

Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held in Rousay Community School on Saturday, 22 September 2018 at 10:15

Present:

Mr A Firth, Ms C Cox, Mrs Z Flaws, Mr R Friel, Mrs C Maguire and Mr R Tipper.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr A Blake, Ferry Services Manager, Orkney Ferries.
- Mrs E Soames, Clerk.
- Two members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mr J Garson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 23 June 2018 was approved, being proposed by Mrs Z Flaws and seconded by Mr R Friel.

3. Discussion with Ferry Services Manager

The Chair welcomed the Ferry Services Manager to the meeting. Discussion firstly focused on the reasons why Orkney Ferries were not able to provide a bigger vessel to do the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre routes. The Ferry Services Manager explained that they are governed by the rules of the MCA and they have to work within set parameters. Members made suggestions on how Sunday sailings during winter could be enabled, which included the dropping of some Saturday sailings throughout the year, and the Ferry Services Manager vowed to investigate the options suggested. A discussion around boat capacity and crewing took place, with the meeting discussing various other ways to improve the ferry services to the islands. The Ferry Services Manager noted the conversation and requests and agreed to look to see if improvements could be made. This included the possibility of recruiting extra crew.

Members also discussed concerns regarding the car park and loading area at Tingwall, as well as difficulties with getting through to the bookings clerk at Tingwall, and the Ferry Services Manager agreed to explore these issues.

The problem of tour buses taking up space on the ferry was discussed, however it was agreed that there was not much that could be done. On-request sailings were also discussed, with members expressing concern that some passengers had been refused a journey home to Egilsay from Rousay and felt that this was not fair. The booking system was further discussed, as well as the hydrogen ferry trials and the possibility of getting the MV Shapinsay for a period of time while the hydrogen ferry was carrying out the Shapinsay route.

The Chair thanked the Ferry Services Manager for attending, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the discussion.

4. Matters Arising

A. Vermin Eradication Scheme

Following advertisement around the Islands a number of residents had shown interest in the scheme, however no further applications had been received by the Clerk, and it was:

Resolved no further enquiries had been made.

B. Inter-Island Ferry Tickets

Following advertisement around the Islands a number of residents had put their names forward for tickets, and it was resolved:

1. That the Clerk would put forward the applicants' names to the Tingwall office to distribute the requested inter-island tickets.
2. That members agreed that the Clerk should continue and advertise the scheme again up to the agreed cost of £500.
3. To note that the scheme be discussed again once the £500 limit had been reached.

C. Scrap Car Scheme

The Clerk reported that a number of cars had been removed from the island so far, but that some had been sent without V5s, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the cars taken and for the Clerk to send out the DOVH form to residents who had not supplied a V5.

D. Notice Board

Members were advised of costs with regards to the notice boards and at how many sites they were to be located at, and it was:

Resolved to note that, as Mr J Garson was absent from the meeting and unable to contribute, the item would be carried forward to the next meeting.

E. NHS Orkney – First Responders

Members noted that a poster to recruit First Responders on Rousay had been displayed locally, with a lot of interest, but that the roles had not yet been filled, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

F. Kirkyard Matting

Members continued to discuss the issue of access to gravesides. A map of the kirkyard at Brinian had been provided and members agreed that the best solution would be for a cement path to be laid down the middle of the cemetery which would be suitable for vehicles to travel down. Members were in agreement that they would consider funding the path once further details had been obtained. The Community Council Liaison Officer offered to try and acquire a specification for such a path and, following discussion, it was:

1. That Democratic Services would ask the relevant officer for a specification for a suitable track through the cemetery.
2. That members would seek quotes from local contractors once a specification had been obtained.

3. That the graveside matting would be put on hold meantime.

G. Egilsay Bin Store

A quote had been received for works to build a bin store in Egilsay, and it was agreed that this would be forwarded to the relevant Council sections by Democratic Services to see if there were any reservations prior to progressing with the project, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send the quote to Democratic Services for consideration by Council officers and for clarification on what dimensions of bin store would be allowed.

H. Island of Orkney Brochure

Members noted the deadline of 16 November to get any amendments or additions sent to the Clerk for next year's brochure, and it was:

Resolved to advertise that any amendments should be sent to the Clerk for compiling and sending to Democratic Services by the deadline.

I. Ferry Services Consultative Forum Meeting

The Transport Representative advised that she had attended the meeting in August, and that small changes had been discussed such as adding two number plates to car ticket books, and it was:

Resolved to await the next meeting for more information from Ferry Services.

J. Rousay Healthy Living Centre - Treadmill

Members were advised that the treadmill had now been repaired, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Tingwall Car Park

Members noted that an advert had been put in The Orcadian advising locals to remove their vehicles and boats from Tingwall car park, following which there had been some improvement. Following discussion with Ferry Services Manager, members agreed that it would be beneficial if the car park could be re-lined, and it was:

Resolved that Harbours would be approached and asked to consider re-lining the car park to maximise the number of car parking spaces available and also to improve pedestrian safety.

L. Booking at Tingwall Office

Following the previous discussion with the Ferry Services Manager, members acknowledged that improvements had been made at the Office, and it was:

Resolved that any further issues should be advised to Orkney Ferries.

M. Pricing of Explorer Tickets

Following discussion which took place at Item 3 advising members that it was not possible for residents to get a ticket that matched the value of the Explorer ticket books offered to tourists, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

N. Access within the Kirkyards

Following discussion regarding various issues in connection with the Kirkyards across Rousay along with a gate needing to be replaced at Scockness, Mr R Friel offered to take a look and to visually inspect the Kirkyards, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council who was responsible for gates on Kirkyards and to ask if one could be replaced at Scockness.

O. Headstone Inspection Process

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been previously circulated, providing an update on the headstone inspection process, it was:

Resolved to note the contents.

P. ECA Late Boat Hire

Following a recent ferry charter, members noted that there was now a dedicated form to be used by groups wishing to hire a charter. The Ferry Services Manager advised that this should be filled in by the group arranging the event, and should be sent to Orkney Ferries in good time prior to the event, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would forward this form to anyone who required it in future.

5. Correspondence

A. Community Resilience Planning - Police Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Police Scotland, Mr R Friel advised that he was involved with this and would be attending future meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and for Mr R Friel to bring a plan to the next meeting.

B. Invitation for the 1187 Theatre to visit

Following consideration of correspondence from 1187 Theatre, advising of their one-man performance, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and request further information.

C. Tai Chi Sessions, OIC

Members were shown a letter from Orkney Islands Council regarding the continuation of Tai Chi on Rousay, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 4 September 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £22,367.36.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 4 September 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balances remaining for approval of £2,687.09, £102.56 and £642.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 4 September 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,500.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 4 September 2018, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £9,035.

7. Financial Requests

A. Police Scotland - Emergency Services Fun Day

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Police Scotland, copies of which had been previously circulated, towards the cost of their family fun day, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that no donation would be made.

B. Egilsay Community Association

Ms C Cox declared an interest in this item and was not present during discussion thereof.

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Egilsay Community Association, a copy of which was read out by the Clerk, towards the cost of fireworks for Bonfire Night, it was:

Resolved to award £300, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

C. Rousay Community Association

Mrs Z Flaws and Mrs C Maguire declared an interest in this item and were not present during discussion thereof.

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Rousay Community Association, a copy of which was read out by the Clerk, towards the cost of fireworks for Bonfire Night and a contribution towards late ferry hires for the Harvest Home and Burns Supper events, it was resolved:

1. To award £600 towards the fireworks, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.
2. To fund two thirds of the cost of the ferry charter for the Rousay Harvest Home, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.
3. That the request for funding towards a ferry charter for the Burns Supper would be considered at the next meeting.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

After hearing that there had been one planning application for the Rousay area, it was:

Resolved that progress on this application would be monitored.

B. Transport

The Transport representative agreed that all relevant discussion around transport had already taken place as part of the conversation with the Ferry Services Manager, and it was:

Resolved that any updates would be provided at the next meeting.

9. Publications

The following publications were made available to members:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – April, May and June 2018.

10. Any Other Competent Business - Healthy Living Centre Recruitment

Members shared concerns that OIC had not been able to recruit anyone to the vacant post at the Healthy Living Centre, and that one of the employees was due to

retire soon, having given plenty of notice. Members reported that they felt the job description and application process was overly complicated for the role and were hopeful that, once the post had been re-advertised, someone would be recruited, and it was:

Resolved to note the information discussed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of possible dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Saturday, 8 December 2018 at 10:15 in Rousay Community School.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 13:35.