

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in the Orphir Community Centre on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mr J Mackay, Mr A Marwick, Mr S Pyke and Mr N Sclater.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor I Taylor.
- Dr C Batey, Archaeologist/Author.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minute.....	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence	4
5. Consultations	4
6. Financial Statements	5
7. Requests for Financial Assistance.....	6
8. Publications	7
9. AOCB	7
10. Date of Next Meeting	8
11. Conclusion of Meeting	8

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Miss R Black, Mrs B Clubley and Councillor K Leask.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Orphir Community Council held on 5 November 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr M Clouston and seconded by Mr J Mackay.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter, Smoogro Road End

The Chair advised that had had recently met with the contractor who had applied for the relevant permits and hoped to start work on the base at the beginning of April. The Men's Shed had also been advised of the start date and would commence construction of the shelter so that it was ready to be installed once the base had been completed. Following the report, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre - Refurbishment and Reopening

The Chair confirmed that the contractor had not been able to complete the works and as it was now approaching the usual opening season, he would request that the contractor start in October as soon as the centre was closed for winter.

Members discussed dates for opening, suggesting 31 March until 26 October, and agreed to ask Mrs C Stevenson if she was willing to carry out the role of caretaker during this time. Any supplies needed ahead of reopening would be arranged between Mrs C Stevenson and the Interim Clerk.

Mrs C Batey then spoke about her previous involvement with the excavations at the Bu, and with the centre and the interpretation material within it. She explained that there had been an increased interest in Orphir due to the Viking history, and what had happened at the Bu site, and that she had written a book recently on this subject. She hoped that some of this information could be incorporated into the upgrade of the centre and expressed an interest in working with Orphir Community Council. She also reported that Historic Environment Scotland had recently been upgrading signage at the Bu site and that she had been involved in this work.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would contact the contractor to ask that the work commence in October as soon as the centre was closed for the season.
2. That the Interim Clerk would contact Mrs C Stevenson regarding caretaker duties.
3. That CCGS would be applied for on the cost of £3,000 to cover caretaker duties.

4. That the Interim Clerk would arrange a new poster for the door advertising opening times and arrange to purchase any other supplies needed by the caretaker.
5. That Dr C Batey would be welcome to work with OCC on the upgrade of the centre and interpretation materials and contact would be made in due course.

Dr C Batey left the meeting at this point.

C. Road Speed Limits

The Chair advised that the school, through the school travel plan, had requested an extension of the 30mph/20mph limit through Orphir village, and that they had done a safety check on the road. Members agreed that it would be good to see the results of that check. It was also reported that anyone who lived beyond that limit would get transport to school. Numbers were not known for next school year to understand how many buses would be operating. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to monitor the situation.

D. School Transport and Road Safety

Resolved to note that this item had been discussed at item 3C above.

E. Houton Car Park

Members had previously been sent a response from Repsol (Flotta Terminal) to advise that they had blocked off the upper west side entry/exit points so that the upper car park could not be accessed or egressed directly from the Terminal car park anymore. It was hoped that this would prevent any further accidents at this location, and members reported that residents in this area had noticed an improvement. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and to remove this item from the agenda.

F. OIC Winter Treatment Contracts

Members were advised that the process for people interested in tendering had been simplified but they were unsure how successful this had been. They again discussed how bad the road had been at the top of Hobbister in last years' period of poor weather and snow and requested that there be a more suitable provision made to clear that part of the road. They asked for further information from Roads Support, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the business letter to Democratic Services, for information on what OIC provide in terms of Winter Treatments and how often they cover the routes around Orphir so that they could consider the information.

4. Correspondence

A. MyOrkney

Members had been previously sent information on MyOrkney, where members of the public could report faults, make payments and apply for services. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. AbilityNet Event

Members had previously been sent information from the Graduate Trainee (Digital Engagement and Enterprise) in relation to a digital voice roadshow which had taken place on 30 January at the Pickaquoy Centre, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Our Budget Challenge – Survey Results

Following consideration of correspondence which had previously been circulated, in relation to a recent Council survey that had been carried out ahead of the annual budget setting meeting in February 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the detail of the email and that access to the full report had been provided.

D. Orkney Waters Trust – Science Festival Event

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Waters Trust, who were requesting use of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre on 6 September 2025 for a small workshop in relation to the Orkney Science Festival and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond and advise that access was authorised however a small fee for use would be suggested.

E. R Ljosland – Orkneyinga Saga Centre Access

Correspondence had been received from Raggie Ljosland and was discussed by members, in relation to access to the centre on dates in April with cruise liner tours, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond and advise that access was authorised however a small fee for use would be suggested.

5. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2025

Members had previously been sent a copy of the proposed Verge Maintenance Plan 2025 for comments, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed and no comments had been forwarded.

B. R100 Broadband Evaluation

Members had previously been sent information on a survey which aimed to collect feedback on the R100 programme rollout, and it was:

Resolved to note that the survey had ended on 3 March 2025.

C. Stenness Local Place Plan

A consultation on the proposed Local Place Plan for Stenness had previously been emailed to members, inviting comments from neighbouring communities. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline of 13 April 2025 for comments.

D. Visitor Levy Survey and Public Engagement

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of a survey and public engagement events in relation to the visitor levy consultation being carried out across three local authority areas, and it was:

Resolved to note the events, and that the survey would close on 11 April.

E. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Following consideration of the consultation document on the SFRS Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2028, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open until 2 April 2025.

F. Visitor Levy – Highland Council

Members had previously been sent information on the Highland Council Visitor Levy consultation, and had been asked to consider responding to the consultation highlighting the impact this would have for island residents when travelling to mainland Scotland for work or appointments, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Orphir Community Council as at 21 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £22,979.12.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

Following consideration of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre fund statement as at 21 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £47,447.93.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the capping limit was £645.97.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 21 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £18,755.42 available to allocate to projects.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 21 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £2,606 available to allocate to projects.

7. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. I Burton – Swimming

Members considered a request from I Burton, copies of which had been previously circulated, for assistance with the cost of their son to attend competitions out with Orkney on 8 February and 8 March, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 per trip, totalling £100.

B. Island Games School Legacy Banner Project

Following consideration of a request from the Orkney Island Games organising committee, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting a £200 donation to assist with the cost of each primary school in Orkney producing a banner for visiting teams competing in the Island Games, it was:

Resolved to award £200 towards the project, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Orphir Badminton Club

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed via email to award £270 from CCGS towards new equipment for Orphir Badminton Club, following a request.

D. C Seatter – Highland Dancing

Following consideration of a request from C Seatter, copies of which had previously been circulated, requesting assistance with the cost of two children attending Highland Dancing competitions in Keiss on 1 March, and in Wick on 12 April, it was:

Resolved to award £10 per trip, per child, totalling £40.

E. Orphir School - P7 Hoy Trip

Members considered a letter from Orphir Community School, which was read at the meeting, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of this year's primary 7 trip to Hoy in May 2025. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award £50 per pupil, totalling £300, subject to CCGS approval.

F. Orphir School – Waterproofs

Following consideration of correspondence from Orphir Community School, a copy of which was read at the meeting, asking for assistance with the cost of providing new waterproof coats and trousers for the pupils, it was:

Resolved to award £78.75 towards the waterproofs, subject to CCGS approval.

G. Orphir Community Association – Pool and Darts Group

The Chair declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussion thereof.

The Interim Clerk advised that Orphir Community Council had approached the community council for funding towards setting up a community pool and darts group, and it was:

Resolved to provide funding of up to £200, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Publications

- VAO - Newsletter – December 2024.
- VAO - Training and Funding Update – November and December 2024 and January 2025.
- VAO – Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.
- Scottish Rural Action - Newsletter - November 2024.
- Transportation Infographic.

9. AOCB

A. Orphir Youth Club

Correspondence had been received from pupils of Orphir School, asking about the possibility of setting up a youth club for Orphir. Orphir Community Association had already responded to the correspondence and were in support of the idea. Members discussed the proposal and suggested that this was something for the OIC CLD Team to assist the pupils with, but that the community council would be happy to contribute to funding if required, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond to the correspondence and advise that they should approach the community council for funding towards room hire, equipment, if required.

B. Resignation of Member

The Interim Clerk advised that Miss R Black had tendered her resignation from Orphir Community Council and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a public meeting would be held at a later date to elect to the vacancy.

10. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 27 May at 19:30 in Orphir School.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:45.