

Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in the Eday Heritage Centre on Tuesday, 4 April 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr H Thomson, Mrs S Boardman, Mr M Cockram, Mrs L Garson and Miss E Wallington.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson.
- Councillor S Clackson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes.....	2
3. Grass Cutting Tenders.....	2
4. Matters Arising.....	2
5. Correspondence.....	5
6. Financial Statements.....	7
7. Financial Requests.....	7
8. Reports from Representatives.....	8
9. Consultations.....	8
10. Publications.....	9
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	9
12. Date of Next Meeting.....	10
13. Conclusion of Meeting.....	11

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mr T McCabe.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Eday Community Council held on 19 October 2022 was adopted, being proposed by Mr H Thomson and seconded by Mrs S Boardman.

3. Grass Cutting Tenders

The Interim Clerk advised that no tenders had been submitted for the grass cutting at the upper and lower Kirkyards, War Memorial, Stone of Setter and Council Houses. However, the contractor who had carried out the work last year had since been in touch and offered a price for the works. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Interim Clerk should get in touch with the contractor and advise that members were willing to accept his price for the works for the 2023 season.

B. That the contractor should be sent the relevant paperwork to complete and be advised to commence cutting as per the description of works.

4. Matters Arising

A. Cattle Pens

Mr H Thomson passed round a draft plan of what he felt the pens should look like, and that this should rectify the safety issue with the old pens, which were too small. As this would be sited on Marine Services land, and funding would be required, it was agreed that discussions would be required. It was also agreed that other stakeholders would need to be consulted on the plans, including the haulier, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would try to arrange an urgent meeting with Marine Services to discuss this and other related issues.

2. That CC members would liaise with local farmers, the isles haulier as well as the pier master and other relevant stakeholders regarding the proposed new pens.

B. Lack of Airfield Crew

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the closing date for applications for the post had now passed but that unfortunately no applications had been received. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to suggest to Transport, via the business letter, that another open day should be arranged in place of the one that had been postponed due to weather, in order to try and assist with recruitment of staff to this post.

C. First Responders

Councillor H Woodbridge advised that not a lot had happened since the departure of John Mundell and that another meeting needed to be set up now that a new OIC Chief Executive was in place. SAS had advised that they did not have the funding to pay all first responders, but it was agreed that they could not have this disparity across the isles.

D. Scrap Cars

Members resumed consideration of running a scrap car scheme for the island. They also discussed how cars would be collected and where they could be stored in preparation for being picked up by the haulier, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To apply for CCGS funding of £500 towards a scrap car scheme.
2. To advertise for notes of interest in the scheme with a closing date prior to the next meeting so that uptake and details could be discussed.
3. That car owners would be responsible for making sure the relevant documents were in the vehicles and that they were empty and ready for collection.

E. Road Scheme

Members resumed consideration of running a road aggregate scheme, and providing funding towards the freight element of taking road materials out to the island for the purpose of improving private roads. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise for notes of interest in the scheme with a closing date prior to the next meeting so that update and details could be discussed.
2. That a condition of any grant was that the track should lead to a property that was permanently lived in and not vacant.
3. That CCGS would be applied for towards running this scheme on an amount to be agreed at the next meeting.

F. Pier Toilets/Waiting Room

A member advised that the Community Council had been told some years ago that the waiting room at Eday Pier was on a list of properties to be replaced, and that they felt that all the other islands had much nicer, more welcoming facilities. There was no heating in the waiting room. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillors H Woodbridge and M Thomson would put this forward as something to be considered when Capital Programme priorities were being discussed.

2. That this was an item that that CC would like to urgently discuss with Marine Services officials.

G. Roads Operative

Members discussed this post again and heard an update from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, who advised that the current operative was two days permanent but that they were struggling to get relief staff on Eday. When asked why Eday doesn't have a full time operative, she explained that OIC had carried out an analysis of workload and work requirements and that is what had led to different islands having different set ups. She advised that she was happy to speak to the islands and discuss the thinking behind this, but that there were budget and resource problems and an increasing pressure so they were not able to do all the work that they would like to do.

A member advised that the ditching work that had recently been done had actually made the problem worse, in that water was now sitting on the road. The Head of Neighbourhood Services asked that issues like this are best reported via the MyOrkney section of the OIC website, and that photographs are always helpful.

A member asked if the CC could be advised of the programme of works for the summer season, and the Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that she could not provide detail at this stage but that she would investigate and let members know via Democratic Services. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services would respond in due course regarding the programme of road works for the coming financial year.

H. Dredging at Eday Pier

Members reported that they had heard that dredging was planned in the Stronsay Firth, The Community Council Liaison Officer passed on to members a response from the Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbour Master, advising that planned dredging works at Eday Pier would be rolled into the next dredge programme but that they did not have dates for this as yet.

Members advised of various instances where vessels had almost come aground and that there was a significant build-up of silt which required to be dealt with urgently. It was agreed that this was another matter that the CC would like to discuss with Marine Services officials. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To add this as an item for an urgent meeting with Marine Services officials.
2. That the Interim Clerk would contact RNLI Kirkwall Lifeboat, EMEC, Scottish Sea Farms and Northerly Marine for letters of support for dredging works to be done at Eday Pier.

I. Lawnmower for Eday Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask the contractor if the CC-owned equipment required any works or servicing prior to the season starting.

5. Correspondence

A. Shapinsay CC – Letter to Isles CCs

Members had previously been sent a copy of a letter from Shapinsay Community Council, outlining problems and ongoing issues with the internal ferry fleet, and asking for all isles community councils to come together for a joint effort to put pressure on for new ferries to be provided. It was reported that a Ferries Taskforce was now in operation to discuss this matter but that any evidence to support the need for new ferries was welcome. A joint letter from all isles CCs had recently gone to the OIC CE, and the OIC Comms team was hoping to work with community councils to put together a video showing some real-life scenarios showing how difficult it was for some people to use the ferries. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and assist with filming where necessary.

B. Scottish Islands Federation – Community-Led Housing

Members considered correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding events around community led housing, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. HITRANS – Scottish Islands – Windracers

Copies of correspondence from HITRANS had previously been circulated to members, in relation to the creation of a Sustainable Aviation Test Environment and what windracers could be used for in future, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Invitation to Meeting with Convener of the NZET Committee

An invitation to a meeting with the Convener of the NZET Committee on 28 November 2022 had previously been forwarded to all members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the meeting had since passed.

E. Letter from Stephen Brown – NHS24

Members had previously been forwarded a letter from Stephen Brown (Chief Officer, Integration Joint Board) regarding the proposed move to NHS24 for the isles which had been put on hold to allow for further discussion and consultation. Members noted that this dialogue was still ongoing and that the community councils were liaising with IJB/NHSO officers on the best solution for their islands. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and the current position on NHS24.

F. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

Information on a roadshow run by Scotland's community tourism network had previously been sent round members by email, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had since passed.

G. Eday Partnership – Housing Project

A copy of letter from Eday Partnership had previously been circulated to members, advising that they are currently in the process of identifying suitable assets through a full asset mapping exercise and aimed to create a long-term strategy to tackle the problem of the lack of affordable housing. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to write a letter of support to Eday Partnership.

H. Orkney Ferries - Draft Timetables and Consultative Forum Notes

Various draft timetables had been circulated to members along with the notes from the Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings held in January 2023. It was noted that the timetables had since been approved, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided

I. Orkney Ferries – Updated Sunday Excursions

Resolved to note the updated Sunday Excursions timetable which had been sent on by Orkney Ferries.

J. Crofting Commission Area Representatives Recruitment 2023

Members had previously been sent correspondence from the Crofting Commission regarding area representatives, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

K. Variation of Consent Under Section 36 - EMEC – Fall of Warness

Members had been forwarded correspondence from Marine Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note that variation of the section 36 consent proposed in the application on behalf of EMEC had been granted by the Scottish Ministers.

L. Bag the Bruck 2023

Members discussed correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding this year's event. Members advised that they were not aware of anyone taking part this year but that there was interest in running their own island clean up in the summer. Public bins were discussed, and members queried whether larger bins or secure storage units could be provided so that collected waste could be stored and removed periodically during bin collections, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To apply for CCGS funding of £300 towards a separate beach clean later in the year.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask for information on what other islands do with collected waste from the beaches and if there was a suggested solution for this.

M. Scottish Government Islands Programme Application 2023/2024

Correspondence from the Transportation Service Manager had been previously circulated to members, advising that the Council planned to submit an application for funding towards replacement airfield terminal buildings in the islands of Papa Westray, Stronsay, Westray and Eday. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to write a letter of support, as requested in the letter.

N. Health and Care Representative

Correspondence from Democratic Services had previously been circulated to members in relation to future meetings with NHS Orkney or other health and care organisations, and it was:

Resolved that Miss E Wallington was nominated as Eday Community Council's Health and Care Representative for relevant meetings.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

After consideration of the General Fund statement as at 28 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £9,508.16.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 28 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that £306.32 remained in the main capping limit for allocation, £743 remained in the additional capping limit and the island capping limit had been reached.

C. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 28 March 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance of £5,067.11 remained for allocation.

7. Financial Requests

A. Eday Community Enterprises Limited

The Interim Clerk read out correspondence from ECE which had been received prior to the meeting, requesting funding to assist Eday Shop in continuing to run lunches

and coffee mornings. Following discussion, it was agreed that members were keen to see the lunches and coffee morning continue, but would not be able to fund the full amount requested due to the possibility of other groups requiring funding throughout the year, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To award a general fund donation of £576, being 50% of the costs to run for the first three months.
2. That the community council would be open to receiving further requests for funding if it was required.

B. Eday Partnership

The Interim Clerk read out a letter from Eday Partnership which had been received prior to the meeting, asking for financial assistance towards replacement batteries and pads for the island defibrillators, and it was:

Resolved to fund £636 towards the defibrillator parts, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that all matters had been discussed earlier in the meeting and that the CC would like to see flights promoted more.

B. Planning

It was suggested that it would be useful for Planning Representatives to receive some training on what the role entails, especially for those who were new to the community council. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she would look into arranging a session.

It was also advised that an application had been lodged for land at Furrowend but that the proposal as it stood would mean that access to the slipway would be restricted, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request training for Community Council Planning Representatives.
2. To put in a representation to the Planning Officer in relation to the application for development at Furrowend, on grounds of access to the slip.

9. Consultations

The following consultations had been circulated to members and the deadline for comments had since passed:

- Application to Vary Section 36 Consent – EMEC.
- OIC Verge Maintenance Plan.

- Boundary Commission Scotland – Revised Proposals.
- Scottish Hydro Electric Power - Cable Removal.
- EIA – Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub – Consultation Event.
- Orkney Ferries Booking System.
- 20mph Speed Limits – Island Schools.
- Orkney Area Licensing Board – Overprovision Assessment.
- SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey.

Members had also been forwarded the consultation from OIC on the Winter Service Plan, which was open for comments until June. Members commented that the gritter used to come right down to the south end, but it did not do that stretch any more even though there was a school pick up, and it was:

Resolved to submit this comment as the Eday CC response, along with anything else that members wished to add prior to the deadline.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2022, and January and February 2023.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – October and November 2022, and January, February and March 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – October, November and December 2022, January and February 2023.
- Letter from School Place – October, November and December 2022, and January, February and March 2023.
- SSEN – Powering on together this winter.
- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind Community Newsletter – October and December 2022.
- NHS Scotland Initiative SHARE.
- Isles Special Collection Rota – April to September 2023.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Rats at Eday Pier Store

Members asked if there was any update on the situation with the pier store, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the Business Letter to Democratic Services, whether there was any update available on the issue.

B. Playing Field at School

Members asked why the playing field at the school was not being cut and queried whether it was because of an issue with the mower. Members were keen to assist, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact the school and ask what the issue was and advise that the community council would be minded to assist with cost of repair of mowing equipment, if required.

C. Faray Turbine

The status of the project to erect wind turbine generators on Faray was queried, as planning had been approved. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she would make enquires within OIC, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the Business Letter to Democratic Services, whether there was any available update on the issue.

D. Highly Protected Marine Area

Councillor M Thomson advised that there was an ongoing consultation which ended on 17 April regarding the proposed HPMA's, which would restrict a lot of activities within Orkney waters if approved. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That members could submit a response to the consultation as individuals if they wished to do so.
2. To monitor the situation.

E. Memorial Bench

The Interim Clerk advised that she had been approached by individuals wishing to organise a memorial bench for a member of the Eday community who had recently passed away, and it was:

Resolved that the community council were supportive of the idea and would be willing to assist with costs if necessary.

F. Coronation

It was queried whether there were any plans for community events within Eday to celebrate the Coronation, and it was:

Resolved that members would make enquiries with the Community Association and pass on any details to Democratic Services.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Eday Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 6 June and Wednesday, 13 September 2023 at 19:30 at Eday Heritage Centre.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 22:16.