

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in the Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 26 September 2022

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
 - Councillor H Woodbridge.
 - Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services (via Teams).
 - Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
 - Ms H Galland, Clerk.
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- Four members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor S Clackson.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Election of Chair

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr I Deyell be elected Chair of North Ronaldsay Community Council.

B. Election of Vice Chair

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr P Donnelly be elected Vice Chair of North Ronaldsay Community Council.

C. Planning Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mrs L Paterson be elected Planning Representative for North Ronaldsay Community Council.

D. Transport Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr P Donnelly be elected Transport Representative for North Ronaldsay Community Council.

E. North Ronaldsay Development Trust

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Ms A Duncan be elected NRDT Representative for North Ronaldsay Community Council.

F. North Ronaldsay Community Association Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Mr C Kerslake be elected North Ronaldsay Community Association Representative for North Ronaldsay Community Council.

G. A Yarn Company Representative

After a discussion about the role and responsibility of the Community Council Member within the Yarn Company, it was:

Resolved that the position would be voted on once clarification of the above was received.

3. Adoption of Constitution

The Chair thanked the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer for overseeing the voting process.

Following consideration of the constitution for North Ronaldsay Community Council, it was:

Resolved to adopt the constitution, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mrs H Scott.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 March 2022 was adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mr I Scott.

The minute of the special meeting held on Saturday, 18 June 2022 was also adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mrs H Scott.

5. Matters Arising

A. Car Scrappage Scheme

After a discussion about the success of the scheme so far, and that the £263.63 allocated from the Local Works Fund had been spent, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a new CCGS application be set up to run until the start of the next financial year.
2. That the Clerk get updated quotes from Orkney Aggregates and Orkney Ferries for freight and uplift costs.
3. That the scheme be reopened to residents with the continuation of a £10 cost per car and two cars uplifted a time.

B. Roads Maintenance

After a discussion about the recent visit by a member of the Roads Support team, and the current state of roads on the island, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Head of Neighbourhood Support would talk with Roads Support about the issues raised and would report back to the Community Council.
2. To note that ditching works to help drain water off the road surface were being programmed in and a date will be forwarded to the Community Council.

3. That the Clerk would display posters explaining to residents how to report issues with roads, reporting through OIC Customer Services via phone, or online.
4. That the Community Council could propose work to be undertaken by contracted residents but the work and contractor would need to be approved by OIC first.
5. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would find out whether the tarmac road leading up to the School/ Community Centre was an adopted road and who was responsible for its maintenance.

C. Scalpings

After a discussion on the use of the prebought scalpings, which were yet to be delivered, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk post invitations for residents to apply for scalpings.
2. That private dwellings to take priority over businesses in the scheme.
3. That the resident needs to supply NRCC with the length of road in metres to be considered.
4. That the application deadline date should be one week before the next meeting.

D. Kirkyard and Memorial Grass Cutting Tender

Members were advised that the contract for this tender was approved via email, the winning tender being Ms C Alexander, and it was:

Resolved to note that Ms C Alexander was awarded the contracts and the prices agreed.

E. Platinum Jubilee Fund Spend

Members heard that it was previously agreed via email for the £500 funding to be allocated to North Ronaldsay Community Association for the purposes of organising an island celebration, and it was:

Resolved to note that the £500 funds were spent, and the party took place over the jubilee weekend.

F. Core Paths

After a discussion about the proposed works, allocated to be conducted in March, April and May but which had not taken place, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would look into the issue of stiles needing restoration.

2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would ask Roads Support and Planning who was in charge of inspecting and maintaining Core Paths.
3. That the Clerk would write to the Sheep Court enquiring about their input into the restoration (who is responsible and what is being done).
4. To note that a resident could tender for the work of restoring the stiles, in partnership with the landowner.
5. That the Clerk would contact the NILPS members on the island to ask what the relationship was between NILPS and the stiles restoration.

G. Transport – Air and Ferry

After a detailed discussion about the recent issues of planes going technical and cancelled ferries along with other passenger related anecdotes, and the fact an Emergency Procedure did not take place after the 72-hour delay window, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that it had been agreed at a previous Transport meeting that unused ad hoc flight funding should be used to charter a Launch should there be plane failure.
2. To note that OLEG had not been made aware of the technical issues so the emergency procedure was not activated.
3. That the Clerk, in liaison with Democratic Services, write a letter to the Transportation Manager and the CEO of Loganair (Jonathan Hinkles) to invite them to the next community council meeting to discuss the issues encountered.
4. That the North Isles Councillors be copied into any correspondence.
5. That the letter include a request to know the contents of the tender for the inter-isles service, what the responsibilities of the company are to delivering the service, and whether there is opportunity to be involved in the design of future tenders.
6. That Head Office be asked whether the issues encountered by passengers are instructions from them, or are more locally derived/ specific.
7. That Mrs L Paterson had volunteered to draw up a record of all issues involving residents and Loganair or Orkney Ferries and will promote it on the community WhatsApp page inviting residents to report issues as and when they happen.
8. That the Clerk would ask other community councils with a high dependence on air and sea travel to invite their residents to submit their accounts of issues they have encountered to the record of Transport Issues being collated.
9. That the Clerk resend a letter to Transport Forum, before their next meeting on 24 October adding in the request for a freight plane to be put on the same day as a cancelled boat (on occasions when the boat does not leave port).

10. That the Clerk write to Loganair and copy in the Airfield Manager to apply for one set of yellow double tread steps.

H. Cattle Floats

After a discussion about the whereabouts and state of the four Council-purchased cattle floats, with lifting gear, and responses provided by the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that some are not yet in Orkney due to circumstances beyond anyone's control.
2. To note that some are at J W Tait's but they had not given a date when the lifting gear would be installed.
3. That the Clerk contact Papa Westray CC asking if the float belonging to them could be used in the interim.
4. That the Clerk resend the letter to the Transport Forum that a resolution is needed immediately.

6. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been emailed to members since the last meeting and was noted:

- Disability Equality Scotland Consultation - 30 March.
- Scottish Flood Forum - Household Assessments.
- Scottish Islands Passport Event - 25 March.
- Orkney Islands Council - Free iPads.
- Planning Aid Scotland Information.
- NHS Orkney ANP Recruitment.
- Harbours Visit - Marine Services and Tourism - 15 April.
- Hope Co Housing Meeting - 15 May.
- NHS Share.
- Orkney Ferries Deliveries Timetable.
- Scottish Water - Tell us what you think.
- Orkney Islands Council Elections Information.
- OIC Verge Maintenance Plan – Final.
- NHS Share.
- VAO invite members to be Trustees - 15 June.
- Orkney Islands Council Draft Winter Ferry Timetable.
- VAO AGM - 15 June.
- Investing in Communities Fund - 28 June.
- OHAL - Drop-in Meeting - 15 June.

- Orkney Islands Council – Levelling Up Fund.
- Mairi Telford Jammak - MSC seaweed harvesting survey.
- Community Ownership Fund - Second Round.
- E-Bike Grant Scheme.
- VAO Small Grants Scheme - 8 July.
- Orkney Scam Action Group- Island meeting invite July.
- NHS Orkney - ANP Job Interviews.
- Memorial Inspections Visit - 22 July.
- Marine Energy Services Survey.
- Scottish Water Keep Hydrated Summer Campaign.
- Orkney Islands Council - Winter Air Timetable Confirmation.
- ORSAS Open Day - 27 July.
- Scottish Water - Annual Consultative Meeting - 30 August.
- Emergency Services Show - 22 September.
- Power for People Campaign.
- Meet Your NHS on Facebook Event - 16 August.
- Alex Wright - NILPS project information.
- Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Letter.
- NSPCC Talk Pants Event - 14 September.
- OIC Book of Condolence for Queen Elizabeth.
- Orkney Islands Council – IITS Outline Business Case.

A. NHS Orkney - ANP lack of cover and NHSO Response

Correspondence had been emailed to members from the Interim Chief Executive of NHS Orkney, which was in response to a letter that the CC had sent him. After a discussion that the Community Council was not authorised to make a formal complaint on behalf of the community, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk ask MSP L McArthur why a community council formal complaint is not recognised.
2. That if an adequate response was not received then a letter asking the same to the Ombudsman be sent.
3. That any letter sent should copy in all NHS Orkney Board members.

B. Eyland Skyn - Third Inter Isles Plane Proposal

Correspondence from Eyland Skyn had been emailed round members, regarding building the case for the additional funds for a third aircraft to be added to the internal services, and it was:

Resolved the Clerk send a letter of support for this proposal.

C. OIC Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling

Correspondence had been emailed to members previously regarding funding for paths and walkways, and it was:

Resolved that Mr C Kerslake would look into whether it could be applicable to North Ronaldsay.

7. Consultation Documents

A. Orkney Islands Council Roads Maintenance Plan

Correspondence had been circulated previously to members regarding the roads maintenance plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had now passed.

B. SAS New Air Ambulance

Correspondence had been emailed to members previously regarding a new air ambulance, and it was:

Resolved to note that the survey was attached in the email should anyone wish to contribute.

C. Scottish Government - Allotment and Community Garden Provision

Correspondence sent on 24 May had been circulated previously to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had now passed.

D. L McArthur MSP - Ferry Services Consultation

Correspondence had been emailed in August regarding the ferry service, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had now passed.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Members considered the general finance statement as at 14 September 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £18,498.94.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine statement as at 14 September 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £21,221.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 14 September 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £2,653.20 remained available for allocation from the main capping limit, and that £491.96 and £719 were the amounts left in the additional and island capping limits respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 14 September 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

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

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 14 September 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £110 left for allocation to any eligible project.

9. Financial Requests

A. North Ronaldsay Trust - Match Funding

A financial request had been received from NRT, copies of which had previously been circulated, for assistance with the cost of resuming the Day Club, and it was:

Resolved that the requested £440 be approved, subject to CCGS approval.

B. Memorial Hall Grass Cutting

Mr I Scott declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Correspondence from Mr I Scott, with a request for £240 towards grass cutting at the Memorial Hall, had been previously circulated to members. After discussion, it was:

Resolved to award £240 towards the grass cutting, subject to CCGS approval.

C. North Ronaldsay Community Association - Musician Air Fares

A request for £105 had been received, to cover the cost of air fares for musicians playing at a local event. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the amount of £105 could be taken from Grant Scheme reference 101905 and had been agreed via email.

D. Pads and Batteries for Defibrillator

Correspondence from Bernie Holbrook had been emailed previously to members, asking for the CC to cover the cost of new pads and batteries for the defibrillator, and it was:

Resolved to note that this had been previously agreed via email and that CCGS funding of £200 had been approved.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

After hearing a report from the re-elected Transport Representative that there had been no consultation over the election period, it was:

Resolved that there were no actions to take.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Members were advised that the Day Club was due to restart every other Thursday until the money runs out, with diners being charged a nominal fee. It would be run from the School Kitchen by Charlotte Kerlake. Members also heard that the services at the lighthouse might have to be scaled back due to rising energy costs, the date of the next AGM would be available soon, and that the CDM post was still vacant and VAO were assisting with advertising it, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

11. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – March to August 2022.
- Police Scotland- Orkney Area Newsletter - April 2022.
- Scottish Water News - April 2022.
- Orkney Ferries – Statistics – June 2022.
- Letter from School Place – April, May and July 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – March to August 2022.
- Island Wellbeing Report - September 2022.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Septic Tank Emptying

After a discussion that there had been some enquiries about this service, it was:

Resolved:

1. The Clerk find out from Scottish Water how much this service costs.
2. The Clerk find out how much was previously allocated from CCGS.

3. That the Community Council apply for CCGS to support householders.
4. That the Clerk would put up posters explaining the level of financial support available from the community council to householders once known.

B. Link Officer

Following a query from a member regarding ILO posts in other islands, it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services should be asked to consider providing an ILO for the island.

C. Dangerous Animals

A member asked if there was a route to report perceived threats from domestic and farm animals against members of the public, and it was:

Resolved that neither the Police nor Council have any powers in this kind of situation.

D. Play Area at School

It was reported that since the removal of dangerous items, a resident had asked about the reinstatement of play equipment in the school playground. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor M Thomson would look into funding available via Education Services.

E. Island Health Care

Given the lack of recruitment of a full time ANP on several isles, a discussion was started on how to coordinate proceedings and share information between isles, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To suggest each community council have a representative who would share their islands issues to the other community councils.
2. Ask OIC to set up Teams Meetings so isles CCs could meet and collaborate.
3. That the Clerk would liaise with Councillor H Woodbridge to generate interest in such a group.
4. That the lack of a general protocol for first responders among the isles was confusing and would benefit from a set of standards agreed between agencies in order to promote recruitment of first responders on all isles.
5. That a previous letter inviting Issy Grieve and others to meet with residents (see Minutes 12 March 2022) be reissued.
6. That a letter be sent to NHS Orkney asking if recruitment at ANP level is impossible then is it acceptable to recruit at GP level now.

7. To consider a potential campaign to recruit being more widespread than the Myjobscot advert currently was.

F. Artwork at Airfield Building

The Clerk declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion thereof.

A member raised the artwork by H Galland that was on display at the airfield building and had an asking price. It was felt that this artwork was of much value and so relevant to the island that it should be purchased by the community council so that it did not go out of the island. The asking price was discussed, and it was:

Resolved to purchase the artwork as a community possession and pay the asking price from general funds.

13. 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 November 2022 at the Community Centre commencing at 19:30.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 22:50.