

# Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Community Room, Westray School and via Teams on Monday, 29 April 2024 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr Adam Baird, Mr Danny Marcus, Mr Louis Pottinger and Mrs Rozalind Rendall.

## In Attendance:

- Mr Derek Manson, Team Manager, Development Planning.
- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs Edith Costie, Clerk.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies .....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes .....	2
3. Orkney Quiet Routes and Local Place Plans .....	2
4. Matters Arising .....	3
5. Correspondence .....	4
6. Financial Statements .....	5
7. Financial Requests .....	5
8. Consultation Documents.....	7
9. Reports from Representatives .....	7
10. Publications .....	7
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	8
12. Date of Next Meeting .....	9
13. Conclusion of Meeting .....	9

## **1. Apologies**

Resolve to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mrs Elizabeth Drever and Mrs Janice Kirkness, and Councillors Melissa Thomson and Stephen Clackson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held on 15 February 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Danny Harcus and seconded by Mr Louis Pottinger.

## **3. Orkney Quiet Routes and Local Place Plans**

Members received a presentation by the Team Manager Development Planning regarding a pilot project to promote quiet routes for walking and cycling. They were initially looking to identify a route within various parishes that would be a safe route for walkers/cyclists/horse riders on roads where there could be a speed limit of 30mph and to present signage to that effect. He advised that the suggested route in Pierowall would be from the ferry terminal at Gill Pier to Broughton and to Noltland Castle. Firstly, there would be a data collecting exercise to identify the volume of traffic, amount of people using the route, speed limits etc. He also explained that external funding was available for signage.

The Team Manager also advised that, as part of a government drive to promote partnership between Community Councils and their communities across Scotland, Community Councils had been invited to call for ideas from the community: what would you change, what do you know about your place, maps, route enhancements, flag up development ideas, community ownership, sites etc. This would encourage communities to take the lead, not the Council. He advised that there was a certain amount of funding linked through Planning.

Following some questions and further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Quiet Route identified was deemed not to be suitable because it was one of the busiest roads on Westray, there were lots of heavy vehicles using the routes, and there were areas along the route where it was not possible to step off the road for oncoming traffic.

B. That there would be no benefit to making this a Quiet Route if all that was available was additional signage.

C. To note the information regarding Local Place Plans and that this could be discussed at a later date.

The Team Manager, Development Planning, was thanked for attending the meeting, and left the meeting thereafter.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Recycling/One-off collection of Plastic Goods**

Resolved to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

### **B. Village Path**

Resolved to note that there was no progress to report but that a new link officer had recently been recruited for Papa Westray who may be able to assist in taking this project further.

### **C. Street Lighting – Northend to Hofn**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the Council own the Chapel of Rest building and had suggested motion sensor security lighting there. Members agreed that they would be happy to put money towards the lighting but felt that it would prove safer for the community if daylight sensor or streetlight timed lights were provided. It was identified that there was no lighting around the area used when loading the gritter, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would investigate this matter further and provide an update to the next meeting.

### **D. 2024 Sunday Excursions**

The Transport Representative advised that there were lots of mitigating factors involved with arranging trip dates for the summer schedule. Any specific requests for trip destinations would need to be in before the next Transport Meeting in August to be put into action for next summer. It was suggested that perhaps the planned hydrofoils could be used to take the strain, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **E. Health and Care**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there were notes taken at these meetings and that she had requested that they be made available to attendees so that they could provide updates to their respective community councils, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

### **F. Grass Cutting**

It was advised that tenders for the kirkyard grass cutting had been circulated to all members and accepted, as well as additional cuts charges. One of the persons tendering had offered that their price could be reduced if the tender was for a period of 3 years and, after discussion, it was:

Resolved that accepting a tender over a longer period would prove to be beneficial and to ask the Council for approval.

## **G. Beach Rubbish**

Following requests for large items of rubbish be removed from beaches, it was understood Cooke Aquaculture provided large bins at some of the shoresides which volunteers filled with the larger bruck. It was assumed that Cooke Aquaculture took the bins away again and dealt with the contents, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

## **H. Road Scheme**

Members resumed consideration of operating a Road Aggregate Scheme, possibly in conjunction with WDT. Mr Louis Pottinger explained that WDT could assist if the purpose was infrastructure improvements and suggested the CC put in an application for funding of £50k for up to 50% funding. This could be to help improve private roads to enable doctor/nurse/carers/post/service vehicles easier, safer access to properties. It was suggested that the criteria needed to be set as to which roads would be eligible, but it was noted that this Scheme had run in the past and worked well. It was agreed that the matter needed to be discussed further and thoughts brought to the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved for members to consider the structure of any scheme, to put ideas around via email, and then to discuss at the next meeting.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Volunteering for Island Games**

Members had previously been sent information from the Island Games organising committee, advising of dates for signing up as a volunteer for the games in 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Local Place Plans**

Members considered correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated and discussed at item 3 of the meeting, regarding putting together local place plans, and it was:

Resolved to not the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Faith Mission Tent Mission**

Members discussed a request from the Baptist Kirk for permission to put up a large tent in the playing field at the school, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that Westray Community Council had no objections but that the final decision should be with Westray Junior High School.

## **D. Community Sculpture Site**

Correspondence from Westray Development Trust regarding help find a location for donated statues had previously been forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that no further locations were suggested.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 25 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £37,816.58.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 25 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had been exceeded by £333.08, but that £116.92 and £743 remained available in the island and additional capping limits respectively.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 25 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £6,983.28 remained available for allocation to projects.

## **7. Financial Requests**

### **A. Westray RFC – Hubert Haunschmidt Memorial Cup**

It had previously been agreed by email to support a request from Westray Rugby Club for financial assistance towards player meals and hall hire for the event on 30 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that a CCGS grant of £300 towards the match lunch and £350 towards the hall hire costs had been awarded.

### **B. Westray Heritage Trust**

Members discussed a request from Westray Heritage Trust for support in the sum of £600 to assist them to remain open during mornings in the months at the start and end of the summer season, when visitor numbers were low, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To grant Westray Heritage Trust £600, subject to CCGS approval.
2. To advise that the award would be made this time but that it was felt that WHT should consider doing additional fundraising themselves to help cover these costs.

### **C. Cancellation of Westray Drama Club Grant**

Resolved to note that the CCGS grant for £700 awarded to Westray Drama Club had been cancelled as it was no longer required.

### **D. Westray Heritage Trust - Information leaflet**

It had previously been agreed by email to support a request from Westray Heritage Trust for financial assistance towards the publication of an island leaflet, and it was:

Resolved to note that £500 had been awarded to WHT from CCGS funds to help with the cost of producing an island leaflet.

### **E. North Isles Sports 2024**

A request from Westray Sports Club for assistance to help host this year's North Isles Sports had previously been circulated to members. It was advised that the total cost was estimated to be £5,000. It was discussed that there would be other local grants available to them and there would need to be more detailed figures, and it was:

Resolved to ask for more information to allow this request to be agreed by email.

### **F. Westray Football Club Trip to Shetland**

Members discussed a request from Westray Parish Football Team for help to finance a trip to Shetland to play in the Inter Parish Cup on 8 June 2024, the overall cost of which had been estimated at around £3,000. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to support the trip by giving a grant of £380, subject to CCGS approval, to cover the cost of bus hire.

### **G. Fundraising Event on Westray**

Following consideration of an application from Eve White for financial assistance towards holding a fundraising event on Westray on 19 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of up to £200, subject to CCGS approval, towards the costs of refreshments for the event.

### **H. Daffodil Project**

Following discussion and consideration of a request from Westray School, who were asking for funding to increase the potential for the school to participate in the Daffodil DNA sequencing project, it was

Resolved to donate £400 towards travel costs of visit to Dundee University, subject to CCGS approval.

## **8. Consultation Documents**

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

Resolved to note that a response had been sent on this consultation prior to the deadline.

### **B. SEPA – Potential Vulnerable Areas**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA advising of a consultation on potential vulnerable areas, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. SEPA – Disrupting Criminal Dumpers**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding illegal waste collection services, it was

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. OIC Housing Survey**

Members had previously been forwarded details from OIC Housing on a survey to seek local views on a strategy for housing in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **9. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report to this meeting.

### **B. Planning**

The Planning Representative informed the meeting that there had been three applications; one for Sand 'o Gill for telegraph poles, one for the Doctor Surgery for windows, heating and a heat pump, and for Pìsgah for holiday pods, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Health and Care**

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report to this meeting.

### **D. Westray Development Trust**

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report to this meeting.

## **10. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – February and March 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding – February and March 2024.
- Letter from School Place – February and March 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – January and February 2024.
- Loganair Passenger Statistics – April 2023 to March 2024.
- Special Waste Collection Dates – Bulky Items.
- Scottish Water News – Spring 2024.
- Farm Diversification Drop in Event.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Disposal of White Goods**

Following discussion regarding increased dumping at the quarry, it was:

Resolved to consider funded special collections for a trial period, and to ascertain if there would be a vehicle available to cover this and what the cost would be.

### **B. Dredging – Pierowall Pier**

Members discussed a request to get the Nort Pier dredged while the dredger is in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved that this would be very beneficial and that the request would be passed on to Marine Services.

### **C. Bag the Bruck**

Following a request received via WDT, asking for available Bag the Bruck funding to be donated, on behalf of the volunteers, to the Bargain Box to be shared amongst the local groups, it was:

Resolved to donate the £300 available for Bag the Bruck through CCGS to groups who had volunteered at the Bargain Box.

### **D. Meeting Hoose Well**

Following consideration of a letter from Mike Cooper, asking if WCC would support the erection of a information plaque at the newly refurbished well, and also asking for support in approaching the Men's Shed to help with ongoing maintenance, it was commented about the amount of work that had gone into the refurbishment of the well, and it was:

Resolved to write a letter of thanks on behalf of the community, to Mike Cooper, and to advise that WCC had no issue with the erection of a plaque, or the suggestion to approach the Men's Shed to help with maintenance going forward.

### **E. Closure of Tourist Information Centre in Kirkwall**

Members discussed the recent decision to close the Tourist Information Centre in Kirkwall, suggesting it was a pity, and it was:



Resolved to note the discussion.

## **F. Grass Disposal**

Members had been informed by a resident that there were no longer facilities for disposal of grass cuttings at the Community Garden. Mr Louis Pottinger informed members that this was only temporary, until WDT received their new compost bins, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. Listed Buildings**

A member raised a query regarding Listed Buildings, asking who decided a building should be listed and could the property be de-listed. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that Historic Environment Scotland were happy to review listings and that there was an online appeal facility, Planning Environmental Appeals Division, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would forward the relevant information to the member that had asked.

## **H. Pierowall Public Toilet**

Members suggested that the walls in the public toilet in Pierowall needed to be scraped and painted before the summer season, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would raise this with relevant officers.

## **I. Kirkyard Issues**

Mr Louis Pottinger informed the meeting that the door in the Rapness Kirkyard and the hut in the Lady Kirk Kirkyard needed repaired, and it was:

Resolve that the Community Council Liaison Officer would raise this with relevant officers.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of the date of the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Westray Community Council would be held on Monday, 1 July 2024 at 19:30 in Westray School and via Teams.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 21:25.