

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann’s and via Teams on Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr N Rendall, Mr I Cursiter, Mr B Hourston, Mrs I Hourston, Mrs F McNab and Mrs L Sharp.

In Attendance:

- Ms J Foley, Community Development Officer, Papay Development Trust.
- Mr G Stove, Water Scheme Volunteer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Mr M Jones, Incoming Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr A Hourston and Councillors S Clackson, M Thomson and H Woodbridge, along with Mr R MacKay (Head of Planning and Community Protection) who had not been able to join via Teams.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held on 22 November 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs F McNab and seconded by Mr I Cursiter.

3. Grass Cutting Tenders

Members were advised by the Interim Clerk that no tenders had been received for the grass cutting at St Boniface for the 2024 season, and it was:

Resolved to readvertise the tenders with a closing date of 25 March 2024.

4. Matters Arising

A. Ferry and Pier Matters

Members discussed an email from Mr A Hourston, copies of which had been passed around, with his thoughts around the issues, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this further at the next meeting due to Mr A Hourston not being in attendance.

B. Papay Water Scheme

Members received an update from Mr G Stove regarding the digital monitoring of the wells and it was reported that the system would warn of a leak before the situation got too bad. Members heard that the old control boxes had been replaced but there were no connections on any of them yet, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr G Stove would consult with CloudNet about systems communicating with one another, and possible costs involved of getting this set up.
2. That the Water Attendant would be consulted regarding what would be useful from his point of view.
3. To discuss further at the next meeting.

Mr G Stove left the meeting at this point.

C. Fibre Broadband Proposal

Resolved to note that the contractor was due to visit the island within the next few days to complete the work.

D. Storage of Gritter and Salt

A member advised that some of the panels had been delivered to the island along with some pieces of concrete to tie them down, and that the local operative would be putting in the concrete soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

E. Community Council-owned Field

Members heard that a poster had recently been put up, asking for notes of interest in the piece of land but that, as yet, no correspondence had been received. Possible arrangements for rental and fencing were discussed, and it was:

Resolved that Mr I Cursiter would speak to the individual who had previously approached him regarding rental of the field.

F. Rabbit Survey

Mrs L Sharp provided an update on the work she had done to ascertain who owned land across the island and shared a map that had been shaded accordingly. Areas where landowners were interested in eradication had been shaded as well as areas where either cull or eradication could be considered. Ownership of some small areas of land remained unknown. Members were asked if this project should proceed, and it was agreed to continue looking into options, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs L Sharp would contact the contractor and ask for someone to come to the island and conduct a survey.
2. That the Community Council were happy to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the survey visit, subject to CCGS approval.
3. That the next steps would be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.

G. Post Office

As Councillor H Woodbridge was not present at the meeting, an update was not provided, but members expressed their disappointment that nothing was being done to reinstate a Post Office, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

5. Correspondence

A. Training with MET Office

An email had been forwarded to members on 8 December 2023, offering training on 8 January 2024 for those involved in community work, aimed at increasing resilience to severe weather events, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. R100 and SBVS/Briefing Note – Programme Update

Members had been sent two pieces of correspondence relating to the roll out of fibre broadband, one more general regarding the project and the broadband voucher scheme, and then an update specifically relating to Papa Westray, which advised that Cloudnet IT Solutions had already installed a full fibre build in Papa Westray, which would offer access to gigabit capable services to all residents on the island, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Community Councils Webinar - OU Scotland

Information had previously been circulated to members in relation to a webinar for community councillors on 18 January, the aim of which was to introduce the numerous ways that the Open University could support community councils across Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Scottish Islands Passport – What’s New for 2024

An email from Scottish Islands Passport had previously been sent round members, advising of some new features to the app so that people could collect new stamps and island points as they explore the islands, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Papa Westray Connectivity – Notes of Meeting

The notes of a meeting which had been held on 15 January in Papa Westray regarding connectivity had been shared with members on 14 February, along with the presentation slides used, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

F. King’s Portrait Scheme

An email from the Cabinet Office had previously been sent to members, offering a free framed portrait to celebrate the new reign of His Majesty the King, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for applications was 28 March 2024.

G. Community Councils Webinar - Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

Members had previously been sent information on a webinar for community councils with the Empty Homes Advice Service, which aimed to identify empty properties and bring them back into use, and it was:

Resolved to note that the webinar was to be held on 20 March and that members could sign up if they wished to do so.

H. CDF Allocation

Correspondence from Democratic Services had previously been circulated to members, advising that a further tranche of £5,000 had been made available to each of the twenty community councils in Orkney, and that the funding would be added to existing balances in their Community Development Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Recycling – Blister Packs

Copies of a letter from C Chattington were circulated at the meeting, in relation to recycling blister packs from medication via Terracycle, and requesting assistance in the purchase of the recycling unit, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond to C Chattington asking for further information about the recycling unit so that a decision could be made at the next meeting.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Local Development Plan Scheme

Correspondence had previously been circulated to member advising of the consultation regarding the first stage of the review of Orkney's Local Development Plan, and the publication of the Development Plan Scheme Newsletter. Members were invited to read the newsletter and provide feedback and comments on their approach to engagement, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had been 7 March 2024.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

A copy of the Verge Maintenance Plan had previously been circulated to members for their consideration ahead of the cutting season, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 29 March 2024.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024/2025

The Winter Service Plan had previously been sent to all members so that they could consider and suggest any necessary amendments for the coming winter period, and it was:

Resolved to note that any comments could be sent back via the Interim Clerk no later than 29 March 2024.

D. BSc Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest

Correspondence from Douglas Gunn, a BSc (Hons) student of Environmental Management, had previously been circulated to members, asking for assistance in promoting his survey on the Scottish Rainforest, and it was:

Resolved that a link to the survey could be put in the Papay Matters newsletter.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Papa Westray Community Council as at 1 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £16,882.56.

B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme

Following consideration of the Water Scheme Account statement as at 1 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £22,772.49.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 1 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits were £2,061.09, £703.40 and £719 respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 1 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £5,000.

8. Financial Requests

A. Papay Parent Council – Dance Lessons

Following consideration of a request from Papay Parent Council for financial assistance towards the cost of providing dance lessons, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £367.30, with £218.90 subject to CCGS approval and the remaining £148.40 being a donation from the general fund.

B. PCA - Coronation BBQ

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed to award PCA £250 CCGS funding towards a barbeque to celebrate the coronation and that it had since been claimed.

C. Papay Ranger - Genevieve Carver Visit

Members were provided with details of a financial request from the Papay Ranger, for assistance with the cost of hosting Genevieve Carver, a poet and artist who had been involved in the long-standing research into Fulmars on the island of Eynhallow. While on the island she would be delivering a workshop at the Kelp Store and a talk at the hostel, and both events would be free and open to all. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to cover £90 accommodation costs and £36 for flights, subject to CCGS approval.

D. PCA – Concert and John P

Members were advised that a request had been received from PCA, asking for financial assistance towards the cost of putting on a concert at Beltane on 23 March, and also for a picture to celebrate the late John P, who had provided music to a large number of events on the island over the years, and it was:

Resolved to cover the flight and accommodation costs for the concert, being £224, subject to CCGS approval.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that he had attended the Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings in January, and also a meeting the previous night to discuss the PSO Contract for the Inter-Island Air routes. Members briefly discussed the booking system and office opening hours at Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there had been no applications relevant to Papa Westray.

C. Health and Care

The Health and Care Representative advised that she had attended another meeting on 4 March where patient transport and digital appointments had been discussed. The urgent need for more home carers on the islands had also been considered, and members noted that two carers had recently been employed on Papay. She also advised that she was on the interview panel for the Head of Primary Care position, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

D. Water Scheme Admin

It was advised that the next water testing would happen on 25 March, and that bulbs needed to be cleaned and silicon spray applied, if not already done. The installation of bulbs was discussed and that another batch would be needed before long. It was also advised that a lockable cupboard would be useful to keep stock for the water scheme, and perhaps the office at the weighbridge could be used, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That community council members would liaise with the Water Attendant regarding replacing bulbs.

2. To note the next date for water testing of 25 March.
3. That a location be considered for storing the stock of equipment for the Water Scheme.

E. Papay Development Trust

The Community Development Officer advised that she did not have confirmation of funding for the continuation of her role, so they would wait and see what happened with that. She advised that they wished to acquire Daybreak and that an application to the Scottish Land Fund had been submitted. The Market Garden was operating with 50% of the usual staffing as there was no grant funding available for that, and volunteers were helping keep things going. She also advised that the Boat Store was progressing, and they aimed to get it sound and put interpretation material into it, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

10. Publications

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

- Letter from School Place – December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- VAO - Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.
- VAO - Big Sky Fund.
- VAO – Small Grants Scheme.
- Holyrood Highlights (25.11, 19.01, 26.01, 9.2, 1.3, 8.3).
- Week in Parliament (24.11, 4.2, 11.2, 25.2, 3.3, 10.3).
- Isles Special Collection Rotas to 30 September 2024.
- Loganair Passenger Statistics April 2023 to end of February 2024.

11. Any Other Business

A. Scrap Skip

Members heard that the scrap skip still had room for more wire and that they would put another scrap car away with it when it was taken back to Kirkwall, and it was:

Resolved that a reminder would be added to the next edition of Papay Matters.

B. Thank You

The Chair expressed thanks to Mrs L Sharp for her assistance with community council matters while the post of Island Link Officer had been vacant, and welcomed in Mr M Jones as the new ILO, and it was:

Resolved to note thanks to Mrs L Sharp.

12. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at 19:30 in St Ann's and via Teams.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.