

Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held in Rousay School and via Teams on Saturday, 7 September 2024 at 09:15

Present:

Mr A Firth, Mrs D Compton, Mrs C Maguire, Miss A Mainland and Mrs C Mainland.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms C Kriisa, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Z Flaws and Mr R Tipper.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held on 1 June 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs C Maguire and seconded by Mrs D Compton.

3. Matters Arising

A. Notice Boards

Mrs Z Flaws had advised that she had been in touch with a contractor regarding installation of the notice boards and he offered to provide a quote for the work and carry out the installation, and it was:

Resolved to that the details had been passed to the contractor and installation would take place after 30 September 2024.

B. Memorial at Rousay Kirkyard

Mrs Z Flaws had reported that she had received a quote from a local stonemason for the Kirkyard bench, who could start work in April 2025 if given the go-ahead. Quotes were also being sought from two other contractors, and members were hopeful that the Community Council could receive funding from other sources to support the project, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and resume consideration at the next meeting.

C. Historic Scotland Car Parks

The background of the situation with no individual taking responsibility for the Midhowe car park was shared with Councillor Clackson, including congestion of the site, and tourists resorting to parking in passing places further along the road. It was asked if the disused quarry could be developed as an overflow car park, but the proposal would likely raise concerns regarding the bend in the road and ownership of the land it sits on.

Forms of funding any solution was discussed, with the agreement that Orkney Islands Council and Historic Environment Scotland should be contributing to any remedial works, possibly alongside support from Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust. It was agreed that it was not possible to progress any solution without knowing who owns the car park. Councillor Clackson advised that he assumed that the OIC Roads Department would be in charge, due to it being a large layby, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask Orkney Islands Council to revisit this issue and if that the parking situation was judged to be a risk, consideration should be given to closing the car park.

2. That Mrs C Mainland would take photographs of the quarry.
3. That the Clerk would send a letter to Historic Environment Scotland advising of the community council's concerns.

D. Laybys/Passing Places

The ongoing issue of lack of passing places in Rousay was noted, and it was:

Resolved to ask for an update on the possibility of any new passing places being installed.

E. Rousay School Issues

An update was received from Mrs C Mainland that many of the ongoing school issues have now been resolved, but that some lighting was still not operational, including at the muster point to the rear of the building. She advised that the windows in the hall had been repaired, and the fire escape had been fixed. The windows had been freed up and lubricated, and so it was not believed that additional handles needed to be added to them to assist with closure. It was further reported that Rousay Community Association would discuss any remaining issues at their next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to contact OIC again, via the business letter to Democratic Services, regarding the outside lights.

F. Post Boxes and Postal Service

It was reported that the Wester post box had now been fixed, and new personnel had been added to the delivery rota. There was no update from Royal Mail on where the Post Office would be re-located to, as the Post Office at its current location had not yet been given up, and it was:

Resolved to monitor any updates or progress.

G. Parking at Rousay School

Members heard that the issue of parking at Rousay Community School was still under consideration. Orkney Islands Council agreed that current provisions were not suitable, and they were looking into solutions, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

H. Playpark Renewal Fund

An update from the Treasurer of the Rousay School Parent Council was read out on their behalf, advising that a meeting with Orkney Islands Council took place in July, and the playpark application was now on hold whilst they await installation costs. Orkney Islands Council had suggested that the Parent Council speak to the contractors supplying the park, as they had agreed to install another elsewhere in Orkney. Since then, the group had secured external funding and were now sitting at £2,500, or 5% of the costs, and would apply for funding once they had everything in place. Concept designs were received by the Treasurer last week, which had been

forwarded to the Community Council for information. It was unknown whether Orkney Islands Council would be taking on responsibility for the playpark, or whether planning permission would be required, but this information would be requested by Democratic Services, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would check if planning permission was required for the playpark's installation.
2. To ask Orkney Islands Council if they would be maintaining the playpark, once installed.

I. Cruise Ship Revenue

No further info on cruise ship revenue had been received, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor S Clackson will pursue the details and contact Mrs C Maguire with the information.
2. To keep the item on the agenda.

J. Sheep Scab

The Sheep Scab issue was briefly discussed by Mr A Firth, who suggested that now that it was late in the season, it was:

Resolved to remove the item from the agenda.

K. Pedestrians at Piers

It was noted that visitors to Rousay were unsure where to go due to lack of visual direction at the piers. Mr A Firth requested that Councillor S Clackson speak to Marine Services and request lines be painted on the ground at Rousay Pier, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor S Clackson would contact Marine Services regarding road markings at Rousay Pier.

L. Condition of Wyre School

No update had been received regarding the condition of Wyre School, and it was:

Resolved to investigate relocation of the Coastguard lights and turbine equipment.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney Community Council Conference 2024

Correspondence had been received from Democratic Services regarding an in-person Community Council Conference to be held in Kirkwall this year. These events are an opportunity to discuss matters affecting the whole county, gauge opinion on

the way Orkney Islands Council operates its services and gives community representatives to share ideas and best practice. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that the conference was now scheduled to take place on 4 October 2024, and that further information regarding the event would be released soon. It was noted that Mrs D Compton was keen to attend, if possible, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask Mrs Z Flaws, Vice Chair, if she would be attending the conference.
2. That Mrs D Compton would represent Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council if the Chair and Vice Chair were not able to attend.

B. SRA Online Hustings

Correspondence received from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online hustings taking place on 2 July 2024 had previously been circulated to members. This session would be hosted by Scottish Rural Action and focus on the main political parties' visions and policy priorities for rural and island places in the lead up to the General Election, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. NS&I CC Attendance

Correspondence had been received and circulated to members from Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure regarding the attendance of senior NS&I managers at future Community Council meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. SSEN - £3m Community Fund

Correspondence received from SSEN regarding their new Powering Communities to Net Zero fund had been previously circulated to members. This fund intended to support communities during prolonged power interruptions caused by storms and their ability to cope in periods of severe weather, and the adoption of new low-carbon technologies by non-profit organisations. More than £3m in grants are due to be awarded in this round, with a deadline for applications set for the end of August 2024.

Resolved to note the correspondence.

E. Community Preparedness within Scottish Local Authorities

Correspondence had been received and circulated from an undergraduate 'Risk Management' student at Glasgow Caledonian University whose chosen dissertation topic would be looking into Community Preparedness within Scottish Local Authorities. A link to a survey to gather information on how preparedness is perceived and handled at a local level was included, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

F. Ferry Replacement Programme Update

Correspondence had been received from Orkney Islands Council and circulated to members regarding the Internal Ferry Replacement Programme. This comprised of a Review of Outline Business Case, and a Design Options Assessment. Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council have looked at the information provided and will pass on any queries to Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

G. TRI-CE Meeting

Correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council regarding TRI-CE meetings which had recently been piloted with Sanday. TRI-CE meetings are an effort to have the Community Association, Development Trust and Community Council meet together, and work and coordinate their work better. Members agreed that they have good representation on all of these groups, and that a meeting would allow others to participate. It was commented that Development Trusts have access to other funding that may be useful to community groups, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and that Mrs C Mainland would contact the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust and Rousay Community Association to gauge interest in meeting later in the year.

H. OIC Winter Contracts

Members discussed correspondence which had been received from Orkney Islands Council, and circulated to all members, regarding winter treatment contracts. It advised that a new framework was being put in place to assist in times of community need, with farmers or contractors with plant equipment for hire being sought to assist during periods of extreme weather or civil engineering works to contact Orkney Islands Council. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer briefly explained that Orkney Islands Council wanted people to register to cover insurance liabilities and other legalities, and it was noted that someone being available for each district of Rousay would be preferable, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr Angus Firth's interest would be noted.
2. To note the correspondence.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 22 August 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £37,936.46.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 22 August 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits were £50.96, £165.00, and £740.00 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 22 August 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £10,427.80 remaining available to allocate to projects.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 22 August 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £7,535 remaining available to allocate to projects.

6. Financial Request - Rousay Community Association – Bonfire and Fireworks

Members considered correspondence received from Rousay Community Association, copies of which had been circulated, requesting a financial contribution of £600 towards their annual bonfire and fireworks event. As the Community Council were not at quorum to make a decision, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk would contact Mr R Tipper asking if he was in support of awarding funding.

B. That, subject to Mr R Tipper's agreement, £600 would be granted towards costs incurred by Rousay Community Association, subject to CCGS approval.

7. Consultations

A. OHAL Committee Recruitment Event

Correspondence from Orkney Housing Association Ltd was previously circulated to members advertising a drop-in session on 3 July 2024 as part of their search for new voluntary board members, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. Sustainable Development Goals Action

Correspondence received from Scotland's International Development Alliance was previously circulated to members, requesting community-led groups or organisations

working anywhere in Scotland with a focus on one or more of the SDGs, to participate in an online survey. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. 20mph Engagement with Community Councils

Correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council was previously circulated to members providing details on criteria used to establish locations where a 20mph zone would be appropriate. Feedback and comments were requested from Community Councils on the proposals for their local area, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Water Safety Questionnaire

Correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council was previously circulated to members. As part of its membership within the Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group, research was being conducted into activities taking place within Orkney's waters and coastline and what levels of safety equipment, and awareness, already exist or could be introduced. Mrs C Maguire advised that she had completed the survey, and commented on the use of WhatThreeWords to determine exact locations along Rousay's shoreline. Consideration was given to Saviskaill and other bays having a visible notice stating the WhatThreeWords for the location to make any rescue attempts easier, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs C Mainland would look into this further.
2. To note the correspondence.

E. Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum Meetings

Correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council was previously circulated to members containing the notes of the Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings held on 20 August 2024. Copies of the notes from the previous two meetings on 31 January 2024 and 13 September 2023 were also attached for reference, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

F. Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council had previously been circulated to members announcing the launch of the consultation on the Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance. Members noted that the consultation ended on 25 October 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

G. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council had previously been circulated to members announcing the launch of the consultation on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, which ran until 25 October 2024. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that an event was due to take place at the Pickaquoy Centre for any interested parties who were not able to attend the isles events, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

H. National Care Service

Members had previously been sent correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council concerning the Scottish Government's engagement regarding the National Care Service. There was a request to complete a short survey before the deadline of 30 September 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

I. The Voice of Communities Survey

Members considered correspondence from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding The Voice of Communities online survey. This research had been commissioned to gain a deeper understanding of how communities across the Highlands and Islands could maximise opportunities through Community Wealth Building, and was live until the end of September 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

J. National Care Service Sessions

Information had previously been shared regarding two online sessions taking place on 18 and 19 September 2024, for island communities to share their views on social care, social work and community health support, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

The Planning Representative advised that an application for access from the road onto the site opposite Hneta Hus has been received by the planning department. The reopening of Banks' Quarry was passed in June 2024. In May 2024, the Blossom Viewpoint landscape project was refused. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Transport

The Transport Representative confirmed that she had attended the Ferry Service Consultative Forum meeting on 20 August 2024, with time spent on discussing

timetables. There was an emphasis on how information is passed on, and Transport Representatives were reminded to follow procedures. The Transport Representative has asked Democratic Services for a copy of procedures and to clarify what their responsibilities are and who to communicate with.

She further advised that two requests had been received from the community suggesting alterations to the Eynhallow timetable. Both requests were regarding school transport, and it was noted that Orkney Islands Council do not have a statutory duty to provide an end-point bus service for nursery-aged children. The second request was regarding the school day at Kirkwall Grammar School not being in alignment with the Eynhallow sailings, whereby secondary pupils arrive late and must leave early to make the scheduled sailing home. It was noted that there is an interconnection of bus services, and so this is not just limited to the ferry.

It was accepted that 15-20 mins per day of school time lost due to transport means that many hours of study are missed each academic year, which is a disadvantage to isles children. It was agreed that the point of focus should be to discuss the issue directly with Kirkwall Grammar School. There was also the suggestion that an escort could be made available for the child on Wyre, but this is also a discussion for the Education Department.

The ferry is currently operating to the maximum of what is allowed, and so any changes would be tweaks at most. The Transport Representative was unaware of the second request until the agenda for the meeting was received, and due to procedure not being followed, they were missed out of the correspondence.

At the transport meeting, Councillor M Thomson gave positive feedback regarding Community Councils using social media. Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council now have a Facebook group, where any draft timetables and other related correspondence can be shared to a wider audience. It is planned that any draft timetables will be included in the newsletter, Facebook page, and public posters. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Transport Representative would follow up with Democratic Services regarding procedures.
2. That the Transport Representative will follow up with the request from a Wyre resident.
3. That Democratic Services would be asked to write to the Education Department and Kirkwall Grammar School Head Teacher about the issue of missed school time.
4. That the Community Council Facebook page will be followed up by the Transport Representative.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that no update was received for this item.

9. Publications

The following publications had previously been circulated to members and were noted:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics - May 2024, June 2024, July 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update - June 2024, July 2024.
- VAO Newsletter - June 2024, July 2024, August 2024.
- Letter from School Place - June 2024, July 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter - June 2024.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Openreach

A member advised that Openreach contractors were currently laying broadband infrastructure around Rousay. There was some mess on the verges, but it had been noted as acceptable due to the nature of the works. It appeared that a temporary filling was being used to backfill the road, and that this would be replaced with tarmac in due course. It was also noted that some residents had lost telecommunication services such as broadband, personal emergency alarms, and phonelines. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Openreach, or CGS subcontractor, to make it known that the community would like to be better informed regarding the ongoing works.

B. Egilsay St Magnus Memorial

The Chair advised that he had been able to confirm with Eric Shortland that the St Magnus Memorial on Egilsay was situated on RSPB land, and it was:

Resolved that the proposed work can go ahead.

C. North Isles Excursions

A discussion took place on whether the ferry timetable could be adjusted to allow people to participate in some of the North Isles Sunday excursion dates, and other occasions such as the County Show and Rousay Regatta. The possibility of a late-night ferry once per calendar month was also suggested, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would find out when the deadline for summer timetables 2025 is.
2. That dates for the 2025 Rousay Regatta will be sought so that Orkney Ferries could be advised.
3. That proposed dates for any timetable amendments would be submitted to Orkney Ferries/Orkney Islands Council for consideration.

D. Weeds in Kirkyards

Members reported that complaints had been received regarding weeds on paths and other public areas. A lot of ragwort had been noted this year, presenting an issue to cattle and horses. It was advised that a license was required for spraying but it was not guaranteed that Orkney Islands Council will fund it, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs C Maguire would look into this item further.

E. Scockness Graveyard

Members heard that an accusation had been made by a member of the public of a gravestone being stolen from Scockness graveyard. The Chair, alongside a Rousay resident were able to locate the stone, with the person having gone to the wrong location, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would measure the gap at the graveyard, to see if new gates could be bought rather than custom made.

F. North Isles Sports 2025 - Sanday

It was advised that not much information had been received yet regarding putting teams together for the 2025 North Isles Sports weekend. A private boat was hired to allow attendance last year, and Orkney Active Schools would be organising the event again, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would ask if Rousay can participate in the 2025 North Isles Sports Event.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council would be held in Rousay Community School on Saturday, 30 November 2024 at 09:15.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:55.