



## Grieveship Residents Association

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# Grieveship Residents Association AGM held on 30 May 2018 in Stromness Community Centre

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Myrtle welcomed all to the meeting and was pleased to see so many attending. Apologies were received from Rob Crichton (Chair of Education Leisure and Housing) and Wilf Weir ( Executive Director Education, Leisure and Housing) who hope to attend later. Also from Kerry Sinclair and Gary Burton ( Sport & Leisure Service Manager).

### Attending

Myrtle Cassidy Chair, Chris Wright Treasurer, Sara Duncan Secretary,

Jenny Taylor, Penny Aberdeen, Annabelle Laurenson and Kerry Sinclair committee members,

Frances Troup (Head of Housing Homelessness & Schoolcare Accommodation Services) and Ria Leslie ( Tenant Participation Officer)

John Foulis (Community Gardens), Lorna Lea, Scott Sinclair, Kerry Sinclair, Kelvin Wright, Alex Lebert, Samantha Lebert, Charlene Sinclair, Sinclair McAdie, Shannon Flett and Lee Miller.

2. **Previous Minutes.** These were agreed as accurate. Penny proposed, Chris seconded.

3. **Matters Arising.** We have yet to dig a patch of garden for the cats to use. We will discuss the goal posts, culvert and landscaping later in the meeting. The Council have carried out work regarding the standing water at number 44 and 28 as well as the Back Road.

## 4. Chairmans Report

Myrtle thanked all the residents for their continued support. We have 60 members of the Residents Association this past year which is a record, Thank you to all who joined and for all the help collecting the subscriptions which will begin in June for 2018/19.

Myrtle also thanked the OIC for all their support and for the Annual Revenue Grant we received. We will be applying again this year. The replacement of the lights has been successful in lighting up most of the dark spots.

Thanks also go to all the residents who have helped throughout the year and those who helped move, erect and paint the shed and maintain the shrubs in the scheme.

OIC have also put in a bigger drainage pipe at the bottom of Brinkies Brae to help with the drainage and the water now runs away well. This has been added to the Core Path plans but an error was made on the 1<sup>st</sup> draft so it is being redone.



## **5. Treasurers Report**

We have £1583.00 in the bank at the moment. This is slightly more than last year, it includes last years Annual Revenue Grant money from OIC, a small amount from the Brinkies Project and the members subscription. We treated the older folk to Christmas dinner out of the fund. A great social occasion.

## **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 has agreed to stay on as Chair which was agreed by all in attendance. She would like to stand down next year. Chris Wright has agreed to carry on as Treasurer which was also agreed. Sara agreed to carry on as Secretary, this was also agreed. Penny Aberdein, Annabelle Laurenson, Jenny Taylor and Kerry Sinclair agreed to remain on the committee with new members Lee Miller and Alex Lebert being proposed and seconded. Samantha Lebert was proposed and seconded. Only one person per household can hold a committee positions, so Samantha later stood down.

## **8. Subscriptions**

It was agreed that the cost of the subscription would remain at £4.00.

## **9. Lighting**

The new lights have improved the dark areas throughout the Scheme especially through the shrubs. The OIC did carry out small changes when requested while the work was being carried out. The committee did a walk around to look at the cleaning up work that had been done. A list was sent to Kenny Roy showing areas that need improvement. If there is any work that is outstanding please let the committee know.

## **10. The Community Shed**

We were given a shed from the Ness of Brodgar and this will be used for tools and other equipment that had been bought for the work on Brinkies Brae. There is still some work to be done on the shed such as paving and painting. It will have a combination padlock on it and if anyone would like to borrow any of the tools they can apply to Sara Duncan for the code and let her know how long they would be wanting the tools for.

## **11. Marwick Playing Fields**

The old goalposts are getting to the end of their life and it has been suggested that we buy smaller 5 a side posts and nets. We can sell the old nets as they were only bought last year. This was agreed by everyone attending the meeting. Steel ones would be £410.00 and aluminium £480.00. Chris will check on other prices for posts and it was suggested that the Community Garden may be able to supply nets. We may be able to apply for sponsorship once we have the costings.

The grass is only going to be cut once this year by OIC and Myrtle has suggested this be done on Monday 2 July for the start of the school holidays. Isbister Bothers can supply a quote for cutting the grass they charge £28.80 an hour and it may take 2 – 3 hours. It was suggested that we might be able to hire a machine and set up a rota to cut the grass throughout the summer but this will not be done by residents on a permanent basis. The Council will still be liable in the future. The area to be cut is the 5 a side pitch and the play area.

Wilf Weir and Rob Crichton joined the meeting at this point.

The play area has lost more equipment this year, OIC takes away any equipment that is unsafe. The fence is very rotten and damaged. It was suggested that it should be taken away and replaced with plants to designate the area. It does need equipment and it was agreed that the children would be asked what they would like and a Facebook page would be set up to allow everyone to contribute ideas. Once we have a costing it can be put to the Council and other organisations to request funding. Ria will speak to Garry Burton about options and investigate other funding available. A meeting with Garry has been set up for Wednesday 27 June at 7.30 in the Community Halls.

## **12. Choice Based Lettings – Frances Troup**

Choice based lettings is where vacant properties will be advertised and applicants of the Highland Housing Register will register an interest for that property. The property will then be allocated to the person who registered an interest and has the greatest need. The properties will be added to the list on a daily basis as and when they become vacant. By changing how allocations are done it could mean that those who might previously have thought they couldn't be housed, might now be able to.

OIC has just finished the Satisfaction Survey and Consultations on sheltered housing. There are not any houses to sell in Grieveship following the changes in tenancy agreements – Right to Buy. The Housing News will keep everyone informed about what is happening in the Scheme.

## **13. Community Garden – John Foulis**

The Community garden is looking to extend the idea and get more people involved. They are looking at raised planters and what other ideas could be implemented to get more people using the facilities. They too have set up a Facebook page.

## **14. AOB**

There was not any other business

## **15. DONM**

To be decided.

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