

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in North Walls School, on Friday, 7 September 2018 at 18:45

Present:

Mrs M Groat, Mrs G Robertson, Mr A Clark, Mr A Sinclair, Mrs R Thomson and Mrs J Traynor.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Mrs T Avis, Clerk/Island Link Officer.
- Mr A Blake, Ferry Services Manager, Orkney Ferries.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Minutes	2
3. Discussion with Ferry Services Manager, Orkney Ferries	2
4. Matters Arising.....	3
5. Correspondence	5
6. Financial Statements	6
7. Requests for Financial Assistance.....	7
8. Publications	8
9. Any Other Competent Business.....	8
10. Date of Next Meeting	8
11. Conclusion of Meeting	8

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Mr C Bates and Councillor R Crichton.

2. Minutes

A. Minute of Meeting held on 18 May 2018

The minute of the meeting held on 18 May 2018 was approved, being proposed by Mrs G Robertson and seconded by Mrs R Thomson.

B. Minute of Meeting held on 15 June 2018

The minute of the meeting held on 15 June 2018 was approved, being proposed by Mrs R Thomson and seconded by Mr A Clark.

3. Discussion with Ferry Services Manager, Orkney Ferries

The Chair welcomed the Ferry Services Manager to the meeting and he explained that he was in the process of visiting each Community Council to hear what the wishes of each community were in terms of the ferry service.

Members noted that the current time of sailings on Saturday of the MV Hoyhead didn't give much time in town and asked whether the option of a later sailing could be explored. The Ferry Services Manager explained that, currently, the crew hours were at the limit allowed by the MCA. A discussion continued about how much time could be saved a week if the ferry berthed at Lyness overnight, however the Ferry Services Manager explained that it wasn't just a question of simply moving the boat, it would have to be looked at in detail, but he was willing to make enquiries.

Members asked if there was a problem with staffing at Houton, but it was explained that the office was very busy, and the Ferry Services Manager suggested that passengers should use their reference number when booking.

Members asked about the standby system. The Ferry Services Manager explained that the computer system could only work based on uniform lengths of vehicle, however the crew were very good at getting extra vehicles on, if possible. The Manager explained that, if you are on standby, there could be no guarantee of getting on the ferry.

Members queried figures that are produced by Orkney Ferries called "round trip". The Ferry Services Manager explained it was Interisland\round trip, so the figure related to vehicles going between Lyness and Flotta.

Councillor Thomson noted that the MV Graemsay sometimes left Moaness earlier than timetabled. The Ferry Services Manager explained that this may happen on some occasions due to weather\tide conditions but if there were specific instances when this didn't apply, he could investigate, if informed.

It was mentioned that, at certain times, if you boarded at Graemsay you could have a 45-minute crossing to Stromness instead of 15 minutes, depending on which route

the ferry took. The Ferry Services Manager said he would look into the suggestion of dropping in at Graemsay, and also into the suggestion that the MV Graemsay timetable for Saturday remain the same in winter as the summer.

4. Matters Arising

A. Island Link Officer Update

The Clerk informed members that the office in Longhope had been open for last three Mondays and there had been three visitors who came about recycling, core paths, the pier at Hoy, and to discuss a ranger service for the island. The Clerk suggested that she continue with just Monday openings until mid-October, due to holidays, and members agreed with this. Members also discussed the issue of recycling, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Democratic Services with regards to the Community Councils' suggestions for recycling.

B. Supply of Aggregate

The Clerk advised members there was some money available to ship aggregate and reminded them of the resolution that all of this year's money be made available to Hoy and Walls residents, and it was:

Resolved to advertise the scheme locally.

C. Community Resilience

The Clerk informed members that the two applications made to the SSEN 2018 Fund for satellite phones had been successful. She also reported that SSEN had extended the deadline on 2017 funding as Orkney Islands Council had still not replied over possible issues with a hook up point being installed at North Walls School. Councillor Stockan agreed to investigate what the cause of the delay was, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

D. Scoping Opinion Hoy Wind Farm

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the scoping opinion on the Hoy Wind Farm, members queried if the recent refusal of planning applications for wind farms would have an effect. Councillor Stockan said possibly it could, however this scoping document was just to ensure that everything was being looked at in detail, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Orkney Inter Island Transport Study

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, the Chair indicated she could attend the meeting on Thursday, 25 October, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would check if the Transport Representative could attend as well.

F. Graemsay Recycling Provision

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council and a member of the Graemsay Community, members discussed the recycling bins that had been placed at Graemsay pier. Members pointed out that the bins were more suited to a domestic situation rather than a solution for an island community. Members of the public confirmed it certainly wasn't what they had asked for, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to Democratic Services regarding the possibility of OIC supplying larger wheelie bins.

G. Hoy Post Office

After consideration of correspondence from the Post Office and a member of the community it was agreed that the Hoy Centre would make an ideal location for a Post Office. Councillor Thomson said he would speak to the local shop to see if they were willing to consider this, and it was:

Resolved that the situation would be monitored.

H. Headstone Inspections

After consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, members discussed the complexity of the situation. Members agreed that a further cut of each of the four kirkyards should be undertaken in September and funded by the Community Council.

Members also agreed that some general issues regarding gates and sheds should be reported to Democratic Services, At St John's kirkyard the gates need repainting or replacing, and members noted that gates at other kirkyards on the island have been replaced with galvanised steel. Graemsay kirkyard shed was in a bad state of repair and it was also noted that the Hoy one was also needing some work done. Members suggested that the sheds at Osmandwall and St John's which were no longer used could be relocated, and it was resolved:

1. That a further cut of the kirkyard should be requested, with the Community Council funding the cost.
2. To advertise details of the Headstone Inspection process.
3. That the Clerk should contact Democratic Services regarding the issues with sheds and gates.

I. Road Visibility Issues

After consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, members discussed the issues with visibility at the corner of the Royal Hotel in Longhope. An area was also discussed where a fence had been placed quite close to the verge, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would speak to certain individuals regarding visibility and Councillor Thomson would check the distance that households should leave alongside verges.

J. Lyness Museum

Councillor Stockan updated the meeting regarding the tender process at Lyness museum, and confirmed that no contracts had yet been awarded, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

K. Cattle Grids

Councillor Thomson told members that the cattle grid would be replaced following surface dressing being done in the next couple of weeks. At the same time, they would be repairing the road alongside the Royal Hotel in Longhope, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

5. Correspondence

A. RET Announcement

After consideration of correspondence from L McArthur, MSP, regarding the recent announcement on RET, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Community Banking

After consideration of correspondence from RBS regarding Community Banking, members discussed the reduced service now being offered on Hoy and Walls, and it was:

Resolved to advertise the new hours of visiting in the next edition of the Blether.

C. Business Signage

After consideration of correspondence from the Stromabank Hotel regarding a sign they had erected on a local verge, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to Stromabank Hotel and inform them that they should seek clarification from the Roads Department direct.

D. Changing Lives through Sport and Physical Activity Fund

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council on the Sport and Physical Activity Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. St Johns Kirkyard Gates

After consideration of correspondence from St John's Kirk regarding the state of the gates, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to Democratic Services as per item 4H.

F. Accessible Transport Meeting

After consideration of correspondence from Disability Equality Scotland, in conjunction with Transport Scotland, regarding an Accessible Transport event, it was:

Resolved that details be advertised locally.

G. Special Request Form

After consideration of a special request form for booking ferries, which had been received from Democratic Services, members queried when the form should be used, and it was:

Resolved to advertise the new form for special requests for ferry hire.

H. Islands of Orkney Tourist Brochure 2019

After consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services regarding amendments to the Islands of Orkney tourist brochure for next year, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact those businesses within the brochure and ask for any amendments or deletions.

I. Floodline

After consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding their Floodline information service and a related drop-in event, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advertise the drop-in event.

J. Community Conversations

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the recent Community Conversation meetings, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

K. Wellbeing Orkney Project

After consideration of correspondence from THAW Orkney, it was:

Resolved that no member was able to attend the meeting.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the Community Council's general financial statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £12,220.70, as at 20 August 2018.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

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

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £630.40, as at 20 August 2018.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement, it was:
Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £5,660.03, as at 20 August 2018.

D. Seed Corn Fund

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

Resolved to note the funds remaining for approval of £3,658.47, as at 20 August 2018.

7. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Survey Work

Following consideration of the application from Graemsay Community Association for £250 towards a structural survey for the Community Hall roof, it was:

Resolved to award £250 as a donation.

B. Outstanding Award from the Community Development Fund

The Clerk informed members that the Community Council had granted £1,000 to Graemsay Community Association towards a replacement roof on the Community Hall. It had subsequently been discovered that it was a much larger job than anticipated, so the Community Association had applied for further funding from LEADER. The Association were successful in this application, however were £2,000 short, and had asked if the £1,000 could be released, and it was:

Resolved unanimously that the £1,000 be released to Graemsay Community Association.

C. Longhope Lifeboat Museum

Following consideration of an application from the Longhope Lifeboat Museum for financial assistance towards some essential work to the Museum before the 50-year commemoration on 17 March 2019, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £735 be applied for from the Community Development Fund.

D. Police Scotland Youth Volunteers – Fun Day

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance towards a fundraising event for the Orkney drugs dog, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be made.

8. Publications

Members were provided with copies of the following publications, for their information:

- Orkney Policing Report.
- Orkney Ferries statistics for February, March and April 2018.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. St Colm's Playpark

The Clerk reminded members that the playpark grass cutting had only been agreed for four cuts and asked whether members wanted to sanction another later cut, if required, and it was:

Resolved that one further cut at £25 would be agreed, if required, to be paid out of general funds.

B. Hoy Pier

It was requested that a handrail be installed on the slope down to the pier at Moaness, Hoy. The Chair noted that this had been requested before, and it was:

Resolved to write to Democratic Services regarding this.

C. Longhope Street Lighting

Councillor Thomson informed members that the street lighting in Longhope would be changed to LED's before April 2019, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was.

Resolved that the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would take place on Friday, 2 November 2018 at 18:45.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting concluded at 21:28.