

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Sanday Community School and via Teams on Thursday, 14 November 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Andrew Wilcox, Gary Nickells, Ute Clackson, Liam Holly, Elaine Snelson, Ken Snelson and Bruce Stuart.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

- One member of the public.

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1. Apologies and Welcome

Prior to the meeting, a public meeting had been held to elect to the vacancy on Sanday Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note that a new community council member, Mrs Elaine Snelson, had been elected, and that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Stephen Clackson and Mellissa Thomson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 29 August 2024 was approved, being proposed by Gary Nickells and seconded by Liam Holly.

3. Matters Arising

A. Christmas Tree Lighting

Following discussion with regards to the 2024 Christmas Tree lighting to be held on Saturday 7 December, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Gary Nickells had ordered refreshments and that the ILO would order the mince pies.
2. That the youngest and oldest children at the school would turn on the lights, this year being Ollie Skea and twins Scarlett and Saffron Hoque.
3. To note that Liam Holly had ordered two new sets of Christmas tree lights and members agreed that a third set be ordered, to ensure complete coverage of the tree.
4. That the carols would be sung around the tree and the ILO would compile and print off the carol sheets once members had decided which carols they would use.
5. To note that the ILO would contact Shearers to enquire when the tree would be delivered, to confirm that it would be delivered in good time this year.

B. Defibrillators

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the door of the telephone kiosk housing the defibrillator at Burness, which had still not been constructed, it was:

Resolved to note that Liam Holly apologised that he had not got around to organising this work yet and would arrange the work as soon as possible.

C. Possible Speed Limit Changes

Following a report from Ute Clackson with regards to possible speed limit changes, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members agreed that the speed limit in Lady Village should be changed from 40mph to 30mph.
2. To note that there will be a public consultation in the future to discuss lowering the speed limits to 20mph across specific areas in Orkney.

D. Introduction of an action tracker for members

Following discussion with regards to the members response times to emails and completion of jobs, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would set up an action tracker for members to ensure that emails and jobs were responded to more swiftly.

E. Special Collections

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the volume of special collection claims received, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that an application would be made to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £500 to cover the cost of special collection claims.
2. That the ILO will explore other funding routes in exceptional cases.

F. Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Following discussion with regards to the Kirkyard grass cutting and advertising for the 2025 season, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the tender for the 2025 season would be advertised as a one-year contract and that the Community Council Liaison Officer would send the tender documents to the ILO to forward on to members.
2. To note that the Chair had not got around to applying the grass seed in the grave in Cross Kirkyard that was sparse and that the next window for applying this seed would be May 2025.
3. That the ILO would contact the relatives of the grave that was sparse in grass to extend her apologies on behalf of members.
4. To note that the members would contact a stone mason to arrange the cleaning of the war memorial.

4. Correspondence

A. ZEVU Update

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Service Manager of Transportation in September 2024 with regards to the completion of the EF-12

vessel expected in October 2024 where crew would be training at the Artemis site in Belfast, followed by trials in Orkney during October and November 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members had a few questions about this new vessel and that the Community Council Liaison Officer would forward these questions to the relevant officers.
2. To note that the ILO would forward the questions asked by the Sanday residents to the Community Council Liaison Officer.

B. Cinema Licence – Exemption – Friends of Sanday Kirk

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Legal Clerk, Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions at Orkney Islands Council, with regards to a cinema licence, advising members that the Friends of Sanday Kirk could be exempt from the need to obtain a cinema licence by application to Scottish Ministers, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Vice Chair would liaise with the Friends of Sanday Kirk with regards to the licence exemption.
2. That the Chair would write a letter of support to the Friends of Sanday Kirk to help them with funding applications.

C. Letter from Roderick Thorne

Following consideration of the correspondence from Roderick Thorne with regards to him applying for funding to aid him to print and publish a book from his research on the 75-year history of the North Isles Sports, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO would write a letter of support on behalf of the Community Council advising Roderick Thorne that the Community Council would support his project and furthermore if he applied to the Spurness Community Fund.
2. To note that the Vice Chair would ask the Development Trust if they could write a letter of support as well.

D. Sanday and R100 Programme

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Graduate Trainee (Digital Engagement and Enterprise) with regards to Openreach sharing details of how to register interest in receiving a fibre connection, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Development Officer of the Development Trust would be hosting a roadshow for this.

E. Digital Phone Switchover

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council with regards to the Digital Phone Switchover and a report from Liam Holly, it was:

Resolved to note that Liam Holly suggested that battery operated analogue modems that keep power to the phone had a single point of failure, and that a system such as Starlink which costs £95.00 would be a better option.

F. Discounted Fares for Hauliers

Following consideration of correspondence that Councillor Stephen Clackson had sent to the Ferry Services Manager at Orkney Islands Council posing the question as to what the criteria was for a haulage provider to be eligible for discounted travel on Orkney Ferries, and if island shops, mainland wholesalers and transporters delivering goods to the isles be eligible for discount, it was:

Resolved to note that there had not been a response from the Ferry Services Manager and that the ILO would forward this question to Democratic Services to follow up.

G. Air and Ferry Forum notes – August 2024

Following consideration of the Air and Ferry Forum notes from August 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would forward this information on to members.

H. Neven Point Wind Farm – Proposal of Application Notice

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council with regards to the proposal of application notice for the development of a Wind Farm on Eday, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Funding from National Centre for Resilience

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Resilience Manager at The Scottish Flood Forum with regards to the Community Council Fund offering financial support to help Community Councils develop and execute their local resilience plans up to £500, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Development Trust had also received this correspondence and were currently funding the wi-fi at the Cross Kirk.
2. To note that the Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that the best way forward was to apply for the funding on behalf of a community group.
3. To note that the Chair would pass this information on to the Friends of Sanday Kirk.

J. Outer North Isles Timetable – Summer 2025

Following consideration of the Outer North Isles Timetable for summer 2025 and a report from the Transport Representative where it was mentioned that North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray would be getting new ferries and new piers which would help Sanday by freeing up ferries, and following further discussion and queries from members, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members had asked if there was any possibility that ZEVI vessels and indeed the Nordic Sea, if it was utilised again on the North Isles routes, could berth at Kettletoft rather than go back and forth to Loth.
2. To note that members asked if the Nordic Sea could be used during the refit period again for the North Isles rather than it being used for the Graemsay route.
3. To note that in the Ferry Replacement Programme it was mentioned that consultants suggested not using catamarans, and members queried where the consultants took their data from to inform this decision.
4. To note that the Community Council Liaison Officer would forward all the members queries above to the relevant officers at Orkney Islands Council.

K. Winter Service Plan 2024/25 Comments

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2024/25 comments from all the Community Councils, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note, that as Sanday Community Councils comments were not included in the plan, the Chair would request that the road where the Harbour Master resides be added to the Winter Service Plan 2024/25.
2. To note that the Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that it may be too late to add this to the Winter Service Plan for this year, and that comments must be submitted in January and February 2025 for next year's plan.

5. Consultation - Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies

Following consideration of the consultation from the Improvement Service with regards to a survey to gather insights and information from representatives of Community Councils on a range of resilience issues, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would complete the survey on behalf of the Sanday Community Council.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £17,841.94.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 30 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £7,768.50.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £945.18, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £765.00 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £259.95.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 30 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £10,806.34.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 30 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,689.79.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that the Transport Representatives report was discussed during item 5k.

B. Planning Representative

Following a report from the Planning Representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that an application had been received to convert a domestic outbuilding to a self-catering unit at Greystone, Sanday.
2. To note that an application had been received to regularise the use of an annex as a self-catering unit at Bracegarth Cottage, North Loch Road, Sanday.

C. Development Trust Representative

The Development Trust Representative gave a report advising members of the various projects being undertaken by the Trust and mentioned that their application for funding to purchase Viggie was successful with a total award of £98,098, and that Viggie house would provide low-cost affordable rental provision that Sanday needs, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Sanday Community Association

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Community Association, requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of a new defibrillator, it was:

Resolved that £1,000.00 be awarded from the SSE Community Fund.

B. Sanday School Parent Council

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday School Parent Council requesting financial assistance to provide fireworks for the Sanday Firework display on bonfire night, it was:

Resolved that £200 be awarded from the Community Council Grant Scheme on the production of receipts.

C. Voluntary Action Orkney membership renewal 2024/2025

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the Voluntary Action Orkney Membership renewal for 2024/2025, it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to this item via email and an application had been made to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £15.00.

D. Sanday Branch of the Royal British Legion

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance to provide refreshments after the remembrance service on Sanday on Sunday 10 November 2024 in the Heritage Centre (previously circulated), it was:

Resolved that £150 be awarded from the General Fund.

E. Sanday Branch of the Royal British Legion

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance to purchase bulbs and compost for the War Memorial (previously circulated), it was:

Resolved that an application had been made to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £39.93.

F. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Jon Chapman

Following consideration of an application from Jon Chapman, requesting financial assistance towards the cost to attend a six-week business course, it was:

Resolved that £250 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

2. Fayre Fairies

Following consideration of an application from the Fayre Fairies requesting financial assistance towards the cost of holding coffee and cake gatherings on Sanday to raise money for community groups and charities, it was:

Resolved that £250 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

3. Kirstie Bruce

Following consideration of an application from Kirstie Bruce requesting financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing specialist equipment for her Kiln as she volunteers with helping the young people on Sanday with their Duke of Edinburgh projects, it was:

Resolved that £250 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

9. Publications

The following publications had been made available to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – August to October 2024.
- Letter from School Place – September and October 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – July and August 2024.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – August to October 2024.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Scrap Metal Skip

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the scrap metal skip that was currently situated by the recycling unit in Kettletoft being overfilled causing the tyres on the trailer carrying it to be flattened, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would contact Sinclair Haulage to alert them to the problem.

B. Emergency Meeting Request - Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing

Following a report from the Chair regarding concerns over the mishandling of a grievance from a former member of school staff and a general lack of support from Orkney Islands Council (OIC) to the school and its staff, it was:

Resolved:

To note that members requested an emergency meeting with the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, and that the Chair and Vice Chair would liaise with the Community Council Liaison Officer to arrange this meeting.

C. Scheme for Community Councils

Following a lengthy discussion with regards to the Orkney Islands Council Scheme for Community Councils where members compared it to the Scotland Scheme for Community Councils, showing the differences between the two and a request from members for changes to the Orkney Scheme, it was:

Resolved

1. To note that the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, advised the members that the scheme was not due for an update at present and that changes to the scheme only happen between every 10 and 15 years.
2. To note that the queries from the members would be forwarded to Orkney Islands Council for their attention.

D. Surgeries to be held by the Community Council

Following discussion with regards to the Community Council members holding surgeries alongside other community groups on Sanday, it was:

Resolved to note that members would be planning surgeries for the public to drop-in and speak to them in person.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Sanday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 16 January 2025, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:40.