

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 19:30

Present:

Mr I Deyell, Mr P Donnelly, Ms A Duncan, Mr I Scott and Mrs H Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Ms H Galland, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that there had been no apologies for absence.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15 December was adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Mrs H Scott.

The minute of the special meeting held on Thursday, 16 December 2021 was adopted, being proposed by Mr P Donnelly and seconded by Ms A Duncan.

3. Matters Arising

A. Orkney Ferries Timetable

After a discussion, it was noted that the members had previously stated a preference for Option 1, with Sunday Excursions, although consultations suggested a dwindling interest in this service, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That when it is discussed at the next Ferry Consultative Forum meeting, Sunday services are requested to be included.
2. That members wished to be informed of any decisions made by Orkney Ferries or other relevant parties in relation to timetable changes.

B. NHS Orkney - Christmas Medical Cover

After a discussion on the situation where no medical cover had been in place for North Ronaldsay for a period of a week over Christmas, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would chase up a response from the Interim Chief Executive of NHS Orkney to the letter sent on 23 December 2021.
2. That the Clerk and Mrs H Scott would liaise in drawing up a letter to the Interim Chief Executive of NHS Orkney regarding the lack of cover over Christmas, including the following:
 - Asking for information on what is involved in any training programme for Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs).
 - Asking to share, as previously promised, the evidence on what was done to try to find locum cover.
 - Asking him to provide a reason why the paramedic holidaying on the island could not have been employed - explain what timeframe was needed and why, when NHSO claimed they were looking right to the last minute for a recruit.

3. That H Scott would email round the draft letter to members for comment prior to the Clerk sending it.
4. That the Clerk would ask for an update from NHS Orkney on the issue of ANP recruitment for the island.
5. To contact Fair Isle's Community to enquire how they solved their ANP issue.

4. Correspondence

A. VAO Covid and Communities Event

Correspondence had been circulated regarding a planned event in May. It was noted that the deadline for applying to attend this event was 17 December 2021, and it was:

Resolved to note that there had been no comment.

B. Inter-Island Transport Study Update

Correspondence had been emailed to members regarding the Outline Business Case work, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Shipping of Livestock

Correspondence had been circulated to members on a decision made prior to the meeting regarding livestock trailers. After a discussion about the issue and a previous agreement, it was:

Resolved:

1. To query the decision on maintenance/ownership of trailers.
2. That, in querying as to why, point out that the reason the Community Council was involved in this matter was so that the island's population could have a say in what happens.
3. That the cost of maintenance for four trailers was an unfeasible strain on the Community Council's resources.
4. That a letter be written (Clerk to liaise with Mr P Donnelly and then send a draft round members prior to sending) to Orkney Ferries asking:
 - Why ongoing maintenance was the responsibility of the island, when Orkney Ferries have the knowledge and experience to be able to do this.
 - Why the agreement had changed from the Island purchasing the trailer, then Orkney Ferries being responsible for maintenance, to this current situation.
 - That Orkney Ferries were making savings by no longer handling loose cattle - by removing the cattle handling pens on the Pier rather than paying to renovate them.

- That it would force the Community Council to be responsible for the booking of the trailers, when it would be more practicable if Orkney Ferries took bookings.

5. That the Chair and P Donnelly, with interests, would go to Kirkwall to lobby for a resolution.

6. That the issue needed to be resolved quickly as funding was only in place until 31 March 2022.

D. Letter from Ferry Services Manager

Correspondence had been emailed regarding recent changes within Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved to invite the Ferry Services Manager, via Democratic Services, to attend an island CC meeting.

E. Letter of Support from Liam McArthur

Correspondence had been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the letter.

F. Orkney Ferries - Skips

Correspondence had been emailed to members regarding the community skips, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council was responsible for annual/biannual testing.

G. High Street Safari Tours

Correspondence had been emailed, and it was:

Resolved that it was not required for this island.

H. Orkney Matters Meeting - January 2022

Correspondence had been emailed to members regarding virtual "Orkney Matters" meetings, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask for the minutes of the meeting when they are available.
2. To ask the officers involved to provide feedback to the questions raised during the meeting.

I. Free Child-Minding Courses

Correspondence had been emailed regarding a course aimed at getting more people in Orkney qualified as registered childminders, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would post the details around the island for interested parties.

J. New Kirkyard Tender Documents

Correspondence had been emailed round members regarding the updated grass cutting tender documents, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would post the tenders for both Kirkyard and Memorial on island noticeboards etc.

K. Strategic Projects - Wind Turbine Fund Update

Correspondence had been emailed regarding any decision on a community benefit fund, and it was:

Resolved to the note the contents.

L. Orkney Art Club Survey

Correspondence had been emailed to members with regards to an OAC survey, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comments.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Verge Maintenance Plan

Correspondence had been emailed to members in relation to a consultation on the Verge Maintenance plan, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would inform Orkney Islands Council that North Ronaldsay request two cuts by the end of September.
2. That it also be requested that ditches be cut to allow drainage of verges.
3. That the Clerk would post information to residents that they can report pot holes and other issues through the Council website.

B. VAO - Island Plan

Correspondence had been emailed in relation to drawing up an island plan, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would arrange for the Community Council Members who are available to have a Zoom Meeting with David Campbell on Wednesday, 9 February 2022.

C. ONI Ferry Summer Timetable

Correspondence had been emailed with regards to the agreed timetable for summer 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note that there was no difference to the previous timetable.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Members considered the general finance statement as at 17 January 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £17,194.79.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine statement as at 17 January 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £21,221.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 17 January 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £183.46 remained available for allocation from the main capping limit, and that £424.96 and £534.59 were the amounts left in the additional and island capping limits respectively.

2. To note that I Scott was asked to provide an invoice for Memorial Hall Grass Cutting so it can be paid out before the 31 March deadline.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 17 January 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total available for allocation was £3,656.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 17 January 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £110 left for allocation to any eligible project.

F. Capping Limit

Members queried what was left within the capping limit, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would ask Democratic Services what money was left in the capping limit.
2. That, should money be available, the Clerk should get a quote from Orkney Aggregates for 50 tonnes of scalpings.
3. That the Clerk would ask Orkney Ferries for a quote for freight of the scalpings.
4. That the Clerk would email Members these costings for agreement.
5. That the Clerk would apply to Democratic Services for a new CCGS grant for road materials, totalling £1,000.

G. White Goods Scheme

It was noted that there was £230 allocated for this but there had been no pickups made in the last quarter, and it was:

Resolved that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that there had been no applications for funding.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of a third plane plus pilot. After a discussion about winter ferry cancellations discussed at the last Transport Meeting, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a letter should be written to the Transportation Manager, inviting her to attend the next Community Council meeting.
2. To further ask for a policy change so that scheduled timetables could be interrupted in favour of putting on a backup ferry in times where the island had missed several sailings.
3. To propose that a leg be added to a Sanday or Papay sailing to be able to include the emergency ferry in the schedule.
4. To request that the timescale for when a backup ferry was put into action was reduced from three weeks to two weeks maximum.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

Members heard that the consultation with the island would be completed by 14 February 2022. As the NR Community Council had been responsible for signing off the Development Plan, it was envisaged that they would be contacted after mid-February. Should a meeting be required by members to discuss it then that can be agreed.

It was further noted that the Lighthouse Cottages are bookable online now, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – December 2021.
- Loganair – Statistics – April 2021.
- Letter from School Place – January 2022.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – December 2021.
- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Newsletter - January 2022.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Scottish Census

Correspondence had been emailed inviting the interest of Census Reporters, and it was:

Resolved to note that it was not within NR Community Council remit.

B. Red Cross Guest House

Correspondence had been emailed advising that the Guest House had been temporarily closed and was under review, but that alternative arrangements could be made for hospital appointment visitors stuck in town via Orkney Guest House. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would share this information with island residents.

C. Northern Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub Event

Correspondence was emailed inviting interested parties to join the Teams meeting on Thursday, 3 February, and a link to do so was included, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Scrap Car Scheme

A member asked whether anyone had taken advantage of the reduced fee to remove scrap cars from the island. The Clerk advised that she had received two enquiries, but no actual bookings had been made, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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 Wednesday, 16 March 2021 via Teams, commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:25.