

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann’s and via Teams on Thursday, 13 February 2025 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams)
- Mr M Jones, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor H Woodbridge, Ms J Foley (PDT) and Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held on 14 November 2024 were adopted, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and seconded by Mr I Cursiter.

3. Matters Arising

A. Ferry and Pier Matters

It was noted that the Chair's signed letter to OIC of 26 November 2024 had not yet received an acknowledgement. The Clerk was asked to look into this, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

B. Fibre Broadband Proposal

Resolved to note that the contractor was continuing the work.

C. Carers

It was noted that two carers were now working in the community and at present were undertaking three visits per day and "providing excellent service". However, there were no relief staff as yet. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

D. Generators

It was noted that the generator cables had been delivered on 7 December 2024. The Clerk had been asked to order oil for the generators. A plan was still to be put in place for their maintenance and operation. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and discuss at the next meeting.

E. Smart Meter Installation

Members were informed that SSEN had successfully installed a Smart Meter in Whitehowe well on 7 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Flight Request

A request had been received from Mr Tim Ross for PWCC to authorise an additional Sunday flight for guests at his upcoming wedding. This was approved by members and Mr Ross had been informed, and it was:

Resolved to note the approval of the ad hoc flight.

4. Correspondence

A. Pier and Ferry Proposals

Members heard that a letter had been sent on 26 November 2024 to OIC Transportation via Democratic Services, signed by the Chair on behalf of PWCC, regarding proposed changes to the pier and ferry service. There had been no reply to this as yet, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Home Care

Members heard that a letter had been sent to the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, signed by the Chair on behalf of PWCC on 5 December 2025 regarding Home Care on Papay. As stated earlier in the meeting, members noted that carers were now in post, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. GB Energy Bill

Correspondence had been received and circulated regarding the GB Energy Bill, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Abilitynet Event

Members had previously been sent information on an Abilitynet event on 30 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Webinar - Rural and Islands Poverty

Members had previously been sent information on a webinar available to CC members, to be held on 15 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. SWL Testing - Stock Trailers

An email regarding testing of the CC-owned trailers had been received and circulated to members, and it was noted that a reply had been sent by Papay Machinery Group, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Lithium Batteries

Members had previously been forwarded an email from Ron Bailey regarding regulation of Lithium batteries, asking for PWCC support, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Thank You Letter

A thank you note had been received from Alistair Carmichael MP for PWCC's support of his energy bill, a copy of which had been provided to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Draft Timetables

The draft air and ferry timetables for 2025/2026 had been circulated to members on 5 December 2024, the deadline for comments being 22 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Transport Representative had attended the meeting to discuss these.

B. Consultation - 20mph Proposals

A consultation on the proposed 20mph areas around Orkney had been circulated on 3 December 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed on 13 December 2024.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan

The Verge Maintenance Plan had previously been circulated to members for comment, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed on 28 February 2025.

D. Trees and Woodland Strategy Consultation

The draft strategy had been circulated to members on 3 February 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 24 March 2025.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Papa Westray Community Council as at 31 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £19,775.01.

B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme

Members considered the Water Scheme Account as at 31 January 2025. There was much discussion about the costs of running the water scheme, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To increase the standing charge and unit price and that residents would be informed of this on 1 April 2025.
2. That the Clerk would investigate switching electricity providers and/or the feasibility of installing solar panels as an alternative power source.
3. To note the estimated balance of £17,816.77.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 31 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits were £2,486.31, £645 and £740 respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 31 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £5,000.

7. Financial Requests

A. Papa Westray School

A request had been received by Papa Westray School for £98 towards transport for a school trip, and this had subsequently been agreed by email, and it was:

Resolved to note that the request had been approved, subject to CCGS approval.

B. Island Games School Banner Project

A request from the Orkney2025 Organising Committee had been received and circulated to members by email. They were asking for assistance with the cost of materials so that each school could make a banner for visiting teams, and it was:

Resolved to award £200 towards this project, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Orkney Voices

A financial request had been received on behalf of the Orkney Voices project, a copy of which had been provided to members, to cover the cost of 13 airfares of £21, and it was:

Resolved to cover transport costs of up to £273, subject to CCGS approval.

D. Papay Concert

Members had previously been forwarded a request from Edinburgh University Folk Music Group for £157.20 to cover travel costs to Papay for a concert, and it was:

Resolved to cover transport costs of £157.20, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that no transport representative was present to provide a report.

B. Planning

Resolved to note there had been no new planning applications relevant to Papa Westray since the last meeting.

C. Health and Care

Members were advised, as previously stated, that two carers were now in post, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Water Scheme Admin

It was reported that OIC Environmental Health had visited Papa Westray on 16 December 2024 to undertake random water sampling and an email had been received indicating that all was well. Additionally, the water connection to the new airfield building had been completed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Papay Development Trust

Mr A Hourston reported that tenders would shortly be invited for the necessary works at Daybreak, Holmview and Fairview, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

9. Publications

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

- Letters from School Place – November and December 2024 and January 2025.
- Liam McArthur, Holyrood Highlights- 22/11/24, 29/11/24, 06/12/24, 20/12/24, 10/01/25, 17/01/25, 24/01/25 and 31/1/25.
- This week in Parliament, Alistair Carmichael - 24/11/24, 01/12/24, 08/12/24, 12/01/25, 19/01/25, 26/01/25 and 02/02/25.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – November and December 2024.
- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2024 and January 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – January 2025.
- Loganair Inter Island Statistics.
- Transportation infographic.

10. Any Other Business

A. Rabbit Cull

It was noted that this was a project very much in members' minds however the question of funding was leading them to consider alternative ideas, and it was:

Resolved that the matter needed further discussion and to include on the agenda for the next meeting.

B. Contingency Plan

It was reported that Mrs L Sharp and the Clerk had undertaken to update the contingency plan and check any/all associated equipment, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and monitor this.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 15 May at 19:30 in St Ann's Kirk Hall.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:20.