

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann's and via Teams on Thursday, 15 May 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr N Rendall, Mr I Cursiter, Mr A Hourston, Mr B Hourston and Mrs L Sharp.

In Attendance:

- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Ms J Foley, CDO, Papay Development Trust.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mr M Jones, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Correspondence	4
5. Consultation Documents	6
6. Financial Statements	6
7. Financial Requests	7
8. Reports from Representatives	7
9. Publications	8
10. Any Other Competent Business - War Memorial	8
11. Date of Next Meeting	9
12. Conclusion of Meeting	9

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs I Hourston and Mrs F McNab and Councillor M Thomson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held on 13 February 2025 were adopted, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and seconded by Mrs L Sharp.

3. Matters Arising

A. Road Repair - St Boniface Kirk

The ILO reported that he had been in contact with OIC and advised that the road was not an OIC adopted road and it is unclear who actually owned it. It was noted that OIC Roads had carried out repairs in previous years. The Head of Neighbourhood Services offered to find out more, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

B. Fibre Broadband Proposal

It was noted that all properties on the island were now connected, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

C. Ad Hoc Flight for the Storytelling Festival in October

The ILO reported that Loganair had offered several dates and times for the ad hoc flight but at the moment these were not suitable, and the group were awaiting confirmation of the event. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

D. Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association

It was advised that Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association had enquired as to whether Papa Westray Community Council wished to renew their membership for 2025 at a cost of £12. It was agreed to do so, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and the ILO would arrange for the membership to be renewed and paid for via the Community Council Grant Scheme.

E. Uplift in Water Attendant's Rates

The ILO advised that Democratic Services had worked out that the Water Attendant's new rate should be £224.74 per calendar month and that there was an underpayment due of £1,467.17. The Attendant had submitted an invoice for this. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Water Attendant would be paid £1,467.17 from the Water Scheme Account.

F. New Hydro Supplier

The ILO reported that the new supplier of hydro for the five water pumps was Pozitive Energy and that the reduced cost of the daily standing charge would save £2,445 per annum. Mr I Cursiter and the ILO had spent a number of hours getting this set up, and a letter of thanks on behalf of Papa Westray Community Council had been sent to Miss C Kelday in Democratic Services for her assistance with this work, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Contingency Plan

The ILO advised that he had updated the Contingency Plan, and members had approved the changes made, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Generators

The ILO advised that the engine oil for the portable generators had now arrived, and discussions were on going as to how best make use of these, their distribution, maintenance and terms and conditions of use. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Old Airfield Building

It was advised that suggestions were being sought for possible uses of the old airfield building once ownership had passed to Papa Westray Community Council and the new airfield building had been commissioned. It was thought that one side could be office space and the warehouse part could then be used as a Post Office. Some modification and updating of the building may be required for this and it was hoped that the Post Office/Royal Mail would contribute financially. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

J. Teams meeting with NHS Orkney – ANP Cover

It was reported that a Teams meeting had been arranged for Monday, 19 May at 12:30 in St Anne's Hall for Papa Westray Community Council members to discuss with NHS Managers the provision of future ANP cover on the island. Following on, a second meeting had been arranged for Thursday, 22 July at 20:00, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

K. Ferry and Pier Matters

It was noted that there had been no response to a letter previously sent by Papa Westray Community Council to OIC Transport regarding plans for the pier and new ferry. The Head of Neighbourhood Services offered to investigate this, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

L. Rabbit Cull

This item was again discussed at length. Members agreed that the cost was a major hindrance to getting the project off the ground. Mrs L Sharp advised that she had since been in contact with the contractors who did the original survey, and they had confirmed that the quoted price had not increased. It was agreed that Mrs L Sharp would continue to investigate funding and other possible ways of carrying out the cull, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs L Sharp would report back to the next meeting with an update.

4. Correspondence

A. Our Budget Challenge - Survey Results

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence which provided results of OIC's Budget Challenge Survey on Council Tax increases and other cost savings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Isles Special Collection Rota

Information on the next dates for Isles Special Collections had previously been circulated to members, from April to September 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that it had been displayed on local notice boards and in Papay Matters.

C. Visitor Levy Survey and Public Engagement Sessions

Members had previously been sent information regarding a visitor levy survey, with associated public engagement sessions being held on 25 and 26 March in Kirkwall and online, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the survey had closed on 11 April.

D. K Johnson – Consultation on Visitor Levy Proposals

Correspondence from K Johnson had previously been circulated to members, with an invitation to sign an open letter asking for an immediate pause on the visitor levy consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Digital Forum Event

Members had previously been sent information regarding a Digital Forum event on 11 April, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Trial Bus Service

Information regarding a trial bus service for the mainland, operating between the airport and Kirkwall, had been previously circulated to members and had been displayed on noticeboards, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Query to OIC Transport - Air Travel Concessions for Under 22s

Members had been forwarded information from OIC Transport to say that this issue was still under discussion, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Ferry Replacement Programme Update

A briefing note on progress relating to the ferry replacement programme had previously been sent to members, advising that they were coming towards the end of phase 1 and the outline vessel design for the outer north isles vessels had been consulted on and was now to undergo simulator testing, and that phase 2 would then commence. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that further consultation would be happening soon.

I. Letter to NHS – ANP Provision

Members had been sent a copy of a letter, signed by the Chair, to NHS Orkney in relation to issues with ANP provision, and heard that a Teams meeting had been arranged to discuss the issue with NHSO as a result of the letter, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

J. Responses to CC Comments - Verge Maintenance Plan Consultation

Responses from Roads Support had previously been circulated to members, to the comments received following the recent OIC consultation on the verge maintenance plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Letter of Thanks

The ILO advised that an email had been sent to Orkney Ferries, thanking them for their assistance in arranging transport to the Parish Cup matches, and it was

Resolved to note the correspondence.

5. Consultation Documents

A. SEPA Consultations

Information relating to the Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme and the Environmental Regulation Scheme had previously been circulated to members on 1 March, 6 April and 14 May, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Winter Service Plan 2025

Members had previously been sent the consultation in relation to the winter service plan for comments, and it was:

Resolved to note that any comments should be with the Clerk prior to the deadline of 30 June 2025.

C. SATE Survey

A survey on the Sustainable Aviation Test Environment had previously been sent to members, for suggestions on how the project could benefit communities, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses had passed on 30 April 2025.

D. Windracers

Members had previously been sent information on a consultation event and presentation to the community which had been pencilled in for 2 July, and it was advised that confirmation was still to be received, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Papa Westray Community Council as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £19,498.05.

B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme

Following consideration of the Water Scheme Account statement as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £15,881.87.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits were £2,824.49, £424.62 and £740 respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £5,000.

7. Financial Requests

A. PDT - PAT Test Equipment

A request from PDT for funding towards the purchase of a PAT tester had been circulated to members previously, and it was:

Resolved to note that it had been agreed via email to award £409.95 from the Community Council Grant Scheme to PDT towards the purchase of a PAT tester.

B. Papa Westray School Parent Council

Resolved to note that it had been agreed via email to assist with the cost of travel for the teacher providing dance lessons at Papa Westray School, at a cost of £100 from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

C. PCA - Summer Events

A request had been received from Papay Community Association for assistance with the cost of summer events, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £500 had been granted from the Community Council Grant Scheme towards the cost of the concert on 2 June 2025.
2. To note that more information on costings and ticket revenue had been requested before making a decision on the remainder of the financial request.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Concerns were raised about Orkney Ferries booking system and its ability to cope with more than 12 passengers on the Charles Anne and the inflexibility of its timetables. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there were no new planning applications relevant to Papay.

C. Water Admin

Members were advised that the annual bills had been completed, and information had been sent to Democratic Services so that invoices could be raised. The next water sampling was due to be done on 9 June 2025, and an officer from the Drinking Water Regulator would be in attendance. Following the report, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Papay Development Trust

The CDO spoke about the various projects being carried out by PDT which included the Papay Development Plan, Draft Plan, Resilience Plan, Warm Home Project and Extra Curricular Projects (led by Stronsay) and a possible presentation on 3 July 2025 by the Scottish Islands Trust. The deadline for tenders for the housing renovation works was 23 May 2025 and a tenancy for Morvern House had been offered. Following the report, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkney Health and Care

Resolved to note that no representative was present.

9. Publications

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

- Holyrood Highlights - various dates February to May 2025.
- This week in Parliament, Alistair Carmichael - various dates February to May 2025.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics for January, February, March and April 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding Updates - February, March and April 2025
- VAO Newsletter - March, April and May 2025.
- Letters from School Place - February, March and April 2025.
- Loganair Inter Isles Statistics.

10. Any Other Competent Business - War Memorial

It had been noted that the war memorial could do with a tidy up and some maintenance and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. That a notice, prepared by the Clerk, inviting tenders would go out in Papay Matters and on notice boards.

B. That tenders would be considered following the closing date.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 21 August at 19:30 in St Ann`s Kirk Hall.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.