Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in Firth Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 31 July 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Ms B Scollay, Mr R Crichton, Ms W Dunnet, Mrs R Lyon and Mrs A Stevenson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor O Tierney.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr M Harcus Mr R Hourston and Councillors R King, J Stevenson and D Tullock.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 1 May 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs A Stevenson and seconded by Ms W Dunnet.

3. Matters Arising

A. Festive Lighting

Following discussion on Christmas lights and the requirements for Firth and Stenness areas, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would provide costs for the purchase of lights and wraps along with all the relevant connections required per lamppost.

2. To note that the possible purchase of lights would be two motifs for Firth and three wraps for Stenness.

3. That once costs were available members would decide whether to purchase the lights or not.

C. Lochside Viewpoint

Resolved to note that the sign had been erected and benches were in place, and that this item could now be removed from the agenda.

D. Firth Park Donations

Members were advised that a donations bucket had been placed in Baikies Stores, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

E. Place Plans

Ms B Scollay advised members that Orkney Islands Council had adopted the Stenness Place Plan. She also advised that 100% funding, from various funders, had been secured for a Firth Place Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

F. Car Park at Firth School

Members were advised by the Interim Clerk that the draft letter had been approved by members and subsequently forwarded to Friends of Firth School, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney 2025 – Council Service Changes

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, in relation to changes to some of the Council's services during the Island Games, including to domestic recycling and refuse collections, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkney 2025 – Road Closures

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, advising of the road closures that would be in place to accommodate Island Games events between 12 and 18 July, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Letter of Thanks

Resolved to note that thank you messages for financial assistance provided had been received from K Chalmers and T Stanger.

D. Annual Grants 2025/2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services advising of the £4,523.69 Annual Grant awarded for 2025/2026, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. Project Seagrass – Survey Work

Following consideration of correspondence from Project Seagrass advising on their mapping of seagrass project, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

5. Consultations

A. Orkney World Heritage Site Stakeholder Workshop

Members had previously received correspondence by email regarding the Orkney World Heritage Site Stakeholder Workshop being held on 25 June, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mrs R Lyon and Mrs A Stevenson had attended the meeting.

B. National Islands Plan – Orkney Meeting

Members had previously received correspondence by email regarding the National Islands Plan Orkney meeting being held on 2-3 June, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mrs A Stevenson had attended the meeting.

C. Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting

Members had previously received correspondence by email regarding the Community Wealth Building Action Plan online meeting being held on 24 June, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mrs A Stevenson had attended the meeting.

D. Application for Variation of Premises Licence – Pomona Inn

Members had previously received correspondence by email regarding the variation of premises licence for the Pomona Inn, and it was:

Resolved that there had been no comments made.

E. Orkney Islands Payphone Removal Proposals

Following consideration of correspondence from BT payphones team regarding the removal of two payphones in the Stenness area, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

6. Finance Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 31 July 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance was £8,990.59, which included funds of £4,000 from the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund.

2. To note that Democratic Services had been in contact with managers of the Rennibister Wind Fund regarding the annual payment and were awaiting a response.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 31 July 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £3,235.66 remaining for allocation and that £405 remained available for allocation in the additional capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Members considered the CDF statement as at 31 July 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining available for allocation of £6,115.63.

D. Annual Accounts at 31 March 2025

Following consideration of the annual accounts at 31 March 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

7. Financial Requests

A. Bag the Bruck

The Interim Clerk advised that Firth Primary School had also completed Bag the Bruck and had submitted an application and supporting information, and it was:

Resolved to split the £300 sponsorship funding available through CCGS between the two primary schools, Firth and Stenness.

B. O Spence – Rugby – Various

Members had previously agreed, in principle to providing funding to O Spence for frequent trips to mainland Scotland as part of his involvement with Caley U17's and Glasgow Warriors. They had been sent information regarding dates of travel for rugby training and games, and it was:

Resolved to award £30 per trip for the five trips, totalling £150.

C. L Kenyon – Athletics – 17/18 May 2025 - Glasgow

Members had previously agreed via email to providing funding to L Kenyon for an athletics event in Glasgow, and it was:

Resolved to awards a grant of £30 towards the trip.

D. L Kenyon – Athletics – 12-15 June 2025 – Grangemouth

Members had previously agreed via email to providing funding to L Kenyon for an athletics event in Grangemouth, and it was:

Resolved to awards a grant of £30 towards the trip.

E. Firth Primary School – P7 Residential Trip to Hoy

Following consideration of an application from Firth Primary School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of seventeen P7 pupils attending a residential trip to Hoy in June 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To clarify with Firth School if two pupils did reside in the Firth and Stennes area.

2. That payment of £30 for the remaining fifteen pupils should be made to Firth School, totalling £450.

F. Stenness Community Association – SOCS

Mrs R Lyon advised members that the ask from SCA had been reduced due to securing other funding. They only required funding of around £550 towards the cost of a bench and picnic bench, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant of up to £550 and that an application should be submitted on the cost for assistance from the Community Council's Community Development Fund.

G. K Chalmers – Highland Dancing

Resolved to note that K Chalmers had returned a grant of £30 to community council funds due to the cancellation of a trip.

H. Repair in Firth Park

Resolved to note difference in the cost of the wood and that the total payment was £27.42.

8. Publications

The following publications had all been previously emailed to members and were noted:

- VAO - Training and Funding Update – May, June and July 2025.
- VAO – Newsletter – April and June 2025.
- OIC – Free Family Fun Day - 15 June 2025.
- OIC – Orkney Digital Voice Event – 24 June 2025.
- Childminder Training.

9. AOCB

A. Resignation of Member

The Interim Clerk advised that Mr R Hourston had also intimated his resignation from the community council when he sent in his apologies, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report.

2. That arrangements should be made to hold a Public Meeting to elect to the vacancies.

B. Quarry Group

Members discussed the requirement of establishing a Quarry Group, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ascertain what the requirement for setting up this group was and advise members at the next meeting.

C. Verges

Members asked when Orkney Islands Council planned to cut the verges in the Firth and Stenness areas, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council when the verges would be cut in Firth and Stenness.

D. Flagpole Repairs

Mrs A Stevenson asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Alfik Shore Base Services for their assistance in the Flagpole repairs, and it was:

Resolved to write to Alfik thanking them for their assistance.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved to note that the next meetings of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on Thursdays 18 September and 27 November 2025.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:40.