



## Grieveship Residents Association

### **Grieveship Residents Association AGM held on 23rd May 2017 in Stromness Community Centre**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Myrtle welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Florence and Norman Norquoy, Kerry Sinclair, Garry Burton Sport & Leisure Service Manager, Wilf Weir, Executive Director Education, Leisure and Housing, Frances Troup, Head of Housing and Homelessness, Kenny Roy, Team Leader Roads Support.

#### **Attending**

Myrtle Cassidy Chair, Chris Wright Treasurer, Sara Duncan Secretary  
Jenny Taylor, Penny Aberdein, Annabelle Laurenson, committee members  
Dan Lee from the Community Garden  
Rob Crichton Chair of Education, Leisure and Housing  
James Stockan, Political Leader  
Luke Fraser, Housing Manager (Policy and Planning)

2. **Previous minutes** These were agreed as accurate. Jenny Proposed, Chris seconded.

3. **Matters Arising** All will be covered during meeting

#### **4. Chairmans report**

First in appreciation. Terry Todd sadly passed away in February. He was a faithful member and was at the forefront in helping with the Millennium tree planting in the Marwick's. We always enjoyed his company at our annual Christmas meal. Our thoughts are with his family at this time and we miss him.

Myrtle thanked Kirsten Fairnie for her help in producing our latest newsletter. Luke advises she has now left and Dominique Waterson will be our new Tenant Participation Officer. Luke will arrange for us to meet with Dominique.

57 houses joined the Residents Association this past year. Thank you to all who joined and to Annabelle for her help in collecting subscriptions.

Myrtle also thanked the OIC, for all their support and also for the Annual Revenue Grant we received. We will apply for it again this year. Thanks also go to VAO and all the residents who have helped in various ways over the past year.

The local councilors and "Paths for All" were the main funders for our development of the path leading to Brinkies Brae. DS Nicholson Ltd were employed to provide the machinery and manpower to make the path so accessible. A big thank you to them and the faithful group of volunteers.

The amount of dog excrement has reduced within the scheme. We have a dog bin at our new path to assist dog owners in being responsible. Cat poo is an issue in gardens and green areas where children play, folk walk and grass cutters work. The plan is to dig a piece of fresh ground to encourage cats to use this as a toilet. This will be in the grassed area near number 27.

The planters are showing wear and tear so we will be looking at working on those this year.

Thanks to Sara for updating and developing our web site via Orkney Communities .co.uk



## **5. Treasurers report**

We have £1445.28 in the GRA account at this time. This is more than last year due mainly to the residue of money from the grant for Brinkies path. This includes £53.00 remaining from the councilors and £430 from Paths for All. Normal expenditure has eaten into the money raised by subscriptions. We have equipment that was purchased to work on Brinkies path and we will be looking for secure storage for these.

The report was signed by Chris Wright and Sara Duncan. It will be sent to Meghan McEwen to sign off.

## **6. Appointment of independent examiner of accounts**

It was agreed that VAO should continue to act as our independent examiner.

## **7. Election of Office Bearers**

Myrtle Cassidy has agreed to carry on as Chair which was agreed by all in attendance. Chris Wright has agreed to carry on as Treasurer which was also agreed. Annabelle Laurenson, Jenny Taylor and Penny Aberdein and Kerry Sinclair have agreed to stay as committee members. Myrtle also extended an invitation to attendees to come along to any other meeting being held and also to invite others that might be interested.

## **8. Setting of membership subscriptions**

It was agreed to keep the cost at £4.00 for this year to be collected in May/June.

## **9. Planned Lighting Redesign**

We have been informed that the lighting redesign will begin in January 2018 to be finished by March 2018.

GRA committee walked round the scheme in dark, to identify dark and unlit dangerous areas. This information was passed to Kenny Roy

GRA have requested that all residents be informed directly by the OIC and kept up to date with the plans as they evolve. Luke is to speak with Kenny Roy, and Luke agrees to be a contact point for our concerns and questions

We hope there will be an update in the OIC newsletter due out in June.

## **10. Marwick Play Area**

In 2010 the Criminal Justice Team helped with painting the wood at the play park with the paint provided by the Residents Association. In 2013 Scottish Sea Farms awarded funding to buy good quality paint. The metal spider was made safe and painted by the same team. Repairs were also made to the fence. Myrtle read out an e mail from Garry Burton which indicated that due to pressure on council funding, there are no play area development plans for the next 3 to 4 years. The Sport and Leisure Service will be happy to work with communities wishing to develop their play areas. The GRA newsletter, delivered to every house in Grieveship, asked if parents wished to assist

in developing the play area, so far no replies. There followed an interesting discussion regarding play areas in general.

#### **11. Goal Posts**

Grieveship Residents bought goal posts in 2012, but over the years they have rusted. Hamnavoe Engineering replaced the vandalised arm and new replacement nets have been bought ready to be put up once work has been done sanding off the rust and painting the posts. We will be looking for volunteers to help.

#### **12. Brinkies Brae**

We received funding from Paths for All and started the path with volunteers helping, it was then decided that the 170 meters of ditching would need more than the volunteers could do. At this point our local councilors gave us funds which enabled us to employ DS Nicholson Ltd. There is still a little more work to be done on the culvert at the beginning of the path, and some landscaping. Also a regular upkeep of path and ditch. A lot of people use the path, the edges are regenerating with wild flowers to enhance the walk further. We are looking to use some of the left over money to provide a bench. There will be work to do to maintain the path over the winter and the culvert is checked regularly to ensure it is not blocked. We are also looking to buy a shed and will be asking the community garden if we can site it next to theirs, to store the gardening equipment we bought and used.

#### **13. Comment OIC**

Luke has not heard of any major issues from the Housing Officers. There are still some concerns about the speed of cars on the back road. Myrtle has shown him on a map of the estate where water is pooling on the paths especially at corner of no44 and 28. He is looking at different ways to engage people and connect with GRA and OIC.

#### **14. Community Garden**

Dan told us that that there has been a review of the land that they rent and there maybe the opportunity to buy it from OHAL who do not want to build on it .They are looking into this starting the process with an application to the Scottish Land Fund. Stage one is engaging a consultant. There is about 4 acres of land which is currently listed for low density housing. This may increase the value of the land. The consultant can help with options and what the land could be used for in the future to provide an economic contribution to the community which may improve the chance of the offer being accepted. These include a market garden, eco housing or community building. The area could also be used to promote such things as Health Walks. If the charity succeeded in buying the land but in the future it disbanded the land would be given back to Stromness. The development trust has not been approached yet. Dan is also looking to have better signage through the estate to promote the garden.

**15. AOB** It was mentioned that the "No Ball Games" signs were looking tatty.

**16. DONM** To be decided