

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in the Lighthouse Visitor Centre and via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 29 May 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr I Deyell, Mr P Donnelly, Ms A Duncan, Mrs H Scott, Mrs L Paterson, Mr I Scott and Mr C Kerslake.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer, Democratic Services.
- Mr E Barclay, Ferries Manager, Orkney Ferries.
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Service, Planning and Community Protection.
- Mr L Fraser, Community Development Manager, North Ronaldsay Trust (via Teams and present for Matters Arising only).
- Ms H Galland, Clerk.

Order of Business

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

1. Apologies

A request for the whereabouts of Councillor Clackson was made, having had no communication for several months or attendance at meetings, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk would extend a personal invite to Councillor Clackson for the next meeting.

B. Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Thomson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of meeting held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mrs A Duncan.

3. Matters Arising

A. Letters of Support for North Ronaldsay Trust

The Community Development Manager, North Ronaldsay Trust, described the upcoming projects that were seeking support from the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members were unanimous in supporting the projects

2. That the Community Development Manager would draft template letters of support for the clerk to edit, and amend, and then forward to members for signing and returning them to the Community Development Manager.

B. Payment to Turbine Fund from North Ronaldsay Trust

The Clerk advised that the Chair, North Ronaldsay Trust, had responded to the request by saying they were working on it but there was some difficulty calculating how much was owed, as the turbines were being serviced as a group, not individually, and this cost required to be deducted and then a further requirement to calculate earnings was needed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council would like to receive annual payments.

2. That the North Ronaldsay Trust would be contacted later in the year to address the issues raised.

C. Grass Cutting

After agreeing at the last meeting that the operator would receive an additional £400 if the work was undertaken to approved standard, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should apply for Community Council Grant Scheme to fund the cost of £400.

D. Cattle Floats

A discussion about the issue of responsibility of the cattle floats, prior to advertising their availability, was undertaken. It was noted that the request for a Special Meeting after the last meeting was not responded to, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Head of Service, Planning and Community Protection, would contact Papa Westray Business Ring to find out who was responsible and how they managed their cattle float service, including insurance and maintenance costs.
2. That Councillor Woodbridge would chase up the desire for a Special Meeting with Orkney Islands Council and island community council members.
3. That the Clerk invite the Chief Executive to attend the Special Meeting.

E. Other Transport

The discussion extended to ferry and air issues in general. The Ferries Manager stood in for the Service Manager, Transportation, for this meeting. A range of points were raised:

- Why is the summer sailing now on a Saturday, when this affects both tourists coming by car and tourism outlets on the island getting perishable groceries.
- That in addition to affecting travel times and arrival of goods, that goods cost more to be delivered by couriers on a Saturday for small island businesses.
- That given the other boat is on a Tuesday, if fog prevents passengers leaving, they now have an additional day to wait to be extricated by boat.
- That the Members propose a Friday sailing all year round, or at the least, during the Summer- given that only one sailing is possible on a Friday and a Saturday. This would better meet the needs for flexibility in the winter when tides and weather may affect a morning sailing but that fog affecting plane travel was more likely in the summertime.
- That no other island suffers from the risk of plane passengers being stranded due to fog, daily, as all the other islands have daily boats as an alternative.
- The community council request that a launch be able to be booked after a 72-hour delay, for any reason, on an ad hoc basis, in addition to the allocated 5 emergency launches.
- The community council request an arrangement for the use of Papa Westray's boat to pick up stranded passengers to take to Westray, where an onward boat to the mainland is possible.
- That Loganair put on more planes when there has been a backlog, due to multiple consecutive cancelled planes.
- That the protocol for calling out the launch needs to be made clear.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would send the discussed points to Orkney Islands Council.
2. That the Ferries Manager would raise these issues with the Service Manager, Transportation.
3. That the Clerk would draft the letter to be approved by the Transport Representative.

4. Correspondence

A. North Ronaldsay Trust - Letters of Support

Correspondence had been emailed on 5 April and circulated regarding the provision of letters of support, and it was:

Resolved that this had been discussed earlier.

B. OIC Dept Infrastructure - Fish Farming Presentation

Correspondence had been emailed on 6 April, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

C. VAO - How well do you know VAO Survey

Correspondence had been emailed on 13 April, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. OIC Annual Grants

Correspondence had been emailed on 16 April and circulated to members advising of the annual grant amounts being awarded to community councils in financial year 2023/2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. Orkney White Ribbon Steering Group

After consideration of correspondence regarding the Orkney White Ribbon Steering Group, which had been emailed on 19 April, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would encourage them to hold a public event, rather than talk with the community council members exclusively.

F. NILPS

Following consideration of correspondence had been emailed on 16 April, regarding the stile restoration update, it was:

Resolved to ask the newly employed resident island NILPS project officer if they could drive this forward.

G. Island Burials

Correspondence had been emailed to Chair and Vice Chair on 16 April, asking what grave digging equipment was available on North Ronaldsay for contractors to use and, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would provide the Clerk with a list of equipment.
2. That the Clerk would forward the list to Burial Services.
3. That the Clerk would advise Burial Services that the Head of Transport had been contacted regarding grass cutting equipment for the airfield and other island equipment needs.

5. Consultations

A. Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan Consultation Document, which had been emailed, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk inform the public that they should, and are, encouraged to report roads directly to Orkney Islands Council.
2. That members wished a letter of complaint be sent to Orkney Islands Council, advising that the island's roads have not been assessed, nor any repair work done for over seven years.
3. That the Clerk ask Orkney Islands Council if the road going up to the School and Community Centre was adopted by the Education Department.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Members considered the General Finance statement as at 12 May 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £16,470.43.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the Turbine statement as at 12 May 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £21,272.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 12 May 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To request that Orkney Islands Council remove the following historic schemes, on the basis that should they be required in future, an application would be made to reinstate them:

- Rabbit Survey – Application number 102009.

2. To request a further £100 be added to the Scrap Car Scheme.

3. That, following information provided from historic minutes, the Septic Tank Emptying Scheme would be amended, and the community council would now offer 70% of emptying fees, on a first come first served basis, until allocated Community Council Grant Scheme funds are used up.

4. That the lawnmower repairs were declared very expensive, and this issue would now be reviewed in future to ensure the contractor was using and maintaining the equipment properly.

5. To request a new Community Council Grant Scheme for Grass cutting contractor incentive for 2023, totalling £400.

6. That the Clerk find out from J&W Tait where the requested new strimmer head was.

7. That the Clerk ask Greener Orkney why the Bag the Bruck Bags were given to an organisation other than the one that had, historically, undertaken Bag the Bruck every year, and to request they only send, or at least reserve a consignment, each year, for the Community Association.

8. To note that the main capping limit had £1,221.14 remaining for approval, £112.81 remained in the additional capping limit and the island capping limit had £719.00 remaining.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 16 May 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that total available for allocation was £3,656.00.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note Democratic Services were still trying to find out how to close this scheme and reallocate the remaining £232.00 of funds.

7. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that no financial requests had been received.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

A discussion about ferry services, air service disruption and use of the launch continued as well as the discussion earlier in the meeting and, it was:

Resolved to note that Northern Marine Services charged £90 per person for carriage on the launch and that going forward there would need to be a charge made to the passengers.

B. Planning Representative

A planning application from Milldam Croft was discussed and, it was:

Resolved that the Head of Service, Planning and Community Protection, would email a list to the Clerk, of issues that representation could be made on, should people wish to raise an objection to the planning application.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Members were advised that contractors will be out to look at Trebb soon and that the scaffolding taken down from the Old Beacon still needs to be addressed and, it was:

Resolved that Historic Scotland would be responsible for the removal of the scaffolding, now it is on the ground.

D. Health and Care Representative

Following emails, sent prior to the meeting, there is to be a stakeholder outer isles online forum in the first weeks of June. It was acknowledged that this has come about as a result of the previous dialogue encouraging a better island and NHSO relationship. Following this, interviews for Advanced Nurse Practitioners will take place. There is a pilot scheme for First Responders on Rousay, which is independent of Scottish Ambulance Service. Councillor Woodbridge has written to the Chief Executive on this matter, given Scottish Ambulance Service say there is no funding available to recruit First Responders on the isles and, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Ms H Scott and Mr P Donnelly would both be available for any date and time of the forum and would await details.
2. To make a request that applicants visit all the islands prior to the interviews, so they get an understanding of the islands' unique issues.
3. That one of the four representatives on the interview panel must be from North Ronaldsay, and it was suggested Councillor Woodbridge could be that representative as she additionally represents the other islands interests also.

4. The following were offered as the two North Ronaldsay based questions to put to the interviewees:

- How would you cope in a medical emergency given the islands isolated location and the delay before backup would be able to arrive?
- How would you ensure you maintain patient confidentiality, living in a small and close community?

5. That the above details be sent from Clerk to Democratic Services for forwarding.

E. Yarn Company Representative

It was queried whether there was a need for this position, and it was:

Resolved that the matter was ongoing.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – April 2023.
- Letter from School Place – April 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – April 2023.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Vending Machine at Airfield

Mr C Kerslake declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during discussion.

Members were invited to comment on the newly installed sweet vending machine which had been in situ at the airfield building on a trial basis, and it was:

Resolved the issue would be reviewed once the trial period had been completed.

B. 2G, 3G and Wi-Fi

Members discussed the lack of internet at the airfield and community centre, and that there was no internet at the pier, although Cloudnet had a dish there it was not for public use and, it was:

Resolved that the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, has yet to provide an update on the issues of 3G removal, and the ongoing issues at the airfield and community centre, which are not Cloudnet.

C. Rabbit Infestations

Following a discussion about the rabbit damage at the Old Kirkyard, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would take photos of the damage and send to Democratic Services.
2. That the Clerk would put out a tender for anyone on the island who would like to do the necessary work.
3. That the Clerk would report back at the next meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 21 August 2023, subject to availability of Democratic Services.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 23:02.