

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams and St. Ann's Kirk on Thursday, 9 September 2021 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs K Groundwater, Project Officer (Communications and Engagement).
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

Order of Business

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

1. Apologies

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

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held 10 June 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and seconded by Mrs F McNab.

The minutes of the special meetings held on 6 and 18 August 2021 were also approved, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and seconded by Mr A Hourston.

3. Matters Arising

A. Ferry Issues - Questions and Answers

Members discussed the meeting between OIC officers, Stantec and the Community Council. The feeling of members was that Stantec was basing much of the ferry proposal for Papa Westray on the Western isles, where the current arrangements they have were working. Members were disappointed with the level of understanding from the consultants and believed that more accurate information was needed to be documented and solely based on the requirements of Papa Westray. Members felt that Stantec were not taking on the views and opinions from the local folk and members regarding the change of request from Link span to hard ramp via Westray following better understandings and new information received regarding the haulage for Papa Westray.

Members also felt that, at the present moment, with the current issues of transporting cattle, skips and at one time the fuel bowsers, Papa Westray was currently in a worse situation than before. Members were concerned that following the consultations, Stantec had advised residents of Papa Westray that the island would not be worse off.

Members also discussed the change in policy for transportation of loose cattle, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request a copy of the report once generated by Stantec and published.
2. To note that members were disappointed with the lack of correspondence from Orkney Ferries with regards to changing of their policy for loose cattle on board and not notifying Papa Westray residents in writing.

B. Papay Water Scheme - Update and Improvements

Following consideration of the update received by the Clerk regarding the successful application for funding through CDF for the improvements, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Community Resilience - Satellite Phone Funding

After consideration of the update from the Clerk regarding the tariff fees for the satellite phone and that correspondence had been received from the NHS enquiring about the costs involved, it was:

Resolved that no decision had been confirmed as to whether the NHS would be contributing towards the running cost of the satellite phone.

D. Fibre Broadband Proposal Update

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

Resolved to note the information.

E. Kirkyard Road Repairs

After consideration of the update from the Clerk explaining that there had been no applications for tender submitted, it was:

Resolved that members would organise a temporary fix to the road.

F. Ferry arrangements - Papa Westray to Westray route

Following discussion between members and Councillors about the current situation regarding the ferry crossing between Papa Westray and Westray, it was agreed that members had great concern for the school children of Papa Westray schooling in Westray with regards to the length of time they were being made to wait. There could be a wait of up to 40 minutes on board the vessel at Pierowall until the school bus arrives to take them to school. Members request that, should this be ongoing, there should be a school bus waiting to collect them as soon as the vessel docks and the children taken directly to school to enable them to utilise the school's facilities.

Members also wished to suggest that the proposed timetable for the winter period should factor in a normal school run for the week and should the weather deteriorate through the day, the skipper have the flexibility to schedule a service to return the children to Papa Westray to ensure safe return, as the previous skipper had done.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send a business letter to Orkney Ferries, the Education department and Democratic Services with the above concerns from members regarding this service.

G. Adjustments – Community-owned Skip

Following consideration of the update from the Chair and Clerk regarding the current situation with the restrictions, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send a letter to Orkney Ferries, via Democratic Services, requesting a skip be provided for Papa Westray's use until Orkney Ferries had the sufficient equipment to transport the skip belonging to the community council.

H. Storage of OIC Gritter and Salt

The Clerk advised that a potential solution regarding the storage of the gritter and salt had been offered to Orkney Islands Council, but no response had been received, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a follow up email to Democratic Services regarding the offer.

I. Insurance Policy 2021-2022

Members had requested that the current policy which included the wind turbine, should only cover public and worker's liability. The Clerk advised that no response had been provided, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send an email to Democratic Services to request an update on progress with this matter.

J. Kirkyard Road Weed Killing

Following a verbal update from the Chair explaining that a weed kill treatment had been applied to the required area, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. Proposed Works - St Boniface Kirkyard

Following a verbal update received from the Chair and the correspondence from the Stone mason who had recently assessed the head stones in question, it was:

Resolved that the flat stones laying the length of the graves could be levelled and the standing head stones would need professional assistance from a stone mason to ensure all works were carried out to current regulations.

4. Correspondence

A. Rural Spaces Grant

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding funding available, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would forward the correspondence to community groups around Papa Westray.

B. Connecting Scotland

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Community Learning, Development and Employability Manager, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Briefing Note - Orkney Ferries Board

Following consideration of the correspondence received from the Ferry Services Manager explaining the current situation with cattle handling operations, it was:

Resolved to note that members felt the document to be confusing and if Papa Westray was being served by roll on roll off via Westray, this matter would not be an issue.

D. Papay Surgery - Staffing Shortage

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS Orkney regarding the staff shortages at the local surgery, it was:

Resolved to note that currently there seemed to be a shortage of Doctors and Nurses and that Papa Westray Community Council were very grateful for the nurses serving Papay.

5. Consultation Documents

A. EMEC Billia Croo Section 36

Following consideration of the consultation document received from Orkney Islands Council regarding marine consent, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Air and Ferry Timetables - Summer 2022

Following consideration of the consultation on timetables for next summer, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should send information to OIC Transport and Orkney Ferries, via Democratic services, requesting that the service run from Papay to Westray should not require a pre booking request from passengers and the service should run in parallel to neighbouring islands.

C. Orkney Inter Islands Transport Study

Following consideration of the consultation regarding the Inter isles transport study, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Review of Gambling Policy

Following consideration of the consultation from Orkney Islands Council regarding changes to the Gambling Policy, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments were to be forwarded.

E. OCWP - Community Benefit Scheme

Following consideration of the consultation and the presentation from the Project Officer (Communications and Engagement), regarding the proposed wind farm and possible community benefit schemes, it was:

Resolved to note that Papa Westray Community Council had already submitted a response to the consultation, and that the public could still respond until 15 September 2021.

F. Kirkwall Airport Surface Access

Following consideration of the consultation sent by Orkney Islands Council in relation to Kirkwall Airport, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments.

G. Orkney's Local Flood Management Plan

Following consideration of the correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council regarding flood management, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 23 August, copies of which had previously been circulated, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £10,386.77.

B. Papa Westray Water Scheme 2021

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 23 August, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £49,405.81

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 August, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit was £2648.12, that £676.00 remained for allocation in the additional capping limit, and £654.00 remained in the island capping limit.

D. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn statement as at 24 May, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated approved but not claimed balance was £1,000.

7. Financial Requests

A. Trip to North Ronaldsay

Following consideration of a financial request from Papa Westray Community School for the sum of £166.50 to allow the school to visit North Ronaldsay School and reside overnight, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council would fund the school trip in full, subject to CCGS approval.

B. Band Visit

Following consideration of the financial request from Papay Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, for support with the cost of flights and hostel accommodation for a band to play on Papa Westray, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council would cover the cost of the flights and hostel accommodation, using CCGS if possible.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Members were advised that most of the travel concerns had already been covered in the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there were currently no applications to discuss.

C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator's Report

Following consideration of the water connection request from Gowrie, and of the water sample results from Environmental Health, showing that the water supply was healthy with no concerns, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the owners at Gowrie should instruct the Community Council when they were ready for installation.

D. Papa Westray Development Trust Report

Resolved to note that the Community Development Officer was unfortunately not able to join the meeting and therefore no current report was available.

9. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – April and May 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update.
- Loganair Statistics - April, May and June 2021.
- Letters from School Place.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – July 2021.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Orkney Aggregates - Scrap Metal Arrangements

Following consideration of the credit statement sent by Orkney Aggregates, it was:

Resolved to note that the current arrangements should be left as they are and that the scrap material was to be paid for with credit.

B. Airfield Shelter

Concerns had been brought to the attention of members with regards to the current covid restrictions and the size of the waiting room at Papa Westray airfield. Members thought that it may be an idea to have a sheltered building installed for the winter months allowing passengers to wait for the service in the warm and dry, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send a business letter to Democratic Services requesting feedback on the suggestions above.

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, 25 November 2021 in St Ann's Community Room, Papa Westray, if possible, with a Microsoft Teams connection, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:55.