

# **Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Community Centre on Tuesday, 27 August 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Mrs N Linklater, Mr L Flett, Miss J Gowland, Mrs L McAdie and Miss R Russell.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor R Peace.
- Councillor G Skuse.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

## **Order of Business**

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Mrs N Linklater, Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for voting her into the role of Chairperson.

## **1. Presentation - Orkney Greylag Goose Adaptive Management Project**

The Chair advised that the Orkney Greylag Goose Adaptive Management Project presentation had been postponed and this invitation and presentation could be considered again for the next meeting. Following conversation, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk invite two representatives from Orkney Greylag Goose Adaptive Management Project to the next meeting on 12 November 2025 to give their presentation.

## **2. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been intimated from Councillor J Moar.

## **3. Minute of Meeting**

The minute of the meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held on 17 June 2025 was approved, being proposed by Miss J Gowland, and seconded by Miss R Russell.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. East Mainland Agricultural Society (EMAS)**

Following consideration of correspondence from EMAS advising that they had secured the funding required to progress their project to erect a pavilion in East Mainland Show Park, with an expected start date following the annual show in August 2025 and thanking the Community Council for their kind letter of support and offer of grant funding, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

### **B. Ayrenergy Ltd**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Ayrenergy advising that they were paying another funding contribution totalling £10,000 to this community council, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the Clerk writes to Ayrenergy Ltd thanking them for this contribution.

### **C. Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)**

Following consideration of correspondence from the MCA and His Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG) Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer in response to member's questions regarding stakeholder responsibility and the timeline for removal and an update on the current condition and assessment of the wrecked dive boat, Jeane Elaine, which remains grounded in St Peter's Pool, Toab, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided including that fuel/oils had been removed and aerial and drone footage continue to be reviewed regarding deterioration of the wreck.
2. To note that currently there was no plan for the wreck removal, due to the dispute between the owner and the insurer.
3. To note that the HMCG Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer advised that it was the registered owner's responsibility to deal with the wreck and the remediation of any negative environmental impact and the wreck was not located in a Site of Special Scientific Interest however marine pollution could impact this Special Protected Area at St Peter's Pool, Toab.

#### **D. Ayre Offshore Windfarm**

Members considered an invitation from Ayre Offshore Windfarm and the developers, Thistle Wind Partners (TWP) inviting members and the public to attend a meeting on 27 or 28 August 2025 regarding their proposed wind farm development, which would be located twenty-two kilometres off the east coast and the island of Copinsay, Orkney and also to attend the Supply Chain Event in Kirkwall on 27 August 2025. The Chair asked if anyone had attended this meeting. It was reported that no member had attended however the Clerk had as a private individual and advised that there would be either forty large turbines or sixty-seven smaller turbines in the windfarm. Community benefit was discussed between the Clerk, members and Councillors, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write to TWP and OIC to ask that any pledge of community benefit intended for distribution to this community council was ascertained and confirmation gained from both TWP and OIC to this effect.

#### **E. "Welcome to Deerness" Sign**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services providing an update on the progress of a "Welcome to Deerness" sign, advising that the Team Manager had advised that OIC were currently reviewing the Tourist Signposting Policy and this request would be considered as part of this review, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

#### **F. Scottish Government – Scapa Flow, Historic Marine Protected Area**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Government regarding this community Council's response to designate wrecks in Scapa Flow as a historic Marine Protected Area, which along with the Queen of Sweden, Shetland has been designated historic MPA's and will come into effect on 1 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

## **G. Remembrance Day Wreaths**

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the cost of Remembrance Day wreaths totalling £36.20 each, the number of wreaths required and how the purchase should be funded. The Clerk advised that it was one wreath required for Deerness and one for Tankerness Remembrance Day services, and it was:

Resolved that both be funded totalling £72.40, subject to approval from the Community Council Grant Scheme

## **H. Winter Service Plan 2025-2026 Comments**

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding comments and responses to the Winter Service Plan 2025-2026, it was:

Resolved that the comment and response related to this community council was noted.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Orkney Islands Council (OIC) 20 MPH Speed Limit Order 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the 20 MPH Speed Limit Order 2025, regarding the area of highway at St Andrews Primary School, Toab, it was:

Resolved that a corporate response had been formed and sent to OIC, prior to the deadline of 23 July 2025.

### **B. Our Orkney, Our Future**

Following consideration of the consultation, Our Orkney, Our Future (a tourism consultation) and the first stage of the development of OIC's Visitor Management Plan, with submissions due by 19 September 2025, it was:

Resolved the Chair would investigate this consultation and complete on behalf of this community council.

### **C. Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Energy Consultation**

Following consideration of the Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Energy consultation, Miss J Gowland advised that she had drafted a corporate response for member's consideration, and it was:

Resolved to note that despite Miss Gowland drafting a response, a majority vote had not been achieved to progress a response to this consultation.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Scottish Island Federation – Online Meeting**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Islands Federation inviting members to attend a final online meeting to be held on 24 June 2025, following public consultation, to review the National Island Plan, it was:

Resolved to note this information and invitation.

### **B. 2025/2026 Annual Grants**

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the award of the 2025/2026 annual grant, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit grant totalled £3,914 and the additional capping limit £780.

### **C. London Hearts**

Following consideration of correspondence from London Hearts, a registered charity providing life-saving heart defibrillators for purchase throughout the UK, it was:

Resolved to note the information and cost of these defibrillators.

### **D. Thistle Wind Partners**

Following consideration of correspondence from Thistle Wind Partners inviting community groups/organisations to apply to their newly launched Small Donations Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the Clerk had sent this information to local outlets/organisations.

### **E. Seagrass Project – St Peters Pool, Toab**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Senior Science Officer – Seagrass Habitat Mapping, inviting members and the community to attend St Peter's Pool shoreline from 19 July to 1 August 2025 or to meet with them at events in Orkney including the International Science Festival on 6 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had sent this information to local outlets.

### **F. Surf Awards 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence from SURF Scotland advising that the 2025 SURF awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration were open for applications until 1 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland**

Following consideration of correspondence from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, who were reaching out for assistance with publicising the telephone network changing to Digital Voice and advising of two campaigns which were there to assist any member of the community; the National Telecare Campaign and the BT Connected-Together Campaign, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Clerk had shared this information to local outlets.

## **H. Coastal Change in Orkney Survey**

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr C Reilly, a PHD Researcher, based at Heriot-Watt University in Stromness inviting members to participate in a survey regarding coastal change in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved that individual members could complete this survey should they wish to.

## **I. Scottish and Southern Energy Network (SSEN) Webinar**

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN inviting members to participate in a webinar on 25 September 2025 regarding the refreshment of their Customer Vulnerability Strategy and the conclusion of the energy distribution (ED2) and progression towards ED3, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

## **J. Thank You Letters**

Resolved to note that thank you letters had been received from Mrs S Delday, East United Football Club, Deerness Community Centre Association, Mrs M Cooper and St Andrews Drama Club.

# **7. Financial Statements**

## **A. Annual Accounts**

Following consideration of the annual accounts 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, it was

Resolved to note the balance remaining on account.

## **B. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £18,143.15.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note, that in the 2025/2026 financial year, there remained £356.18 available in the main CCGS capping limit and £0 in the additional CCGS capping limit.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £5,000.00.

## **E. Ayreenergy Ltd Fund**

Following consideration of the Ayreenergy Ltd Fund Statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £27,114.19.

# **8. Financial Requests**

## **A. Education Grant**

Following consideration of seven education grant applications, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award a £500 education grant each to five applicants; Miss Kaitlyn McKinney, Miss Yvonne Harcus, Miss Niamh Baillie, Mr Alastair Darbyshire and Mr Scott Rendall totalling £500.
2. To award an education grant to Miss Bryony Robinson, totalling £371.
3. To award an education grant to Mr Angus Darbyshire, totalling £482.27.
4. That the Clerk cancels the remaining allocation £1,646.73 budgeted for education grants from the Ayreenergy Ltd fund.
5. That no late education grant applications would be given consideration.

## **B. Travel Assistance - Miss A and Mr C Nicolson**

Following consideration of travel grant assistance request from Miss A and Mr C Nicolson for a dance trip to Mey Highland Games, Caithness participating with the Kirkjuvagar Dancers Highland Dance School, it was:

Resolved to grant one travel grant of £40 each, totalling £80 to Miss A and Mr C Nicolson.

## **C. St Andrews Football Club**

Mr L Flett declared an interest in this item.

Following consideration of correspondence received from St Andrews Football Club requesting financial assistance towards the improvement costs to St Andrews football pitch from shell sand and potash and delivery and spreading costs, it was:

Resolved to award financial assistance to St Andrews Football Club, totalling £500 from the Ayrenergy Ltd fund.

#### **D. St Andrews Primary School Nursery**

Miss R Russell declared an interest in this item.

Following consideration of correspondence received from St Andrews Primary School Nursery requesting financial assistance towards their garden learning environment space; a story den, den building equipment, equipment for sand pit and children's wheelbarrows and outdoor bean bags, it was:

Resolved to award financial assistance to St Andrews Primary School Nursery Nursery, totalling £500 from the Ayrenergy Ltd fund.

#### **E. East Mainland Christmas Party Group**

Miss R Russell declared an interest in this item.

Following consideration of correspondence received from East Mainland Christmas Party Group requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their children's Christmas party and presents for Tankerness, Toab and Deerness children, it was:

Resolved to grant a donation of £300 to the East Mainland Christmas Party Group.

#### **F. Deerness Halloween Party**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs V Foubister requesting financial assistance towards the costs of a Halloween party for children in the Deerness and Toab Area, it was:

Resolved to grant financial assistance totalling £150 to Mrs V Foubister for the Deerness Halloween party, subject to CCGS approval.

### **9. Publications**

The following publications had been made available for members to view and were noted:

- VAO - Training and Funding Update – June, July and August 2025.
- VAO – Newsletter – June and July 2025.
- Scottish Rural Action - Newsletter – August 2025.
- Orkney Digital Voice Event – 24 June 2025.
- Childminder Training – Interest to be registered by 6 July 2025.

### **10. Any Other Competent Business**

Resolved to note that there was no further business to discuss.



## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following discussion of next meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council was scheduled for 12 November 2025 at 19:30 in Deerness Community Centre.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:00.