

# Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 3 June 2024 at 19.30

## Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mrs H Scott, Mr I Deyell, Ms A Duncan, Mr I Scott, Mr C Kerslake.

## In Attendance:

- Ms H Galland, Clerk.
- Mrs C McKenzie, Head Teacher North Ronaldsay, Hope and Burray Schools (via Teams).
- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mr K McPherson, Head of Asset Management (via Teams).
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications (via Teams).

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs L Paterson and Councillor H Woodbridge.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of North Ronaldsay Community Council meeting held on 8 April 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr I Deyell and seconded by Mr C Kerlake.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Air service mobility access meeting held on 22 April update**

Correspondence from the Head of Transport was read out indicating that Loganair was looking into addressing mobility access of the current aircraft. It was advised that the new Loganair contract had mobility factored into it, and members asked if they were able to access the contract or if anyone had viewed it. Members agreed that the design of the plane was the main issue, being built at a time when people were smaller, and mobility was not considered. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask via the business letter if it would be possible to view the contract.
2. To note that the issue was being discussed at a higher level and the community council would wait to hear of the outcome of recent meetings.

### **B. Islands connectivity plan consultation workshops held on 30 April update**

Members heard that the meeting was well attended and received good feedback, although the aim of the meeting was misunderstood - rather being about how well issues are communicated and addressed, as opposed to being about the actual issues but there has been no follow up correspondence from the hosts. The issue of connectivity between island and mainland was raised and the fact flights to Kirkwall and the onward flight to Aberdeen (for hospital visits) are at the same time in the winter forcing patients to have an overnight stay in Kirkwall before and after their appointment date. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the issue be monitored and see if outcomes are forwarded at a later date.

### **C. Grass cutting contractor requests**

Members discussed kirkyard issues. The Clerk advised that the new contractor had made a number of requests to be approved by the members, including whether there was funding to pay for extra ad hoc work such as bone burial, tree tidying, roof slate clearing, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the wooden sleepers restricting access to the mower shed could be moved to the other side of the shed to make mower access easier.
2. To pay for one extra cut in this early part of the season and the grass cutting frequency can reduce later on in the season if necessary.
3. That tree cutting could be undertaken as part of the extra cut but that other ad-hoc works would need to be raised to the Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure department.
4. To note that an edging spade was purchased following approval via email.
5. To purchase more cutting blades once the contractor confirmed what product is needed.
6. That the contractor and any member of the public be encouraged to report rabbit issues (i.e. bone resurfacing and other destructive activities) to the OIC via their one stop online reporting facility, as this would be a step to getting it addressed by the appropriate department.

#### **D. Access to gas for cooking/ heating since passing of service provider**

Resolved to note that there was a new official gas provider for the island and therefore this was now no longer an issue.

#### **E. Issues with grave digging for the island now no on-island contractor**

Members heard that after changes to the Council's regulations on grave digging, a recent funeral was delayed causing distress to the grieving family and the issues encountered need addressing for future island requirements. Only OIC approved equipment was allowed so the locally available mini digger was denied access, meaning a boat was necessary to transport the OIC owned one. It was agreed that boat delays (especially in winter) could be catastrophic in the organisation of a burial, so a contingency plan was needed, such as a Chapel of Rest, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That an OIC appointed grave digger was needed who is resident on the island.
2. That the Clerk would send a letter which came from OIC to the then Chair detailing the new regulations to the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, who would then forward to the appropriate departments and look into this issue on behalf of NRCC.

#### **F. Residents enabling/ allowing animals to stray on main road issues**

After a few domestic animals belonging to the same resident had been killed on the road, the issue of allowing animals to stray on the main road was raised. It was agreed that it was irritating that animals were not confined to their enclosures. It was

advised that while loose animals were not a Police matter, repair of any damage done to the road or road users due to loose animals was the responsibility of the animals owner, and it was:

Resolved that this was not a matter the community council members wished to address.

## **G. Agreement of Guidelines for Cattle Floats**

Members heard that after conditions of use were drawn up for other animal use (other meaning not cattle going to mart), a request had come in to use the trailers for furniture removal, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members agreed that any use of the trailers was allowed, as long as all other conditions are met and as long as the request does not conflict with a legitimate use for the trailer (i.e. animal movements take precedent).
2. That approval would be sought from members for any further “other use” requests.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Response from Head of Transport in response to letter sent after meeting February 2024**

Correspondence was received and emailed immediately after the previous meeting on 9 April 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. NHS Health Care Orkney - Webinar Designing Homes for Cognitive Aging Residents**

Correspondence was received and emailed on 15 April 2024 regarding a webinar on 17 April, and it was:

Resolved to note the meeting date had passed.

### **C. OIC - Farm Diversification Event**

Correspondence was received, emailed on 22 April 2024 and shared locally, regarding an event on 2 May, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Neurodiversity in the Workplace Conference**

Correspondence was received and emailed 2 May 2024 from the Scottish Parliament regarding a conference on 23 May, and it was:

Resolved to note the date of meeting had passed.

## **E. Online Event for National Islands Plan**

Correspondence had been received from the Scottish Islands Federation and emailed on 3 May 2024, and shared locally, regarding an event on 22 May, and it was:

Resolved to note the date of event had passed.

## **F. SFRS – Consultation Meeting**

An invite to join a Teams meeting on 15 May regarding the consultation being carried out by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline had passed.

## **G. Update on report of dangerous school road**

Correspondence had been received from the Head Teacher of North Ronaldsay School and emailed to members 21 May 2024, regarding the access track to the school, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the members wish to express their gratitude to the headteacher for getting the matter addressed.
2. To note that it had been confirmed as of the day of the meeting that the road potholes had been filled and tarmacked.

## **H. Orkney Ferries - New Booking System**

Correspondence regarding the new booking system had been received and emailed to members on 20 May 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **I. Fire safety and use of lithium-ion batteries**

Correspondence was received and emailed on 20 May 2024 regarding the safety of lithium-ion batteries, and asking members to support the bill, and it was:

Resolved to acknowledge NRCC's support for this bill.

## **J. Online Meeting - Island Depopulation on 5 June 2024**

Correspondence was received and emailed 26 May 2024 from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online meeting on 5 June, and it was:

Resolved to note that members would advise the Clerk via email if they would like to participate.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

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

Correspondence was received and emailed previously regarding a consultation on the future of the postal service, and it was:

Resolved to note that this had been addressed at the previous meeting ahead of the 27 March 2024 deadline.

### **B. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Public Consultation**

Correspondence was received and emailed on 1 May 2024, and shared locally, regarding shaping the SFRS, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that members had until 30 June 2024 to respond to the survey.

### **C. Islands Plan Consultation**

Correspondence was received and emailed on 7 May 2024 in relation to a consultation on the Islands Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open until 30 June 2024.

### **D. OIC Review of Gambling Policy**

Correspondence was received and emailed on 15 May 2024 in relation to the Gambling Policy, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 28 June 2024.

### **E. Orkney Matters 2**

Correspondence was received and emailed on 21 May 2024 regarding the Orkney Matters 2 event which had been scheduled to happen on 23 May 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that the meeting was postponed and at the time of meeting no new date had been confirmed.

## **6. Financial Statements**

The Financial Statement posted to the Clerk had 2023-2024 CCGS statement. A 2024-2025 statement was emailed to the clerk and shared at the meeting. It was:

Resolved:

A. The General Statement dated 21 May 2024 has an expenditure of £17,672.63 with no date or description which is being disputed by the Members.

B. The Community Development Fund sheet was for Birsay Community Council not North Ronaldsay.

C. As a result, nothing could be gleaned from the financial statement at this meeting and a new one is requested immediately- this being the second meeting where an incorrect financial statement had been issued.

## **7. Financial Requests**

Resolved to note there was no requests for financial support since the last meeting.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

The ongoing issues which included, but were not exclusive to, access to flights, fully booked flights and no shows resulting in half empty planes departing, along with stranded passengers and people unable to access hospital appointments were discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the list of issues to be addressed at an island specific transport meeting should be forwarded to Democratic Services to be passed on to the invited representatives as outlined at the last meeting, and prior to a meeting date being organised.
2. That the Transport Representative would collate items to raise at the next Transport Consultative Forum meeting being held on 20 August 2024.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that the Planning representative was not present and that no planning issues had been raised since the last meeting.

### **C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative**

Members were informed that a new e-minibus was now in use and would be put to further community use once the insurance details had been finalised. It needed to be charged at the Bird Observatory as the ongoing building work at Trebb prevented it from being stored there at the moment. It was also reported that the building work at Trebb was progressing, and the Trust planned to submit plans into the next island newsletter so that people who had been unable to go to the recent AGM were able to see what is happening.

It was also advised that there had recently been a visit by a Japanese contingency who were researching and developing vertical farming. This visit had been constructive and there were hopes to work together to deliver a food project within the Trebb works, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### **D. Health and Care Representative**

Members were advised that the next Joint Isles Health and Care meeting was due to be held on 10 June, and that the Council had recently contacted the Health and Care

representative, inviting residents who may be interested in becoming home help/ home carers to an on-island drop-in session. Details of this would be forthcoming. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **E. Yarn Company Representative**

Resolved to note that the mill currently had some mechanical issues and was not functioning, but it was hoped that the issues would be addressed very shortly.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – April and May 2024.
- Letter from School Place – April and May 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – April and May 2024.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics - May 2024.
- Loganair – Statistics - May 2024.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Chairs Meeting**

The Chair advised that online meetings with Chairs were resuming after a lull following Covid. The next meeting was due to be held on 4 June 2024 and the Chair stated that they were unavailable, and it was:

Resolved that the Transport Representative would step up and attend the meeting on this occasion.

### **B. R100 Update**

The Clerk advised that she had contacted the islands internet service provider to get an update on an on-island public meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that Cloudnet were waiting to hear when a member of the Scottish Government was available to attend a meeting on-island.

### **C. Annual Grants 2024/2025**

Late correspondence indicating the increase in Annual Grant amounts had been emailed and was circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask if the increase factored in an increase in population given the rising number over the past few years in North Ronaldsay.
2. To note that the annual grant amount for NRCC for financial year 2024/2025 was £3,751.39.



## **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, 2 September 2024 at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:45.