

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 2 September 2024 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Ms H Galland, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs L Paterson and Councillors S Clackson and M Thomson.

2. Election of Office Bearers

The meeting being Chaired by the Clerk was asked that the members decide whether to vote or accept the status quo, and it was:

Resolved to maintain the status quo, being as follows:

- Chair - Mr P Donnelly.
- Vice Chair - Mrs H Scott.
- Transport Representatives - Mr C Kerslake and Mrs L Paterson.
- Planning Representative - Mrs L Paterson.
- Health and Care Representatives - Mr P Donnelly and Mrs H Scott.
- North Ronaldsay Trust Representative - Ms A Duncan.
- A Yarn Company Representative – Mrs H Scott.

Mr P Donnelly then took the Chair.

3. Adoption of Minute of Meeting – 3 June 2024

The minute of the meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held on 3 June 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr C Kerslake and seconded by Mr I Deyell, subject to the following amendment:

“3F. Residents enabling/allowing animals to stray on main road. After a brief discussion it was resolved that this was not a matter the community council wished to address”.

4. Adoption of Minute of Special Meeting – 16 August 2024

The minute of the special meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held on 16 August 2024 was also discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That as the meeting was hosted by OIC, adoption of minute should be done by OIC representatives who were present.

B. That members queried the point:

“B. Back-up Ferry Service. 6. To note that the issue of personal resilience and contingency was raised, where essential non-perishable foods and animal feed should be purchased over the summer months where ferry services are more reliable”. This point was contested at the meeting. Members were happy that this point is considered further in the island resilience plan.

C. That members query the point.

“E. Implementation of the launch” that any two members should be able to approve the launch if the Chair and/ or Transport Representative were unavailable. It was noted the Chair should share the launch booking details with the other members for this purpose.

D. That the minutes were otherwise agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

A. Air Service Mobility Access update

Members heard that after a meeting attended by the Health and Care Representatives involving Liam McArthur, MSP, and representatives from OIC, NHSO and SAS, Loganair delivered a report on how they could achieve the aim of mobility accessibility, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the islander plane could be modified with the backdoors redesigned and a chairlift type mechanism, enabling easier access.
2. To note that, as this involved modification of the current plane stock, it would take some time for them to be modified without affecting the service.
3. To note that the issue was a justification for the purchase of a third aircraft, which could be modified before it came into service.
4. To note that, after the ANP advised residents with outpatient appointments should not be delayed due to this issue, SAS had agreed the air ambulance could be used for non-emergency transport off and on island and had already begun to be used in this manner.
5. To note that it was agreed that a modified plane would be better than accessibility achieved through the introduction of a ro-ro ferry service.
6. That the Clerk write a letter to Liam McArthur, MSP, letting him know the progress that has been made since the meeting.

B. Grave Digging Issues update

It was reported that that this matter had been raised with the appropriate departments and that the relevant team understood the island’s needs and were still looking into how to address the issues, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor H Woodbridge would follow up with the relevant team to discuss recruitment of grave digging crew within the island.
2. That the Clerk would invite residents to come forward with any expressions of interest in being trained to become grave diggers and forward any interest to OIC via Democratic Services.

6. Correspondence

A. Local Place Plan

Members had received correspondence by email inviting the community to submit a Local Place Plan, which should be submitted by the end of March 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Play Space Survey

Members enquired about the playground project, which had been led so far by Mr C Kerslake. He advised that he did not have adequate time available to take the project forward and that it had not been possible to raise the match funding required, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor H Woodbridge would look to progress this project, in her capacity as a member of North Ronaldsay Community Association.

C. Loganair Boarding Card Procedure

Members had previously been forwarded information from Loganair regarding the issuing of boarding cards, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. OHAL committee recruitment

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence regarding recruitment, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. Scottish Islands Federation Online Hustings

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence, by email, regarding the Scottish Islands Federation online hustings, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

F. Requests for Ad Hoc Flights

1. Sheep Festival

Resolved to note that this flight was for three participants to leave island which was approved by members via email but was not used owing to seats being freed up on a later flight.

2. North Ronaldsay Trust

The request was for building and Funder representatives to visit the Trebb development, and it was:

Resolved to note that this flight was not agreed, and they had been advised to charter a flight rather than using up the island's ad hoc allocation.

3. OIC for Transport Meeting

Resolved to note that this was approved by the Chair but the members were disappointed to find that a community council member had been unable to attend the meeting because they had been denied a seat on this plane to return to the island.

G. NS&I attendance at CC meetings

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, regarding attendance at Community Council meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Orkney Towns Fund Community Workshop

Following consideration of correspondence, which had been emailed previously, advising of workshops being held in July regarding the Orkney Towns Fund, it was:

Resolved that the date had already passed.

I. NHSO Island visit

Following consideration of correspondence, which had been previously emailed to members, advising of a officers from NHSO were going to travelling to the island, and it was:

Resolved to note that the date for this had passed.

J. Scottish Islands federation offshore wind farming consultation

Following consideration of correspondence, which had been previously emailed to members, advising of the consultation on offshore wind farms, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

K. Ron Bailey MP- update on the Lithium-Ion Battery Bill

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from a researcher and parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, regarding a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence on the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters.

L. SSEN £3million community fund

Copies of correspondence from SSEN had previously been circulated to members, advising of a new Powering Communities to Net Zero fund, which was open to applications, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

M. Ferry Replacement Scheme Powerpoint presentation

Copies of a PowerPoint presentation from the Transportation Manager had previously been circulated to members, providing a summary of the Outline Business Case recommendations and an update on the timescales for the Ferry Replacement Programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Consultation Documents

The members received these consultation documents since the last meeting and agreed that members could respond to them individually should they wish.

A. Finfish farming Spatial Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising on the Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that members could respond to them individually should they wish.

B. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan drop-in events, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that members could respond to them individually should they wish.

C. Scottish Government National Care Service Assessment

Members had previously been sent correspondence from Democratic Services and on the Scottish Government engagement on National Care Services, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and members could respond individually if they wished.

D. Water Safety Questionnaire

Following consideration of the Water Safety Questionnaire, its purpose being of aiding the development of the Orkney Island Council's first water safety policy by gauging the current level and understanding of water supply within Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and members could respond individually if they wished.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 22 August 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £22,051.03.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine statement as at 22 August 2024 copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £22,724.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme as at 22 August 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £1,943.21 remaining for allocation, £567.60 remained in the additional capping limit and the island capping limit had £740 remaining for allocation.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund as at 22 August 2024, copies of which were previously circulated, it was:

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

9. Financial Requests

A. NRCC Defibrillators supplies

Following discussion regarding the provision of defibrillator supplies, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that supplies were purchased through general funds since the last meeting
2. To note that Members were asked if they would approve setting up a CCGS for future supplies.
3. To note that supplies of batteries would not be needed until 2028.
4. That the defibrillators may be in need of upgrade/ replacement by 2028, and this would be discussed nearer the time.
4. To note that the airfield superintendent had expressed concern about the maintenance of the airfield held AED and additionally suggested his willingness to pay for a new AED.
5. That the Clerk write Orkney Islands Council requesting the recently purchased defibrillator pads and all ongoing supplies for the defibrillator be funded from the Airfield Managers budget.

B. North Ronaldsay School – School Trip

Members had been emailed a request from North Ronaldsay School requesting funding towards a second child's travel on the school trip, and it was:

Resolved that the request had been approved by the members via email and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the additional cost.

C. Sheep Court- request to fund dyke repair supplies

Following consideration of a request to fund supplies for the repair of the sheep dyke, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members suggested sheep owners should be responsible for the cost of upgrading and repairing the dyke.
2. That members agreed that the Sheep Court, not being constituted, should source an appropriate funding body and that an application form could be submitted under the name of the North Ronaldsay Community Council.
3. That members suggest that in future the supplies should be monitored.
4. That the Clerk write to the Sheep Court advising of members decisions and the level of support on offer.

D. M Scott, Sheep Court - Annual Sheep Conference

Following consideration of correspondence from M Scott requesting assistance towards travel costs involved in attending the Annual Sheep Conference, it was:

Resolved:

1. That £250 be awarded to the cost and that an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance on the cost.
2. That the Clerk would advise the applicant of the decision and requesting that the condition of acceptance is that a report of the conference be submitted to the Community Council on return.

E. Scrap Metal Skip replacement

Members were advised that the two skips had both been condemned since the last meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk get a price for up to two new skips, including delivery, to mainland Orkney.
2. To note that Field Fayre was the company previously used.
3. That a 10yd skip rather than a 14yd skip should be used, to avoid overweight filling in the future.
4. That Mr I Deyell would contact R Alexander, Blacksmith, to get costings for channel iron and feet to be welded to base and painting.
5. To apply for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance totalling £3000 being £1500 per skip including welding, delivery, etc.
6. To consider purchasing another new skip within the decade, on a staggered basis so both skips are not decommissioned at the same time again and given future ferry services may require different equipment to what is required now

F. Payments for non-emergency ambulance driver

As SAS will now transport passengers with mobility issues there is a requirement to pay for the services of an ambulance driver, given the ANP is not insured to drive the ambulance, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Members did not feel the Community Council should be responsible for this.
2. That Councillor Woodbridge would make enquiries of SAS to find out if payments for ambulance drivers are included in the new arrangements.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

The points raised at the special meeting were brought up at the transport forum meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that neither the council nor chief pilot were aware of the block booking of the eighth seat so enquiries would be made to Loganair.
2. To note that the office administrator would look into issues relating to the malfunctioning of the online booking system and that if residents wished to make a booking with an “open return” they should telephone to make the booking.
3. To note that it was suggested the third row of seats would have to be removed to enable the plane to be used by people with mobility issues which would affect passenger numbers.
4. To note that there is no flexibility in the ferry schedule but that the freight company would try to be more proactive to service cancellation issues.
5. To note that the Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council, met with the Scottish Transport Minister on talks on the need for the third aircraft, which is identified as a mid-term solution, given any changes to the ferry service will be a long way in the future.

B. Planning Representative

It was resolved to note the Planning representative was not present but that the following planning applications had been submitted:

planning for works at the New Kirk.
a new 4G dish.
new windows at the surgery.
new bird hides at Holland and Ancum.
greenhouse at Bewan.
works at Milldam to house, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Members were advised that work was ongoing at Trebb and the New Kirk. The Sheep Festival had been well attended and participants completed 229m of dyke in one week and that the funding for sheep dyke warden was coming to an end with the ending of NILPS however replacement funding was being sought. It was noted that NILPS may have a massive underspend and possibly could be approached for further money, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved the Clerk would ask ANP about the recent call for Home Carers with view to putting out another publicity campaign to recruit some within island.

E. Yarn Company Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

11. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – June July 2024.
- Letter from School Place –June July 2024.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – May and July 2024.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – June and July 2024.
- Loganair- Statistics - year to August 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly newsletter June 2024.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Artmachine - decals for skips

Since last meeting the skips had been condemned but signage may still be needed for one combined metal and wire skip. Also, additional signs are required to replace the temporary stencils on the four trailers, and it was:

Resolved to submit a Community Council Grant Scheme application for a total cost of £100 for the purchase of nine vinyl signs.

B. Kirkyard update

It had been noted rabbits were undermining the dyke near the Scottish water site, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair and the Scottish Water representative would speak with Scottish Water about getting the damage addressed.

C. School kids' flights

Resolved to note that the Head Teacher wished to express his thanks to the Community Council members for paying for the flights for the children's recent trip.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of the date for future meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Monday 28 October 2024.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:54.