

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams and St. Ann's kirk on Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 19:30

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Mrs K Groundwater,
- Ms H Green, Interim Executive Director, Environmental, IT and Property Services.
- Mr K Moar, Orkney Drugs Dog Handler.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mrs J Foley of Papa Westray Development Trust.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 9 September 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and second by Mr B Hourston.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Ferry Issues**

Following discussions regarding the questions that were submitted to the consultancy company Stantec, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would enquire as to when the report generated by Stantec would be available for the Community Council's consideration.
2. That the clerk sends a letter to Democratic Services, for the attention of Stantec, to request feedback from the meeting of 18 August 2021.

### **B. Papay water scheme - Update and Improvements**

Following consideration of the update received by the Chair informing members that the new filters for the water supply had been delivered to the island, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Community Resilience - Satellite Phone Funding**

After consideration of the update from the Clerk regarding the current situation of the satellite phone and the Nurse Practitioner assisting with communications for the NHS staff currently on leave, it was:

Resolved that no new information was available.

### **D. Fibre broadband proposal update.**

After consideration of the update from CloudNet regarding fibre and the current situation, that their application required further detail and information before it could be validated, it was:

Resolved to note that members were dissatisfied with the situation.

### **E. Ferry Arrangements - Papa Westray to Westray**

Members discussed the ferry arrangements, and explained that they felt that there is currently conflicting information with regards to the service and how to obtain this. Members were advised in the previous meeting that pre booking would not be necessary; however a number of passengers travelling would be beneficial to

Orkney Ferries. Since then, passengers had waited for the service to arrive, even booking in advance and no ferry then arriving.

Members requested that a define decision regarding booking or not, to be made for the Papa Westray to Westray crossing and a contact telephone number for the skipper/boat to be available to the public to ensure no break in communication between passenger and skipper.

Members felt disappointed that the new vessel was currently out of service due to repair from an incident at Papa Westray pier. Members were concerned regarding the Nordic Sea's capabilities as it will have daily challenges with the conditions of the crossing. The number of current cancellations due to weather conditions seemed unreasonable in comparison to the Golden Mariana.

Parents of the children that use this daily service are concerned with the number of school days that the children are missing out on because of the cancellations. Parents and members feel that more thought is required about the future of the Nordic Sea and the crossing to ensure that the children's routines and support are not compromised because of a vessel that is not suited for the crossing.

Members were also disappointed to hear inaccurate information being aired on the local radio regarding the Nordic Sea. With all said, members are grateful to Orkney ferries for sourcing an alternative temporary vessel whilst the Nordic sea is unavailable. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a letter to Orkney Ferries and the Education department via Democratic Services with concerns from members regarding this service.

## **F. Adjustments required to the community owned skip**

The Chair and Clerk provided an update from the Chair and Clerk regarding the skip, that the safe working load certificate had been issued and that the skip was now back in operation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **G. Storage of the gritter and salt belonging to OIC**

The Chair reported that he had been corresponding with Orkney Islands Council, sending photographs of potential sites to house the gritter and salt, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would chase officers for an update.

## **H. Insurance policy for 2021-2022**

After consideration of the verbal update received from the Clerk regarding the change to the insurance policy, and after hearing that a refund of £378.40 had been made, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **I. Proposed works at Boniface Kirkyard, including memorial safety.**

After consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the proposed works at the cemetery and the repairs to the fallen/unsafe headstones, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **J. Airfield Shelter**

Members had a discussion regarding which location would be best suited for passengers to use as a waiting room. It was previously suggested by Orkney Islands Council that the shed occupied by the airfield fire truck and equipment would be a suited option. Upon further discussion, members felt that this option could potentially be a safety risk as there would be a direct access to the runway for the general public.

Members felt that the small garage located at the end of the main airfield building would be the best option to create a waiting room, should an access door be put in at the car park side for public use, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk include this suggestion in a business letter to Democratic Services.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Route Based Forecasting**

Following consideration of the briefing note from Orkney Islands Council's Roads team on how they planned winter services, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **B. Connecting Scotland**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Connecting Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **C. Papay Surgery and Medical Cover**

Correspondence was discussed from the Head of Primary Care Services, NHS Orkney, regarding the current circumstances of an unforeseen reduction of nurse cover on Papa Westray. Members were advised that, should a Doctor be needed on Papay, the local salmon farm boat would be transporting the Doctor to Papay rather than Orkney Ferries and that the first responders would be in direct correspondence with the Doctor, and it was:

Resolved to note that members were concerned for the residents of Papay and also the nurses during this difficult time.

## **D. The Orcadian - Broadening our coverage**

Following consideration of the correspondence received from the Chief Reporter of The Orcadian, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **E. Winter Service Policy 2021-2026**

Following consideration of the correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the policy and plan for the coming winter, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **F. Briefing note, Scottish flood forum.**

Following consideration of the correspondence received from Orkney islands council, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **G. North Isles Waste Management Initiative - Update**

Following consideration of the correspondence update received from the Community Waste Management officer, Stronsay Waste Matters, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **H. Waste and Recycling Officer - Isles Donations**

Following consideration of the correspondence received from the new Waste and Recycling Officer, Orkney Islands Council, in relation to where to donate unwanted items, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

# **5. Consultations**

## **A. Introduction of Memorial Permit**

Following consideration of the consultation on the introduction of a memorial permit, members felt disappointed with the proposal and felt that with all the other expenses occurring at such a difficult time, increasing them felt inappropriate. Following a vote, there was a unanimous vote against the proposal, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk sends a response with the above information to Orkney Islands Council.

## **B. NHS Orkney - Clinical Strategy**

Following consideration of the consultation from NHS Orkney, concerning a review of the clinical strategy, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **C. Aviation Strategy**

Following consideration of the consultation from the Scottish Government on the national Aviation Strategy, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

## **D. Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan**

Following consideration of the correspondence, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the deadline had now passed.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 24 November, copies of which had previously been circulated, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £10,056.90.

### **B. Papa Westray Water Scheme 2021**

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 25 November, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £35,171.54

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2020-2021**

Following consideration of the 2020-2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 November, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the main capping limit was £2485.64, that £576.10 remained for allocation in the additional capping limit, and £654.00 remained in the island capping limit.
2. That application number 122102 for supporting the band to perform on Papa Westray was cancelled and application 121803, bin at Boniface was no longer required and both of these are to be removed from the CCGS statement.

## **7. Financial Request - Papa Westray Community Association**

Following consideration of the financial request from Papa Westray community association for the sum of £380 for fireworks, Christmas lights and 12 children's Christmas presents, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council will fund the full amount of £380.00 to the Papay Community Association.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Members were advised that most of the travel concerns had already been covered in the meeting and that there was a transport meeting early 2022, and it was,

Resolved to note the information.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Resolved that there were currently no applications to discuss

### **C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator's Report**

Following consideration of the verbal update regarding the new equipment to be installed and that the CDF claim had not yet been processed back into the account, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **D. Papa Westray Development Trust Report**

The Community Development Officer was unfortunately not able to join the meeting and instead a report generated prior was read to the members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **9. Publications**

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

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – August and September 2021.
- VAO Newsletter – September, October and November 2021.
- Loganair Statistics - October 2021.
- Liam McArthur correspondence 30/11/2021.
- Police Scotland, Orkney Area Newsletter – November 2021.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Cattle Trailers**

Following consideration of the update from members regarding the need of more cattle trailers to be available for shipping, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would send out information regarding any update and funding.

## **B. First responders for Papa Westray**

Following discussion of the concerns members had regarding the current shortage of medical cover and that the current first responders had to take on additional cover because there was also a shortage of first responders, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would liaise with the first responders to produce an advertisement that would be circulated with Papay Matters to try and recruit more first responders.

## **C. Orkney Drugs Dog Charity**

Following consideration of the presentation from the Orkney Drugs Dog handler, it was agreed that members were very grateful for the achievements that the charity had accomplished, and, after discussions, it was:

Resolved that members would like to support the charity by donating £200.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that there will be a special meeting of Papa Westray Community Council, to discuss next winter's sailing timetable (2022) and this would be held on Tuesday, 11 January 2022. The next general meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15 February 2022 in St Ann's Community Room, Papa Westray, if possible, with a Microsoft Teams connection should attendees wish, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:55.