

# Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 26 September 2024 at 18:30

## Present:

Mr A Garson, Miss M Byers, Mr M Cockram, Mrs L Garson, Mr A Jones, Mr T McCabe and Mr H Thomson.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk (via Teams).
  
- Two members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor S Clackson.

## **2. Election of Office Bearers**

### **A. Chair**

Following discussion, and unanimous agreement by members, it was:

Resolved that Mr A Garson was elected Chair of Eday Community Council.

### **B. Vice Chair**

Following discussion, and unanimous agreement by members, it was:

Resolved that Mr H Thomson was elected Vice Chair of Eday Community Council.

### **C. Transport Representative**

Resolved that Mr H Thomson should remain Transport Representative for Eday Community Council.

### **D. Planning Representative**

Resolved that Mr A Garson should remain the Planning Representative for Eday Community Council.

### **E. Health and Care Representative**

Following discussion, and unanimous agreement by members, it was:

Resolved that Miss M Byers was elected Health and Care Representative for Eday Community Council.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 6 March 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr H Thomson and seconded by Mr T McCabe.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. First Responders**

Councillor H Woodbridge advised that the Orkney Partnership had recently had a meeting on what the next steps should be. They have had ongoing conversation with the Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, trying to find a way forward. SAS had been of the opinion that the volunteer model was sustainable and met statutory requirements, but the Orkney Partnership felt that this was not a sustainable model to provide this statutory service and aimed to put pressure on other organisations to make this equitable across the piece. Councillor H Woodbridge also advised that she had had a meeting with the Health Minister, and he had been sympathetic but had urged the relevant bodies to try and sort it out

between themselves. She advised that the next line of action would be to involve Volunteering Scotland, and that they were going to put together a case study to put back to the Cabinet. Councillor M Thomson further reported that relevant parties in Eday were going to have a meeting on 9 November to try and get people interested in becoming First Responders. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update and to keep this item on the agenda.

## **B. Pier Toilets and Waiting Room**

Members heard that there had been no progress with upgrades to the pier toilets and waiting room and advised that they would still like to push to get something better and more disability friendly, highlighting that Eday hasn't had anything new for a long time. Mr T McCabe was asked to send photos however he advised that someone had already been out, possibly from Harbours, to take photos.

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that correspondence had been received earlier in the week regarding the weighbridge building at Eday pier. Following discussion, members advised that they would suggest keeping the building, in case there was a want to do something with it in the future. They would be open to the idea of a community asset transfer but would need to be advised of the implications, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask Marine Services for an update on progress with any improvements to the Pier Toilets and Waiting Room.
3. That the Interim Clerk would respond to the query from Marine Services in relation to the weighbridge building, advising that the community council would like to see it retained and would be open to the idea of taking ownership of it.

## **C. Cattle Pens**

Resolved to note that no update was available on the proposed cattle pens at Eday Pier and to await further information.

Members heard that following further consultation, no suggestions had been forwarded for additional salt bins and that Orkney Islands Council had been made aware of this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **D. Ad Hoc Flights**

Mr H Thomson advised that the availability of ad hoc flights to Eday had been discussed at the recent Transport Consultative Forum meetings, and that Eday would hopefully get an allocation of ad hoc flights once the new contract had been agreed.

He also advised that there was a proposal for the east side ferry to be delayed by half an hour, due to the waiting time in Kirkwall. He had argued against this, and it had been agreed to discuss it further before any changes were made, however they had not heard any more about it. He had been pleased to hear, however, that Orkney Ferries were looking at doing something with the Nordic Sea similar to the refit timetable, and that they were currently working timetables etc, to include Stronsay. Any information would be communicated via the Transport Representative, and it was

Resolved to note the update.

## **E. Haulier**

Mr H Thomson raised that Eday CC had met with a representative of Sinclair Haulage at the last meeting but that they had heard nothing since. Members advised that they felt the service had not improved and that they had received representations from members of the community. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that both Stronsay and Sanday Community Councils were looking to have a meeting with Sinclair Haulage to discuss the issues, so it was suggested that this could be a joint meeting with all 3 community councils, if Sinclair Haulage were agreeable to this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To put together a suite of questions to put to Sinclair Haulage.
2. That Democratic Services would liaise with Sinclair Haulage to try and arrange a meeting between them and Eday Community Council.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Volunteering for Island Games 2025**

Members had previously been sent information regarding recruitment of volunteers for the Island Games to be held in Orkney in 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and that the sign-up deadline had now passed.

### **B. Local Place Plan**

Copies of correspondence relating to communities putting together a place plan for their area had previously been circulated to all members. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, advised that this was a very useful thing to have when trying to pull in funding for community projects, and that it needed to be driven by the community and not by officers, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the correspondence.
2. That Eday Partnership would be approached to lead on the formulation of a place plan for Eday.

### **C. New Orkney Ferries Booking System**

Members had previously been sent information with an update on the new booking system for Orkney Ferries. Councillor M Thomson advised that there had been further delays with getting the system live but that it would be a big improvement once it was available to use at full functionality, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Orkney Ferries Office - Sunday Opening**

Information from Orkney Ferries regarding extended opening times to include Sundays had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and that this was a positive move.

### **E. Annual Grant 2024/2025**

Correspondence from Democratic Services had previously been circulated to members, advising of the annual grant amounts for all community councils for the financial year 2024/2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that the annual grant awarded to Eday CC for 2024/2025 was £4,163.64.

### **F. Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure - CC Attendance**

Members considered correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that officers from her service would not be attending so many community council meetings but would aim to join at least one per year, in person. Members were further advised by the Corporate Director to report faults to MyOrkney and to liaise as usual through the Democratic Services team, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **G. Orkney Towns Fund Community Workshop**

Information regarding a workshop to discuss possible ways to spend the Towns Funding allocated to Kirkwall recently had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had taken place on 18 July and that another online event was planned for 1 October 2024.

### **H. Ferry Replacement Programme Update**

Members had previously been emailed a copy of a presentation which provided an update on progress with the ferry replacement programme. Councillor M Thomson advised that the working group would be progressing funding for the business case, as well as considering what the boats should look like, pier upgrades that would be necessary to be able to deliver something. This would be so that they could go out to procurement and tender for designing boats etc, as they would need a rough idea of cost and specification. The working group would be continuing to make the case for

funding, be it a full funding package or something that might be paid out in stages, but that they were working positively with the Scottish Government.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **I. OIC Winter Treatment Contracts**

Correspondence from the Head of Neighbourhood Services had previously been sent to members, with regards to emergency works which may be required. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure further advised that the Council would like to have a list of people on the isles that they could get in touch with and that could help us with winter services, to provide an extra bit of resilience. She added that if people were still interested, they should get in touch, but acknowledged that the thought of going through the procurement might be putting people off, and unfortunately, they were unable to be flexible with that requirement, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **J. Orkney Towns Fund Board – Online Community Engagement**

Resolved to note the invite for a further online engagement session which was due to be held on 1 October 2024.

## **K. ZEVI Update**

Members had previously been emailed information on the ZEVI trials, and the expected dates for the vessels to arrive in Orkney. The Shapinsay and Rousay services would commence first, subject to sea trials, and then the bigger vessel would arrive. Members were encouraged to consider and ask in the community as to what kind of service they would like to see provided so that this could inform the draft timetables for the trial period next year. Members agreed that it had been beneficial to have use of the Nordic Sea to give an idea of what any possible service might look like, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and to consider options for a preferred service.

## **L. Fireworks**

Correspondence from a local resident had been received prior to the meeting and was discussed by members. The request was for consideration to be given to quieter or silent fireworks to be used if there was to be a display this year. Members also discussed other arrangements for the event, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr H Thomson would liaise with the retailer regarding quieter fireworks for this year's event and advise Democratic Services of what was required so that a purchase order could be raised.

2. That a CCGS application of £600 for the cost of the fireworks would be submitted by the Interim Clerk.
3. That the display should be held at the same location, in the vicinity of the school.
4. That Eday Community Association would be asked to arrange food and refreshments, funded by the community council up to £200, subject to CCGS funding.

## **6. Consultations**

### **A. The Future of the Universal Postal Service**

Members had previously been sent information on a survey regarding the future of the universal postal service and how a new service might operate, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed on 4 April 2024.

### **B. OIC Housing Survey**

A survey which had been circulated by OIC Housing had been previously emailed to members, asking for feedback

Resolved to note that this survey had closed on 29 April 2024.

### **C. Islands Connectivity Plan**

Members noted that an event had been held on 1 May to discuss the Islands Connectivity Plan but that it had not been as useful as hoped, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **D. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National Public Consultation**

Details of a public consultation by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had previously been circulated to members, regarding the future of the service, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed on 30 June 2024.

### **E. Review of the Orkney Local Development Plan**

Members discussed correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, in relation to the review of the OLDP, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was due to close on 30 September 2024.

### **F. Review of Gambling Policy**

A consultation from Orkney Islands Council Licensing had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed on 28 June 2024.

## **G. Water Safety Questionnaire**

Members had previously been sent details of a survey being carried out by OIC Safety and Resilience Team, regarding water safety and activities in and around water, and it was:

Resolved to note that the survey had closed on 11 August 2024.

## **H. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Development and Marine Planning section, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the regional marine plan, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open for responses until 25 October 2024.

## **I. Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Development and Marine Planning section, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding special guidance for finfish farming, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open for responses until 25 October 2024.

# **7. Financial Statements**

## **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Eday Community Council as at 26 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £13,644.79.

## **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Eday Community Council as at 26 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of £2,548.81 and £765 in the main and additional capping limits, and that the island capping limit had already been fully allocated.

## **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement for Eday Community Council as at 26 September 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £7,667.11 remained available for allocation to eligible projects.



## **8. Financial Requests**

### **A. Eday Community Association – Eday Show and Summer Events**

Members considered correspondence from ECA, copies of which had previously been circulated, outlining their plans for events over the summer and requesting financial assistance towards accommodation, prizes, catering etc. A breakdown of costs had been provided and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award £741.50 towards the various island summer events, subject to CCGS approval.

### **B. Eday Community Association – Harvest Home and Christmas Events**

Members considered correspondence from ECA, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting assistance with the cost of putting on Christmas events, including presents for island children, and for band fee/travel and decorations for the Harvest Home on 1 November 2024. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award up to £555 towards the Santa visit and Christmas party, and £200 towards the Harvest Home decorations, subject to CCGS approval.

## **9. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

Resolved to note that Transport updates had already been provided earlier in the meeting.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note that there was nothing of interest to report from the weekly lists.

### **C. Health and Care**

Resolved to note that there was no update to provide.

## **10. Publications**

The following publications had all been previously emailed to members, and were noted:

- Scottish Water Spring Newsletter 2024.
- VAO Newsletter – March, April, May, June, July and August 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – March, April, May and July 2024 and September 2024.
- Loganair Statistics.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2024.
- SRA Newsletter – March, May and June 2024.

- Letter from School Place – March, April, May, June, July and August 2024 and September 2024.
- Farm Diversification Drop-In Event – 2 May 2024.
- Review of OLDP Newsletter – June 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – June 2024.
- Isles Special Collection Rota to 31 March 2025.

## **11. AOCB**

### **A. War Memorial Refurbishment**

The Chair referred to page 3 of the minute of the previous meeting, where the war memorial refurbishment had been discussed. Miss M Byers advised that it was proposed that the whole of the monument be repainted and that she was awaiting a quote from J Corse. Members agreed that they would be willing to consider funding the refurbishment.

Members also discussed the possibility of commissioning a wrought iron cage to put the remembrance wreaths in so that they did not blow away, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Miss M Byers would circulate a proposed cost for the refurbishment of the Eday War Memorial so that members could consider funding the project.
2. That members would resume consideration of an iron cage at the next meeting.

### **B. Access to Pier Steps**

A member advised that there was a vessel which was regularly blocking the steps at Eday Pier, which was affecting Northerly Marine when they came to the island.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr T McCabe would speak to the vessel owner.
2. That a formal communication would be sent to Marine Services if the situation did not improve.

### **C. Parking at Eday Pier**

A member raised the issue of parking at the top of the pier, with lots of work vans being left, and that vehicles were being left parked with big widths between each vehicle, meaning that there was not much available space. It was suggested that parking spaces could be marked out. Members wondered if it would be worth having a word with the contractors, raising it in the newsletter, or putting a letter to Harbours. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to put a notice in the newsletter about the parking issue and to monitor the situation.

## **D. Fireworks**

Members resumed consideration of holding a bonfire and fireworks event, and possible venues were mentioned. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To hold the event on Saturday, 9 November 2024 at the school, with the bonfire outside and food and drinks inside the school afterwards.
2. That Eday Community Association would be asked to run the food and refreshments, up to £200, subject to CCGS approval.
3. That Mr H Thomson would arrange fireworks up to the value of £500, particularly low noise, and that CCGS should be applied for to cover the cost.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Eday Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 29 January 2025 at Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:00.