

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held at the Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 13 February 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr I Deyell, Mr P Donnelly, Mr C Kerlake, Mrs H Scott and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
 - Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
 - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
 - Ms H Green, Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
 - Ms H Galland, Clerk.
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- 2 members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms A Duncan and Mrs L Paterson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of meeting held on Monday, 21 November 2022 was adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mrs H Scott.

3. Matters Arising

A. Grass Cutting Tender

Members heard that the 2023 grass cutting tender was due to be advertised, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk advertise the tender via posters and online.
2. That the closing date for applications should be one week prior to the next meeting.
3. That the Clerk get the lawnmower and strimmer sent for maintenance immediately.
4. That the Clerk apply for funding to be added to the grass cutting equipment category in CCGS, based on last year's costs being £55 lawn mower and £63 strimmer.

B. Septic Tank Emptying

The Clerk reported that £300 had been added to the category for septic tank emptying in CCGS, and that Scottish Water charge approximately £300 per emptying, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would put up posters advertising the support offered by NRCC to residents wishing to get their septic tanks emptied.
2. That customers will be offered £100 subsidy to help them afford a clean out, and that the customer will be responsible for the booking and paying the remainder of the fee to Scottish Water.
3. That requests for support would be on a first come first served basis until the Fund had been fully utilised.

C. Cattle Float Update

Democratic Services provided an update on the situation, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the two trailers at J and W Tait's had passed their load tests and were now being galvanised.
2. To note that there was no confirmed date when they will be sent out to the island, but that urgency was requested in this matter by members.
3. To note that there had been delays on the arrival of the other two trailers with no other information available on them.

D. Transport Cancellations

It was announced that the new Ferry Services Manager, Eddie Barclay, had been looking into contingency plans around the issue of long term cancelled flights or boats and would relay information to all islands once details were confirmed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Thomson would seek an update from the Ferry Services Manager the day after the meeting.
2. To request that the Ferry Services Manager include the issue of cancellations due to weather, specifically fog, as well as due to mechanical failures, as weather was considered a more frequent and therefore disruptive issue than mechanical faults.
3. To request that consideration be given to a launch being the contingency plan and that money from unused ad hoc flight allocation be used to pay for these, although passengers should be expected to pay a nominal fee for their transportation also.

E. Playground Update

Councillor Woodbridge and Councillor Thomson had looked into the replacement of equipment. The Head Teacher had also been asked but there had been no response. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised them to gather some information, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a list of what was previously available/is in situ but condemned should be compiled.
2. That the parents, children, and the school should agree on a "wish list" of what the new playground would have/provide.
3. That Mr C Kerlake would draw up a letter containing this information to the Clerk.
4. That Shapinsay Community Council be contacted to ask how they funded their modern playground furniture.

F. Road Scalpings Applications

The Clerk reported that 25 tonnes had already been bought and another 48 - 50 tonnes had been ordered with CCGS funding, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request a further £1,000 CCGS allocation be added for this purpose.
2. That the applicants on the list who were rejected be contacted to inform that they could potentially apply to the Crofters Commission for support.
3. That the applicants on the list who were accepted as being eligible for NRCC support be contacted but informed that if they wished to go ahead with the order, they would be responsible for the freight costs from Orkney Ferries and from the North Ronaldsay Pier.
4. That the Clerk would find out freight costs from Orkney Ferries for the Kirkwall to North Ronaldsay leg.
5. That the Clerk should order enough scalplings (including delivery to Kirkwall Pier) to use up £1,000 and no more.

G. Wall Hanging at Airfield

It was noted that members had agreed to purchase the felt wall hanging that was on display at the airfield for the island, and it was:

Resolved to note that £500 NRCC funding had been paid to the artist for the piece, and information indicating this generous act had been installed beside the piece.

H. NHS24 Update

Ongoing email correspondence had been shared between appropriate parties, around the discussions on emergency care, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that all the plans to roll out NHS24 to the isles had been halted, as it had been acknowledged that further community engagement was needed.
2. To note that there was to be another meeting at the end of February on the issue.
3. To note that there had been no update to NRCC from Stephen Brown, Chief Officer of the IJB.

I. NILPS Stiles Repair

It was reported that Ann Bignall of the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme had visited the island in December and had asked to know if someone on the island would be prepared to be employed to do the work through the community council, or should the NILPS advertise the position and take all responsibility, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that NILPS were willing to wait for North Ronaldsay to decide on the best way forward for the project.
2. That the Clerk should put out a tender for the work to be done, with a deadline one week prior to the next meeting.
3. That should no applications come forward, the Clerk would inform NILPS that the work should be allowed to be completed under NILPS.

4. Correspondence

A. Meeting with NZET - Ferry Services

Correspondence had been emailed regarding a meeting with the Convener of the NZET Committee on 28 November 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note that the meeting date had passed.

B. Cruise Calls

Correspondence had been emailed from the Cruise Operations and Marketing Coordinator and attached to the agenda, relating to calls to North Ronaldsay in the forthcoming cruise season calendar, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request cruises book ahead to give island businesses an opportunity to prepare for potential visitors.
2. To note that prior planning did not always result in a successful disembarkation owing to inappropriate weather conditions.
3. To note that a meeting was due to be held on the island on 10 March with the OIC cruise representatives and the North Ronaldsay Trust to engage with businesses and other opportunities on the island.

C. Post Van Breakdown

Correspondence regarding the repair of the post van from the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, had been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the issue was no longer outstanding and that a new post van had been delivered.

D. NRT Planning Permission

Correspondence from the North Ronaldsay Trust had been emailed and attached, and it was:

Resolved to agree to planning applications being lodged in the name of North Ronaldsay Community Council in order to receive a discount on the fee.

E. MS Marine Renewables

Correspondence had been emailed, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents.

F. Liam McArthur MSP - Formal complaint to NHSO

Correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP had been emailed and attached and late correspondence also emailed prior to the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that formal complaints cannot be made by organisation but by individuals only.

G. Views on Eday Flight Booking

Correspondence from the Transportation Manager had been emailed regarding a shared flight, and it was:

Resolved that NRCC do not approve the changes and that this item would be discussed later in the meeting.

H. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

Correspondence had been emailed and attached, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would post the information locally so that others could attend if they wished.
2. To note that the date was the same day as an on-island tourism meeting, but that the virtual event was due to be held the following week.

I. Transition North Ronaldsay - Plastic Recycling

Following consideration of correspondence from Transition North Ronaldsay, copies of which had been emailed and attached, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should inform Transition North Ronaldsay that permission to site a plastic recycling facility at the pier was not the jurisdiction of NRCC and that he needed to seek permission from Orkney Harbours/Marine Services.

J. The Orcadian - Islander Write Up

Correspondence from The Orcadian in relation to the Islander Magazine had been emailed and attached, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To approve the write up as long as the Sheep Festival dates were correct.
2. That the Clerk should inform NRT that NRCC approves of the articles.

K. Levelling up Fund Grant

Correspondence had been emailed regarding the application by the Transportation Manager to the Levelling Up Fund for money towards upgrading the Lo Lo facilities to Ro Ro in North Ronaldsay, and it was:

Resolved to note that the application had been unsuccessful.

L. Covid Recovery Officer

Correspondence from the Covid Recovery Officer had been emailed and attached, and it was:

Resolved that there were no requests for support or advice from the outgoing officer, and information had been posted locally for island residents.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Scapa Deep Water Quay

Correspondence had been emailed from Marine Services regarding information sessions in relation to the SDWQ project, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had now passed.

B. Orkney Ferries - Booking System

Correspondence had been emailed regarding a consultation on the Orkney Ferries booking system. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the deadline for comments was the end of February.
2. That the Clerk put the following comments in Business of Meeting Letter to be forwarded:
 - There needs to be an amendment so that a car or other vehicle can be booked to travel unaccompanied as the new system only allows booking WITH a passenger travelling.
 - There needs to be the ability to take “un-booked” or “seen on sight” customers in the instance that weather conditions or other circumstance prevents people leaving the island by plane, in order to enable them to disembark the island.
 - That payment for such unexpected passengers could still be done “cashless” by the use of a card reader or a card payment app.
 - That there is unfairness in the system which needs addressing- when passengers have their plans unexpectedly changed due to e.g., weather and use one service (eg boat) to go one way but the other service to go the other way (eg plane) forcing passenger to pay extra OR unknowingly have their return booking cancelled.

C. Orkney Islands Area Licencing Board

Correspondence had been emailed. It was

Resolved to note there was no comment on the issue of over subscription of licences in the locality.

D. 20mph Speed Limit round Schools

Correspondence had been emailed and it was

Resolved to note there had been one respondent in favour of a 20mph limit around Orkney schools but wished to enquire where the boundary would start and end on North Ronaldsay

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Members considered the general finance statement as at 2 February 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £17,785.13.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine statement as at 2 February 2023 copies of which had previously been 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 2 February 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £2,425.51 remained available for allocation from the main capping limit, and that £181.81 and £719 were the amounts left in the additional and island capping limits respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Members considered the Community Development Fund statement as at 2 February 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the total available for allocation was £3,656.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Mr C Kerslake had previously said informally that he was no longer interested in using the fund he had been allocated for a number of reasons. Members considered the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 2 February 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Mr C Kerslake had agreed to relinquish the £122 back to the fund for someone else to access.

2. To note that there was a further £110 left for allocation to any eligible project.

7. Financial Requests

A. North Ronaldsay Science Festival March 2023

A request for support for flights to the amount no more than £105 to bring in speakers during the event had been approved in principle via email, and it was:

Resolved to take funding from the previously set up category in CCGS and make payment once receipts are received.

B. NRCA - Burns Night Supper

A request for funding for an ad hoc flight to extricate musicians and speakers at the event had been received from NRCA, and it was:

Resolved to make payment of £147 from the available CCGS fund category.

C. Community Defibrillator Battery Replacement

A request to purchase a new battery for the Community Centre defibrillator was discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note that this had been previously approved via email, along with the cost of pads, to the cost of £525.42, and that the battery had now been installed.

D. Community Association – Travel Fund CCGS

A few requests for flights in recent months suggested the addition of funds for future 2023 event needs, and it was:

Resolved that all agreed to increase the fund and apply to add another £400 to the CCGS category which had already been set up (101905).

E. Road Scalping Scheme

It was agreed that due to the high interest in the scheme to purchase more scalpings, and it was:

Resolved to request £1,000 to be used from CCGS.

F. Scrap Metal Scheme

It was agreed that the scheme should be supported, and it was:

Resolved to request to use £200 of CCGS funding towards the Scrap Metal Scheme.

G. Scrap Car Scheme

It was agreed that the scheme should be continued, and it was:

Resolved to request to use £200 of CCGS funding for the removal of Scrap Vehicles.

H. Grass Cutting Equipment

It was agreed that funds needed to be added to the existing CCGS category to enable the ongoing maintenance of this equipment, and it was:

Resolved to add enough money to cover the next invoices for maintenance, the Clerk stated 2022 costs being approximately £55 for the lawnmower and £65 (including VAT) for the strimmer, excluding freight costs.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

After a detailed discussion about issues regarding ferry and air travel and the ongoing issue of the islands views or needs apparently not being heard or considered in any decision making, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would work with Mr P Donnelly on drafting a letter to be sent to the Chief Executive of OIC as well as Orkney Islands Council Councillors and Liam McArthur MSP, to complain about the direction of Transport Forums and the lack of support, given how they are our acknowledged lifeline services.
2. That a draft letter be circulated to CC members for approval prior to sending.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that the representative was absent and therefore there was nothing to report.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Resolved to note that the representative was absent, but that the AGM took place and was well attended. New members were voted in. The Trebb Project was on-going and the new CDM is Luke Fraser.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2022 and January 2023.
- Letter from School Place – November and December 2022 and January 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November 2022 and January 2023.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Deposit Return Scheme

A late correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation had been emailed round members, who discussed the issues, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to SIF prior to their upcoming meeting to enquire how the scheme would actually work on outer island communities, and feedback to members at the next CC meeting.

B. North Ronaldsay Yarn Company Representative

Since members were voted into various positions there had been a query what this role was before any member was willing to be voted in for it. It was

Resolved that Democratic Services will find out what the role historically meant and get back to the members at the next meeting.

C. Health and Care Representative

It was further requested that a Health and Care Representative be voted in. Mrs H Scott was proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mr I Deyell, and accepted the post, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs H Scott would be the nominated Health and Care Representative for North Ronaldsay Community Council.

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 Wednesday, 29 March at the Community Centre and via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed 22:11.