

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held at St Ann’s, Papa Westray and via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr N Rendall, Mr I Cursiter, Mr A Hourston, Mr B Hourston, Mrs I Hourston and Mrs F McNab.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- 1 Member of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Councillors H Woodbridge and M Thomson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mrs F McNab and second by Mrs I Hourston, subject to the following amendment:

Page 3. Section 3.B, instead of reading “ro-ro”, this should be changed to “hard ramp”.

3. Matters Arising

A. Orkney Inter Island Transport Study and Meetings

Following consideration regarding the ferry proposals and the public meeting held by Orkney Harbours Technical Superintendent and Transportation Service Manager, Members were frustrated at the increased feeling of not being listened to or considered regarding the outstanding haulage issue should Papa Westray become a link span. Following on from the information provided regarding the proposed change and the preferred option of Papa Westray becoming a link span, members agreed that they were concerned with the number of services that were currently being missed due to weather conditions and queried how this would improve if the same service/vessel is to berth, arriving in the same location and the only difference is that the service would become a roll on roll off service instead of crane. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a business letter to the Harbours Service Manager, via Democratic Services, copying in Councillor S Clackson, requesting consideration of some of the outstanding concerns previously discussed, as detailed below:

1. Feedback from the public meeting, detailing the haulage issue of who was to be responsible for the haulage logistics should a link span be introduced to Papa Westray and any costings involved for the island.
2. Members would like a confirmed agreement of the plan for the haulage logistics before any decisions are made between the two options, link span and hard ramp.
3. Following on from a study done by a Papa Westray resident regarding the comparison of haulage charges and operations between the link span and ro ro option, members would like confirmation that the Technical Superintendent and the Service Manager have read and understood the concerns.
4. Asking that a meeting is held for open discussions regarding the outstanding issues of cancellations and members would like to request that, if possible, a skipper of the vessel attend to help discussions.

5. Members would like to ask that, should Papa Westray go ro ro between Westray and Papa Westray that the outstanding concerns regarding a spare vessel being available for times when the routine vessel is not available be addressed. Could the spare vessel that would be available for Shapinsay and Rousay also be a spare for Papa Westray?

6. Confirmation that the purchase of a tractor for loading and unloading of the trailers for Papa Westray has or will be actioned soon.

7. Query how the service is going to improve should the link span vessel travel the same route as it currently is, taking into consideration the number of cancellations that Papa Westray are currently facing.

8. Ask for an update regarding the Nordic Sea.

B. Papay Water Scheme Update and Improvements

Following consideration of a verbal update from the Clerk regarding the recent invoices that had been paid and needed to be claimed back through the CDF fund, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Community Resilience Satellite Phone Funding

Following consideration of an update from the Clerk explaining that there had been no new correspondence since the previous meeting and no further progress for funding, it was:

Resolved to note the information and leave on the agenda.

D. Fibre Broadband Proposal Update

Following consideration of discussions and that no further information was available, members raised a concern regarding the possibility of a burst water pipe and how the pipe would be replaced now that the fibre broadband was running through the supply, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk sends a letter to Cloudnet requesting the following:

1. Information on, should the water supply develop an issue and a section of pipe was to be replaced, who would be responsible for the repairs to the fibre when a section was replaced.
2. Would spares be made available on Papa Westray if such incidents occurred.
3. That a policy be put in place for such concerns.

E. Storage of the Gritter and Salt Belonging to Orkney Islands Council

Following discussion of a verbal update from members and the Head of Neighbourhood Services, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that an external contractor would be available to build the precast walls.
2. To note that Papa Westray contractors would construct the base.
3. To note that the above would be confirmed by the Head of Neighbourhood Services in due course.

F. Cattle Trailers

Following consideration of an update from Democratic Services, explaining that the trailers were progressing and that two lifting frames had been inspected by SWL and that the lifting frames would require galvanising before being put in service, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Benches - Tirlo and Airport

Following discussion, members agreed that the Clerk should purchase one bench of recycled material, to be situated at the airport and one bench, to be made with locally sourced stone, to be located at Tirlo, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk follow up with Birsay Farmers for a quote.

H. Housing Shortage on Papa Westray

Following discussions regarding the housing shortage on Papa Westray and that there was no update available from Orkney Islands Council, members felt that this was a very concerning situation as there were current career opportunities available on Papa Westray but no housing available should the positions be filled. Members agreed that they appreciated the work that the Development Trust was undertaking to help with the current housing concern. They also agreed that they felt that if the housing was solely for the benefit of key workers such as teachers and the NHS then Orkney Islands Council should be taking some responsibility through council owned properties. Members discussed the possibilities of potential new builds on the Kirk owned land located between the Hostel and the Manse, along with Hookin, the community owned house. It was reported that with the introduction of the new license for letting properties, the Kirk flat was deemed not suitable due to not having a suitable heating system even though it is supported by the wind turbine, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk request an update from Orkney Islands Council regarding the previous business letter sent.
2. That the Clerk request a special meeting solely for housing and invite a representative from Orkney Islands Council's housing team.

I. Community Council-owned Field

Following discussions regarding the possibilities of fencing the Community Council owned field adjacent to the machinery shed, it was:

Resolved that members would source prices for the materials and discuss at the next meeting.

J. NHS24

Following consideration of discussions regarding the NHS24, members explained that there will be more consultations and that there is another meeting to be held shortly, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. Kirkyard Maintenance

Following considerations of discussion regarding the repairs to the hinges to the gates of Boniface and that the road potholes should be also advertised within the same advert and displayed in the shop for tender, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk put an advert for the above and advertise on Papay matters and in the shop.

I. New Pier Improvements

Following consideration of the update from members, it was explained that the new improvements to the pier had not yet been confirmed and the cost of wave screens were unknown. Members also discussed continued concerns regarding the missing tyres and that three were needed urgently, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send a business letter to Democratic Services requesting that the tyre at the corner of the pier receives attention and advising that another three were required.

4. Correspondence

A. Environmental Health, Planning and Community Protection

Following consideration of the discussion regarding the failure of a house water test due to the UV light not being switched on, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk sends an email to Environmental Health for some additional information and flyers that could be shared with individual properties using water from the supply.
2. That the Clerk should obtain a quote from the Water Attendant for an annual service and bulb replacement in every residential property that uses the supply.
3. That, once the information has been received, the Clerk would pass the information on to Community Council members for consideration and potentially enclose with each water bill.

B. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

Following consideration of the correspondence regarding SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Orkney Islands Council – Papay Perishables

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, explaining that Orkney Ferries required three boat cancellations before any additional service to transport perishables via Westray would be put in place, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members raised concerns regarding the original agreement of the reservation of deck space on the Westray sailing for Papa Westray.

2. To ask if deck space could be used for an Orkney Ferries vehicle to transport perishables to Pierowall to link with the Golden Mariana, which would help reduce the spoiled out of date food that was being transported on later sailings.

D. Vice Chair of Hoy and Walls Community Council - NHS

Following consideration of the correspondence from chair of Hoy and Walls community council regarding NHS24 concerns, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Orkney Aggregates Invoice and Credit Note

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Aggregates, it was:

Resolved to note that members were happy with the way the skip was working and covering costs.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Orkney Ferries Booking - Ticketing and Back Office Systems

Following consideration of the consultation from Orkney Ferries and that members expressed their concerns regarding the proposed booking system and when it would be enforced. Members raised concerns over the current arrangement if a plane was to be cancelled as the boat is always an option and it this would this change. Members also felt that the Mariana service was not very clear as to if you need to book, and it was:

Resolved to note that, should members wish to comment they should email the Clerk prior to the closing date.

B. 20MPH Speed Limits – Island Schools

Following consideration of the consultation from Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note that an unanimous vote from members supporting this proposal of 20mph speed limits at Island Schools and the part time flashing lights to a timetable will help around the school premises.

C. Orkney Ferries Draft Winter Timetable

Following consideration of the consultation:

Resolved:

1. To note that the information was the same as previous year, however members felt that it would be good for the Sunday service of the Mariana to line up with the 17:45.
2. That the Clerk send a business letter to Orkney Ferries requesting the possibility of the service lining up as a through service to Papa Westray.

D. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Licensing Scotland Act 2005

Following consideration of the consultation from Orkney Islands council, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 January 2023 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £25,335.73.

B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 5 January 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £36,892.01.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2022-2023

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 January 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £811.25 that £743 remained available for allocation in the additional capping limit and £719 was left in the island capping limit.

7. Financial Requests

A. Accommodation and Travel Expenses for Heating Engineers for St. Ann's Kirk and Kirk Flat Works

Following consideration and discussions regarding the above, it was:

Resolved that members would make a decision once costs have been quoted and that it remains on the next agenda.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Members were advised that no further information was available that had not already been discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator

Resolved to note that there was no further information to discuss.

D. Papa Westray Development Trust

The Development Officer explained that the two rental properties that were available had now been successfully occupied and that the Trust was looking to secure housing for key workers. The Trust was also looking to secure funding for staff appointments for the next financial year and the shared growing area between the school and the market garden had been successful. The proposed boat store project had now been split into phases, with the first phase to make the building weather tight. The Trust had been looking into improving housing stock with Warmworks but the process had been slow for residents. The Trust felt that should residents come together, it could help speed the process along. The Trust was working with the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme to improve the stiles around Papa Westray and requested numbers and locations of stiles that needed attention.

It was also reported that the Trust now had a new Chair and they were preparing to hold talks on the evening of 24 February where the Trust intended to launch the new development plan.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided by the Development Officer.

9. Publications

The following publications were noted by members:

- Liam McArthur MSP Holyrood Highlights.

- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind Community Newsletter.
- Blide Blether.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Following consideration of the discussions regarding Boniface grass cutting, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should advertise the grass cutting for tender.

B. Election of New Community Council Member

Following discussions regarding electing a new member, members were advised that the position could not be co-opted, and a public meeting would need to be called. The candidate would require to be on the electoral roll for Papa Westray. Members requested some additional information leaflets, should Orkney Islands Council have some, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

C. Waste Collection and Recycling of Plastic

Members discussed the current waste collection and how all waste was being transported in large builders' bags instead of a skip. It was agreed that this was not really an ideal situation. Members advised of the need for a container for plastic recycling but were advised by the Head of Neighbourhood Services that the process had been trialled on Stronsay but was too expensive and not economically viable, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 6 April 2023 in St Ann's Community Room, Papa Westray and via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting.

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