

Minute of the Meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held in the Burray Hall on Wednesday, 22 January 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr Derek Ward, Mr Richard Bland, Mr Roger Jackson, Mr Angus Konstam, Mr Iain Laird, Ms Karen Sinclair and Mr R Smith.

In Attendance:

- Councillor James Moar.
- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Miss Cheryl Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.

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1. Apologies

The Vice Chair opened the meeting and welcomed three new community council members who had been elected at the public meeting prior to the meeting, two of whom were present; Mr Angus Konstam and Mr Iain Laird, and it was:

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Fiona Lawtie and Councillors Raymie Peace and Gillian Skuse.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held on 6 November 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Derek Ward and seconded by Mr Robert Smith.

3. Matters Arising

A. Daisy Villa

Members had previously been sent an update from the Head of Primary Care Services, advising that the dispensary at the surgery would remain the same as it had been and that there were no plans to change this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Bus Shelter in St Margaret's Hope

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that Roads Support had provided a marked-up plan of where a bus shelter could be sited, but that this would be subject to permission from the landowner and neighbouring properties, as well as funding being available. The Service Manager, Transportation, had also advised that they were looking to secure funding for the shelter in the new financial year, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond, via the business letter, and advise that the community council were in support of a shelter in this location and ask that further information be provided.

C. Smiddy Museum

Ms K Sinclair advised that a meeting had been arranged between herself, Mrs F Lawtie, and a representative of the Council's Museums service to discuss possible improvements to the Smiddy Museum, and that she would report back to the next meeting. The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that an application had been submitted to the Culture Fund for financial assistance but that it had not been successful. It was also advised that a meter reading was required, and it was agreed that this would be taken at the next opportunity. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that information regarding QR codes for donations had been passed on by the Leisure and Culture section and that Democratic Services would look into this on behalf of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a meeting would take place on 18 February 2025 at the Smiddy to discuss possible improvements.
2. That the Interim Clerk would liaise with keyholders regarding obtaining a meter reading for the Smiddy.
3. That Democratic Services be asked to investigate further the use of a QR code to enable digital donations at the Smiddy.

D. Hillside Road, Burray

Members had previously been sent an update regarding speeding on Hillside Road, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the advice that speeding incidents should be reported to Police Scotland along with details e.g. registration, make of vehicle etc.

E. St Margaret's Hope Flood Group

Members again discussed the difficulty in setting up a Flood Group for St Margaret's Hope and it was agreed that this was not something they had the capacity to take forward, and it was:

Resolved that South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council would not be taking on responsibility for setting up a flood group but that they would pass on details of the individual who could advise, should anyone else in the community be interested in doing so.

F. South Ronaldsay and Burray Place Plan

Members had previously been sent correspondence from Development Trust, with an example consultation form that had been used by another community group in Orkney who were working on a place plan.

Further discussion followed, regarding possible areas that could be improved, however noting that the timescale for getting any plan drafted was now very tight. Members agreed that the area around Cromarty Square could be enhanced with better public facilities and turning/parking areas for busses. The area below the care home was also mentioned as an area that these facilities could be located, away from the busy square. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to pass on the suggestions to South Ronaldsay and Burray Development Trust, advising that the community council were not currently in a position to lead on place plan work but were happy to make contributions.

G. Hanging Baskets

Members discussed having hanging baskets this year throughout St Margaret's Hope, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Interim Clerk would contact a local contractor to ask whether they could plant up, put up and maintain baskets this year.

B. That consideration would be given to having some kind of planters or baskets in Burray village in future years.

4. Correspondence

A. MyOrkney

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members to direct community members to the MyOrkney portal for reporting issues such as potholes and missed bins, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to ask, via the business letter, if business cards could be put in local outlets.

B. AbilityNet Event

Members considered information from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a digital voice roadshow taking place on 30 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. South Ronaldsay Community Association

Information from SRCA had previously been circulated, with an invitation to their AGM on 5 February 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that if anyone wished to become a keyholder for the school, they should attend the meeting.

D. Thank you note

Resolved to note that a thank you message had been received from C Rafferty for financial assistance provided.

5. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2025

Members had previously been emailed a copy of the verge maintenance plan consultation. Councillor J Moar advised that he hoped the decision to reduce the number of cuts would be reversed. Members agreed that they would also prefer two cuts rather than the one proposed, and it was:

Resolved that the community council's response to the consultation would be to ask that two cuts per season were done rather than one.

B. R100 Survey

Members were advised that an email had been circulated earlier that day regarding consultation to understand whether and how households and organisations had benefited from R100. The Scottish Government was undertaking an evaluation of the programme, and were surveying households and organisations, and it was:

Resolved to note that the survey was open until 3 March 2025.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 9 January 2025 it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £12,568.71.

B. Smiddy Account

After consideration of the Smiddy Account statement as at 9 January 2025 it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was -£570.79.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 January 2025 it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £734.70 in the main capping limit and £585 in the additional category.

D. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 9 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £10,000, of which £5,000 is ring fenced for Smiddy upgrade works.

7. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. South Ronaldsay Golf Club

Mr Derek Ward declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion.

Members considered correspondence from Mr Billy Scott, on behalf of South Ronaldsay Golf Club, copies of which had previously been circulated. The club were requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of a second-hand rough mower, which was estimated to cost £12,000. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award £1,200 from the general fund, and a further £1,200 subject to CCGS approval.

B. Island Games

The Interim Clerk read out an email which had been received from the Ceremonies Lead of the Orkney Island Games Organising Committee, which advised that each school in Orkney would be making their own banner to represent a team competing in the games, to display during the games and then be kept by the school who had made them. Financial assistance of £200 per school had been requested, and it was:

Resolved to award £200 to cover the costs for each school in the area, being Hope and Burray Primary Schools, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Publications

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

- Orkney – Scottish Water Update.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November and December 2024 and January 2025.
- Hope Cohousing – Christmas Newsletter.
- Transportation Infographic.
- VAO – Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

9. Any Other Competent Business - Presentation from TOTE Representatives

The Interim Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Steve Sankey, representing the group taking forward the community buyout of Tomb of the Eagles, who wished to meet with the community council to tell them about progress with the project, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would extend an invite to Steve Sankey to attend the next meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved to note that the next meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council was scheduled to be held at 19:30 on 5 March 2025 at Hope School.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

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