

# Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Community Room, Westray School and via Teams on Monday, 1 July 2024 at 19:30

## Present:

Mrs Elizabeth Drever, Mr Adam Baird, Mr Daniel Marcus, Mrs Janice Kirkness, Mr Louis Pottinger, Mrs Ann Rendall and Mrs Rozalind Rendall.

## In Attendance:

- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Mrs Edith Costie, Clerk.
- Mr Geordie Thomson, Chair, Westray Development Trust.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Councillors Stephen Clackson, Mellissa Thomson and Heather Woodbridge.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 29 April 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Danny Harcus and seconded by Mr Adam Baird.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Recycling/One-Off Plastic Collection**

Following consideration of the recycling service to the island, it was:

Resolved to take this item off the next agenda as it was unlikely that the current situation, with regard to collecting and recycling plastics, will alter meantime.

### **B. Village Path**

After hearing a report advising that the project had not progressed since the last meeting but was ongoing, it was:

Resolved to note the update on this item.

### **C. Street Lighting – Northend to Hofn**

Members had agreed that they would be happy to put money towards lighting but felt that it would prove safer for the community if daylight sensor or streetlight timed lights were provided and that consideration should be given to a light on the Road Lorry shed, and it was:

Resolved to ask the Community Council Liaison Officer to investigate this matter further and provide an update to the next meeting.

### **D. 2024 Sunday Excursions**

Members discussed the possibility of providing excursions to each of the isles during summer 2025, agreeing that it would be beneficial to find out what events will be taking place on the other isles, to have the trips coincide with special events, and it was:

Resolved to request one sailing to each of the isles, possibly coinciding with a local event.

### **E. Grass Cutting**

The Interim Clerk advised that the contractor would be happy provide a price for the three-year period, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

## **F. Road Scheme**

Members resumed consideration of operating a Road Aggregate Scheme. Some members felt that this scheme would only benefit a few and it would be better using funds for projects that would benefit the wider community, and it was:

Resolved to shelve this meantime and should applications be received they could be considered on an individual basis.

## **G. Disposal of Household Goods**

Members were advised of dates in July when an additional collection could be arranged by the Community Council. Concerns were also raised about items of household furniture being left at the recycling area, which would be seen as fly tipping for which fines could be issued. Members noted there was a planned special collection due to happen the following week however it might be necessary to arrange more frequent collections than OIC currently provide. Members asked if a date in August could be arranged and that it could be arranged as per the normal practice with the Community Council funding any shortfall costs incurred. If a collection could be arranged it should be advertised through social media, Auk Talk and local shops, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request a date in August for an additional household collection.
2. That when a date was received it should be advertised locally and that items should be booked at least one week in advance of the date of the collection.
3. That the items left at the recycling point should be included.

## **H. Dredging at Gill Pier**

The Interim Clerk provided an update advising members that all areas were being considered regarding the possibility of dredging at piers, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

## **I. Public Toilets**

The Interim Clerk advised that the condition of the public toilets had been reported to the Building Inspector, who would inspect it and arrange any necessary work, and it was:

Resolved to await report.

## **J. Kirkyards**

The Interim Clerk advised that the repairs needed had been reported and would be inspected at some point. Members discussed getting the repairs done locally and provided information on who could be contacted regarding small project work such as the sheds at Rapness and Pierowall Kirkyards, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council if costs could be sourced locally for repairs to be carried out on the sheds.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Community Sculptures**

Following consideration of correspondence from J Berry regarding the siting of the “Peace by Piece” sculpture, following a community vote where the “grassy verges” opposite the Hotel had been the preferred option, it was:

Resolved to provide the following points for his consideration:

- To advise on the Community Council’s ongoing aspirations for the provision of a “Village Path” in this area.
- That land ownership and permission would require to be checked, and that Democratic Services could assist with information on ownership.
- That planning permission requirements should be clarified with Orkney Islands Council before any work was undertaken.
- That insurance and ongoing maintenance costs would require to be addressed.
- That contact should be made with Westray Heritage Trust asking if they would be interested in the project.

### **B. Westray Development Trust (WDT) - Request for Letters of Support**

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was held in private.

Members welcomed Mr Geordie Thomson, Chair, WDT, who advised on the proposed purchase of Jerusalem and the old Community Centre along with the proposed plans for the use of the two properties which was being undertaken by WDT. Following a question-and-answer session regarding the projects, it was:

Resolved to note the update and the Chair thanked Mr Thomson for attending the meeting.

Mr G Thomson left the meeting at this point

### **C. Orkney Ferries – New Booking System**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Ferries advising that there would be a period of transition where both booking systems would be in operation so that customers would continue to be able to book online for the rest of the summer period using the old system but would have access online to the new system via the website for any bookings made on 30 September onwards, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **D. Orkney Ferries – Sunday Opening**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Ferries advising that the office would be open on Sundays from 23 June, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that a letter of thanks for progressing this should be sent.

## **E. Annual Grants**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising members of the Annual Grants and that Westray Community Council had received £4,708,84, it was:

Resolved for note the content of the correspondence.

## **F. Inter-Island Boarding Cards**

Following consideration of correspondence from Loganair advising that following a recent HIAL Security Audit, Loganair had found it necessary to issue boarding cards at Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **G. TRI-CE Meeting**

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services asking if members would be interested in having TRI-CE meetings. The TRI-CE meeting was piloted in Sanday, and they consist of representatives from the island Community Council, Development Trust and Community Association along with officers from Orkney Islands Council, Highland and Islands Enterprise and Voluntary Action Orkney. Members believed the three groups on the island worked well together already however welcomed a TRI-CE meeting in the islands, and it was:

Resolved to advise Democratic Services that members wished to take part in a TRI-CE meeting.

## **H. Orkney Housing Association Ltd (OHAL) Event – 3 July**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising of an invitation to meet with OHAL at their drop in event, it was:

Resolved to note that members were not available to attend.

# **5. Financial Statements**

## **A. Annual Accounts**

Following consideration of the annual accounts as at 31 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the annual accounts.

## **B. General Fund 2023/2024**

Following consideration of the General Finance 2023/2024 statement as at 18 June 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £40,238.36.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 18 June 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had been exceeded by £333.08, but that £341.54 and £743 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.

## **D. General Fund 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the General Finance 2024/2025 statement as at 18 June 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £43,551.70.

## **E. Community Council Grant Scheme 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 18 June 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £2,217.00 remaining for approval, and that £740.00 and £525.00 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.

## **F. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 18 June 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £6,983.28 remained available for allocation to projects.

# **6. Financial Request**

## **A. Friends of the Westray Playpark**

Mrs R Rendall declared an interest in this item and was not present during discussion.

Following consideration of an application from Friends of Westray Playpark requesting financial assistance towards repair, replacement and refurbishment in the Westray Playpark, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award a grant of £3,500 towards the cost of the project from the Community Development Funding allocation.
2. That an application should be submitted for Community Development Funding on the cost of £3,500.

## **B. Westray Church of Scotland**

Following consideration of an application from Westray Church of Scotland requesting financial assistance towards the cost of a new projector, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award a grant of £500 towards the cost of the projector from the Community Development Funding allocation.
2. That an application should be submitted for Community Development Funding on the cost of £500.

## **C. Westray Hub**

Following consideration of an application from Westray Hub requesting financial assistance towards the cost of providing food for the Hub over the winter months, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £550.

## **D. Westray Sailing Club**

Following consideration of an application from Westray Sailing Club requesting financial assistance towards costs for the Regatta Sunday event, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £150.

## **E. Westray Community Association (WCA)**

Members were advised that WCA were working on securing a financial package towards the installation of a new kitchen in the Community Room and planned to submit a financial request for funding to the Community Council soon, and it was:

Resolved to note that members would discuss the request by email, once it was received.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National Public Consultation**

Following consideration of a consultation from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service regarding "Shaping our future Service", it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the date for submission of comments had passed.

### **B. Review of Orkney's Local Development Plan**

Members had previously been forwarded a Review of Orkney Local Development Plan and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Review of Gambling Policy**

Members had previously been forwarded a Review of Gambling Policy, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Orkney Matters**

Mr D Harcus advised that the Orkney Matters 2 meeting had been an information gathering and exchanging event and had been very interesting and well attended, and it was:

Resolved to note content of the report.

### **E. BT – Digital Voice Roadshow**

Information had been distributed to members on the dates of the drop-in session, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **F. 20mph Engagement with Community Councils**

Following consideration of correspondence from Roads Design Officer inviting feedback on the 20mph speed limit to be implemented for Pierowall Village, it was:

Resolved that a 20mph speed limit had recently been put in place at the school which worked well appeared to be adequate for the area

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative advised that everything had already been covered, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Planning**

The Planning Representative advised that he had nothing to report, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

The Health and Care Representative informed the members that she had been at the last meeting and provided an update on the discussion held, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report and to request that minutes/notes from these meetings be made available for circulation to members.



## **D. Westray Development Trust**

The WDT Representative had nothing more to report other than what had been discussed previously, and it was:

Resolved to note that no further update was available.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – May and June 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding – May and June 2024.
- Letter from School Place – May and June 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – March, April and May 2024.
- Loganair Statistics – April 2024.

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

### **A. Scrap Cars**

The Interim Clerk advised that the grant scheme set up for the removal of scrap cars no longer had funds remaining, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Fibre Cables in Ditches**

A member of the public had raised that the ditches should have been cleaned out at the same time as the fibre cables were laid in the island, it was:

Resolved to note the information given.

### **C. Orkney Ferries Islander Discount**

The Chair reported that at the recent Community Council Chairs meeting the possibility of reduced fares for islanders was considered. Discussion followed and some members felt that the current level of fares was reasonable and that any lowering of fares for islanders would probably result in increased fares for non-islanders which may deter them from visiting the islands, and it was:

Resolved to note the situation.

### **D. Lack of Accommodation in Kirkwall**

Following consideration of correspondence from S Whiteman regarding the lack of affordable accommodation in Kirkwall for students, from the isles, wishing to attend Orkney College, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and while members were sympathetic of the situation felt there was nothing that they could contribute.

## **E. Potholes**

Mr D Marcus asked about the machine that had been purchased by Orkney Islands Council for repairing potholes and when it would be in Westray. Meantime members of the community who mention potholes, should be encouraged to report them either online or by telephone direct to Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Replacement Ferries**

Mr D Marcus raised a query regarding the replacement ferries for the Outer North Isles. He had been discussing this at an Orkney Matters Meeting and found that the preferred ferry was a mono hull. A recent report in the Orcadian highlighted substantial savings in both the build costs and the ongoing running costs of catamarans. We haven't heard why they are not suitable however hopefully they are making the right decision and that a balanced view had been taken, and it was:

Resolved to note the member's comments.

## **G. Howanbrek Bin Lid**

The Chair advised that OHAL had no record of supplying the bin at Howanbrek. It had been suggested that the bin should be removed and replaced with OIC wheelie bins, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would speak to the resident.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of the date of next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Westray Community Council would be held on Monday, 16 September 2024 at 19:30 in Westray JH School Community Classroom and via Teams.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 21:35.