

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann’s Community Room, Papa Westray on Tuesday, 4 September 2018 at 19:30

Present:

I Cursiter, S Thompson, A Hourston, B Hourston, I Hourston, F McNab and N Rendall.

In Attendance:

- B Archibald, Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation.
- L Sharp, Clerk and Papay Island Link Officer (ILO).
- J Foley, Community Development Officer (CDO).
- 3 members of the public.

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1. Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed OIC's Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation to the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note apologies from Councillors S Clackson, G Sinclair and K Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 was approved, being proposed by F McNab and seconded by S Thompson.

3. Discussion - Papay Future Harbour and Boat Options

The Chair welcomed the Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation, who was attending the meeting in response to the questions submitted by PWCC on future boat and harbour options for Papay. He provided members with a hand-out, which is attached at Appendix A, and began by summarising the current fleet, noting that the youngest (the MV Graemsay) at 21 was older than the average vessel age of the Western Isles Calmac fleet. The Golden Mariana was by far the oldest vessel at 44 years old and OIC were actively working to find her replacement. The Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation confirmed that the importance of the service between Papay and Westray was understood, in terms of its roles as school transport, doctor's boat and connections with the Westray steamer. He explained that it had not been possible to find a suitable second-hand replacement due to the unique specification required (i.e. to carry around 40 passengers in waters that can have waves over 2.5m in height for more than 10% of the time). So, OIC were planning to purchase a new vessel, for which they had set aside £500,000. However, as this was insufficient for a new build, they had also submitted a request to the Scottish Government for a grant of £2.5 million. The Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation then outlined a number of different vessel options that OIC had been exploring as potential solutions for the Papay-Westray service. These fell into two distinct categories:

- Passenger-only vessels. One possibility would be a build of a vessel similar to the MV Huskyn, but configured to carry 40 PAX.
- Landing-craft type vessels that could carry a small number of cars as well as 40-50 PAX. This could be a vessel similar to the Cromarty Queen, which used to service the Nigg-Cromarty route, carrying up to 50 PAX and 4 cars. A slightly longer version was also possible, which could take up to 6 cars.

The Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation sought feedback from members on these ideas, and in discussion the following points were covered:

- Impacts on direct steamer and air services. It was explained that decisions on the direct steamer and air services would be made as part of the Scottish Government's STAG2 study, which was at the business case stage. The decision on the Papay-Westray service, although now being taken outwith the STAG2 study, would be taken into account in the solution for the overall future transport mix. In response to questions, the Head of Marine Services, Engineering and

Transportation advised that he felt that, should a landing-craft be the preferred option for the Papay-Westray route, then the larger it was the more impact there could be on the provision of, and subsidy of, direct steamer and air services.

- Landing-craft operations. A landing-craft vessel would need a ramp for operations. Members were advised that such vessels were able to cope with reasonably heavy weather, especially if the ramp was located in a sheltered position. It was likely that they would be no more affected by bad weather than the Golden Mariana. He further explained that such vessels are stable once landed and can be hauled up the ramp to shelter in severe weather. Some members were concerned about the ability of the Westray-Kirkwall service to cope with increased vehicle traffic from Papay, and the Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation advised that booking of the services would need to be linked in some way.
- Future Direct Steamer Service. It was advised that OIC would like to move away from craning operations, in the interests of efficiency and safety, to having all Ro-Ro operations for the direct Kirkwall steamer services. For Papay, he felt it would be technically feasible to build a wavescreen and linkspan pier, but that the existing pier, if still the best location, would need strengthened and extended. Such works were included as part of the options being costed in the STAG2 study. Members queried whether the height of the land at the current pier would be too high for a hard ramp. The Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation agreed that a change in location may be needed, and that this would also need to take account of the extent of shallows. The size of the marshalling area would also be looked at. North Ronaldsay presented a greater challenge but OIC were also looking at options that could deliver Ro-Ro operations there too. The decision on whether Papay got a Ro-Ro would be taken within the STAG2 study, which would also decide on the capacity of boats and their frequency of service. In response to a question, the Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation advised that he thought that the provision of a linkspan Ro-Ro service would not necessarily be discounted as an option should Papay choose to have a small landing-craft vessel for the Papay-Westray service.
- Haulier operations. It was noted that the introduction of a Ro-Ro and/or landing craft vessel would require the movement of cargo to and from Papay to go through a haulier company. Orkney Ferries would no longer handle goods directly nor would there be a blue box type system. This would increase costs (as was already the case for the other islands with Ro-Ro services) but could offer a job opportunity as a haulier for Papay.
- Different Ways of Doing Things. Members raised the possibility of the new Papay-Westray boat being harboured and operated from Papay, which would create jobs. The Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation agreed that this could be considered as an option in the investment appraisals, and that it would require a sheltered harbour or ramp. The question was also asked of whether there was a quicker route between Papay and Westray for the future service.
- Next Steps. The Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation advised that a workshop was due to be held on 24 October, as part of the STAG2 business case studies, and which Island Chair and Transport Representatives had been invited to attend. He advised that it would be useful if the members could

bring a clear view on Papay's preferences, as these would have an influence on the solutions for the fleet as a whole.

Members thanked the Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation for attending and providing an informative and useful discussion, and it was resolved:

1. That there should be a special meeting of PWCC before 24 October to decide the views to be put forward on behalf of the island.
2. That the ILO should prepare a summary based on the options discussed above, to be distributed to all Papay residents, and their views sought to inform the special meeting.

4. Matters Arising

A. Verge Cutting

Members welcomed news from A Hourston that the verge cutter was scheduled to come back out to Papay for a second cut. No update had been received on PWCC's request for delegated budget and delivery, and it was:

Resolved to note that a substantive response to PWCC's request for delegation was still awaited from OIC.

B. Kirkyard Earth Boxes and Shed

As agreed at the last meeting, the ILO had spoken with D Rendall to ask if he would design and submit a price to build collapsible earth boxes. A Hourston reported that he had then met to discuss requirements and design ideas, and that he expected a design and price to be forthcoming. In discussion, members agreed that the collapsible design would allow the boxes to be stored in the new Community Groups Shed that is under development, and that a request should therefore be submitted to OIC that they make a financial contribution to the Community Groups shed, rather than purchase another shed, and it was resolved:

1. That PWCC would await a price for having collapsible earth boxes made locally.
2. That a request should be submitted to OIC for a financial contribution to the new Community Groups Shed for storage of the boxes, rather than for the purchase of an additional shed.

C. Community Shed - Land and Field Numbers

A Hourston and B Hourston declared an interest in part of this item and were not present during discussion.

The ILO had reported via email to members that the land was now registered with the Scottish Government's Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate and had a field number. It was agreed that PWCC members would install the marking posts required to indicate the OIC retained land around the turbine. The ILO advised that she had received confirmation from OIC that they were content with the type of fencing proposed for the stretch of the boundary needed to meet a legal requirement of PWCC's purchase of the land. A tender for fencing had been put out locally for

this work and one bid had been received, from S Hourston. Members agreed that the price was acceptable but that an assurance was needed that the bidder would complete the works by 1 November 2018, and it was resolved:

1. That the Chair should arrange marking of the retained OIC land boundary around the turbine, by 1 November 2018.
2. That the ILO should put a contract in place with the accepted bidder for the fencing work, that seeks assurance of a 1 November deadline for completion of the works.

D. Water Scheme

A request had been obtained from the Water Attendant for purchase of a strimmer for maintenance of the land at the wells, with four options and prices put forward to members for consideration. The Chair advised that the Water Attendant had reported that the meter at a recently vacated property was showing that a small amount of water is still being consumed. A Hourston also reported that he had yet to install the new water hydrant needed near Beltane House, and it was resolved:

1. That the ILO should arrange purchase of a Makita 33.5cc strimmer.
2. That the ILO should write to the owner requesting permission to turn off the water supply at the meter.
3. To await completion of the works to install the new water hydrant.

E. Empowering Communities – Papay Priorities

Resolved to note that a substantive response was still awaited from OIC.

F. Steps for Plane

The OIC Airfield Superintendent had sent out a different set of steps to test for use by mobility-impaired users. Unfortunately, these were found to still have too high a step for users, and had nothing to hold onto for leverage, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would follow this matter up with the OIC Airfield Superintendent.

G. Community Playpark

Holding replies had been received from Councillor Sinclair but no substantive update had yet been received, apparently due to unavailability of the relevant officials, and it was:

Resolved to await a full response from Councillor Sinclair about OIC's lack of progress or communication regarding the way forward with the new Papay playpark.

H. New Pier Water Leak

Resolved to note that the leak had been repaired.

I. Bin for St Boniface Kirkyard

The ILO had obtained a quote for a new bin, which members felt was a bit expensive.

A Hourston advised that he had approached the OIC roads department to find out if they had a bin that could be sent out, and it was:

Resolved that the outcome of the approach to OIC would be awaited.

J. Weed killer Treatment of St Boniface Track and Carpark

The Chair advised that the first treatment had been carried out in June, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO should arrange for the second treatment in September plus a treatment at the St Ann's Kirk carpark.

5. Police Scotland Matters

A. Community Council Briefing Report

Following consideration of the Briefing Report supplied by the local constabulary, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided in the report.

B. Public Contact Research

Members had decided via email that they would like to send a representative to the consultation being carried out by Police Scotland, but unfortunately no members had been available to attend on the date chosen, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Community Resilience Planning

Members considered correspondence from Police Scotland, which provided details on Community Resilience Planning. In discussion, members felt that the existing Papay Contingency Plan addressed all of the points in the letter.

The ILO advised that she had recently been informed that PWCC's bid to the SSEN Resilience Fund for a grant to procure a satellite phone and airtime had been partially successful. SSEN were offering a grant that would cover purchase of the phone but not airtime. Members suggested that the anticipated VAO-administered Your island, Your Project programme may offer an opportunity to bid for funds for an airtime plan, and it was resolved:

1. To note the information in the Community Resilience Planning letter.
2. That the ILO should thank SSEN and continue to pursue funds towards airtime.

D. Weapon and Ammunition Surrender

The ILO advised that she had put a poster up to advertise the opportunity, and it was:

Resolved to note the matter.

6. Correspondence

A. Email regarding Unsafe Headstones

Resolved to note the information, which had been superseded by the correspondence at item E below.

B. L McArthur MSP - Homecare Worker Regulations

The ILO reported that she had received a follow-up from L McArthur MSP to his previous letter, containing copies of all previous correspondence that he had had with the Scottish Government on the issue, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Municipal Suggestions from Member of the Public

Members discussed the three suggestions proposed by R Wakeham of an outside bin at the Kelp Store/Old Pier, the provision of dog mess bins and bags, and a flower bed at St Boniface kirkyard for people to plant flowers. Members agreed that dog mess could be placed in any bin and so it was not necessary to provide special bins solely for this use, but that the ILO would ask for dog mess bags, and it was resolved:

1. That an outside bin at the Kelp Store would be a good idea and that A Hourston should approach OIC to request one.
2. That the ILO should ask for a supply of dog mess bags from OIC.
3. That members would consider whether a flower bed at the kirkyard would be feasible in the space created when the concrete under the old shed had been removed.

D. Digital Champion Training

The ILO reported that Democratic Services had requested that ILOs attend the advertised training taking place on 5 September, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Headstone Inspections - Update

Members discussed the letter dated 21 August from OIC on the Headstone Inspection process, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Papay School Parent's Council - Lack of Expressive Arts Provision

Members had received an email from the Chair of Papay School Parent's Council on 21 August, expressing concerns that OIC appeared to have removed Papay School from the Expressive Arts Itinerant teaching schedule without consultation. It appeared that the other small schools would retain their itinerant service. The Parents Council had contacted OIC Education Department on 2 July on the matter and had not received any response by 21 August. Members agreed that it was completely unacceptable for Papay School to have its service withdrawn with no consultation, and no equitable service offered. The ILO informed members that, following a recent intervention by Alistair Carmichael MP, the Education Department had now begun to communicate with the Parents Council, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and to provide a letter of support if the situation remained unresolved.

G. Papay Coop - Petrol Drought on Papay

An email had been received on 24 August from Papay Coop requesting PWCC's assistance in resolving the problem of the petrol supply to Papay having been stopped. The Transport Representative explained that previously, petrol had been collected from Scapa Flow by Highland Fuels in a 2000-litre bowser and driven to the North Isles pier. In a recent inspection, the Traffic Commissioner had decided that it was illegal for a 2000-litre bowser to be driven on public roads. As an emergency interim measure, the Coop had arranged for fifteen 20-litre drums to be filled at a public filling station and shipped out. Meanwhile efforts were continuing by Papay Coop and Highland Fuels to find a sustainable solution, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation but take action should the situation worsen.

H. Fish Farm Operations and Future Plans Near Papay

Members discussed an email received on 29 August from the owners of Vestness, Papay, concerned about the possibility of larger nets being allowed at existing fish farms and the potential future expansion of fish farming in the area. Members were sympathetic to the matter, recalling that the current fish farm off Vestness had been given planning approval despite a 100% objection from Papay residents at the time and despite it being much larger than OIC's own study had concluded was viable for the area. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the ILO should write to OIC's Planning Department summarising the history of local development, and requesting that there be no enlargements or expansions of fish farming off the coast of Papay.

I. Accessible Transport Event

Members had received notification of an Accessible Transport event in Kirkwall on 20 September. Whilst considered a very worthwhile event, members noted that PWCC was not a provider of transport, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

7. Consultation Documents

A. Orkney Local Biodiversity Plan

Following consideration of the consultation document on the Orkney Local Biodiversity Plan, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

B. Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy

Following consideration of the consultation document on the Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

8. Financial Statements

A. 2017/2018 Accounts

Members considered the financial year 2017/2018 accounts, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to accept the accounts as stated.

B. General Account

In consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council's General Account, the ILO advised that the Orkney Ferries costs should have been charged to the OIC Scrap Car Scheme, and that this was being rectified by Democratic Services, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £8,648.20 as at 20 August 2018, prior to the adjustments noted above being made.

C. Papay Water Scheme Account

In consideration of the financial statement for the Water Scheme Account, members noted the expenditure of £5,568 that had been necessary to repair the turbine, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £43,117.94 as at 20 August 2018.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the PWCC Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Community Development Fund

Resolved to note that PWCC's CDF allocation had been spent fully.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of a statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £1,012.54 was available for allocation, as at 20 August 2018.

G. Scrap Car Budget

The ILO reported that, according to figures provided by Democratic Services, a balance of around £800 remained of the original £2,000 budget. A further vehicle was booked to go for scrap and the ILO advised that she intended to advertise the scheme again in the next issue of Papay Matters, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

9. Financial Requests

A. Papay Fun Weekend

A financial request for Fun weekend had been received at short notice prior to the event and circulated via email for decision. Members confirmed in the meeting that it had been:

Resolved that a CCGS application should be submitted for travel costs of £420, and a grant of £332 be made from the General Account towards other costs.

B. Papay Oy Festival

Members considered the request from the Papay Ranger for a contribution to the November 2018 Papay Oy festival. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a CCGS application should be submitted for travel costs of £252, and a grant of £400 be made from the General Account towards accommodation costs.

C. Music Tuition on Papay

The ILO declared an interest in this item and left the room. On returning, members advised that they had:

Resolved that members supported the request and a CCGS application for the inter-island travel costs but suggested that a bid should be also made to the Your Island, Your Choice 2.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport representative advised that the winter air service would be the same as last year, and that Loganair would shortly be introducing on-line booking for the inter-isles flights. He had raised the problem with the published ferry timetables for Papay not being clearly enough signposted for visitors to find, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. Community Development Officer's Report

The CDO reported that the PDT was submitting a bid to the Scottish Land Fund to buy a property that would provide much-needed long-term rental accommodation. She also informed members that there had been one ad-hoc boat scheme sailing in this financial year so far, with funds allowing around nine more over the winter, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Papay Water Scheme Administrator

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

11. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications had been received:

- Loganair Statistics – April, June and July 2018.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – April and May 2018.
- Holyrood Highlights.
- Councillor Clackson Newsletters.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Skip for Scrap Metal

Following discussion of a skip for scrap metal, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had arranged for a skip to come out on 4 September.

B. BT Broadband

The CDO raised the significant problems that BT Broadband customers on Papay had met this year, with many outages of the service, due to the obsolete equipment in the Papay exchange. She reported that the Papay hostel was losing business as she was unable to respond to enquiries in a prompt manner. F McNab advised that she had raised this at the recent Orkney Digital Forum and had failed to get a satisfactory response from BT. Affected customers had also approached the MSP. Members agreed that the situation is unacceptable, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved to note that the next meetings of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Tuesdays 13 November 2018 and 15 January 2019 respectively.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting concluded at 22:40.