

Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Music Room, Westray School on Monday, 27 March 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs E Drever, Mr A Baird, Mr D Harcus, Mrs J Kirkness, Mrs A Rendall and Mrs R Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Correspondence	3
5. Financial Statements	5
6. Financial Requests	5
7. Consultation Documents – SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey	6
8. Reports from Representatives	6
9. Publications	7
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	7
11. Date of Next Meeting	8
12. Conclusion of Meeting	8

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mr L Pottinger and Councillor S Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 6 February 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs J Kirkness and seconded by Mrs R Rendall.

3. Matters Arising

A. Village Path

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this time.

B. Christmas Tree at Kalisgarth

Mr A Baird reported that the artificial tree was still in situ but that it would be taken down shortly. It was agreed that a real tree and lights would be purchased for the next festive season and that this would be funded from CCGS. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr A Baird would arrange for the artificial tree to be taken down in due course.
2. That the Interim Clerk would arrange for a real tree and lights to be purchased in time for the festive season.

C. Street Lighting – Northend to Hofn

Mr D Harcus advised that the light at the end of the Hofn did not work and had not been working for at least a year. A quick option would be to simply replace this light. It was agreed that this was a municipal area and used by a number of business, and therefore it would be good to have it officially lit. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mr D Harcus would meet with the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities on site the following day to take a look and to discuss possible options for improved lighting at this location.

D. White Lining in School Car Park

Mrs R Rendall explained that she had spoken to the Head Teacher of Westray School and that he felt that painting the lines would be achievable but that he could not promise that this would happen any time soon. Members agreed that it badly needed done and that the parking spaces and bus stop/drop off areas needed to be marked out to improve the safety in the car park, especially at busy times when both the school and community side of the building were in use. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities would speak to the relevant officer within the Council about this issue and report back to the community council.

E. Deposit Return Scheme

The Interim Clerk advised that there was no further information available on the scheme at this time. Mr A Baird gave information on possible ways that a hub system could be introduced to serve all businesses in one area rather than multiple businesses having to sign up. It was agreed that it seemed unlikely that this scheme would be rolled out in August as originally planned, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

F. Roads Issues

The Interim Clerk advised that this had not been followed up but that she would arrange for the issues to be looked at. Mr D Harcus provided a detailed list of areas where attention was required or that needed ditching works done, which included Farrivald to the Brim, and Tifter to Vale. The Westside was also mentioned. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would include the detailed report in her business letter to Democratic Services for action by the relevant department.

G. NHS24 Update

The Health and Care Representative provided a detailed report on the last meeting that had been held with OHAC and NHS Orkney officers, where it had been acknowledged that a one-size-fits-all approach would not be appropriate for the isles of Orkney. Those at the meeting had felt it was important that Westray and Papa Westray continued to use the system that was already in place for primary care and were also looking at options for some of the other smaller isles. Members were pleased to hear that the communities were being listened to, and it was:

Resolved to note the report and that there would be a further meeting in a few weeks' time.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney Ferries – Updated Sunday Excursions

Correspondence from Orkney Ferries with updated information on the scheduled Sunday sailings for the 2023 summer season had previously been circulated to members. Passenger figures for last year had been requested to try and ascertain how well used the excursions were in terms of Westray passengers, and the Community Council Liaison Officer provided an update from the Ferry Services Manager, and it was:

Resolved to note the dates of this year's excursions.

B. West of Orkney Windfarm – Community Panel Meeting Minutes

A minute of the last meeting of the West of Orkney Windfarm Community Panel had been circulated previously by email to members. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

C. VAO – National Lottery Community Fund Information

Information regarding upcoming information sessions and one-to-ones in relation to the National Lottery Community Fund had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Crofting Commission Area Representatives Recruitment 2023

Members had been forwarded information from the Crofting Commission, along with an advert promoting the volunteer position of Crofting Commission Area Representative, and it was:

Resolved to note that the poster would be put on display locally.

E. Funding for Coronation Events

An email from Democratic Services had previously been circulated to members advising of funding options for any requests to Community Councils for financial assistance towards Coronation events. The Chair advised that Westray Development Trust were taking the lead on organising events, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. EMEC – Fall of Warness – Variation of the Section 36 Consent

Correspondence from Marine Scotland Marine Renewables had previously been forwarded to members, advising that variation of the section 36 consent proposed in the application made on 22 August 2022 on behalf of EMEC had been granted by the Scottish Ministers, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. To note that concern was raised regarding expansion of tidal power in the Westray Firth having a possible detrimental effect on shipping.

G. Bag the Bruck 2023

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence advising of the dates of this year's Bag the Bruck event, 1 to 23 April, and arrangements for providing sponsorship through Community Council Grant Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to make £300 available to be split between any groups taking part that applied to the CC for sponsorship, subject to CCGS approval.

H. Scottish Government Islands Programme Application 2023/2024

Members had been forwarded an email sent on behalf of the Transportation Service Manager which advised that the Council was in the process of submitting an application for replacement airfield terminal buildings in the islands of Papa Westray, Stronsay, Westray and Eday, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and to provide a letter of support if required.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £31,886.29 as at 17 March 2023.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 17 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was over allocated, £743 remained in the additional capping limit, and £719 remained in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note that £5,000 remained available for allocation as at 17 March 2023.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note that no funding was left available for allocation, and £420 remained available to claim for the Westray Path.

6. Financial Requests

A. Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association

An invoice had been received for membership of Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association for 2023, and it was:

Resolved to pay the invoice from CCGS, subject to approval.

B. Westray Auk Club – Spring Trip 2023

A request from the Treasurer of the Westray Auk Club had been previously circulated to members, for financial assistance towards the spring trip to be held in May. The cost of hire and tea was expected to be £450, and it was:

Resolved to fund the cost of the trip, up to a maximum of £450, subject to CCGS approval.

7. Consultation Documents – SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey

Members had previously been forwarded the SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey, and some members advised that they had filled it in but did not feel it was a good survey, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had now passed and that some members had completed the survey as individuals.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that he had attended an extra meeting regarding ferries which had been convened following consideration of a letter which had been sent round all island community councils by Shapinsay Community Council. A letter had since been sent to the Chief Executive of Orkney Islands Council on behalf of all island community councils, outlining their concerns and giving some real-life examples of why the ferries were no longer fit for purpose. He also advised that the Council Communications Team were going to be assisting communities to collate a video to publicise and promote what is so wrong with the ferries and urged people to come forward with specific examples of how having to travel on the ferries makes their life more difficult or how undignified it can be. Members agreed that the issue was not with Orkney Ferries, and that unless we show the stark reality of the situation then nothing would happen.

Following discussion, it was agreed that something should be put on noticeboards, in the GP surgery, asking for people to come forward with their experiences.

The Transport Representative also advised that it had been agreed that the Transport Consultative Forum meetings should be split into smaller groups which would make them more relevant and constructive.

The post of skipper on the Golden Mariana was also discussed, in relation to the job description but it was agreed that this was not something for the community council to be involved in, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion.
2. That posters would be displayed around the island asking for assistance with experiences of Orkney Ferries to help the case for new ferries.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note that a report had been provided at Item 3G above.

9. Publications

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

- Isles Special Collection Rota.
- VAO Newsletter – February and March 2023.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – February 2023.
- Stephen Clackson’s Letter from School Place – February and March 2023.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Plastic Recycling

A member had asked what the situation was with recycling plastic in the isles and why the options for recycling in Westray were so limited. The cost to ship waste plastic away to be recycled was mentioned as the biggest factor as to why there was no collection for plastic in the isles. The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities added that part of the limitation is what happens at the end of the process, and that if the Council were successful in securing funding, then the plan was to set up a new Waste and Recycling centre at Hatston which would give the local authority more flexibility as to what they could do with the items collected.

Members felt that there was a feeling of apathy in Westray with regards to recycling and that a big campaign would be needed to restore faith in the system and encourage folk to recycle again rather than just putting everything in with the general waste. It was also queried whether OIC could tap into the Levelling-Up Fund for assistance for recycling projects. The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities advised that the Capital Programme for the next few years would be being looked at shortly and that these were the kind of stories that would help to inform discussions on potential projects going forward, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussions.

B. WDT Survey and Big Yarn

The WDT questionnaire was discussed, and it was agreed that this could be filled in at the next meeting. A member asked if the community council would be open to having discussions with WDT to discuss ways to work together on some projects, and the conference in October was also mentioned, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this item at the next meeting.

C. Roads Issues

Members asked for an update on the roads items that had been discussed at the previous meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the access road to Beachgrove had been reported to Roads Support.
2. To note that aggregate had not yet been ordered for the Rapness Kirkyard Road but that this would be organised as soon as possible by the Interim Clerk, with CCGS applied for on the cost of material plus haulage cost.
3. That the aggregate could be delivered to Clifton for the farmer to spread appropriately on the Rapness Kirkyard Road.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of potential dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Westray Community Council would be held on Monday, 5 June at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50.