

Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held in Rousay Community School and via Teams on Saturday, 30 November 2024 at 09:15

Present:

Mr A Firth, Mrs D Compton (via Teams), Mrs Z Flaws, Mrs C Mainland and Mr R Tipper.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms C Kriisa, Clerk.
- One member of the public.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minute.....	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence	4
5. Consultations	5
6. Financial Statements	7
7. Financial Requests	8
8. Reports from Representatives	9
9. Publications	10
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	10
11. Date of Next Meeting	12
12. Conclusion of Meeting	12

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Carole Maguire and Miss Alice Mainland.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held on Saturday 7 September 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Firth and seconded by Mrs C Mainland.

3. Matters Arising

A. Memorial at Rousay Kirkyard

An update was received from Mrs Z Flaws that a quote of £12,300 and an estimated installation date of April 2025 was obtained from one contractor, which would not include the concrete base. Another contractor had been approached for a quote, and the process of finding a contractor was ongoing.

Mrs Z Flaws was advised of a bench located at Sandwick kirkyard which had flagstones at the back of it. An email had also been received from John G Corse who had been made aware that the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council were interested in installing a memorial bench, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs Z Flaws would investigate the possibility of work in kind and other funding sources open to the project.
2. That the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would look into the Sandwick bench and how it had been sourced.

B. Historic Environment Scotland Car Parks

The Chair provided background information regarding the parking issues at Midhowe Cairn. A query was raised regarding the ownership of the nearby quarry, banking, and fence line. A brief discussion took place on whether the car park could be extended, or additional spaces created along the road, but it was accepted that the Planning Department would be unlikely to support this, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Historic Environment Scotland regarding ownership and responsibility of the car park.

C. Laybys

There had been no update received for this item, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

D. Rousay School Issues

An update was received from Mrs C Mainland, who advised that the crack in the building was still there, and it had been confirmed that further investigation was warranted. There was currently a water pump issue, and a light had still not been installed at the emergency assembly point. In addition, a light switch at the back door was currently taped over, with the purpose unknown. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would chase an update on the issues.

E. Post Boxes and Postal Service

The Chair shared concerns from their contemporaries at a recent Community Council Chairs meeting, and it was agreed that there was currently not much confidence in the postal service. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would be asked to contact the Post Office regarding the erratic service.

F. Parking at Rousay School

It was reported that a visit from HITRANS representatives Naomi Bremner and Murray Stewart had taken place at Rousay School as part of school travel plan data gathering, which included parking issues. Members heard that it was unlikely that Orkney Islands Council would cover costs to develop parking at the back of the building. Mr R Tipper provided information on the issues regarding the school bus being able to stop safely to allow pupils to board. It was hoped that a designated space would be marked out for the school bus at the school gate. Parents and visitors had also been informed not to park in certain places. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the school car park would be opened within school hours if an event was happening, or a group was meeting.
2. That Mrs C Mainland would speak with the school about encouraging safer parking.

G. Playpark Renewal Fund

Mrs Z Flaws advised that she had attended a meeting with the Parent Council and school representatives on 28 November 2024. No clear vision had been decided for the playpark at present, with the Parent Council looking to pick suitable play equipment for the children to make a final decision on. This will be three or four pieces of equipment if everyone was in agreement.

It was noted that health and safety regulations had changed since the installation of the current playground. These changes would mean that any new playpark would require a larger space between the equipment and apparatus and have fewer play items within it. The Parent Council would also then have to lease and insure any additional land from Orkney Island Council and obtain planning permission if they move outside of their designated space.

It was reported that the playpark was currently insured and would be kept insured so long as it was maintained. Some wooden elements of the current playpark were not being maintained, with some concern that it would rot and be condemned and removed.

A member raised a query of deadlines for other funding sources, and it was reported that Orkney Islands Council's match funding needed to be drawn down within a year. It was unknown if match-funder Lottery for All had a similar funding window. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would contact the Parent Council regarding any time limit on the allocated Lottery for All funding.
2. To note the information provided and remove the item from the agenda until a further update was received from the Parent Council.

H. Cruise Ship Revenue

Resolved to note that no update had been received on this item, and to ask for one.

I. Pedestrians at Piers

The Chair advised that he had asked for input from the Eynhallow ferry crew regarding suitable road markings at Rousay Pier. The Deputy Harbour Master was also hoping to make a visit to Rousay in the coming weeks, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and to await further information.

J. Condition of Wyre School

It was advised that Wyre School had now had its windows boarded up, and the only outstanding item was to fit a door to secure the building, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and remove this item from the agenda.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney Islands Council – Winter Service Plan Comments

Members considered correspondence from the Roads Support team, commenting on community council responses to the WSP consultation which had been carried out earlier in the year. It was noted that the gritter did not go up to Faraclett a few weeks prior to the meeting, however the Community Council agreed that they were in agreement with the Winter Service Plan if the plan was followed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the correspondence.
2. To speak with the local road workers if there are any issues going forward, and pass on issues to Orkney Islands Council via Democratic Services.

B. The Screen Machine – Cancellation of Rousay Visit

Members considered correspondence advising that the Screen Machine was recently unable to make its annual visit to Rousay due to the temporary Screen Machine vehicle being too large for the Eynhallow, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. Scottish Water – Preparing for Winter Advice

Correspondence had previously been received from Scottish Water and circulated to members, outlining their current efforts to keep homes connected during periods of cold weather. A further general water update was received from Mrs Z Flaws, stating that water treatment processes on Rousay had improved, and that the water quality had been noted as good. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. ZEVI Update

Following consideration of an update on the ZEVI project, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was reported that a planned familiarisation trip by the Eynhallow skipper had been cancelled, with 16 December 2024 given as the new date. It was also noted that Shapinsay Community Council had also posted online, requesting suggestions from residents for usage and timetable possibilities.

Context received from Councillor M Thomson stated that there would be another delay due to damage to the vessel. It was unknown if any timetable suggestions at this stage would work, as there was a need to make sure the concept of the ZEVI worked within the isles before any times were made public. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

5. Consultations

A. Orkney Towns Fund Board

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members advising of an online community engagement session to discuss possible uses for the allocated town funding. This session was attended by Mrs Z Flaws, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. Post School Education and Skills Reform – Consultation on Legislation

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of an active consultation seeking views on proposals for changes to the roles and functions of the three funding bodies in the post-school system: Student Awards Agency Scotland; the Scottish Funding Council; and Skills Development Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. Scottish Water Survey

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members from Scottish Water. The survey requested feedback from key stakeholders on the water and wastewater services it provides. This survey had been completed by some Community Councillors, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Boundaries Scotland – Constituencies and Provisional Proposals

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members from the Scottish Boundaries Commission informing the Community Council that Boundaries Scotland would be publishing its Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions on 26 September 2024. A consultation period of one month had followed, lasting until 26 October 2024, during which comments concerning the proposals were invited, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and that the deadline had passed.

E. Neven Point Wind Farm – Proposal of Application Notice

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members advising that a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) for Neven Point Wind Farm had been submitted to Orkney Islands Council. Councillor M Thomson advised that the community on Eday were split over the proposals and that the proposed turbines would rise to a height of 180m tall, impacting the skyline looking over from Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the correspondence.
2. That the Clerk would make enquiries into community benefit and recompense that may be available.

F. VAO – Support for Charities and Community Groups in Orkney

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members from Voluntary Action Orkney, who were looking for feedback from charity organisations and community groups to help identify how they could best provide support going forward, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

G. West of Orkney Windfarm – Additional Information Consultation

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members advising of an additional community information event regarding the West of Orkney Windfarm development at The Space on 28 November 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

H. Orkney Matters 2 – Additional Online Meetings

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members advising of additional Orkney Matters 2 meetings that were to be held online on 29 and 30 October, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

I. ORSAS – Notice of Upcoming Events

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members from the Orkney Rape and Sexual Assault Service advising of their upcoming community events, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

J. Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members on behalf of the Scottish Government's Resilient Communities Team, providing details of an online survey intended to gather insight and information from representatives of Community Councils on a range of resilience issues. The survey was designed to better understand how Community Councils are supporting local people through emergencies and challenging situations, and what further support might be needed. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

K. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members advising that Orkney Islands Council was undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places within the Orkney Islands Area of the Orkney and Shetland Parliamentary Constituency, and that comments were invited, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 12 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £35,065.27.

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 main capping limit was over allocated, and that the balances remaining in the additional and island capping limits were £165 and £740 respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 12 November 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 12 November 2024, it was:

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

7. Financial Requests

A. St Magnus Way – Maintenance and Ongoing Costs

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Pilgrimage, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the ongoing maintenance and additional costs for insurance, webhosting, and replacement of signage, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £500 would be made to Orkney Pilgrimage towards ongoing maintenance and operational costs.

B. Egilsay Community Association – Fireworks Display

Following consideration of correspondence received from Egilsay Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards their annual bonfire and fireworks display, it was:

Resolved that a contribution of £350 will be provided to Egilsay Community Association for their bonfire and firework display, subject to CCGS approval.

C. REW Darts Team – Orkney Darts Association Parish Cup

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre darts team, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting a financial contribution of £500 towards travel costs to Stronsay to participate in the Parish Cup, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £500 would be made to the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre darts team towards the hiring of the Golden Mariana, allowing their participation in the Orkney Darts Association Parish Cup.

D. Rousay Community School – Christmas Gifts for Pupils

Following consideration of correspondence received from Rousay Community School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards providing each school and nursery pupil with a Christmas present, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £500 would be made to Rousay Community School towards providing Christmas gifts to all school and nursery pupils.

E. 1st Rousay Rainbows and 1st Rousay Guides – Ongoing Materials

Following consideration of correspondence received from 1st Rousay Rainbows and 1st Rousay Guides, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards uniform and book costs it was:

Resolved that a donation of £86 would be contributed to 1st Rousay Rainbows and 1st Rousay Guides towards their uniform and book costs.

F. Rousay Parent Council – Funding Support for New Playpark

Members considered correspondence received from Rousay Parent Council, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the costs of purchasing and installing new playground equipment. It was agreed that the project was not currently developed to a stage where Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council felt they were able to contribute the requested £7,500, and it was:

Resolved to revisit the financial request once the proposal for the playpark was further developed.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

Resolved to note that there was no update.

B. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that she had attended training on 25 November 2024. The training was intended for representatives to understand their responsibilities for draft timetables and other relevant areas such as community engagement. The training and knowledge gained would assist the community in knowing that they should engage with their local Transport Representative directly, rather than contact Orkney Ferries on these matters.

It was also advised that the next transport forum would take place on 22 January 2025, with draft timetables being discussed then. It is most likely that only small tweaks will be made to the existing Eynhallow timetable.

The Transport Representative advised that she would also meet online with their contemporary from Shapinsay, regarding what the communities want from the ZEVI so that draft timetables et cetera can be envisioned. It was noted that the charging

point for the vessels would be in Kirkwall, creating uncertainty over how the ZEVI would be crewed. There had not been an update on the crewing of this service.

No update has been received regarding the late evening sailings proposed for the Eynhallow, and an update will be requested at the next transport meeting in January. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Health and Care

The Health and Care Representative advised that they would be attending the next meeting on 9 December 2024. Current staffing matters were discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and details of discussion.

9. Publications

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

- PTSN Digital Phone Switchover.
- Isles Special Collection Schedule to 31 March 2025.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update - September, October and November 2024.
- VAO - Newsletter - September and October 2024.
- Letter from School Place - September, October and November 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter - October 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics - September 2024.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Orkney Ferries – New Booking System

It was reported that there were early issues with the new Orkney Ferries booking system. It had been noted that residents who use vouchers to travel cannot yet book online, and that the Eynhallow shows as at full capacity, but this was not the case some of the time. The Tingwall and Kirkwall offices did reply quickly to booking requests made by email, but this was often not ideal if it is a standby slot that is offered.

It was advised that a meeting with the company installing and managing the system found that the system was being switched on gradually, allowing for problems to be overcome on an individual basis and lessen the chances of larger problems further on. Members were advised that any system issues should be reported to Orkney Ferries.

It was also advised that books of tickets would be going onto a card with a scannable QR code in the new year, and Orkney Ferries would be looking at family cards and other discounts which would have to be approved by Orkney Islands Council. It was currently unclear how the discounts would work, or on what basis. October 2025 would also see the introduction of names having to be provided for the passenger

manifest. Orkney Ferries were hoping to move away from standby, but this can be dependent on space being booked by isles hauliers. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor M Thomson would ask when bookings can be done online for ticket holders.
2. That the information received be noted.

B. Business Plan for New Ferries

It was reported that Orkney Islands Council were hopeful that the Scottish Government budget, due to be released on 4 December 2024, will reflect the support needed for Orkney's internal ferry fleet, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that Councillor M Thomson will chase details of the Business Plan.

C. Cross Party Group Meeting

Mrs C Mainland advised that she had previously attended an October meeting and would also attend the December meeting online. The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, added that Paul McLennan, the Minister for Housing, would be in attendance, and the meeting will be more housing focused. He recommended the meeting as a direct way to ask questions of MSPs, and it was:

Resolved to note the information received.

D. Parking at Brinian Kirkyard

It was agreed that parking at Brinian Kirkyard was, and would, become more necessary going forward, with friends and relatives wishing to visit loved ones in the kirkyard, and would also be used by The Craithub attendees, as more events were added to their diary.

A brief discussion was held, looking at areas that could potentially be developed as more formal parking, with caution being noted regarding the access needs of the ambulance and Nurse Practitioner for any suggestions to be taken forward. Previous success had been demonstrated at the Wester Kirkyard, with the Community Council, Development Trust and Orkney Islands Council working together to achieve this.

Areas of land were suggested, but clarity over who landowners were would be needed to take forward any discussions, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would make a site visit.
2. That the Clerk would show the area of concern to the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer and the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, following the meeting.

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, 8 February 2025 at 09:15.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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