

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 8 April 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mrs H Scott, Mr I Deyell, Mr C Kerlake, Mrs L Paterson and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services (via Teams).
- Mr A Rodwell, Head of Improvement and Performance (via Teams).
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications (via Teams).

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence	4
5. Consultation Document - Future of the Universal Postal Service	5
6. Financial Statements	5
7. Financial Requests	6
8. Reports from Representatives	6
9. Publications	7
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	7
11. Date of Next Meeting	8
12. Conclusion of Meeting	8

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the general meeting held on 19 February 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs H Scott and seconded by Mr I Deyell, subject to the following omissions being corrected:

1. Apologies: and Cllr M Thomson were unable to join the meeting remotely.
3. Matters Arising. B. Cattle Float Meeting Update: present at the meeting on 12 were Mrs L Paterson etc.

The minute of the special meeting held on 8 March 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr C Kerslake and seconded by Mrs L Paterson.

3. Matters Arising

A. Mower, strimmer and shears purchase

Following a report from the clerk, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the purchase of the following, from CCGS funds:
 - Hand grass cutting shears at £45.98.
 - E- strimmer at £782.40.
 - Mower repair at £220.08.
 - Old strimmer service at £90.
2. That the Clerk put the old strimmer up for sale (with disclaimer that guarantee is not made on whether it can work/ be repaired and be offered for spares or repair).

B. NRCA CCGS - Cost of Guest Flights

The Clerk requested that this information be noted as it had been omitted from minutes in error previously, and it was:

Resolved that £220 be added to the fund for forthcoming events.

C. Pier Update

Correspondence had been received from Marine Services that the report regarding dangerous holes left by the removed cattle handling facility had been sent to the appropriate department, and it was:

Resolved to note that work to repair them, and toe holds, would be taking place, with no date currently available.

D. Bag the Bruck – Polystyrene Buoy

One of the members advised that they had discovered a massive polystyrene covered buoy washed up on the west shore, near the airport. The item had been destroyed by winter storms leaving polystyrene beads everywhere, with chunks regularly getting blown onto the airfield runway. The Clerk had already enquired with the Salmon companies, the Environmental Health Department and Greener Orkney, and no support or assistance would be made available, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk inform Transition North Ronaldsay of the contaminant and request they address it as part of Bag the Bruck.
2. That the plastic recycling at the Pier also be addressed by the same organisation, who were responsible for its maintenance.

E. Transport Issues

The issue that a meeting had yet to take place for the island to discuss various items relating to both air and ferry services was raised. After a discussion about the relevance and practicalities of a person to person or Teams only meeting, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a few key participants be invited to keep the logistics simple.
2. That as many attend in person but anyone unable to do so join via Teams.
3. That a list of key points/questions be drawn up prior to the meeting and distributed to all delegates so that answers can be researched before the meeting.
4. That the Clerk collect and collate these points from the members, then circulate to members for approval or amending prior to distributing to the other delegates.
5. That raising these as yet unresolved matters with the media and MSPs be put on the back burner until the results of the meeting had been gathered.
6. That the delegates to be invited were Community Council members, North Isles Councillors, Head of Transport, Head of Marine Services, Chair of Development and Infrastructure Committee, the Harbour Master, the Head of Improvement and Performance and the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
7. That a separate meeting was still necessary, to include Mr L McArthur MSP, regarding the Mobility access issue, but it also needed to be included here in order to be considered in the contract of the next tender.
8. That the meeting should be held imminently given the deadline for the tender was approaching, and that the Head of Improvement and Performance will lead on organising this.

F. Current/Future issues with Fuel/Gas

It was reported that the North Ronaldsay Trust had shown interest in taking this forward and including it in the plans for the Trebb Project, and the CDM had been researching how other islands provide fuel commercially. The Airfield Superintendent had advised that they were happy to purchase fuel from an island source, and it was

Resolved there was nothing further to add to the discussion.

G. R100 Internet issues/Fibre Optic

Further to the request for the current main internet provider to come to the island to talk with the islanders about the future of fibre optic, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would ask Cloudnet when the deadline for using the vouchers is.
2. That the Clerk invite Cloudnet to the next Community Council meeting as they had not moved forward in arranging an island meeting themselves,

4. Correspondence

A. Potholes on School Lane

Correspondence had been received and emailed on 11 March 2024 on the matter of the unsafe nature of the pot holes on the school lane, and that the Head Teacher had sent a letter directly to the department responsible and awaited a response, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Volunteering for Island Games 2025

Correspondence regarding volunteering to assist with the events at Island Games 2025 had been received and emailed to members on 25 March 2024, and had also been circulated on the islands social media and posted locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Liam McArthur MSP - Mobility access by Plane project

Correspondence had been received and emailed to members on 18 March 2024 regarding an information request on the pilot project using planes to transport non-emergency residents with mobility issues on and off island, and it was:

Resolved this matter had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. Consultation Document - Future of the Universal Postal Service

Correspondence regarding a current consultation on the postal service had been emailed to members on 20 March 2024, noting a deadline for comments of 27 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that only one question had been put forward by the members to this consultation, in opposition of the proposal to reduce the nearly 6 x a week letter service down to a few days a week, and the outcome of the consultation remained to be seen.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 28 March 2024, a query was made on the numerous Orkney Ferries freight charges starting 24 April 2023, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would ask Orkney Ferries for the statements to clarify what the charges were in relation to.
2. To note that the estimated balance was £19,445.33.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the Turbine statement as at 28 March 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £21,644.80.
2. That the Clerk would write to the NRT Chair to request a payment by the North Ronaldsay Trust.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 28 March 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was noted that members had agreed to add £220 to the NRCA project to pay for flights for guests to attend events, project ref 102308. Members acknowledge a lot of payments had been made up to the end of the financial year and appreciate they have not been included in the current statement, and that a new statement would be provided to the next meeting. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the total approved but not yet allocated was £1,160.28.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 28 March 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that total available for allocation was £8,656.00.

7. Financial Requests

A. North Ronaldsay School – Flight Request

Following consideration of a request from the Head Teacher, North Ronaldsay School, asking for assistance with the cost of a flight for one pupil to attend a trip, members agreed this had been paid in full for other children in the past and unanimously agreed to meet the costs again, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would inform the Head Teacher that the application was successful and full payment would be made, subject to CCGS approval, on the condition the child provided a small account to NRCC of what they did on their trip.

2. To apply for CCGS be set up for the £109 costs (category A8).

B. NRCA - Science Festival Speaker Flight Costs

This had already been agreed by members but had not been minuted elsewhere, and it was:

Resolved to note that the full cost of £21 had been paid in advance of this meeting, following agreement via email.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Having noted no-one had been able to take part in the meeting held on 5 March 2024, it was queried whether the current representative had enough time to fulfil their obligations in this role, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the next Transport Forum meeting will be on 20 August 2024.

2. That Mrs L Paterson has agreed to be a joint transport representative and between the two members would agree who would attend future meetings dependent on their personal schedules.

3. To note a late correspondence from Juste Kalinauskaite at Transport Scotland informing them of a visit regarding the Islands Transport Strategy the week commencing 29 April 2024 and that confusion surrounded the date of the meeting due to a clash with another island event. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries with Transport Scotland regarding the date.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Resolved to note that the community electric minibus had been purchased and was on the way to the island in time for cruise ship visits.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note the next health and care meeting would be held on 10 June 2024.

E. Yarn Company Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

9. Publications

The following publications had been made available to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – February 2024.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – January, February 2024.
- Letter from School Place – March 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – February 2024.
- Loganair Statistics - year to date March 2024.
- Scottish Water - Spring Newsletter 2024.
- ORSAS Newsletter Spring 2024.
- SEPA Update March 2024.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Kirkyard Work

The members complimented the work done by the contractor to rabbit proof and mend the kirkyard gate. Subsequently, an eyewitness account of rabbits jumping over the dyke was reported but was not unexpected. Discussion regarding rabbit colonisation and moss invasion ensued, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the grass could be stripped back, rabbit netting laid and the area returned, and that the burrows could be filled with sharp gravel.
2. That a member who was keen to use snares claimed they could obtain training/license to do so – as is otherwise an illegal practice.
3. To note that the department responsible for Burial Grounds do not have much funding.
4. To see how the new grass cutting contractor gets on and discuss the issue further at a future meeting.

B. Local Place Plan

Late correspondence was circulated regarding putting together a place plan, which had a deadline of March 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 3 June 2024 at 19:30, at a venue to be confirmed.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:28.