

Minute of the Meeting of Birsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 18 February 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mr R Delday, Ms K Coghill, Mr M Hay, Mr D Scarth, Mr A Spence and Mr S Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Johnston.
- Councillor R King.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Councillor D Tullock.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Sergeant R Morris, Police Scotland.

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1. Police Presentation

Sergeant R Morris, Police Scotland, wished to thank the community for all the assistance that had been provided during the recent snowy period and during pandemic. He invited any questions from members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

2. Apologies

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

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 19 November 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr D Scarth and seconded by Mr S Spence.

4. Matters Arising

A. Foreshore from Ministry Huts to Zanzibar

The Chair advised members that he had contacted the previous Chair regarding the proposed project however he was waiting for some of the information still, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that the Chair would continue to pursue this matter.

B. Slip at Buckquoy

Members heard a report from the Chair advising that more land had fallen at the top of the slip and that a hole had almost eroded through under the concrete at the lower end of the slip, which could be a danger to the public. Members discussed previous contact between Orkney Islands Council and Historic Environment Scotland regarding repairs to the slip, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To write Orkney Islands Council advising on the condition of the slipway.
2. To contact Historic Environment Scotland to ascertain their input into the work.

C. Draft Plan for Dounby

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising members that the Dounby Village Plan had been placed on hold meantime due to Covid-19 and that it would be hoped to continue the project in early 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Recognition Plaque at The Old Manse

Following consideration of correspondence from R Barr advising members that OIC permissions had been received for the plaque along with costings for the plaque, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council would fund the cost of the plaque and carriage at a total cost of £409.79 plus VAT and carriage of £35 and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the total cost.

E. Additional Recycling Bins

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising members that additional recycling bins could be requested from Orkney Islands Council free of charge, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

F. Benches at Whalebone

The Chair advised members that the benches at the Whalebone has been taken in for storage, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

G. Benches and Picnic Tables

Following consideration of the purchase of picnic tables and benches, it was agreed that one should be situated at the car park at Marwick and one at Sandgoe. Members discussed the costs, including transport, and suggested to look locally as well, and it was:

Resolved that Mr M Hay would contact Birsay Farmers to ascertain if they could provide recycled plastic benches and what the cost would be.

H. Provision of Water Fountain

Whilst discussing the provision of benches it was suggested that consideration be given to putting a water fountain, similar to that in Kirkwall, at the Kitchener's Memorial Car Park, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the mains water pipe was on the same side of the road as the car park.
2. To ascertain what permissions may be required for the installation.
3. To contact Scottish Water asking if the installation of a water fountain at the car park would be possible, and what costs would be involved.

I. Marwick Brae

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services advising that the Roads Support Manager had confirmed that there were plans to construct a footway or provide lighting on this section of the Hillside Road, however this would be when funds were available, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Grit Bins

The Interim Clerk advised members that a request had been forwarded for the provision of two grit bins on the Howe Road but was not aware if they had been put out yet, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

5. Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tenders

Following consideration of tenders received for the 2021 kirkyard grass cutting, it was:

Resolved to award the contract to Mr M Brass.

6. Correspondence

A. Birsay Energy Ltd

Following consideration of correspondence from Birsay Energy Ltd, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members that the sum of £2,420 had been paid to Birsay Community Council for the community fund, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that a letter of thanks should be sent to Birsay Energy Ltd.

B. Fair Start Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Fair Start Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of their project which aimed to provide help to people who found themselves unemployed and looking for work, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Following consideration of correspondence providing updates on the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm project, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Orkney Scam Group

Following consideration of correspondence from Sergeant S Hay, Police Scotland, regarding a new local multi-agency group which had been formed to tackle scamming, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Thank you Letter

Following consideration of correspondence from Ms J Smith-Saville, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members that her daughter had been

offered a place at the Northern Ballet School and thanking members for all the support provided over the last two years, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £3,302.57 as at 2 February 2021.

B. Birsay Energy Fund

Following consideration of the Energy Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £17,526.42 as at 2 February 2021.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval in the main capping limit was £2,362.43, and the balance in the additional capping limit was £669.00 as at 2 February 2021.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the financial statement for the Community Development Fund, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £8,183.37 remained available for approval as at 2 February 2021.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £21.64 remained available for approval as at 2 February 2021.

8. Financial Request – Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of a financial request from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club for assistance towards the purchase of new start blocks, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £500 to Orkney Amateur Swimming Club towards the purchase of start blocks.

9. Consultation Documents

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2020 – Specification

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2020 – Specification, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the plan and that members had no comments to forward.

B. Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs – Consultation on Improvements to Animal Welfare in Transport

Following consideration of the Consultation on Improvements to Animal Welfare in Transport, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the document and that members could respond individually if they wished.

10. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications had been emailed to members.

- VAO Newsletter – December 2020.
- VAO Newsletter – February 2021.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Road Conditions

Members advised that there was a pothole at the Linnabreck Corner, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor D Tullock would report the pothole.

B. Peedie Breeks

A member advised that they had been shocked to hear that the nursery at the old KGS hostel building was being opened again to provide childcare facilities and asked what costs this would involve. Councillor H Johnston advised that there was a need for childcare facilities for working parents and that there would be a cost, however the facility was important for the sustainability of the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

C. Stone Transportation from Oban

A member asked about the transportation of stone from Oban. Councillor H Johnston advised members that an internal investigation was being undertaken by Orkney Islands Council and the findings should be known in a few weeks, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

D. Internet Services

A member asked about progress regarding improved internet services in Orkney and Councillor H Johnston advised that work was being undertaken in conjunction with the R100 roundtable project, voucher scheme, etc, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of possible dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Birsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 21:00.