

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 16 December 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mr I Deyell, Ms A Duncan, Mr C Kerlake, Ms L Paterson and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs C Mackenzie, Head Teacher, North Ronaldsay School (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms H Galland, Clerk.

- Two members of the public.

Order of Business

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs H Scott and Councillor S Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of held on 26 October 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr C Kerlake and seconded by Mr I Scott.

3. Matters Arising

A. Grass Cutting Tender

The Clerk advised that there had been two applications for the kirkyard and War Memorial grass cutting contracts. Given the reduced budget available from the Council for maintenance of the kirkyard, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would be asked to ask the Burial Grounds Officer if there was any negotiation on the budget they would be able to provide towards kirkyard grass cutting.
2. That members agreed that £550 was the ceiling amount they were willing to contribute towards kirkyard costs, subject to CCGS approval.
3. That the maximum that members were willing to contribute towards the maintenance of the War Memorial was £240, subject to CCGS approval.
4. That the Clerk would contact applicants once the above details had been clarified and confirmed.

B. Skip Update

The Clerk advised that she had received news that the skips had been fabricated, awaiting painting and would be shipped in the New Year. It was

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence

4. Correspondence

A. Service Manager, Transportation - Special Transport Meeting Queries

Members discussed a response from the Service Manager, Transportation, that had previously been circulated, in response to queries following the meeting to discuss Transport. Members were concerned that the ability to provide resilience through pre purchasing items in the good weather was over estimated, however they were pleased with the arrangement for booking Charter Boats. Payment for the Charter was discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the issue of personal resilience needed to be addressed at the Resilience Plan meetings when they are scheduled, and that Democratic Services would be asked to follow up when these are due to take place.
2. To note that members agreed they had good knowledge of the reasons when a Charter can be commissioned and can be trusted to respect this.
3. To suggest that any passengers using Charters should be notified that there is a fee for travelling.
4. That Democratic Services would be asked to make enquiries to find out if the ferry staff were able to take payments on board, which could then be deducted from the CC fee

B. Service Manager, Transportation - Consultation Process - New Ferry Procurement

Resolved to note that there was no funding available in the current budget and the issue was ongoing.

C. Councillor H Woodbridge - Island First Responders

Following consideration of correspondence, Councillor Woodbridge explained that there was a plan from the Scottish Ambulance Service for a volunteer model and this was due imminently, and it was:

Resolved to note that a date for a meeting would be scheduled in the New Year after the plan was made public.

D. Scottish Islands Federation

An update report regarding islands housing needs, including contribution made by North Ronaldsay Trust, had been emailed to members on 27 November 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the email.

E. North Ronaldsay Trust - Community Turbine Funds

Correspondence in relation to funds from the community turbine, from the Chair of NRT, was discussed. It was agreed that North Ronaldsay Trust should be questioned on the following points:

- The letter stated the money obtained from NRCC was a loan when in fact the details of the NRCC meeting of 9 April 2012 show it was an investment, particularly as there had been no agreement drawn up on repayment terms.
- If the NRCC (and indeed NRCA) own a percentage of the turbine then they are due regular payments from the feed in tariff.
- It is acknowledged landowners should therefore charge NRCC a percentage of "land rent".

- The £4,000 loan mentioned in the Chair of the NRT's letter was for a different project and has since been repaid to the NRCC in full.
- The Members have been made aware the Trust may be looking to do similar, but they suggest the money earned from the turbine could be used in a Winter Fuel Payment Scheme for the elderly/needy on the island.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would be asked to look up the minute of the meeting where this project was approved for financial support, to see what agreements, if any, are in writing.
2. That the Clerk would contact NRT once the above information had been accessed by Democratic Services.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Community Resilience in Emergencies

Members had previously been emailed a consultation regarding community resilience in emergencies on 29 October, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed on 15 November.

B. OIC Draft Transport Timetables 2025 and Procedure

Members had previously been sent copies of the draft transport timetables for winter 2025, and had additionally been sent information on how the consultation process works for these timetables. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ensure copies of draft timetables, and the process were put up in public places and the consultation promoted island wide.

C. OIC 20mph Limit Consultation

Members had been sent details of the 20mph consultation for areas in Orkney, but noted that the consultation did not involve North Ronaldsay, and they were unable to offer their opinions on the online form. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would report via Democratic Services that the 20mph limit sign near the school has wiring under the road which had caused the road to subside and needs filling in.
2. To that that members were advised to make personal complaints to the Council via the help/MyOrkney portal online, or via OIC Customer Services by phone.
3. That the Head Teacher offered to chase this up as this had significant impact on parents taking children to school.

D. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Members had previously been sent the consultation from OIC on polling districts and polling places, and were advised to make comments prior to the meeting given the deadline of 16 December, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

There was a query as to why the HIS Strimmer was included in the General Finance statement when a CCGS had been requested prior to its purchase and before the end of the last financial year.

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 29 November 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £18,939.78.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine statement as at 29 November 2024 copies of which were previously circulated and it was

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £22,724.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme as at 29 November 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was noted that the issue regarding the purchase of the new e-strimmer could only be resolved if some currently unused projects were closed and the funds released back into the capping limit. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To close the following projects and open them again in the new financial year:
 - White Goods Disposal (£462) (101708).
 - Septic Tank Emptying (£600) 102005).
 - Scrap Car Scheme (102202).
 - The remaining amount left in Servicing of the Lawnmower (£302.76) (102203).
 - Scrap metal Scheme (£390.02) (102205).
2. To note that funds could then be freed up for the purchase of the strimmer through CCGS, subject to approval.
3. To add the cost of a third child travelling, which had been approved at the previous meeting at total of £109.

4. To note that, in advance of the above changes, the total approved but not yet claimed was £1,254.31.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund as at 29 November 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

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

7. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that no requests had been received for discussion at this meeting.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

It was noted that large copies of the draft timetables for next winter had been received to be put in public areas, and it was:

Resolved that any issues the public wish to raise over the proposals should be sent direct to the Transport Representative.

B. Planning Representative

The Planning Representative advised that she had undertaken some training with OIC. An ongoing issue of access to planning applications in a timeous manner being thwarted by an internet supply with changing VPN will be addressed in the short term with OIC staff checking the planning applications and letting the island rep know if there are any of relevance, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Members were advised that work at the New Kirk was nearly complete, and that the new Wool Mill would be plumbed in imminently, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report but meetings were held regularly, although the last one was missed due to the internet service being down at the time.

E. Yarn Company Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – November 2024.

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – September, October 2024.
- Letter from School Place – November 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November 2024.
- Loganair Statistics - November 2024.
- Scottish Water 2024.
- ORSAS newsletter 2024.
- SEPA Update November 2024.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Core Path Obstruction Complaint

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was taken in private.

The two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

An access issue was discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members felt they did not have appropriate knowledge to be able to address this issue
2. That the OIC Planning Officer would be asked to visit the island to look at public access across the island.

B. NILPS Core Path Update

Alex Wright had sent the members a report on the work done to refurbish, restore or replace the broken and dangerous stiles around the Core Path to ensure access was freely available to all, and it was:

Resolved that members were in approval of the renovations and would like to thank Alex Wright for taking this Project forward to its conclusion.

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, 17 February 2025.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:49.