

# Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held in the Rousay Community School Saturday, 1 June at 09:15

## Present:

Mr Angus Flaws, Mrs Zoe Flaws, Mrs Diana Compton, Mrs Carole Maguire, Miss Alice Mainland, Mrs Carey Mainland (via Teams) and Mr Richard Tipper.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Stephen Clackson (via Teams).
- Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms Catherine Kriisa, Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

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

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held on 10 February 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs Z Flaws and seconded by Miss A Mainland.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Notice Boards**

The Chair advised that this was in hand, and options for installation were discussed. Options included Mrs C Maguire taking on this task at the end of June 2024, or the REWGCC requesting assistance from REWDT maintenance staff. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs Z Flaws would find out how many boards were needing installed.
2. That Mrs C Maguire would speak to the REWDT maintenance staff and contact the Chair to get the boards.

Mrs D Compton joined the meeting at this point.

### **B. Memorial at Rousay Kirkyard**

Mrs Z Flaws advised that she had still not been successful in getting a confirmed date from the stonemason to visit the island, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to keep this item on the agenda.

### **C. Historic Scotland Car Parks**

An update was received from Mrs C Maguire on the dangerous parking locations of vehicles at the Midhowe car park. She confirmed that visitors were parking parallel to the road, and that evidence of this had been photographed. A short discussion took place over who has responsibility for the car park, if HES had been approached to see if they would upgrade the on-site parking, and the possibility of expanding land at the quarry to hold extra parking capacity. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That HES should be approached again to see if they would install a car park.
2. That Mrs C Mainland would pass on photographs to the members.
3. That Democratic Services will look at archival material from 1986-87 to look for information regarding who has responsibility for the land.

4. That Councillor M Thomson would request support from Orkney Islands Council in the matter.

### **D. Laybys**

No further update was available on this item, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask Roads Support, via the business letter, to notify the community council if the roads team were making a visit to Rousay.
2. To keep the item on the agenda.

### **E. Rousay School Issues**

It was reported that many of the issues at the school had not yet been remedied. Pictures of the crack in the building were previously sent to Orkney Islands Council who were monitoring it and would address it over the summer holidays. It was also reported that the lights were not hanging anymore, but it was unclear whether they were now functional, along with the emergency gathering point still being unlit. The issues had now been reported and the Community Council Liaison Officer had chased for an update, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and keep the item on the agenda.

### **F. Post Boxes and Postal Service**

An update was received from the Chair that the Wester post box was now fully functional. He also advised that Post Office services were still in place at Tou, but that no update was available presently on the transfer to Cogar.

He also reported that the contract with Crantit Dairy to supply milk via the Royal Mail had ended, but the circumstances of this were unclear. The Delivery Office Manager, Kirkwall Post Office had offered to contact Crantit Dairy about this and come back to the community council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would stay in contact with the Delivery Office Manager regarding Post Office services.
2. That the Delivery Office Manager would update the members on milk deliveries.

### **G. Parking at Rousay School**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there was no further update on this at present, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and keep this item on the agenda.

## **H. Playpark Renewal Fund**

A letter was received from Mrs E Soames regarding the current situation of the new playpark at Rousay Community School. Costs of the project were increasing, and things could not move forward until an installation quote was received. Councillor M Thomson asked if it would be worthwhile collaborating with REWDT to access larger funding opportunities, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and keep this item on the agenda.

## **I. Benches for Rousay**

Benches which had been ordered have now arrived and are ready to be situated around Rousay. Discussion took place regarding their installation, and it was:

Resolved that the notice boards and benches could be installed at the same time by the REWDT maintenance staff.

## **J. Cruise Ship Revenue**

It was noted that a full update is was yet to be received. Councillor S Clackson read out an email from Councillor H Woodbridge explaining past and present use of revenue funds. Councillor M Thomson confirmed that she would speak with Councillor H Woodbridge this week for an update, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Councillor H Woodbridge would pass on the cruise ship revenue figures to the community council when she receives them.
2. To keep this item on the agenda.

## **K. Sheep Scab**

Councillor M Thomson confirmed that a call out to local farmers was made to gain a better understanding of the costs and damages associated with Sheep Scab. A funding application has been received by Orkney Islands Council to cover the estimated contracting and costs associated with dipping approximately 80,000 sheep throughout Orkney. This was currently being coordinated by Karen Johnston. It was suggested that dipping should have a multiple-year approach, and that engagement was required to increase the uptake in farmers choosing to dip, and it was:

Resolved to keep this item on the agenda.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Volunteering for the Island Games 2025**

Correspondence sent from Orkney Island Games 2025 highlighting volunteering opportunities available throughout the event. Mrs D Compton spoke of island residents hoping to attend the Games, but that there was no current confirmation of any ferry timetable changes to accommodate volunteers, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **B. Orkney Ferries – M.V. Shapinsay Summer Vessel Swap**

Correspondence from Orkney Ferries stating that M.V. Shapinsay would serve on the REW service from 1 June to 31 August 2024 inclusive had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and give thanks to Orkney Ferries for their work in securing the M.V. Shapinsay for the season.

## **C. Orkney Islands Council - Invitation to Create ‘Local Place Plan’**

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members from Orkney Islands Council confirming that work has commenced on the review of the Local Development Plan (LDP), offering an invitation to communities, the opportunity to prepare a Local Place Plan for their area.

Councillor M Thomson spoke encouragingly that a member of this community council should engage with this opportunity to ensure that the communities can feed into the wider Local Development Plan. Mrs D Compton suggested the option that this could be done through the REWDT, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs C Mainland would email REWDT and make initial enquiries into what was involved with developing a Local Place Plan and that she would report her findings for another CC member to take on.

## **D. Orkney Ferries – Implementation of New Ferry Booking System**

Information had been received and circulated from Orkney Ferries regarding the new ‘Hogia Bookit’ booking system. Orkney Ferries aimed to be in a position by 1 July 2024 to open for this winter's timetable September using the new system.

Councillor M Thomson reported that Orkney Ferries were on target, and once in operation the new booking system would reduce the pressure for Orkney Ferries staff and crew. Mr R Tipper commented on whether island residents ticket system would cause pressure. Councillor M Thomson confirmed that conversations had been taking place regarding islander discounts but that there was currently no further information, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and discussion.

## **E. Safety of Lithium-Ion Batteries, E-Bikes and Scooters**

Following consideration of correspondence received from R Bailey, discussing the 'Safety of Electric-Powered Micro-Mobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries Bill' being presented to Parliament, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **F. Orkney Ferries – Kirkwall Office Sunday Openings**

Members had previously been forwarded an email from Orkney Islands Council stating that as of Sunday, 23 June 2024, the Orkney Ferries Kirkwall office would be opening from 09:00 until 15:00. A seven-day a week service would operate year-round from this date, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **G. Orkney Islands Council - Annual Grants Allocation 2024/2025**

Correspondence had been received from Orkney Islands Council and circulated to members regarding the Annual Grants allocation for Community Councils in 2024/2025, and it was:

Resolved 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 23 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £33,102.79.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 1 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits were £3,726, £623 and £719 respectively.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 23 May 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 23 May 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £9,035 remaining available to allocate to projects.

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. Egilsay Community Association – Bag the Bruck**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Egilsay Community Association, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards their participation in Bag the Bruck on 27-30 April 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £150 would be made to Egilsay Community Association towards costs for their participation in Bag the Bruck.

### **B. 1st Rousay Rainbows and Brownies**

Following consideration of correspondence received from 1st Rousay Rainbows and Brownies, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards their participation in Bag the Bruck on 28 April 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £150 would be made to 1st Rousay Rainbows and Brownies towards costs for their participation in Bag the Bruck.

### **C. Rousay Sailing Club – Annual Insurance**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Rousay Sailing Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting a financial contribution of £400 towards their annual insurance costs, it was:

Resolved that £400 would be granted towards the annual insurance costs incurred by Rousay Sailing Club, subject to CCGS approval.

### **D. Rousay Ladies Indoor Sports – Boat Hire - North Isles Sports Day**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Rousay Ladies Indoor Sports Group, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards costs to hire the Golden Mariana to attend the North Isles Sports Day and Dance on Westray on 15 June 2024, it was:

Resolved that £600 would be granted to Rousay Ladies Indoor Sports group for the boat hire, subject to CCGS approval.

### **E. Rousay Sailing Club – Boat Hire for the Rousay Regatta**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Rousay Sailing Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the hire of the Golden Mariana to provide a late-evening charter service to Egilsay, Wyre and Tingwall on 20 July 2024 for those attending the Water Sports Day, it was:

Resolved that £400 would be granted to Rousay Sailing Club towards boat hire for the Rousay Regatta, subject to CCGS approval.

## **F. Rousay Triangle Club – Meal Subsidy and Coordinator Costs**

Members considered correspondence received from Rousay Triangle Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards weekly meal cost subsidies and Coordinator costs from April 2024 until April 2025.

A short discussion took place regarding the individual Wellbeing Fund of £200 that is available to each REW resident through the REWDT. It was queried whether Triangle Club members could use this fund to subsidise their personal costs or receive support from the group's coordinator to make sure that they are accessing these funds. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the sum of £2,000 would be awarded to the Triangle Club, subject to CCGS approval, towards their ongoing costs.

## **G. REWDT (on behalf of the Taversoe CBS) – Administrator Costs**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards costs to cover the employment of an Administrator for 6 months to support in the acquisition of the Taversoe, it was:

Resolved:

1. That £1,500 would be awarded towards the cost of a part-time administrator
2. That Seed Corn funding should be applied for on the cost of £1,500.
3. That if Seed Corn funding was refused, that funds should be paid from REWGCC's general funds.

## **H. Rousay Horticultural Society**

Members considered correspondence received from Rousay Horticultural Society, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards costs associated with the Rousay Horticultural Show 2024.

A short discussion took place with the CC querying the use of funds as cash prizes. Other ways to support the Horticulture Society were suggested, and it was:

Resolved to provide a donation of £250 towards the running costs of the Rousay Horticulture Show, subject to CCGS approval.

## **I. Mrs J Gibbon – Christmas Dinner provision for REWG residents**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Jean Gibbon, copies of which had been circulated, asking whether financial assistance could be made available towards the costs of Christmas Dinner for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay residents, members noted that the offer of Christmas Dinner was already extended to all REW residents, and that a note would need to be made regarding how many people would wish to receive one, and it was:



Resolved to let Mrs J Gibbon know that her request would be passed to the Triangle Club as the relevant group.

### **J. 1st Rousay Rainbows and Brownies – New Start Resources**

Following consideration of correspondence received from 1st Rousay Rainbows and Brownies, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards materials and uniform for two new-starts, a member suggested that a block grant could be awarded to the 1st Rainbows and Brownies to spend on defined items and costs throughout the year, and it was:

Resolved that £58 would be contributed towards the costs of new start resources, subject to CCGS approval.

### **K. Girlguiding Orkney – Trip to Bergen**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Girlguiding Orkney, requesting financial assistance towards a one Girl Guide's attendance at a residential week in Bergen, Norway, it was:

Resolved that a general fund donation of £200 would be provided.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Future of the Universal Postal Service**

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members advising of the consultation on the future of the universal postal service. Members were invited to read the consultation and provide feedback before the deadline, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **B. Scottish Water – 'Tell Us What You Think' Feedback**

Correspondence was previously circulated requesting responses to Scottish Water's 'Tell Us What You Think' survey. Members noted that feedback from stakeholders would help to shape the future of Scottish Water's service provision and ensure effective communication and engagement, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **C. SEPA – Review of Areas Most at Risk of Flooding**

Information was previously circulated to members regarding the designation of Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVAs). Feedback from public partners and local communities was requested to make sure all relevant impacts are taken into consideration, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **D. Orkney Islands Council – Housing Survey**

Correspondence was previously circulated to members stating that there was a gap in feedback from Community Councils regarding Orkney's housing strategy. This

strategy sets out the priorities and actions required locally for housing across three key areas - housing supply, housing quality and access to housing, and feedback from members was requested. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **E. Orkney Islands Council – Review of Local Orkney Development Plan**

Information was previously circulated to members regarding surveys and a call for ideas which would feed into the review of the Local Development Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **F. Orkney Matters 2 – Invitation**

A letter from Orkney Island Council's Strategy and Partnership department regarding participation in Orkney Partnership's planned community engagement exercise: 'Orkney Matters 2' had previously been circulated to members. It advised that this event would take place at Rousay Community School on the evening of 19 June 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **G. Orkney Islands Licensing Board – Review of Gambling Policy**

Information regarding the Gambling Policy review currently being undertaken locally was previously sent out to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses was 28 June 2024.

### **H. Cross-Party Group on Islands and National Islands Plan Review**

Correspondence from the Cross-Party Group on Islands had previously been circulated to members, which included draft minutes from their February meeting, and a breakdown of the National Islands Plan analysis. An invite was extended to attend the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that the CPGI meeting took place on 22 May 2024.

### **I. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 'Shaping Our Future Services'**

Correspondence from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was previously circulated to members, encouraging participation in the ongoing national consultation. This included an invite to attend an online discussion session, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **J. Scottish Islands Federation – Addressing Depopulation Action Plan and NIP Discussion**

This agenda item was missed from the agenda and followed up under item 10 D.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Planning**

The Planning Representative advised that the status of the local planning applications on the Orkney Islands Council planning portal were showing as 'undecided' and were still pending. One current notable planning application was for two houses to be built below Quoykot, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Transport**

The Transport Representative advised that no further information had come forward, but that the MV Shapinsay's arrival for the summer season had been well received, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Health and Care**

The Health and Care representative advised that their next meeting was due to be held next week. Laura Skaife-Knight, Chief Executive at NHS Orkney, had been out to speak with outgoing Nurse Practitioner Maggie Drosso, whose replacement would be in-post full time in August 2024. She also advised that the Chief Executive was receptive to attending a REWGCC meeting if informed on the date and time, and it was:

Resolved for the Clerk to invite the NHSO Chief Executive to the next CC meeting.

## **9. Publications**

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

- Scottish Water Newsletter – Spring 2024.
- Letter from School Place – March, April, and May 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update - March, April, and May 2024.
- Farm and Croft Diversification Drop-In Event – May 2024.
- Orkney Ferry Statistics – February, March, and April 2024.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Pedestrians at Piers**

The Chair noted that cars alighting from the ferry at Rousay Pier were creating a danger. A discussion raised the possibility of requesting that Orkney Harbours install markings at the top of Rousay pier to stop pedestrians walking in front of it. This request would include signage to be displayed at both Tingwall and Rousay showing directions and advising drivers not to stop at top of the pier, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor M Thomson would find out when the new deputy harbour master was due to visit Rousay and that she would arrange for him to meet with REWGCC.
2. That the Chair would email Councillor S Clackson to ask him to address this issue.

## **B. Condition of Wyre School**

Mrs Z Flaws described the poor condition of Wyre school and raised the query of how best to address this. Photos sent from a Wyre resident that show damage to windows and other issues had been forwarded to members in advance of the meeting.

Mrs Z Flaws advised that she had previously approached the REWDT regarding the possibility of purchasing the asset from Orkney Islands Council for a nominal sum, but this suggestion was not going to be taken forward. Councillor S Clackson advised that he had forwarded the concerns internally for comment but had not yet had a response, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor S Clackson would update the members when a response is received from his enquiry.
2. To make enquiries into whether the emergency helicopter lights could be moved to the Wyre Heritage Centre or the ferry waiting room at Wyre Pier.

## **C. Signs on Pier**

Resolved to note that two signs had appeared at Tingwall informing travellers that it was a Rev-Ro Ferry, with the requirement to reverse onboard.

## **D. Scottish Islands Federation – Addressing Depopulation Action Plan and NIP Discussion**

Members discussed item 7J that had been missed earlier in the meeting. Mrs C Mainland asked whether any member will be attending. The Clerk noted her interest and confirmed that she would be attending and would feed any significant information back to the members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **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, 7 September 2024 at 09:15.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:50.