

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams and at St Ann's on Thursday, 12 April 2022 at 19:30

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Ms L Cromarty, Transportation Manager.
- Ms J Foley, Papa Westray Development Trust.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
  
- 7 members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mr S Thompson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held 15 February was approved, being proposed by Mrs F McNab and second by Mr N Rendall.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Ferry Issues**

Members were given an update from the Transportation Manager regarding the Stantec report and the proposals around the linkspan between Papa Westray and Kirkwall, also the possibility of a roll on and roll off between Papa Westray and Westray.

Members were pleased to hear that further work and engagement with community councils and residents of Papa Westray would help determine the possibilities and feasibility of the two options, to include the freight and transportation fares along with the options of haulage when required. Members were informed that a new job opportunity was to be opened for a Ferry Replacement officer who would be investigating either the possibilities of 4 vessels that would be assisting with the direct route from Papa Westray to Kirkwall or the options of 3 larger vessels and 1 smaller vessel that could potentially serve the Papa Westray to Westray route. Members were also informed that more investigations needed to take place with the latter option of Papa Westray to Westray and the suitability of the infrastructure to either Rapness or Pierowall. Following from the Papa Westray to Westray option, members were advised that consideration needed to be taken regarding the potential disruption to the plane timetable and the smaller ferry currently serving this route and how this could potentially have implications on the education route/timetable for the crossing.

Members were also advised that no current update was available for the return of the Nordic Sea which should currently be serving the route of Papa Westray and Westray, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members were grateful of the overview report and the updates of the current situation.
2. To note that members expressed their concerns regarding the quantity of failed sailings to Papa Westray over the past winter months due to weather conditions, when the weather doesn't seem to reflect the reasons for cancellation.
3. To note the request of members that when the infrastructure designs are for consideration, thought for the local fishing vessels be taken into account to enable safe docking.

## **B. Papay Water Scheme - Update and Improvements**

Following consideration of the update received from the Chair informing members that some of the new equipment had been installed to 3 of the 5 wells and an unanimous vote for the installation of new control boxes by Mr G Stove, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

After consideration of the update from the Clerk regarding the current situation of the satellite phone and sourcing funding for the airtime tariff, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would liaise with NHS Orkney for further information.

## **D. Fibre Broadband Proposal - Update**

After consideration of the update from CloudNet regarding fibre and the current situation, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **E. Arrangements for Papa Westray to Westray Route**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Education department, explaining that staff holidays had been taking place, it was:

Resolved to note the information and await further update.

## **F. Storage of Gritter and Salt**

The Chair had been corresponding with Orkney Islands Council regarding storage solutions. He advised that, as a temporary measure, Orkney Islands Council were considering installing a concrete bund type structure to house the salt. This would only be a temporary measure as currently the salt and spreader was being housed at a resident's farm, and it was:

Resolved to note that the farm owner was happy for the equipment to be stored at the farm for the next 12 months to allow a more suitable/permanent arrangement to be made.

## **G. Airfield Shelter**

Following discussions of the verbal update, explaining that the short-term arrangement was that the general public would be allowed to wait in the appliance store to shelter in periods of bad weather, it was:

Resolved that the members still felt that this would not be the best idea due to safety issues and should this proceed, extensive measures would be needed to ensure the safety of all.

## **H. First Responders for Papay**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP regarding the outstanding issues concerning first responders, members felt that it was a good time to refresh the concerns to date for the visiting public to allow an insight of the concerns. The First Responder coordinator explained that following the recent resignation of one of the local Nurse Practitioners on Papa Westray, more responsibilities had been placed on the First Responders for the two weeks that were not covered by a nurse, meaning that they would be responding to 999 calls. The First Responders felt that they were not medically trained enough or had been offered the training to assist in an emergency situation without the assistance of a nurse or GP. Also, comparison was made to the neighbouring island Westray where their ambulance drivers are paid an allowance for their time and trained every 3 weeks from the Scottish Ambulance service, while Papa Westray responders are not. To date, no correspondence had been received from the Scottish Ambulance Service. Members were informed that other Orkney islands had similar issues and concerns, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should send a letter to Democratic Services to ask for help in organising a meeting between the First Responders of Papa Westray, Eday, North Ronaldsay and Flotta to gather information regarding the above concerns.
2. That the Clerk send a letter to the Chief Executive of NHS Shetland/Orkney once the above meeting had taken place to arrange a face to face meeting to try and resolve these issues.

## **I. Cooke Aquaculture - East Moclett Fish Farm**

Following on from the recent consultation event by Cooke Aquaculture, members requested that the questions and answers gathered from the consultation should be circulated around residents of Papa Westray, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ask for further information to be released.

## **J. Cattle Floats**

Following a verbal update from members explaining that there were currently 3 of the new trailers in Orkney waiting to have the additional lifting facilities added and certification done, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Planning Aid Scotland**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Planning Aid Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated regarding services they could provide to community councils, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. West of Orkney Wind Farm**

Following consideration of correspondence from the West of Orkney wind farm, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **C. Orkney Marine Planning Update**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Marine Planning team, regarding a spring 2022 update, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **D. Orkney Ferries - Island Community Update**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Ferry Services Manager, copies of which had previously been circulate, members agreed that they were grateful for the update and pleased with the level of attention that the Ferry Services Manager was allowing to help resolve the current issues. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send a letter to the Ferry Services Manager asking her to take into consideration, when discussing the pre booking proposal, the possibilities of plane cancellations and the need to take the ferry at short notice.

## **E. Connecting Scotland – iPads**

Correspondence had previously been circulated to members regarding another round of funding for iPads, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **5. Consultation Document - Verge Maintenance Plan 2022**

Following consideration of the consultation received from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been sent round all members previously, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that members had no comments.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 1 April 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £10,934.17.

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

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme account statement as at 1 April 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £39,480.76.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2021-2022**

Following consideration of the 2021-2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 April 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining in the main capping limit was £2,461.04, that £576.10 remained for allocation in the additional capping limit, and £654.00 remained in the island capping limit.

## **7. Financial Request – Equipment**

The Clerk declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Members considered a request from M Berrie for assistance with the purchase of a coffee machine for use in the Northern Lights community café. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the full amount of £329 be awarded to assist with the purchase of a coffee machine.

B. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance of £329 would be applied for by the Community Council Liaison Officer on behalf of the Clerk.

C. That it would be a condition of the assistance that if the business ceased trading, the equipment would be returned to the Community Council.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Following the previous report from the Transportation Manager, it was,

Resolved to note the information had already been discussed.

### **B. Planning Representative**

It was advised that the application regarding the fibre broadband proposal had been submitted and following no objections from members, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator's Report**

Following consideration of the verbal update regarding the new equipment currently being installed and the recent water sample test results being satisfactory, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

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

Following consideration of the update from the Development trust regarding the ongoing works of the Market garden, the boat scheme, boat store works, cassie wall building, path and style improvements and affordable housing. Also the circulation of the proposed letting policy for consideration, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **9. Publications**

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

- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – April 2022.
- Holyrood Highlights – Various.
- VAO - Training and Funding - March 2022.

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

### **A. Kirkyard Maintenance 2022**

Following consideration of the tender submitted for the seasonal work at Boniface from Mr Elves, members agreed that they were happy with the quote and that the position be offered, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a letter to Mr Elves acknowledging the success of his tender, along with the specification, and instruct him to start work as per the contract.

### **B. Community Council Elections**

Following discussions regarding the election process for community councils, members felt that it would be helpful if a brief summary of the process could be circulated around residents, and it was,

Resolved that a summary would be included in the next Papay Matters.

### **C. Note of Thanks**

Members took the opportunity to express thanks to the Chair of Papa Westray Community Council, Mr I Cursiter, for his dedication and work to support the Papa Westray community, and it was:

Resolved to note thanks to Mr I Cursiter.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next Community Council meeting date would be confirmed once the elections had taken place.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

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