

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Sanday Community School and via Teams on Thursday, 6 February 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Andrew Wilcox, Gary Nickells, Liam Holly, Elaine Snelson, Ken Snelson and Bruce Stuart.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Stephen Clackson.
- Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mr Ross Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Ms Gail Speers, ILO/Clerk.
- One member of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Ute Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 14 November 2024 was approved, being proposed by Ken Snelson and seconded by Elaine Snelson.

3. Matters Arising

A. Cinema Licence – Friends of Sanday Kirk

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the Cinema licence, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair would be having a meeting with the spokesperson for the Friends of Sanday Kirk (FOSK) on Monday, 10 February 2025 to progress this matter.
2. To note that FOSK would be applying for the Cinema Licence separately from the Community Council.

B. Planning Representative Training

Following a report from the ILO/Planning Representative with regards to the Planning Representative Training, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO found the training to be useful for her role and reminded members of the community council's role as a consultee in the planning process.

C. Sanday Community Council and Development Trust Surgeries

Following a report from the Vice Chair with regards to the first joint surgery held on Thursday, 30 January 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the surgery had been a great success, and the community council was working well with the Development Trust.
2. To note that two members of the public attended the surgery and that their main concerns were with planning issues.
3. To note that the Chair and Vice Chair would mention the success of the surgery at the next Isles Chairs meeting.
4. To note that the ILO would put an advert in the March 2025 Sanday Sound Newsletter to inform residents that these surgeries would be held at Heilsa Fjold between 19:00 and 20:00 on the last Thursday of every month.

D. TRI-CE Meeting

Following discussion with regards to the TRI-CE meeting, it was:

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the Christmas Tree Lighting held on 9 December 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the first display of the new tree lights had not been well received by the public, and that the display was changed to rectify this.

F. Kirkyard Gates

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the Lady Kirkyard gates, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had met with the contractor to discuss the details of the gates that he would design and that they would be made with galvanised steel.
2. To note that the contractor did not want any payment for making and installing these gates.
3. To note that members wished to thank the contractor for his kind offer and that the ILO would contact him to inform him that the Community Council wished to donate a sum of money to a charity of his choosing in return for his work.
4. To note that A Simpson would be fixing the top half of the gate at Burness Kirkyard, which needed the wood replacing.

G. SCC Letter - Response to Budget Survey, Scheme for Community Councils, Planning Representative Role and Recycling

Following a discussion with regards to the open letter written by Sanday Community Council and published in The Orcadian on 19 December 2024, two other letters sent to Democratic Services, and further discussion with regards to the Scheme for Community Councils and the role of the Planning Representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair apologised for the tone of the first open letter which was sent to Democratic Services and had been published on Facebook.
2. To note that the Head of Improvement and Performance Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions would be responding with a formal letter in response to the members letters of response to the budget and that members would receive this letter in due course.
3. To note that a meeting via Teams or in person would be set up in due course to discuss the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils.

4. To note that the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, advised members that the Orkney Scheme for Community Councils was different to the Scottish Scheme in that there were 20 Community Councils in Orkney and that they get enhanced support from Orkney Islands Council and a much larger annual grant from the local authority than in other areas of Scotland.
5. To note that members mentioned the co-opting of extra members in particular youth members, this being relevant to the Scottish Scheme, but not the Orkney Scheme for Community Councils, and that members were advised that any member of the public could attend a meeting and represent their organisation, without the need for co-opting them as a member.
6. To note that any person on the relevant electoral register for that area, aged 16 and above, could put themselves forward to be elected as a member when Community Councils need new members, and that the total allocation of members was 7 for Sanday.
7. To note that the members insisted that one of the members be elected as the planning representative in place of the Link Officer. The Community Council Liaison Officer and Councillor Mellissa Thomson explained that even if a member was to take on the role of planning representative, they would not be able to do any more than what the current ILO does, which is receiving the weekly planning lists and forwarding them on to the members on the same day. This had been mentioned at a previous meeting and was explained to members, that as part of the ILO's job description, all ILO's in Orkney take on the role of planning representative on behalf of the Community Council.
8. To note that Councillor Mellissa Thomson advised members that residents with individual planning issues should contact the planning department directly.
9. To note that the Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that Orkney Islands Council offers free planning advice for those considering submitting a proposal.
10. To note comments from members regarding contact with the planning department.
11. To note that members would put a list together of planning issues to be forwarded onto Democratic Services and that a request would be made to invite the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, to the next Community Council meeting.

4. Correspondence

A. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

Following consideration of the review of polling districts and polling places 2024, Councillor Stephen Clackson mentioned that there could be flaws in the postal voting system for the isles, as residents must submit their vote before the election day, and that items could crop up the day before the election which could change the voters mind. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

B. Ferry Queries

Following consideration of response to the ferry queries members posed at the meeting on 14 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and the reasons for monohulls being put forward as the preferred option for new ferries.

C. Orkney Islands Council Stranding Debrief and Information Gathering Exercise

Following consideration of the Orkney Islands Council Stranding Debrief and Information Gathering Exercise, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would respond to this item.

D. Invitation to Webinar – Ron Bailey

Following consideration of the invitation to the webinar presented by Ron Bailey with regards to the Lithium-ion Batteries Campaign, it was:

Resolved to note that no members attended the webinar.

E. Orkney – Scottish Water

Following consideration of the correspondence from Scottish Water with regards to colder weather preparations, and how the public could help, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. House Clearances, Recycling and Haulage

Following discussion with regards to local residents' difficulties with purchasing properties and having a lot of household waste to get rid of, and issues with recycling on the island, the Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that they could fund a special collection through the Community Council Grant Scheme, this being in addition to the special collections organised by Orkney Islands Council periodically, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion and information provided.
2. That the ILO would arrange a skip for scrap metal in March 2025.
3. To note that members discussed the lack of recycling facilities in place on the island and requested that facilities for waste oil and plastics be considered, and that this would be added to the business letter.
4. To note that haulage issues were discussed, and that the ILO would forward these issues to the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood. Services and Infrastructure for their attention via the business letter to Democratic Services.

5. To note that as the secretary of the Sanday Agricultural Association was present at the meeting, she would discuss the issues raised with regards to recycling with the members of the Sanday Agricultural Association.

G. Ongoing Water Demand Issues On Orkney

Following consideration of the correspondence from Scottish Water with regards to the ongoing water demand issues on Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note that these issues did not affect Sanday.

H. Consultation – 20mph Proposals

Following consideration of the comments for the 20mph proposals which were sent to Orkney Islands Council from members via the ILO, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note there had been no update on the proposals.
2. To note that members discussed whether the Sanday Business Forum could advertise advising motorists to slow down.

I. Draft Internal Air and Ferry Timetables 2025/2026

Following consideration of the Draft Internal Air and Ferry Timetables for 2025/2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative attended the Forum and as she was not present at the Community Council meeting, there was nothing to report.

J. Correspondence – MyOrkney

Following consideration of correspondence advising of the MyOrkney website which was designed for residents to report complaints and queries directly to OIC, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair had reported a hole in the sea wall at Kettletoft Pier to test out the website.
2. To note that the Men's Shed were to go to the landowner with regards to the hole in the sea wall as this area did not belong to Orkney Islands Council.
3. To note that residents could ring up the council instead of using the website to report issues, as using the website may be difficult for some people and that, alternatively, residents could report issues to the ILO for her to forward on to Orkney Islands Council on their behalf.

K. Ability Net Digital Voice Roadshow

Following consideration of the Ability Net Digital Voice Roadshow, it was:

Resolved to note that no members attended the event.

L. Community Councils Webinar on Rural and Islands Poverty

Following consideration of the correspondence on the Community Councils Webinar on Rural and Islands Poverty, it was:

Resolved to note that Liam Holly would attend this webinar.

M. Letter from Roderick Thorne

Following consideration of the letter from Roderick Thorne thanking the Community Council for supporting the publication of his book on 75 years of Orkney's North Isles Sports, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the letter.

N. Potholes and Maintenance of the Heritage Centre Car Park

Following consideration of correspondence from the Secretary of the Heritage Group, Sanday Development Trust, with regards to whose responsibility it was to maintain the Heritage Centre car park, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would advise the Heritage Group that the car park was their responsibility and that they could apply to the community council for help with the cost of the haulage for the aggregate for the maintenance of the car park.

O. Loganair - Refit Update - 22 January 2025

Following consideration of the correspondence from Loganair with regards to the extension of the refit timetable, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

P. Stop Smoking Resources

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Health Improvement Officer at NHS Orkney with regards to the stop smoking resources, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

Q. R100 Broadband Evaluation

Following consideration of the correspondence from the R100 Evaluation Team with regards to the broadband evaluation survey and the original QR code no longer working, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would advertise the poster with the new QR code in the March 2025 edition of the Sanday Sound Newsletter and the Sanday Community Council Communications and Sanday Residents Facebook pages.

5. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2025

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would speak to the resident who requested that the area at the North Loch Road be put back onto the Verge Maintenance Plan 2025.

B. Trees and Woodland Strategy

Following consideration of the Trees and Woodland Strategy Consultation from the Development and Marine Planning team, it was:

Resolved to note the contents.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £16,397.17.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £7,018.50.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was fully allocated, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £765.00 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £259.95.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £10,806.34.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,689.79.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Resolved to note that as the Transport Representative was not present at the meeting, there was nothing to report.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

C. Development Trust Representative

Following a report from the Development Trust Representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the purchase of Viggie had now gone through as per the community's wish, and that a new heating system needed to be installed.
2. To note that the Development Trust Representative was on the Viggie board of trustees in the Development Trust.
3. To note that the Community Development Officer and the Chair of the Development Trust were both happy with the joint surgeries between the Community Council and the Development Trust.

8. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Sanday School Parent Council

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday School Parent Council, requesting financial assistance towards the cost to connect the school's new Polycrub to a water supply, install an automatic water system and purchase gardening equipment, it was:

Resolved that £10,852.29 be awarded from the SSE Community Fund.

B. Orkney Islands Games Committee

Following consideration of an application from the Orkney Islands Games Committee requesting £200 to enable Sanday School to make a banner showing the schools logo and the badge of the visiting team that they choose, which would be displayed at the Pickaquoy Centre during the games and then handed back to the school, it was:

Resolved that £200 be awarded from the General Fund.

C. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the Spurness Micro Grant Fund, advising members that there would be Spurness Micro Grant applications coming in soon from pupils at Sanday School requesting financial assistance to attend an outward-bound trip in Hoy, it was:

Resolved to note that members agreed that the Spurness Micro Grant funds which were currently set at up to £250 per application in every 12 months to be raised to up to £300 per application in every 12 months, and that the ILO would make contact with SSEN regarding this request.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2024.
- Letter from School Place – November and December 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – October to December 2024.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – November and December 2024.
- Transportation Infographic – Transportation Service Statistics.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Resignation of Chair

Following a report from the Chair with regards to him resigning from the role of Chair the Sanday Community Council, but that he would still be a member, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the members and the Democratic Services team thanked Mr Wilcox for his time in his role of Chair.
2. To note that Gary Nickells would be the interim Chair until a Chair and Vice Chair be elected at the next meeting.
3. To note that all future Community Council meetings would be held at Heilsa Fjold free of charge.

B. New Sanday Community Council Email System

Following consideration of a new general Sanday Community Council email system, where the one email address would be delivered to members and the ILO at the same time, it was:

Resolved to note that the new Community Council general email address was agreed by Democratic Services with two caveats put in place, these being that it would be on a trial basis and that members had to give the ILO the chance to respond to all correspondence first.

C. Isles Chairs Meeting

Following a report from the Community Council Liaison Officer, it was:

Resolved to note that the next Isles Chair meeting would be held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025 via Teams.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Sanday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 1 May 2025, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:45.