

# Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in the Lighthouse Visitor Centre and via Teams on Monday, 30 October 2023 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mrs H Scott, Mr I Deyell, Ms A Duncan, Mr C Kerlake, Mrs L Paterson and Mr I Scott.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Mr A Rodwell, Head of Improvement and Performance.

## Order of Business

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

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor S Clackson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of meeting held on 21 August 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mr I Deyell and seconded by Ms A Duncan.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Transport Issues**

After a discussion about the recent consultative forum meeting and lack of follow up meeting thereof, opinions were also sought on the proposal of an Eday leg to be added to the Friday North Ronaldsay flight, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk write to the Transportation Manager and state that NRCC unanimously rejects the proposal for this addition to the island's schedule with the following reasons being put forward as reasons for this opposition:

- The plane is a lifeline service for the island of North Ronaldsay (and not Eday) so an erosion of its capacity being available to North Ronaldsay residents is unacceptable.
- The population of North Ronaldsay has continued to increase this year and the requirement for more seats is likely. If these seats are denied to North Ronaldsay now, it is likely (as has happened on four previous flights in its schedule) when seats have been made unavailable due to other islands demands, that they will be made permanently unavailable, despite the other island's original demands no longer being valid. This is untenable when it is highly likely they will be needed by North Ronaldsay in the future.
- Loganair's service often runs to a reduced capacity due to weather constraints (air temperature and pressure affecting the weight the plane can carry) meaning less passengers or luggage can be accommodated. While this has been an issue during the Summer it is envisaged that with milder winters the situation could occur then too, so seats allocated to another island would have significant negative consequences for the residents of North Ronaldsay on those occasions.
- Eday's offer to exclude June, July and August does not take into account the actual busy period North Ronaldsay experiences. Being a bird watching haven, May and September have often found residents unable to book seats when needed due to full capacity - this without the added burden of pre-allocating seats to Eday.
- A number of new resident families have tended to use the Friday flight to go to town to do food shopping, as freight needs to be at the Kirkwall Pier for the Saturday sailing on a Friday morning, and this is anticipated to continue if not increase.

- That reducing seat capacity for North Ronaldsay would have a significant impact on future growth for the island.
- That it is more reasonable for islands who have daily boats to have part of their flight allocation offered to Eday instead.
- That the fact subsidised flights have been made available to all islands and not just the lifeline islands has caused the increased demand for plane travel, which would not have occurred if these travellers had to pay the full price and given they have a boat as an alternative route on and off their islands - none of which should be made North Ronaldsay's issue.
- If Eday need a flight at a specific time then an additional flight for them should be added to the schedule, not shoehorn it onto an already scheduled flight that affects its timing and seat allocation for North Ronaldsay travellers.
- It opens up a further argument to support the need for a third pilot and plane, as highlighted as a priority in the Council's Island Delivery Plan. North Ronaldsay should not suffer because this isn't being addressed.
- Airfield crew have been told that Eday has needed to recruit ground crew to service their flights and more flights are needed to give them sufficient hours to warrant their employment - this is not the responsibility of North Ronaldsay staff or residents and is not a valid argument for the case by Eday.
- We refer the Transport Forum to one of OICs key aims in their Council Plan: "We will remove barriers to digital connectivity and vital transport: Our transport infrastructure meets the needs of our communities and visitors."

2. That the Clerk additionally request that the Transportation Manager acknowledges and addresses the following requests from North Ronaldsay:

- The island now needs two freight planes a week as a matter of routine - in addition to the continued need for a freight plane being put on in the event of a boat being cancelled (which is still not happening). The increasing number of residents on the island has shown that current capacity is failing to meet demand, with food deliveries to Kirkwall Pier being turned away by Orkney Ferries for the last freight plane, despite no food arriving the previous weekend with the boat cancelled due to unfavourable weather.
- In addition to no food arriving for some islanders, the island's prescription drugs did not get delivered for over a week, which is completely unacceptable.
- On the issue of disabled passenger access on the outer isles, as neither the boat nor plane are adequate for disabled people to access the island, Cllr Woodbridge to seek guidance from Liam McArthur MSP about a recent trial involving the islander plane.

3. That, on the issue of requesting a launch, NRCC would like to ask clarification on the use of the launch, as it has only been requested once in extenuating circumstances (although not as a result of plane cancellation due to weather, but instead due to the regular boat being rescheduled due to weather). NRCC would ask that OIC allow NRCC to use their own discretion when a launch is necessary, as it has already been proven that this service has not been misused by the island historically, and will only be called upon when no other option is available (including but not limited to an enforced extended stay on the island).

4. On the issue of Cattle Transport and the use of the trailers still unresolved, the Head of Improvement and Performance will be asked to arrange a face-to-face meeting with stakeholders on the island, to include the Chief Executive, OIC, and the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.

5. That, further to correspondence listed later in the meeting, a special meeting will be requested with Councillor D Dawson at the earliest time he is available, and that NRCC will make themselves available for any time convenient to him which, given the multitude and varied issues to be resolved, should be arranged within the next two weeks of this current meeting.

## **B. Scrap dumped near Airfield**

Following a report by members to the Council about scrap dumped near the airfield, it was:

Resolved to note that SEPA were now in possession of this information and were following their investigation procedures.

## **C. Playpark Equipment**

Members considered correspondence which had been overlooked at the last meeting, requesting that NRCC order playpark equipment to avoid VAT, and it was:

Resolved to note that this information was incorrect, and that the correspondent had retracted their request.

## **D. Roads - Potholes**

It was acknowledged that roads had had potholes patched over the past month, though the road to the School/ Community Centre had still not been addressed and was in dire condition, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would send a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Roads Department for their hard work although commenting that they would like to make it clear these are all temporary fixes that will not last long.
2. That the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities would look into whether the Education Department had funds to be able to address the school road.

## **E. ANP for Island**

It was reported that the two candidates for the second position of island ANP were interviewed earlier and one had been offered the position, and an announcement would be made once all the correct checks had been made, and it was:

Resolved that the community would now enjoy two permanent ANPs on a rolling rota.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Chair of Transport Forum - Special Meeting**

Correspondence had been emailed on 2 October regarding a special meeting with the Chair of the Development and Infrastructure Committee and the Transportation Manager, and it was:

Resolved that the correspondence had been discussed during the Matters Arising issue under Transport, with resolutions made at that point.

### **B. Scottish Civic Trust - My Place Awards**

Correspondence had been emailed on 5 September, regarding awards for built environment, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **C. NHS Orkney - ANP Interviews**

Correspondence had been emailed on 6 September 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note that the interviews had now concluded.

### **D. Community Council - Use of Launch**

Correspondence had been emailed on 8 September, and it was:

Resolved the correspondence had been discussed during the Matters Arising issue under Transport, with resolutions made at that point.

### **E. Rabbit Damage**

Correspondence had been emailed 20 September and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the matter was in hand with the contractor and gates were already being fixed and anti-dig chicken wire buried under the ground to prevent rabbit entry.
2. To note concerns regarding the kirkyard grass cutting contracts and set amounts.
3. To note that moss in the New Kirkyard made mowing difficult and that it needed to be addressed.
4. That the Clerk should issue posters informing the public about a trial to remove the moss - given it may make the area look worse for a short while and inviting any objections to be made to the Clerk by the end of November 2023.
5. That the Clerk would get the details of the product from Mr I Deyell who had used it previously, in order to find out how to use the product effectively.

## **F. SEPA - Interested in becoming a Board Member?**

Correspondence had been emailed on 2 October, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for applications had passed.

## **G. Electricals Safety First - Funding Available**

Correspondence had been emailed on 6 April, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence, and that the Clerk had shared the information to relevant parties on island.

## **H. Head of Improvement and Performance - Cattle Trailers**

Correspondence had been emailed 2 October, from the Head of Improvement and Performance, addressing queries regarding the trailers, and it was:

Resolved to note that the correspondence had been discussed during Matters Arising issue under Transport, with resolutions made at that point.

## **I. Community Council - Meeting required between NRCC and Eday CC**

Correspondence had been emailed on 4 October, and it was:

Resolved to note that the correspondence had been discussed during the Matters Arising issue under Transport, with resolutions made at that point.

## **J. Community Councils - Roads Winter Schedule**

Correspondence had been emailed on 6 October, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

# **5. Consultation Documents**

## **A. Scottish Islands Federation - National Islands Plan Review**

Correspondence had been emailed on 26 September regarding consultation sessions in Stromness and Westray, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for input had passed.

## **B. Zero Hour - Support the Climate and Ecology Bill**

Correspondence had been emailed on 6 October regarding the climate and ecology bill, and it was:

Resolved the Clerk would contact Zero Hour advising that NRCC supported the bill and would acknowledge this in the press.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Members considered the General Finance statement as at 5 October 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated. There was a discrepancy in the listed expenses, and it was:

Resolved the Clerk ask Democratic Services what the purchase of an Ifor Williams Trailer on the 23 August 2023 for £10,524.00 was, given the four trailers now in the possession of NRCC were bought using OIC funds.

### **B. Turbine Fund**

Members considered the Turbine statement as at 5 October 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £21,644.80.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 October 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved

1. To request a further £300 be added to the Scrap Car Scheme.
2. To note that the main capping limit had £1,418.12 remaining for approval, £743 remained in the additional capping limit and the island capping limit had £719 remaining.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 5 October 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that total available for allocation was £3,656.00.

### **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 5 October 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that total available for allocation was £232.

## **7. Financial Requests**

Resolved to note that there had been no financial requests during this period.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Resolved to note that there were no further comments as all issues had been raised and discussed during Matters Arising.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Following an update, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there were plans in development for the New Kirk Building by the North Ronaldsay Trust.
2. To note that the planning application for Barranha had been retracted.

### **C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative**

Following an update, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that new garage doors had been procured by SFRS who were to use the space for the fire appliance and crew.
2. To note that there had been a request by NRT to the new Airfield Manager for the use of the Old Waiting Room as a site office during the Trebb works.

### **D. Health and Care Representative**

Resolved to note that an inter isles, inter agency meeting was coming up.

### **E. Yarn Company Representative**

Resolved that a letter from OIC regarding the state of the Yarn Company trailer being unfit for transport by Orkney Ferries was sent out to all relevant persons, including the Clerk.

## **9. Publications**

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

- Loganair Statistics- August 2023.
- VAO Newsletter – August 2023.
- Letter from School Place – September 2023.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – July, September 2023.
- Scottish Water Newsletter - Autumn 2023.
- SEPA Newsletter - Summer 2023.
- NHS Orkney Newsletter - Autumn 2023.
- Police Scotland Newsletter - August 2023.

- ORSAS Newsletter- September 2023.

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

### **A. Day Club**

It was asked, given the organiser/chef was currently on maternity leave, whether the day club would resume soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the organiser has asked Ms L White to take over meantime.

### **B. Community Resilience Plan**

The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities and the Head of Improvement and Performance Strategy invited NRCC and wider community to take part in resilience exercise, where the information the island provides would be used to test resilience and help direct the plan, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That NRCC support this move and invite the above to set up a meeting on the island for this to take place.
2. That NRCC wish for the data collected to be used in a positive and meaningful way and that a usable document be available to refer to after the plan is drawn up.

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

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 11 December at 19:30 at a venue to be established nearer the time.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 22:06.