



## Grieveship Residents Association

### Grieveship Residents Association Minutes of Annual General Meeting Stromness Community Centre 3 May 2016 at 6pm

**Present :** Myrtle Cassidy (chair), Jenny Taylor (honorary member), Sara Duncan, Annabelle Laurenson (committee member), Lisa Darlow, Calvin Leech, Penny Aberdeen (committee member), Frances Troup (Head of Housing and Homelessness) and Wilf Weir (Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing).

**1 Welcome and Apologies** Myrtle welcomed all to the meeting .

Apologies from Chris Wright (Treasurer), Rob Crichton, Garry Burton and Kerry Sinclair.

**2 Previous Minutes** These were agreed as correct by Annabelle and seconded by Myrtle.

**3 Matters Arising** Path lighting /dark area opposite 87 will be covered in **item 9**  
Goal posts **item 11** Path upgrade **item 12**

**4 Chair Report** Myrtle thanked Suzy Boardman, who has now moved jobs to O.H.A.L., for all her work with G.R.A. Frances advised that a report was being sent to O.I.C. committee asking to set up an equivalent post which would start later in the year if approved. Meantime we should contact Frances on any issues that arise.

Thanks also to other O.I.C. officials who we continually contact for advice /help, to V.A.O. who support us in various ways, and most of all to the residents and others who have helped and contributed to our success this past year.

We continue to maintain trees, shrubs and 8 tubs. Birds use our feeders and give lovely birdsong in return. Good quality paint has been used to paint rails and flower tub.

We celebrated the 30 year milestone of G.R.A. this past year. The occasion was marked by having a get-together of both residents and officials at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. Thanks to the Community Council and the family of the late Marion Flett in providing financial help with this. Photos on display and a C.D. to borrow.

We had a successful Christmas meal out with the older folk in December.

A big problem with dog fouling at present has been resolved .We look forward to having members of Environmental Health at our next committee meeting. Minutes of all committee meetings over the year are here for you to see . We hope to furthur develop our website this coming year.

**5 Treasurers Report** Chris away due to work so report given by Myrtle. Thanks goes to Chris for his work. We have £919.22 in bank account. The committe refunded the price of their Christmas dinner thus making up our petty cash. We had a record of 53 members join and contribute financially. Thanks to Annabelle who assists with this collecting each May /June. Frances confirmed that Luke will email an application form for the Annual Revenue Grant for us to complete and which we have successfully got each year.

**6 Independent Examiner of Accounts** .All agreed that we wil appoint V.A.O.again.

### **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. Annabel Laurenson and Penny Aberdein have agreed to stay as committee members. Jenny Taylor is to become a committee member, proposed by Myrtle and was seconded Annabelle. Kerry Sinclair was nominated as a committee member Myrtle and seconded by Penny.

Myrtle thanked Paula O'Connor, previous secretary, for her efficient work. She has now left Grieveship. Sara Duncan was proposed as Secretary by Jenny and seconded by Myrtle. Myrtle also extended an invitation to attendees to come along to any other meeting being held and also to invite others.

**8 Membership Subscriptions** It was agreed to keep the cost at £4.00 and collecting to be done in May.

### **9 Lighting for the entrance to Grieveship on the main path. Dark opposite 87**

Myrtle spoke to Kenny Roy (Team Leader for Roads Support ) on 25 April by telephone regarding the lack of lighting which has been on the agenda for some time. The main entrance to Grieveship is dangerous and dark in winter also narrow .

Kenny explained that there is a plan to redesign the lighting from April 2017–2018. They will look at all free standing columns. Heads fitted to houses will be removed and free standing columns put in place where needed. The lights are to be replaced with LED bulbs. Footprint for lighting to cover all paths and carparks.

The sugestion came from Wilf to write a letter to Kenny to ask if he could consider a temporary lighting solution to cover this coming dark winter and to cc Wilf and Frances in.

### **10 Marwick Play Park**

Wilf advised that he would speak to Garry Burton to determine plans for upgrade. Chair gave a brief history on the efforts of the Association to maintain the play area over the years.In 2010 G.R.A. asked Criminal Justice Team to help with painting the wood in play park as well as the wooden play house. G.R.A.provided the paint. We were successful in 2013 to be awarded funding from Scottish Sea Farms to buy much better,

good quality paint. This team led by Lindsay Hall repaired the metal spider making it safe with brightly coloured paint provided by themselves. Repairs were also done as needed to the fence. The team are no longer able to continue this work but we thank them for all their help in last few years.

Risk factors has seen 2 items of play removed. We were successful in obtaining additional swing seats and repair to tyre swing. We now only have swings, slide, play house and spider frame.

Vandalism to 22 wooden posts occurred last week with posts thrown over the fence into burn and field. Police were informed as well as Garry Burton (Sport & Leisure Service Manager) who confirmed that James Pirie had removed loose wood and had made exposed nails safe.

We would like to know what the repair plan is following this vandalism. Also an update on the development plan for the Marwicks.

There are lots of young children in Grieveship who frequently use the area. Families also visit from other parts of Stromness.

Wilf acknowledged our efforts and will speak to Garry Burton.

### **11 Goal Posts**

The original O.I.C. goal posts were removed due to deterioration, with no plan to replace them. G.R.A. bought goal posts in 2012 funded with an Awards For All grant to value of £600.00. This left the amount of £256.00 for us to fund. Education and Leisure Dept.gave advise on the most suitable posts/nets to buy, but it was unknown to us that they would rust. We have paid £150.00 a year to store and paint them but cannot keep this up. Last week the first act of vandalism occurred when the steel arm of post was half broken across. This again was reported to Police. Chris Wright has repaired the goal post arm as best as possible and the nets will be coming back. Wilf to refer this to Garry along with item 10.

**12 Brinkies Brae path upgrade** The path to Brinkies Brae is very water logged and it is very difficult to walk there. There have been meetings held to discuss improving it to keep it as a natural usable path. This will include reestablishing drainage and ditches to take the water to this culvert at the bottom together with some stone surfacing.

The major issue that has slowed things down is the ownership of the land. Jenny has approached the Land Registry and asked locals but no one has been able to name the owner. We have applied for money from Paths for All and we are now through to the second round with a decision in early June. We will require help from the community to volunteer but will be an asset for the whole town as the view is beautiful. With the Council having to make savings maintenance of the path will have to be considered in the future.

### **13 Comments Wilf and Frances**

There is a satisfaction survey going out to all the tenants with the results being collated at the end of the month and a report in October. They are looking for over 40% return.

There is a review on the letting policy with things such as a penalty for turning down a house to be included and time limits to standardise the policies. They are looking at

reasons why people become homeless and changes in the legislation which would be put before the committee in June if possible. There is also a review to look at how long we can continue to build houses.

Myrtle asked Frances if G.R.A. could be given several copies of the O.I.C. newsletter as this is only given to tenants. This would keep homeowners informed about relevant issues.

#### **14 A.O.C.B.**

##### Parking

It was raised that cars parking at the entrance of the road into the carparks at the bottom of Grieveship Brae were a possible safety hazard and what could be done to encourage people to use the parking spaces further down. Wilf / Frances to put this to Kenny and Simon.

##### Unveiling the plaque

The unveiling of the plaque to celebrate 30 year of the Association was a great success with a strong feeling of community and pride in the environment. There was a strong turnout and we would like to thank Councillors and officials who attended. Also thanks to the Community Council and the family of the late Marion Flett who provided financial help.

Also noted were the skills and knowledge of Jenny Taylor and Chris Wright who are the leading figures in the path upgrade leading to Brinkies.

**Date of Next Meeting**      To be confirmed and advised

**<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/GRIEVESHIP/>**