

Minute of the Special Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Saturday, 18 June 2022 at 21:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Ms H Galland, Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms A Duncan.

2. Matters Arising

The remainder of the meeting composed putting together the case for opposing the Loganair Outer Isles Winter Timetable proposal to include Eday in North Ronaldsay's first flight on a Friday. It was:

Resolved that the Clerk would put the following into a letter to Transport and that it be cc'd to Orkney Islands Councillors, after sending a draft to the Members for approval:

A. That the air service is North Ronaldsay's lifeline service, while Eday has a boat service that would still be available to them despite them being allocated some of North Ronaldsay's seats on the plane – North Ronaldsay having no alternative means of getting on/off island on a daily basis, and there being many more seats on a boat than there is on a plane.

B. That the loss of seats is difficult to justify given covid affecting the last 2 years travel.

C. That more people now live on North Ronaldsay so more seats may be needed.

D. That the loss of an early morning flight on both a Monday and a Friday will detrimentally affect commuting opportunities.

E. That the loss of an early morning flight would also affect future secondary school age students getting to registration and lessons on time on those days.

F. That the plane is used to get non-emergency patients to hospital and two days when they may not get a seat on the first plane of the day is unacceptable given the island also suffers a lack of on-island NHS cover on many occasions.

G. That winter tourism is being increased to help the North Ronaldsay economy and the only reliable method of getting to the island is the plane that all seats for North Ronaldsay should be available to North Ronaldsay.

H. That ferries are more likely to be cancelled for several schedules in the winter and residents need every available option to use the plane to get groceries.

I. That the island already gave up seats for a specific reason (the minister on a Sunday) only for it to not be ever used for the purpose it was supposed to (minister retired).

J. That there is no way of knowing how many residents are unable to get a seat when they want one as the online booking method only allows recording of bookings made, not bookings attempted - this need to be addressed.

K. That remote outer islands should not be in competition with each other on vital services.

L. That perhaps the Sunday flight on a Friday Morning (at 08:23) could instead have Eday added to their schedule (as another island with a boat alternative, it would not impact, and not cause Eday a 2-hour delay, and having already taken seats from North Ronaldsay on Sunday would be a gesture of us all giving and taking a little).

3. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:55.