

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 28 October 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mr I Deyell, Ms A Duncan, Mr C Kerlake, Mrs L Paterson and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
 - Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
 - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
 - Mr M Scott, North Ronaldsay Sheep Court.
 - Ms H Galland, Clerk.
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- 5 members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs H Scott and Mrs C MacKenzie (Head Teacher, North Ronaldsay School).

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held on 2 September 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr I Deyell and seconded by Mr C Kerslake.

3. Presentation - Northern Short Tailed Sheep Conference

Mr M Scott was in attendance to provide feedback, after receiving support from NRCC to attend the Northern Short Tailed Sheep Conference in the Faroes. He gave a short talk on the relevance and importance of the conference to the island, having joined networks of likeminded farmers and businesses involved in native sheep preservation. It was suggested that the whole island population should be invited or encouraged to be involved in the island's native sheep in some capacity as they were such an important feature of the island.

The Chair thanked him for the update, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

Mr M Scott left the meeting at this point.

4. Matters Arising

A. School Pupil Trip Funding

Members heard that the Head Teacher had contacted the Clerk to request a third child be supported by NRCC to attend the school summer camp, and it was:

Resolved to add the funds to the CCGS project to cover a third child's costs.

B. Ad Hoc Flights for Island Event

It was noted that members had been contacted via email to approve the use of one ad hoc flight to bring and return mourners to an island funeral, which was approved at the time, but it became evident that two ad hocs were actually involved in the booking, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ensure that people requesting flights understand that one ad hoc flight is a return journey with a stayover of 20 minutes maximum, and that should people require to stay on island longer they should source alternative return transport options as NRCC only had a small number of ad hocs available to them each financial year.

C. Island Jobs and Off Island Training

A resident had asked the Clerk why jobs recently advertised for work on the island required trainees to go off island for training which was a disincentive to apply for such jobs if personal circumstances made leaving difficult, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that most jobs were through OIC, and training was not always possible logistically on island.
2. That the Clerk would ask OIC if training for the recently advertised Grave Digging position could be done on island and, if so, to readvertise giving this information.

D. Grave Digger for Island - Update

Members heard that, after posting the advert, there had only been two expressions of interest, and one interested but unable to be available for off island training. Correspondence from the Head of Neighbourhood Services indicated that Papa Westray uses the services of private contractors on their island. A member enquired whether, if North Ronaldsay went down this route, the contractors would have to have their own equipment, or should NRCC acquire some for on-island use, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the soil box currently used was owned and provided by OIC.
2. To suggest that other equipment should be provided on the same basis.
3. To note that, for health and safety reasons, any digging below 1 metre required the use of shoring up kit.
4. That the Clerk should write to the Burial Grounds Officer, via Democratic Services, requesting the shoring up kit as a matter of health and safety necessity and regardless of who is employed to do the job.
5. That the clerk additionally let the Burial Grounds Officer know the Expressions of Interest and that some were only interested if training could be provided on island.

E. Skips - Update

The Clerk advised that one skip was on order as there had been insufficient email feedback from members, though there was still time to change the order, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should increase the order to two skips as the delivery cost from the supplier would remain the same.
2. That the Clerk should let the courier know the address to deliver to mainland Orkney from Aberdeen and confirm that the transport cost would remain unchanged despite the amended order.

F. Grass Cutting

The Chair raised the point that the tender for next year's grass cutting contract was due to be advertised, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would post a tender advert for 1 year on all resident accessible kirkyards.
2. That the Clerk would arrange for the mower to go for its annual service.
3. That the cost of the mower service would be covered by existing CCGS category.

5. Correspondence

A. Community Council Conference - 4 October 2024

Correspondence from Democratic Services had been shared with the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk prior to the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had attended the conference and reported that it had been a very informative and successful event, which should be attended by a member annually.

B. OIC Isles Special Collections Dates 2024-2025

Correspondence regarding special collection dates had been previously shared with members and posted on resident's social media pages and noticeboards, and it was:

Resolved to note the special collection dates.

C. Orkney Towns Fund - Online Community Engagement Event - 1 October 2024

Members had previously been sent correspondence on the event to discuss how funds should be spent, and it was:

Resolved to note the meeting had passed.

D. OIC – Winter Service Plan Responses

Members had previously been sent comments from Roads Support on the feedback from the last WSP consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note that no responses had been forwarded by North Ronaldsay CC.

E. Roderick Thorne - North Isles Sports

Correspondence from Roderick Thorne had previously been circulated to members, seeking support to publish a North Isles Sports book and host a talk on the island. Members discussed the contribution North Ronaldsay had made to the North Isles Sports Event over the years, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would write to Mr Thorne advising that a talk would be welcome, and that North Ronaldsay Community Association would take on responsibility for any arrangements necessary.
2. That the Clerk would explain that the proposed time between Christmas and New year was not a convenient time to host a talk.
3. That members would make a decision on any financial support after the talk had been given.

6. Consultation Documents

A. 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 deadline for responses had passed.

B. 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 deadline for responses had passed.

C. National Care Service - Islands Community Impact Assessment

Members had been forwarded information on a Scottish Government engagement regarding the National Care Service, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 15 October 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £20,807.43.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine fund statement as at 15 October 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the estimated balance of £22,724.80.

2. That the Clerk would ask North Ronaldsay Trust for a payment, as without regular payments into this Fund the members could not consider projects it may support.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme as at 15 October 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the total approved but not yet claimed was £2,389.05.
2. To note that members approved to cover the cost of the 3rd school pupil's trip and funds to the amount of £130.75 (£109 plus child travel x 3) should be added to the CCGS fund 102405 totalling £239.75.
3. That members, on agreeing to two skips, wish to add a further £1,000 to the CCGS skip project 102406 totalling £4,000.
4. That members approved additional funding for the signage for the skips and trailers and to increase the CCGS fund 102407 to total £165.84.
5. To note that the Dayclub project funding had been claimed earlier in the year (in the previous financial year) and to query why it was still listed (102209).
6. That a CCGS project be set up for Memorial Hall Grass Cutting to the amount of £480 (2 x £240) in order to pay invoices which had been requested from Mr I Scott.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund as at 15 October 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £8,656.00.

8. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that there were no new financial requests to consider.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

The Transport Representative provided an update on the winter timetable coming into effect and the new freight plane time. He advised that there was due to be a community consultation on the Ferry Service - funded by the Scottish Government - replicating what was delivered earlier in the year, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That Democratic Services would forward the Ferry Replacement Scheme update that was provided previously to members for their information.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that the following planning applications had been submitted:

- Stone bench at the New Kirk (Covid Fund).
- Meat Larder (NRT).
- Works at the surgery (NHSO).
- New bird hides (NRBO).
- Agricultural building at Bewan (private).
- Milldam (private).

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Members heard that work was ongoing at the Kirk which had a deadline of end of November. Covid Funding was available to employ someone to build the Covid Memorial Bench, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note that there had been no further correspondence since the SAS helicopters were allowed to be used for non-emergency evacuations, and that a recent newspaper article was shared regarding there being no money available to pay first responders, and no further information about a third aircraft with mobility access.

E. Yarn Company Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – June and July 2024.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – August 2024.
- Letter from School Place – September 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – August 2024.
- ORSAS – Quarterly Newsletter – October 2024.
- PTSN - Landlines changing to digital - September 2024.
- SEPA Update - September 2024.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Ad Hoc Flights

Members had requested that OIC send the Clerk an update on available ad hoc flights from their designated quota, which could be supplied to them at each meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would make this request ahead of the next meeting.

B. PTSN - BT Landline Service

It was agreed that with less than perfect internet and mobile service, the removal of the landline service proved a problem and particularly during power cuts. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the SSEN Island Representative was pushing for a generator to be provided at the mast so that calls could be made via mobiles during power outages.
2. To monitor the situation.

C. Greener Orkney

After consideration of correspondence and information on a visit to survey the plastic waste issue on the coastline, it was:

Resolved to note that North Ronaldsay Community Association would be taking on responsibility for further engagement with the organisation's plans for beach cleans and data collection.

D. Orkney Matters 2

Correspondence has been sent to members reminding them of the upcoming online event, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would share the details with residents via their social media sites.

E. Remembrance Wreath

The Clerk enquired about the purchase of a wreath, given there would not be a meeting between this one and Remembrance Sunday, and it was:

Resolved to note that Democratic Services automatically arrange wreaths and that members had agreed in advance for its purchase via CCGS.

12. 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, 16 December 2024 at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:36.