

Minute of the Meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held in Stenness Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 19 September 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Ms W Dunnet, Mrs A Stevenson, Mr R Crichton, Mr M Marcus, Mr R Hourston, Mrs R Lyon and Miss S Spence.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R King.
- Councillor J Stevenson.
- Councillor O Tierney.
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk (via Teams).

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms B Scollay and Councillor D Tullock.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council held on 2 July 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr M Marcus and seconded by Mrs R Lyon.

3. SSEN Update

There were no representatives from SSEN present at the meeting however a written update had been provided on the day of the meeting. Members expressed their disappointment that this had been received so late in the day and that no representative had been able to attend the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to ask again for a representative from SSEN to attend the next meeting.

4. Matters Arising

A. Quarry Group

There was no update and members asked again for the information on what was required of a quarry consultative group, and it was:

Resolved that the information would be circulated to members again following the meeting.

B. Garden Waste at Cursiter Quarry

The Chair advised that the skip for garden waste at Cursiter Quarry was too small and if possible, could a larger one be reinstated. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that they did not have a larger skip to return, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

C. Festive Lights

The Interim Clerk advised that the new lights had been ordered but that they had not yet been received. Mr R Hourston advised that he would contact E Frasers regarding connections for the lights, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

D. 20mph Sign – Kirkyard

The Interim Clerk advised that this had been attended to and the trees lopped back, however members again advised that they did not think this sign was in the best place, and it was:

Resolved to note that the trees had been attended to.

E. Finstown Cleanliness

Mr M Harcus advised that, following his meeting with the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, some signage had been cleaned, grass had been cut and a few vehicles had been removed from the shore car park. He advised that a few things had come up at their meeting regarding pavements, the area next to the car park and bus stop where there is a lot of weeds. Pavements and side of roads still untidy but did see a sweeper out for the first time in a while which made a small difference but there is a lot to be done.

Members were not sure who was responsible for the signage to Binscarth Woods and the overgrown vegetation alongside the path making folk step on to the road to get past.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that they did not have the resources for weed killing of footways in Kirkwall and Stromness or the outlying areas. The plan would be to start with priority ones but might not even be able to do these. Councillor R King advised that the present financial position is very challenged and there is a need to be mindful of the fact that officers do not want to have to cut services.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to how the community could be involved and if there was a vehicle to employ someone part time to do these smaller types of work. Councillor J Stevenson advised that some community councils organise a village tidy up, and it was:

Resolved that Mr M Harcus would look into the possibility of setting up a plan on how to take this project forward.

F. Finstown Shore

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that the Council's Engineering Team had been having conversations with Scottish Water as the new pipes would be at risk if there was any more erosion, but that there was no further update available. Members asked if signage would be erected to warn people not to go too close to the edge, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To note that no signage was proposed.

G. Speeding Concerns

Members were advised that no response had been received to correspondence regarding speeding through Finstown and Stenness, but suggested that the problem was getting worse, especially in Stenness. A member advised that the police had been out with speed cameras in some areas, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and await an update.

5. Correspondence

A. Community Council Attendance

Members considered correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that they would no longer be attending so many community council meetings, but would be available should a matter require their attention, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkney Towns Fund Community Workshop Invite

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding a workshop in relation to the Orkney Towns Fund, which was held on 18 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. OIC Winter Treatment Contracts

Members discussed correspondence from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding assistance during periods of extreme weather or for civil engineering works. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that she would encourage individuals put their details in so that OIC had a list of contractors they can use. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. PSTN Leaflet

A leaflet produced by OIC in relation to the upcoming PSTN switch to digital had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the leaflet.

E. Thank You Notes

Resolved to note that thank you notes for financial assistance awarded had been received from Firth School Netball Coaches and K Gilmour.

6. Consultations

A. Water Safety Questionnaire

A questionnaire from OIC Safety and Resilience team had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed on 11 August 2024.

B. Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Members had previously been sent information on the launch of the consultation on the Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open until 25 October 2024.

C. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Members had previously been sent information on the launch of the consultation on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open until 25 October 2024.

D. The Voice of Communities Survey

Members had previously been sent a survey by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, inviting community organisations to share their aspirations, plans and challenges, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

7. Finance Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general finance statement as at 9 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £11,304.56, which included funds of £5,000 from the Rennibister Wind Turbine Community Fund.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 9 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £1,642.97 and £765 remained available for allocation in the main and additional capping limits respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Members considered the CDF statement as at 9 September 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining available for allocation of £8,615.63.

8. Financial Requests

A. Financial Assistance – Travel Grant Awards

Member discussed the present criteria in relation to the travel grants and it was suggested that the grant award should be increased from £25 up to £30, and it was:

Resolved that the only amendment to the criteria would be to increase the travel grant award to £30, effective from this meeting.

B. Kay Gilmour – University Assistance

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance towards university fees and accommodation, it was:

Resolved that this community council did not provide funding for this purpose.

C. Kirkwall and St Ola CC – Bonfire and Fireworks

Members discussed a request from the Clerk to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, copies of which had previously circulated, for assistance with the cost of providing the annual bonfire and firework display, and it was:

Resolved to award £100, subject to CCGS approval.

D. Stenness Community Association – 50th Anniversary Celebration

Mrs R Lyon declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion.

A financial request had been received from Stenness Community Association, copies of which had been circulated to members, for assistance with the cost of a 50th anniversary celebration for the community hall. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to award as donation of £250.

E. Firth Primary School – Outdoor Activities

Following consideration of a request from Firth Primary School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards school outdoor activities, it was:

Resolved to award £30 per pupil for six pupils, totalling £180.

F. Kim McIntosh – Netball

Members had previously been sent a copy of a request for financial assistance towards a trip to Aberdeen to play netball with the Orkney U17's District squad, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £30.

G. Orkney Pilgrimage

Members discussed a request from Orkney Pilgrimage, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, for financial assistance towards the cost of maintenance and website hosting, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £200.

H. Stenness Community Association – Place Plan

Mrs R Lyon declared an interest in this item and provided some background to the project but left the room during discussion of this item.

Following consideration of correspondence from Stenness Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the development of a Local Plan for the parish of Stenness, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £2,000, which should be met from the Community Development Fund and to suggest to the group to also contact SSEN regarding possible funding.

I. SSEN – Community Group

Councillor R King mentioned that SSEN were looking for a member of Firth and Stenness Community Council to be a representative on their community group, and it was:

Resolved that Ms S Spence would be the representative.

9. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – July and August 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update - July 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – July and September 2024.
- NHS Scotland – SHARE Register.

10. AOCB

A. Tree Lighting Event

Following discussion of a date and proposed arrangements for the annual tree lighting event, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the event would be held on Friday, 29 November 2024.
2. That Mr M Marcus would organise the switching on of the lights.
3. That the Interim Clerk would order a tree, which would be funded from CCGS, and complete the EMP.
4. That Mr R Hourston would organise the tree going up and lights etc.
5. That a Mr R Hourston would ask Mrs K Shearer to organise the ceremony/music and Firth Community Association to organise refreshments etc.

B. Speed Limit Signs on the Evie Road

Mrs A Stevenson queried the changes to the signage and flashing lights out the Evie Road, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

C. Stagecoach Buses

A member advised that it was common for the bus going through Stenness from Stromness to be full, which meant that anyone waiting had to wait another hour for the next scheduled service, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Publishing Minutes

A member asked what the protocol was for publishing minutes following a meeting. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that they were put on Orkney Islands Council's website, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion and to look into the possibility of linking the minutes from the Council website to a community Facebook page.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Firth and Stenness Community Council would be held on 19 November 2024 at 19:30 at Stenness Community Centre.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:10.