

Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams on Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mr H Thomson, Mr T McCabe, Mr M Cockram, Mr A Garson (via Teams), Mrs L Garson (via Teams) and Miss E Wallington.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk (via Teams)
- Mr D Neil, Managing Director, Sinclair Haulage Limited (via Teams)

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1. Discussion with Haulier

The Managing Director, Sinclair Haulage Limited, was in attendance at the meeting and fielded queries and concerns from members, including post deliveries, freight, procedures, costs and invoicing processes. He provided information where possible on the various items or agreed to find responses where appropriate, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion and to monitor the situation going forward.

The Managing Director, Sinclair Haulage Limited, left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor H Woodbridge.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Eday Community Council held on 6 December 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mr T McCabe and seconded by Mr M Cockram.

4. Matters Arising

A. First Responders

Members were advised that a letter was yet to be drafted following the last meeting. Councillor M Thomson advised that she would be attending a meeting on 18 March in this connection, and it was:

Resolved to note that Councillor M Thomson would provide an update from the meeting.

B. Pier Toilets/Waiting Room

The Interim Clerk advised that no photographs had been passed to Democratic Services since the last meeting therefore there was no further update on this item at this time, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mr T McCabe would forward photographs.

C. Cattle Pens

At present there was no further progress to report however members wished the item to remain on the agenda for future meetings, and it was:

Resolved to keep this item of the agenda for future meetings.

D. Medical Cover

The Interim Clerk advised that correspondence had been sent on behalf of the community council around communication when there were periods of no medical cover on the island but that no response had been received. Members were also advised that there was a new Isles Network of Care Operational Manager and that

interviews would be taking place shortly for the post of Head of Primary Care. Members also noted that a new nurse for the island had been appointed, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the reports.

E. Kirkyard Grass Cutting/Lawnmower

Members considered one tender which had been received for the grass cutting tenders, along with a query regarding the community-council owned equipment, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To accept the tender from F Woods.
2. That arrangements should be made for the equipment to be serviced.
3. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for the cost of £90 for the cutting of the grass at the War Memorial.

F. Ad Hoc Flights

A response from the Transportation Manager had previously been circulated to members, advising that the ferries were deemed lifeline services for the islands of Eday, Sanday, Stronsay and Westray and the frequency of service reflected this. The inter-island air service was a lifeline link for the residents of Papa Westray and North Ronaldsay as they only receive a limited freight frequency by ferry. There was therefore a key difference which was why the frequency was different. Sanday, Stronsay and Westray air frequency was also historically provided to enable itinerant teachers to travel to and from the islands whereas this was not required for Eday, hence the limited service. The Outline Business Case evidenced the need for a third aircraft and that was something that officers were still focused on however this would be subject to additional revenue funding from Transport Scotland. Members were also advised that a Friday morning drop to Eday had recently been provided during the winter timetable, and this was now proposed for the summer period. Steps were being taken to increase the frequency to Eday where possible, and it was:

Resolved to note that members were not happy with the response and that this should be raised as the next Air and Ferries Consultative Forum meeting.

G. War Memorial Refurbishment

The Interim Clerk advised that the correspondent who had brought this issue to the community council's attention had been sent a response following the last meeting, but had not been back in touch, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and await a response at the next meeting.

H. Haulage

Resolved that this item had been covered earlier in the meeting.

5. Correspondence

A. R100 and SBVS

Correspondence had previously been circulated regarding progress of the R100 scheme along with a poster advertising the SBVS, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. R100 and SBVS - Eday Briefing Note

Members had previously been sent a copy of a briefing note relating to the rollout of fibre broadband and when works were expected to happen in Eday, and it was:

Resolved to request further information on the project.

C. Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Correspondence from VAO had been previously sent to members, which advised that the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was open for applications, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Letter of Support – Hostel Feasibility Study

The Interim Clerk advised that Eday Partnership had contacted the community council with regards to obtaining a letter of support for an application for funding towards a feasibility study being done for the Eday Hostel, and it was:

Resolved to note that a letter of support had been sent to the Community Development Officer, following agreement from a majority of members to do so.

E. OU Community Councils Webinar – 18 January

Members had previously been sent an invitation to a webinar to provide information on Skills Support for Community Councils from the Open University in Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the invitation.

F. Nurse Practitioner Update

Following consideration of an update which had been provided to members in January regarding the recruitment of a nurse practitioner for Eday, it was:

Resolved to note that a Nurse Practitioner had been appointed to the post.

G. CDF Allocation

Correspondence from Democratic Services had previously been circulated, which advised of a further tranche of £5,000 being made available to each community council in Orkney, on top of any remaining balances they had in that fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Accounts Commission – Report on OIC

An email from the Accounts Commission had previously been circulated to members, with a link to the Audit Scotland website and the annual audit report for Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

I. Eday Community School – Annual Trip – Flights

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Head Teacher of Eday School, asking if it would be possible for them to pre-book the Monday flight in advance on one occasion, rather than having to wait until the Friday before, for their annual trip to Hoy. This would save them an extra day away from Eday and a huge cost, and it was:

Resolved that this had been forwarded to the Transport Section, OIC, who had granted the request for this year, and would raise the issue of this becoming an annual arrangement at the next Ferry Service Consultative Forum Meeting.

J. Scottish Islands Passport – What’s New for 2024

Members had been forwarded information on new features on the Scottish Islands Passport app, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. The King’s Portrait Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that portraits could be purchased, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. Local Transport Strategy

Following consideration of the Local Transport Strategy, which had previously been emailed, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed and that members had had not comments to make.

B. Orbital Marine Power

Following consideration of the Orbital Marine Power document, which had previously been emailed, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed and that members had had not comments to make.

C. Orkney Local Development Plan Scheme

Following consideration of the Local Development Plan Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments to make.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that member had no comments to make.

E. Winter Service Plan 2024

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2024, members were of the opinion that some of the road categories should be amended, it was:

Resolved that Councillor M Thomson would submit the road plan with amendments to Democratic Services.

F. BSc Honours Project – Rainforest

Following consideration of correspondence from D Gunn regarding his studies relating to the Scottish population's understanding and perception of the Scottish rainforest, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Eday Community Council as at 23 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £7,974.83.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Eday Community Council as at 23 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the main and island capping limits were showing as “fully allocated” and that £696.15 remained available in the additional capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement for Eday Community Council as at 23 February 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining available for approval to projects of £7,667.11.

8. Financial Requests

A. Eday Partnership – Hostel Feasibility Study

Members had previously been sent a request from the Community Development Officer, Eday Partnership, asking for financial assistance towards a feasibility study for the hostel, to develop options and final costed solutions, and it was:

Resolved that members had agreed to award £2,000 from their Community Development Fund allocation, subject to approval.

B. Eday Community School – Hoy Trip

Following consideration of a request from Eday Community School for financial assistance towards the cost of one pupil attending the school trip to Hoy, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award the sum of £182 towards the cost.
2. That the School should be encouraged to raise funds towards the cost of school trips.
3. To suggest that the school should approach other funding agencies such as the Eday Partnership for possible funding as well.

C. Eday Community Association - Easter Party

Mr A Garson and Mrs L Garson declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion.

Members considered a financial request which had been received from Eday Community Association towards the cost of the Easter Party, and it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £150 to Eday Community Association.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Members were advised that the trial use of the Nordic Sea for travel to Eday had worked well and that it was being looked at the possibility of extending the service next year. Orkney Ferries hoped to be introducing the new booking system on 1 June 2024. It was suggested that pressure should be put on regarding the provision of a daily air service for Eday, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the reports.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. Health and Care

Members discussed care for the elderly and the need for sheltered housing facilities and carers in the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- VAO Small Grants Scheme Now Open.
- Letter from School Place – December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- SRA Newsletter – November and December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- Scottish Water – Leaks and Bursts.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Fuel Supply

Members noted that the shop had run out of fuel and that Orkney Ferries had assisted in getting fuel to the island, and it was:

Resolved that a note of thanks should be sent to Orkney Ferries.

B. Vacancy on Community Council

Members discussed the vacancy on the community council and how it should be advertised, and it was:

Resolved that the vacancy should be advertised on the Eday page.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Eday Community Council would be held on 5 June 2024 at Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:05.