

Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held in Rousay School and via Teams on Saturday, 9 March 2024 at 09:15

Present:

Mr A Firth, Mrs D Compton, Mrs Z Flaws, Miss A Mainland, Mrs C Mainland, Mrs C Maguire and Mr R Tipper.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Ms C Kriisa, Incoming Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors H Woodbridge and S Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Firth and seconded by Mrs Z Flaws.

3. Matters Arising

A. Notice Board

The Chair advised that this was in hand, and it was:

Resolved to note that progress would be made with getting the notice boards put up.

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

The Chair advised that no party was taking responsibility for the car park at Midhowe, and suggested that a search could be done on minutes from the 1980's to see if there were any references to this car park being constructed, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would be asked to check historic minutes for any mention of the car park at Midhowe being put in.

D. Laybys

No further update was available on this item. Councillor M Thomson advised members to ask again for a response, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request an update on the installation of laybys, via the business letter to Democratic Services.
2. That Councillor M Thomson would also try to ascertain who was responsible for the car park.

E. Rousay School Issues

It was reported that many of the issues had not been addressed, and it was:

Resolved that members would provide the Interim Clerk with a list of issues that still required attention so that these could be forwarded to the relevant Council department.

F. Post Boxes and Postal Service

No response had been received following a letter to Royal Mail. The Chair explained that the Wester post box had been removed again, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact the local manager, Royal Mail, to ask for an update on the postal service and ask where the boxes had gone.

G. Parking at Rousay School

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there was no further update on this at present, as the projects from the previous round would be carried out first and then funding sought for the second tranche, and it was:

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

H. Playpark Renewal Fund

Councillor M Thomson advised that information had been sent to the group who were pursuing the play park project, however members had not received any information. They assumed it must have been sent to the Parent Council. Installation costs were discussed, and it was:

Resolved to contact the Rousay School Parent Council in this regard to ask how the application was progressing.

4. Correspondence

A. Orbital Marine Power

Correspondence sent on behalf of Orbital Marine Power had previously been sent around members, advising that they had requested that the Scottish Ministers adopt a scoping opinion in relation to the Westray Tidal Array under the EIA regulations, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and that the date for responding had passed.

B. Community Development Fund (CDF) Allocation

Correspondence from Democratic Services had previously been circulated to members, advising of an additional tranche of £5,000 being released to each community council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Briefing Note – R100 and SBVS

A briefing note providing a summary of the current broadband investment programme in Orkney, with maps, had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Accounts Commission Report on OIC

Information from the Accounts Commission had previously been sent to members, regarding an Audit Scotland report, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. BSc Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest

Following consideration of correspondence from D Gunn, a BSc (Hons) student of Environmental Management, who was investigating whether the Scottish population's understanding and perception of the Scottish rainforest impacts the conservation of this special habitat, it was:

Resolved to note the survey.

F. Thank You Letter

Members were advised that a thank you letter had been received from Rousay Community School, for the funding towards Christmas presents, and it was:

Resolved to note the thank you letter.

G. National Improvement Framework for Adult Social Care Support and Community Health

Members had previously been forwarded information on an online meeting with the Scottish Government to learn more about and feed into the NIS Framework for Adult Social Care and Community Health, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Scottish Islands Passport – What's New for 2024

Information from the Scottish Islands Passport had previously been forwarded to members, advising of new features on the SIP app, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

I. King's Portrait Scheme

Members had been sent information on a scheme to provide framed portraits of King Charles II, and it was:

Resolved to request a portrait, which could be put on display somewhere in the community centre.

J. Free Webinar – Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

Information on a free webinar for community council members had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 26 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £32,526.70.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 25 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits were £1,865.32, £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 25 January 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 25 January 2024, it was:

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

6. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that no requests for financial assistance had been received.

7. Consultations

A. Orkney Local Development Plan - Development Plan Scheme Newsletter

Correspondence had previously been circulated to member advising of the consultation regarding the first stage of the review of Orkney's Local Development Plan, and the publication of the Development Plan Scheme Newsletter. Members were invited to read the newsletter and provide feedback and comments on their approach to engagement, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 7 March 2024.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan consultation, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, and following discussion regarding items being placed in the verges, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would report the issue of items being placed in the verges to the relevant Council department via the business letter.
2. To note the deadline of 29 March 2024 for any comments on the plan.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024

Members had previously been forwarded the Winter Service Plan consultation and commented that they had always provided feedback but that their suggestions were not always incorporated into the next plan. They suggested that the next time a Roads Inspector visited the island, a member of the community council should accompany them and point out all the roads which should be prioritised for gritting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk ask, via the business letter, if the Roads Inspector could liaise with a member of the community council on a future visit to consider where the priority roads should be.
2. To note the deadline of 29 March 2024 for any comments on the plan.

D. NHS Orkney Listening Events – February 2024

Information had previously been circulated to members about an NHSO Listening Event on 14 February, and other online meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the date had passed.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

The Planning Representative advised of her disappointment of the new way of distributing the weekly list, but advised that there were two applications awaiting decision for Rousay, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that there would be a consultation on the ZEV trial, and that she had drafted a poster for distribution, asking for opinions. Members voiced their disappointment at the price hike for ferry tickets, including the books of 50 and asked if any alternatives would be coming to replace, as this provided some kind of discount for island residents. The new booking system was also discussed as members felt frustrations would be made worse if this was to be delayed further, and they also asked for information on when the MV Shapinsay would be put on the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre routes. Following further discussion, and advice from Councillor M Thomson, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask for information on when the MV Shapinsay would be coming to cover their routes.

C. Health and Care

The Health and Care representative advised that there had been a meeting on Monday evening, where sheltered housing the need for more home care on the islands had been a big topic of discussion, as well as hospital discharge and transport arrangements. The Chair advised anyone with issues relating to Health and Care to pass them to Mrs Z Flaws, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – Update December 2023 and February 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics - November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- Letter from School Place – December 2023 and January and February 2024.
- ORSAS Newsletter – September and November 2023 and March 2024.
- BBC Children in Need's new Big Sky Fund.
- Scottish Water – Leaks and Bursts.
- VAO Small Grants Scheme 2024/2025.
- Special Waste Collection – Bulky Items.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Benches for Rousay

Members resumed consideration of purchasing benches for various areas around the island, including at the War Memorial and Wester Kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To purchase four benches
2. That the decision be delegated to Mrs Z Flaws to choose suitable benches for the specified areas.

B. Cruise Ship Revenue

A member asked if the information could be provided, as per discussion at item 11A of the previous meeting, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor H Woodbridge hoped to provide an update on this before the next meeting.

C. Sheep Scab

A member raised the issue of sheep scab being present in some flock in Orkney, and the need for treatments. Councillor M Thomson advised that Orkney Livestock Association were looking into options but that she would ask the relevant Council department for information, and it was:

Resolved to await further information on proposed action.

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 School on Saturday, 1 June 2024 at 09:15.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:45.