

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 15 April 2021 at 19:30

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- P Baker, Island Link Officer/Clerk.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes .....	2
3. Matters Arising .....	2
4. Correspondence .....	4
5. Consultation Documents .....	5
6. Financial Statements .....	5
7. Financial Request - Papay Craft Group.....	6
8. Reports from Representatives .....	6
9. Publications .....	6
10. Any Other Competent Business – Orkney Ferries.....	7
11. Date of next meeting.....	7
12. Conclusion of Meeting .....	7

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of A Hourston and J Foley (Papay Development Trust).

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 was approved, being proposed by F McNab and seconded by S Thompson.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Question and Answers regarding Orkney Ferries**

Members discussed concerns regarding future proposals for the service and the fact that current restrictions due to Covid-19 were preventing another consultation, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, when Covid-19 restrictions allow, would re-submit the request for a consultation to be held to discuss the pros and cons of both the hard ramp option between Papa Westray and Westray and the roll-on, roll-off directly to Kirkwall.

### **B. Storage of Frozen goods aboard Orkney Ferries**

After consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding the transportation arrangements of frozen foods to Papa Westray, it was:

Resolved to note that since the mechanically operated freezer has been in trial use, and the condition set by Orkney Ferries for the freezer to be returned on the same crossing, members were happy with the current arrangements and felt that this would be very beneficial, especially through the summer months.

### **C. Papay Water Scheme Update**

Members were informed that the Clerk had submitted an application for funding through Orkney Islands Council's Community Development Fund, which would give 50% of the requested amount should the application be successful. Members were advised that the remaining 50% would need to be found to cover the full cost of the quotation from Filpumps and Cloud-net for improvements that would reduce the Lime in the water and manage the system more effectively, and it was:

Resolved that, should no other funding be available, funds from the Water scheme account would be used for the shortfall.

### **D. Community Resilience - Satellite Phone Funding**

Members heard that their point of contact for the NHS had recently retired and would pass on the information/email. Members felt that this should remain on the agenda due to the recent disruption in the mobile phone coverage which may have an impact on the decision of the NHS looking into an alternative mobile telephone network in replace of the satellite phone. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should not purchase any more airtime tariff for the Satellite phone until feedback is received from the NHS.
2. To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **E. Community Shed Completion Certificate**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, informing the Community Council that the completion certificate has now been issued, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **F. Lease of Land - Community Shed**

Following consideration of the draft lease that was presented at the previous meeting, it was:

Requested that the Clerk send a follow up email to Democratic Services as to the progress of the lease.

### **G. Fibre Broadband Proposal**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Cloud-net regarding the current situation regarding the fibre proposal, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **H. Kirkyard Road**

Following discussions regarding the condition of the Kirkyard road, it was

Resolved that the Clerk should advertise a tender locally for the repairs to the road and to include the specification of requested materials.

### **I. Ferry Arrangements - Papa Westray to Westray route**

Members considered correspondence received from the Ferry Services Manager, through Democratic Services, explaining that there was no reason to believe that there would be any issue with retaining a service similar to the current offered. Councillor G Sinclair also provided an update and explained that the Nordic Sea was currently carrying passengers on a temporary certificate and that there had been a lot of interest for the advertised job. Members were also advised that the current company supplying the service was being very cooperative with Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **J. Adjustments to Community Owned Skip**

After consideration of the verbal update received from the Clerk and Chair regarding the adjustments needed to allow the skip to be operational, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk was to copy Councillor S Clackson into any correspondence as he is on the board of Orkney Ferries.

## **K. Papay Fuel Container**

Following consideration of the verbal update from members explaining that the fuel cube was in constant use and that the current arrangements were working well, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **L. Storage of Gritter and Salt**

The Clerk advised that a potential solution regarding the storage of the gritter and salt had been offered to Orkney Islands Council, but that no response had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **M. Kirkyard Tender**

Following consideration of the tenders received following the advertisement of the contract for kirkyard maintenance, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award D Elves the contract for kirkyard maintenance for the 2021 season.
2. That members expressed their gratitude to R Jamieson for the previous years of commitment to keeping the kirkyard maintained and tidy.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Destination Orkney Letter**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Destination Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **B. Orkney Food Bank**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Food Bank, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **C. HITRANS – E-Cargo Bikes**

Following consideration of the information from Orkney Islands Council, on behalf of HITRANS, regarding notes of interest in an E-Cargo bike, it was:

Resolved to note that members felt at this time there would not be sufficient use for an E-Cargo bike.

### **D. Islands of Orkney Brochure**

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding amendments to the brochure for the 2021 season, it was:

Resolved to note that members felt that this was understandable, and a good idea given the current circumstances.

## **E. Insurance 2021-2022**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the insurance policy, it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk should request a new quote removing the wind turbine information.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Verge Maintenance plan for 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make on the consultation.

### **B. Orkney Partnership - Community Priorities**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Partnership, and assurance from Democratic Services that the online survey should take only 15 minutes to complete, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that members could complete this individually.

### **C. Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions on Islands**

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Scottish Government, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding options for the loosening of restrictions, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that members could have responded individually if they wished to.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 31 March, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £7,194.65.

### **B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme**

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 31 March, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £44,014.48.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2020-2021**

Following consideration of the 2020-2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 January 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit was fully allocated, that there was £634.80 left in the additional capping limit and £648 remaining in the island capping limit.

## **D. Seed Corn Fund**

After consideration of the Papa Westray Community Council Seed Corn statement as of 31 March, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated approved but not claimed balance was £1,000.

## **7. Financial Request - Papay Craft Group**

Following consideration of a request from the Papay Craft Group for financial assistance of £144 towards the material to make a quilt for a wedding gift from the island, it was:

Resolved that the full amount of £144 be paid from the general account.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Following discussions around the transportation of perishable items, it was:

Resolved to request that, if a boat is cancelled, perishable items be delivered using Loganair.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

### **C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator**

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

### **D. Papa Westray Development Trust**

Resolved to note there was no information to provide due to a representative being unable to make the meeting. However, members wished to express their gratitude for the very good support the island receives from the Development Trust.

## **9. Publications**

The following publications were noted by members:

- Orkney Ferries – Statistics - November 2020, January and February 2021.
- Loganair - Statistics – January and February 2021.
- Letter from School Place – February and March 2021.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business – Orkney Ferries**

Following consideration of the ro-ro and hard ramp consultation and options, loose cattle and haulage difficulties, members agreed that there are some very important outstanding issues that need to be addressed. Members understood that the Golden Mariana was to retire due to the condition and age of the vessel, so feel that it would not be very beneficial for her to be considered as a backup. Should the Golden Mariana be the reserve vessel, members requested that all the required upgrades and safety checks be implemented prior to making this decision. Should a reserve vessel be required, members feel that the Kirkwall Bay would be more suited and is a better sized vessel to be moored for longer periods in Westray.

It was also noted that members feel that more consideration needs to be taken regarding the transportation of loose cattle on board. Currently it has been proven difficult to receive back empty trailers in preparation for the next crossing. With this in mind more consideration is required for the future ferry service arrangements and the quantity of trailers that will be required to transport the cattle and who will be providing them, along with any haulage costs.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That members feel that another consultation is required with clear explanations of all outstanding concerns regarding the future proposals for Orkney Ferries and delivered to Papa Westray ensuring the pros and cons of each option are explained.
- B. To note that members are finding the current difficulties with hauling cargo on and off the ferry very frustrating, specifically the fuel bowser, even when it is empty.
- C. To note that members feel more consideration needs to be taken regarding the transportation of loose cattle.
- C. To request a clear plan for the backup/reserve boat to the new Nordic Sea.
- D. To include the above in the business letter to Democratic Services to ensure that when Orkney Ferries set a date for the consultation regarding the future ferry arrangements, a resolution to all of the above will be provided.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 10 June 2021 in St Ann's Community Room, or via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.