

# Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in Orphir School and via Teams on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr M Clouston, Miss R Black, Mrs B Clubley, Mr J Mackay, Mr A Marwick and Mr S Pyke.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Mr R Gauld, Orkney Renewable Energy Ltd.
- Mr M Spence, Orkney Renewable Energy Ltd.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mr N Sclater and Councillors K Leask and I Taylor.

## **2. Presentation - Orkney Renewable Energy Ltd – Akla**

Members were provided with information on the updated plans of Orkney Renewable Energy Ltd to develop the site at Akla. Representatives of ORE Ltd explained that the original proposal was for three machines, but they were now looking at options for just one Vestas turbine, which would be a larger version of the model that they had operated for twenty years in other areas of Orkney. They advised that local shareholders would be invited to become part of the project and spoke about potential community benefit to support the Orkney community. It was advised that they hoped to complete the project in the next two years, depending on planning permissions being in place.

Community Council members advised that they would like to see a public meeting held to give people more information about the project and to display photomontages once done. They also queried the lifespan of the turbine components. It was agreed that they would like to know more once information was available but that going from three to one turbine was preferable, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to await a public event to learn more.

The representatives of Orkney Renewable Energy Ltd left the meeting at this point.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of Orphir Community Council held on 20 February 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr M Clouston and seconded by Mrs B Clubley.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Bus Shelter – Smoogro Road End**

The Chair advised that the contractor hoped to get the work scheduled in over the summer period, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre Refurbishment**

The Chair reported that the work in the centre had been postponed but that it would be done once the centre was closed again for the winter. As the centre would be open over the summer after all, the caretaker had been approached and had agreed to look after the centre over the summer period. It was agreed that the closing date this year would be Sunday, 27 October. Some supplies were required as well as a notice for the door with opening hours, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That the caretaker had agreed to maintain the centre over the summer period and up to 27 October 2024, at a rate of £100 per week, being paid from CCGS funds.

3. That a notice would be made for the door displaying opening hours, and delivered to the centre along with the required cleaning supplies.

### **C. Dog Bins**

Mrs B Clubley reported that the larger bin was now in situ within Orphir village, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and to remove this item from the agenda.

### **D. Road Speed Limits**

Members had previously been sent information from the Head of Neighbourhood Services in relation to the installation and maintenance of speed indication devices, with an estimate of £10,000. It was requested that a breakdown be provided of this amount.

One member then suggested looking at other options such as a crossing or traffic lights, bearing in mind that evidence suggested that there was a genuine problem with speeding throughout Orphir village, and that there were more new houses being built in the area. They felt that more advise from Roads would be required, and consideration given to the School Travel Plan and whether this could be worked into that document, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. To request a breakdown of the cost for installation and maintenance of SIDs, as well as a cost for other measures such as zebra crossing or traffic lights.

3. That the school and the Road Safety Officer would be contacted by Democratic Services in relation to the school travel plan.

### **E. School Transport and Road Safety**

The Interim Clerk advised that there was no update on this item. Members were still of the opinion that there must be room on the bus and asked if the safety assessments had been carried out. The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities advised that this should be passed on to the Safety and Resilience Team as well as the Road Safety Officer. Members also asked for information on how the limits were set, and pointed out that two miles in the country was different to two miles in the town, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask for a further update from Education, including information on how the eligibility was set for school transport.

2. To pass the information on this particular query to the Road Safety Officer and the Safety and Resilience Team, OIC.

3. To ask again that consideration be given to providing a seat on the bus for this pupil.

### **F. Orphir Cemetery**

The Interim Clerk advised that there had been no response to the query regarding pumps, and it was:

Resolved to ask for an update for the next meeting.

### **G. R100 and SBVS**

Members were advised that further information would be available soon on the broadband rollout, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### **H. Grit bin at Orphir Kirk Junction**

It was reported that the grit bin had not been moved back to its original position, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would again request that the bin on the Gyre Road be moved back closer to the junction with the main road, as originally located.

### **I. Wooden Boardwalk, Waulkmill**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that works were planned to repair the broken areas on the boardwalk, as well as to cut back vegetation and clear offlets, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Scottish Empty Homes Partnership – 20 March Webinar**

Members had previously been emailed an invite to the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership Webinar, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Volunteering for Island Games 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding volunteering for the Island Games 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the details provided.

## **C. Local Place Plan**

Following consideration of correspondence from Development Planning, Orkney Islands Council, regarding giving communities the opportunity to prepare a Local Place Plan for their area, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **D. Viking Week – 10 September 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Ragnhild Ljosland regarding holding the Viking Family Day at the Saga Centre, it was

Resolved that permission be granted for use of the area for Viking Week events and that the Interim Clerk would advise Ragnhild Ljosland accordingly.

## **E. 30mph Signs**

Following consideration of correspondence from Olivia Tait regarding moving the 30mph signs, copies of which had previously been circulated, and subsequent discussion regarding traffic speeds and lack of pavement towards the ends of the village, it was:

Resolved to ask a member of the Roads team to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

## **F. Thank You Letter**

Resolved to note that a thank you letter had been received from Ingrid Tait for financial assistance provided.

# **6. Consultations**

## **A. Future of Universal Postal Service**

Members had previously been sent information on the future of the universal postal service, and it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been sent by Orphir CC before the deadline.

## **B. Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVA) Consultation**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a consultation on a review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation, which closed on 24 June 2024.

## **C. OIC Housing Survey**

Members had previously been sent information regarding the OIC Housing Survey, and it was:

Resolved to note that the survey closed on 29 April 2024 should any member wish to complete it.

## **D. Transport Scotland – Islands Connectivity Plan**

Information had been forwarded to members regarding engagement sessions in relation to the Islands Connectivity Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Stromness and Kirkwall events were scheduled for 29 April and 2 May 2024 respectively.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Orphir Community Council as at 9 April 2024:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £19,594.19.

### **B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre**

Following consideration of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre fund statement as at 9 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £47,726.65.

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the capping limit was £507.33.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 9 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £18,755.42 available to allocate to projects.

### **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 9 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £3,518 available to allocate to projects.

## **8. Financial Requests**

### **A. Ran Jackson-Rouse - Swimming**

Following consideration of correspondence from R Jackson-Rouse requesting financial assistance towards their travel for a trip to Inverness between 29 March and 31 March 2024, to complete for Orkney Amateur Swimming Club in Inverness, it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £50.

## **B. Orkney Folk Festival**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Folk Festival requesting a donation towards the running costs of this year's festival, it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £100 towards this year's festival.

## **C. Orphir Community School – Bag the Bruck 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orphir Community School requesting sponsorship towards their annual clean-up for Bag the Bruck, it was:

Resolved to provide funding of £300, subject to CCGS approval and the receipt of the appropriate forms.

## **D. Orphir Community School – Hoy Trip 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orphir Community School requesting funding towards their P7 residential trip to Hoy, and it was:

Resolved to provide a general fund donation of £50 per pupil, totalling £150.

## **E. Orphir Community Association – Play Park Project**

The Chair advised that extensive fundraising was being carried out by OCA to help fund improvements to the existing play facilities at Orphir School, and suggested that the Community Council may wish to assist with funding, and it was:

Resolved that, in principle, members were happy to assist with funding and that they would await a request from the Community Association once costs were known.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – February and March 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – March 2024.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – February and March 2024.
- Scottish Water Spring – Newsletter 2024.
- ORSAS Newsletter – March 2024.

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

### **A. Chairs Meeting**

The Chair advised that he had attended a recent meeting involving the Chairs of each mainland community council and that an in-person conference for Chairs and Clerks was planned, as well as training for elected members (planning, transport etc.) and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. Post Box – Scorradale**

A member advised that the post box at the bottom of the Scorradale Road had recently been removed, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would make enquiries into its disappearance with Royal Mail.

## **C. Orphir Pub**

A member advised that they had recently been approached by members of the community asking why the pub was not open and expressing disappointment at not having a local establishment. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that as the pub was a private entity, there was nothing the community council could do about this matter.

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

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

Resolved that the next meetings of Orphir Community Council would be held at 19:30 on Tuesdays 25 June and 10 September 2024 at Orphir School and via Teams.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.