Standing Orders, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive, in order to facilitate efficient and timely decision making in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

16.2. That the cycle of formal service Committee and Sub-committee meetings resumed following the summer recess, with the continuation of remote/virtual attendance.

16.3. That, as the Scottish Government had not entered into Phase 4 of easing of restrictions, the proposal that the cycle of Council meetings continue to be held virtually using Microsoft Teams.

16.4. That conducting Council meetings virtually would remain under review, in line with the Scottish Government's phased easing of lockdown restrictions, and considered no later than the General Meeting of the Council to be held on 2 March 2021.

16.5. That, in order to facilitate the smooth running of virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams, a protocol had been developed, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Chief Executive.

The Council resolved:

16.6. That the temporary amendments to the Standing Orders, referred to at paragraph 16.1 above, should continue to remain in place, to be reviewed no later than the General Meeting of the Council to be held on 2 March 2021.

16.7. That the protocol for remote attendance, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved and appended to the Council's Standing Orders.

16.8. That powers be delegated to the Chief Executive to amend and thereafter publish the Council's Standing Orders to reflect the addition of the protocol, referred to at paragraph 16.7 above.

16.9. That, in order to allow flexibility, the temporary suspension of the policy of undertaking site inspections for all planning applications subject to a local review, prior to meeting to consider the review, should remain in place, to be reviewed no later than the General Meeting of the Council to be held on 2 March 2021.

Councillor Magnus O Thomson left the meeting during consideration of this item.

17. Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board

Appointment of Members

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, the Council:

Noted:

17.1. Existing Council membership of the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board as follows:

- Substantive Members:
 - Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
 - Councillor David Dawson.
 - Councillor Andrew Drever.
 - Councillor J Harvey Johnston.
 - Councillor John A R Scott.
- Substitutes:
 - Councillor Barbara Foulkes.
 - Councillor Steven B Heddle.

17.2. That, following the resignations of Councillors Stephen G Clackson and John A R Scott, two vacancies existed for substantive members on the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board.

17.3. That the appointments made to fill the vacancies on the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board would last for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely until May 2022.

The Council resolved:

17.4. That the following members be appointed to the vacancies on the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board:

- Councillor Robin W Crichton.
- Councillor Barbara Foulkes.

17.5. That Councillor Heather N Woodbridge be appointed as a substitute member for the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board.

18. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:16 the Convener declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Harvey Johnston.