

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in North Walls School and via Teams on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs R Thomson, Mr A Clark, Mathieson, Ms A Kinsey, Johnson and Mr A Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan (via Teams).
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Park (via Teams).
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mrs K Dobrzynski, Island Link Officer/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs T Avis

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held on 24 April 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs P Johnston and seconded by Ms A Kinsey.

3. Matters Arising

A. Update on Transport Public Survey

Following an update on the progress of the distribution of the transport public survey on the timetables for the Hoy Head, it was:

Resolved to note that there were no invited Community Council members from Flotta present, and to note the contents of the update.

B. Free Transport for under 22's

Following an update from Councillor Hall to advise that the Scottish Government were in support of providing a free ferry service for under 22's, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and that the ILO would request an update on the Business Letter so that a public notice could be distributed to the community.

C. Mapping Progress towards Islands Decarbonisation

The ILO advised that a letter of thanks had been received from the Scottish Island Federation for the input of the Community Councillors as a response for some feedback on the CNI project, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

D. Bins at Lyness Terminal

Following consideration of an update from OIC that there would not be any additional litter bins supplied at Lyness Terminal, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the update.
2. That the ILO would contact Scapa Flow Museum, asking them to create a sign to highlight the refuse bins outside the museum for the public to use.

E. Sunken Graves

Following an update from OIC to advise that an operative would be checking the graves and would ensure that any necessary work was carried out, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the update.
2. To note that any future issues should be lodged on the OIC portal or via OIC Customer Services, and not need to wait until a community council meeting to raise.

F. Ayre Car Park

Following an update from OIC to advise that an inspection of the Car Park was to be carried out to assess the reported issues, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

G. Rackwick Road Speed Restriction

Following a request by Mr A Clark for an update on the recent installation of speed restriction signs on the Rackwick Road, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update from OIC to advise that the speed restrictions signs were advisory.

4. Correspondence

A. West of Orkney Windfarm response to representation from Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council

Following consideration of correspondence from West of Orkney Windfarm to thank the Community Council for their response to the Section 36 and Marine Licence application, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Island Connectivity Plan – Orkney events this Week

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Federation to advise of Transport Scotland drop in events, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note contents of the correspondence.

C. Additional South Isles Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council with an update on the Nordic Sea berthing trials, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Cross-Party Group on Islands

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Island Federation to invite members to the Cross-Party Group on Islands on 22 May, copies of which had been previously circulated on 16 May, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. New Orkney Ferries Booking System

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding an update on the new Orkney Ferries booking system, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries and e-bikes and e-scooters

Following consideration of correspondence from R Bailey regarding the request for the support of the Community Council on the Safety Bill for Lithium-ion batteries and e-bikes and e-scooters, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Island Futures – co-producing an island research agenda for sustainable communities

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Federation to request volunteers for the Island Futures: Co-producing an island research agenda for sustainable communities, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Addressing Depopulation Action Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online meeting on 5 June to discuss the role of the National Islands Depopulation Island Plan, copies of which had been previously forwarded on 22 May, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Sunday Opening – OF Shore Street Offices

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Ferries to advise of the new opening times of Orkney Ferries Shore Street office to include Sunday openings, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Visit by Roads Support

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of a visit on 6 June by Roads Support to include an inspection of the sea wall at The Ayre, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

K. Digital Voice Roadshow

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding drop-in sessions by BT on Digital Engagement and Enterprise, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that Councillors Bevan & Parks will try and obtain more information.

L. Planning Query from the Graemsay OM2 meeting

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding an update from planning about the BT mast to be erected on Graemsay, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

M. 2024 SURF Awards Open for Applications

Following consideration of correspondence from SURF Scotland regarding the launch of the 2024 SURF Awards, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

5. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications were made available at this meeting:

- VAO Newsletter April and May 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – March and April 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update May 2024.
- Review of OLDP Newsletter – June 2024.

6. Consultations

A. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National Public Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National Public Consultation, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 20 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

B. Invite – SFRS National Public Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from Fire Scotland UK to invite members to attend a focused discussion group, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 3 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Cross-Party Group on Islands and NIP Review consultation analysis

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Federation regarding the consultation and its analysis review meeting to be held online on 22 May 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 3 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Review of the Orkney Local Development Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC with a request for the completion of surveys and a call for ideas for the Orkney Local Development Plan, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 9 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Review of Gambling Policy – Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of a deadline date of 28 June 2024 for any comments for the review of the Gambling Policy – Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board, copies of which had previously been circulated to members on 16 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the community council's general finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £20,887.96 as at 28 April 2024.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval of £3,277.00 as at 30 May 2024.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £9,142.21 as at 28 May 2024

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note the funds remaining for approval of £1,658.47 as at 28 May 2024.

8. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that no financial requests had been submitted for discussion.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Scrap Car Scheme

Members considered a request by Mrs T Avis for the Community Council to think about offering a Scrap Car Scheme. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer confirmed that this would be a possible way to utilise CCGS funding, but further discussion would be required as to how any scheme would operate, and it was:

Resolved to note the request and to put the item on hold for further discussion at a future meeting.

B. Car Parking at Houton

Members listened to concerns raised by Councillor L Hall regarding the existing car parking facilities at the Houton terminal and that some vehicles, especially mobile homes, were being parked dangerously due to the lack of spaces. It was agreed that this appeared to be a bigger issue with more foot passengers using the ferry due to the lack of vehicle capacity, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the concerns and that the ILO would add them to the business letter to Democratic Services.

C. Parent Survey – the addition of a question regarding the reinstatement of a Junior High School at the North Walls School

Following consideration of a request from Ms A Kinsey for the members to agree to an additional question to be added to the upcoming parent survey regarding the reinstatement of a Junior High School at the North Walls School, it was:

Resolved to note the request and that the members agreed to support the additional question to be added to the survey.

D. Ditch at Ore Brae

A member raised a concern regarding a deepened ditch which had been caused by a lorry going off road at Ore Brae, and it was:

Resolved to note the concern and that the issue would be raised on the business letter to Democratic Services.

E. Culvert Signage

It was discussed that, on the business letter in November 2023, members had asked for a safety sign to be erected on the culvert between The Lodge and The Plantings, near Melsetter, to advise of the dangers of the drop onto the shoreline, and it was:

Resolved to note that this was still a concern, and that the ILO should raise it again on the business letter to Democratic Services.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would be held on Friday, 30 August 2024 at the Graemsay Community Centre at 19:15.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:10.