

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held at St Ann’s, Papa Westray and via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 6 April 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
  - Councillor M Thomson.
  - Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
  - Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO).
  - Mrs J Foley, Papa Westray Development Trust.
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- 2 Members of the public.

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## 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Mrs Lynda Sharp to the community council as a member, following the public meeting that had been held prior to the meeting, and it was:

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

## 2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held 26 January 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr A Hourston and second by Mr B Hourston.

## 3. Matters Arising

### A. Ferry Matters

Members felt that the crew covering the Papa Westray to Westray service were more comfortable with the Golden Mariana and the Kirkwall Bay rather than the Nordic Sea. Following on from this discussion, members discussed the options and if there would be a possibility of the Kirkwall Bay having an additional cover added to the back of the vessel to allow extra seating area and the Kirkwall Bay serve the Papa Westray to Westray route rather than the Nordic Sea. The Nordic Sea seemed to have ongoing issues and was a concern regarding the route that is was intentionally purchased for.

Following consideration of the minutes and presentation of the previous public meeting on the transport study, members still felt that there was confusion over which pier that the sailing from Papa Westray would visit. Within the report it mentions that the boat would dock at Rapness and the proposal from the community council and the residents of Papa Westray was always that the crossing should be from Papa Westray to Pierowall, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk sends a business letter to Marine Services/Transportation, requesting consideration of some of the outstanding concerns previously discussed:

1. Feedback from the public meeting, detailing the haulage issue of who is to be responsible for the haulage logistics should a link span be introduced to Papa Westray and any costing 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 2 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 Transportation Service Manager have read and understood the concerns.
4. Ask that a meeting is held between the community council, the Transportation Service Manager and Orkney Ferries' Service Manager to discuss the outstanding concerns and to confirm that the points raised are fully understood.

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

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

7. How is the service 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 was currently facing?

8. Could the above regarding the Kirkwall Bay be possible and be an option to serve the Papa Westray to Westray route?

## **B. Papay Water Scheme Update**

Following consideration of a verbal update from the Clerk regarding the recent invoice from Cloudnet for the communication works, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should process the invoice for payment.

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

Following consideration of an update from the Clerk explaining that there has 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 discussion between members explaining that the fibre cables at the south end of the island had been installed and the connection to the houses would commence in due course, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **E. Storage of the Gritter and Salt belonging to OIC**

Following a verbal update from members and that no further information was to report, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **F. Cattle Trailers**

Following a verbal update from Democratic Services, explaining that the trailers were progressing, and the frames were ready to go for galvanising, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **G. Benches for Tirlo and Airport**

Following an update from the Clerk, explaining that the recycled plastic benches had been ordered, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **H. Housing Shortage on Papa Westray**

Members discussed the housing shortage on Papa Westray, and the Development Trust representative explained that the Trust was sourcing funding from the Scottish Land Fund following the positive results of 80-90% of the public survey, in support of the Trust sourcing up to 3 additional properties. The Trust could get 70% of the cost of a property through the Scottish Land Fund and the Trust would need to source the additional from either Orkney Islands Council, community council or private finance loan and hopefully a decision should be made by the end of May. The Trust explained that the additional housing that would be suited for key workers unfortunately cannot be solely for keyworkers, but keyworkers would become a priority should they be needed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **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. Kirkyard Maintenance**

Following discussions regarding the maintenance and grass cutting of Boniface Kirk and the tender from Miss Elves of Vestness for the seasonal grass cutting, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the tender be accepted, and members request that a log of the number of cuts should be kept for future information.
2. That the Clerk would look to rent a scarifier to reduce the moss in the grass of the kirkyard.
3. That the Clerk should re-advertise the tender for repairs for Boniface kirkyard gates and the road.

## **K. New Pier Improvements**

A verbal update was provided, advising that no further information had been received regarding the improvements. A passenger had raised concerns regarding the slippery surface of the steps at the pier following the recent low tides, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should send a business letter to Democratic Services to request the steps be cleaned.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Funding for Coronation Events**

Following consideration of the update from Democratic Services explaining that the funding application was not successful and that each community council, should they wish to put on an event, will need to source their own funding, it was:

Resolved:

1. That, should PCA wish to run an event for the Coronation, they would need to organise/source funding.
2. That the Clerk source some Coronation memorabilia/souvenirs for the children of Papa Westray that are currently in education.

### **B. Deposit Return Scheme**

Following consideration of the correspondence regarding the above, and current consultations on the roll out of the scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **C. Scottish Government Islands Programme Application 2023/2024**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Transportation Service Manager regarding an application they were in the process of completing, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send a letter of support on behalf of the community council to hopefully strengthen the application for funding towards a new waiting room at the airfield.

### **D. Message for Community Council Chairs and Clerks**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Democratic Services, advising of the upcoming retirement of the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communication, it was:

Resolved to note that members had already responded to the Clerk and their good will messages had been passed on.

### **E. Memorials Update and Reminder**

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

Resolved to note the information

### **F. Bag the Bruck 2023**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands council, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk apply for the £300 funding using the Community Council Grant Scheme and that the sponsorship be advertised to any interested parties.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

Resolved to note that there had been no consultation documents circulated for consideration.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 24 March 2023 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £14,503.30.

### **B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme**

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 24 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £40,435.80.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2022-2023**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £780.97 that £743 remained available for allocation in the additional capping limit and £719 was left in the island capping limit.

## **7. Financial Requests**

### **A. St Ann's Kirk**

Members discussed correspondence which had been sent on behalf of the kirk, requesting help to fund the travel and accommodation of the heating engineers who were coming to do work at the kirk, at an approximate total of £368.80 to transport a van and 4 engineers plus accommodation for 3 nights, and it was:

Resolved to cover the full cost of £368.80, subject to CCGS approval.

### **B. Yoga Class**

Following consideration of a request from a resident of Papa Westray for funding towards a yoga class, members agreed that they would like some additional information including a breakdown of costs, proposed venue, and whether individuals taking part would contribute to the costs, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ask for further information to allow the application to be fully considered.

### **C. Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association - Membership Fee**

Following consideration of correspondence from the tourist association with regards to the membership fee, it was:

Resolved that the membership fee be paid in full.

## **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**

Following a verbal update from the Clerk regarding a new connection letter from the owners of Vola and a way of ensuring that all residential properties are using the UV system provided, it was:

Resolved:

1. That members were happy for a new connection to be added to the system.
2. To note that a mandatory price of a UV bulb will be added to all residential water bills each year.
3. That the Clerk should obtain a quote from the water attendant to service every UV bulb, to include a quartz sleeve clean.
4. That the Clerk draft a letter on behalf of the water scheme to the residential owners, explaining the implications and the reasoning behind the change, taking into consideration that not all water UV systems were the same.

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

The Development Officer explained that the funding application for the market garden had not been successful, and the Trust was planning to reduce the staffing hours by 50% and pay the wages. They were currently looking at the local letting policy as it currently prioritises support for the school and the fire service but having the numbers raise in both, the push would be to help house key workers. The current boat scheme has now run out and the Trust will look at how to support youth groups travelling to Westray.

The boat store project had now been approved by NILPS to able it to be split into two phases, the first getting the store weatherproof. The Trust were currently looking at

hosting a new exhibition in the Kelp store in 2024 on Viking history and were aiming to have an open day on 29 April, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **9. Publications**

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

- Liam McArthur MSP Holyrood Highlights.
- Orkney Ferres Sunday Excursion Timetable 2023.
- Alistair Carmichael - Alternative fuel payment progress
- Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place – February and March 2023.

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

### **A. Disused Glass Bottle Crush**

Following discussions regarding the glass bottle crush and if it could be used, it was:

Resolved that the machine was very labour intensive but no decision for its future intensions had been made.

### **B. Health and Care Representative**

Following discussions in relation to selecting a representative for Papa Westray Community Council to sit on future meetings with NHS Orkney and for other health and care matters, it was:

Resolved the Mrs F McNab will be the representative for Papa Westray Community Council.

## **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, 8 June 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 21:25.