

Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mr Angus Firth, Mrs Christina Cox, Mr Robert Friel and Richard Tipper.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Stephen Clackson
- Councillor Graham Sinclair
- Councillor Heather Woodbridge
- Mr Chris Bell, Biosecurity Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Zoe Flaws, Mr John Garson and Mrs Carole Maguire.

2. Presentation – Orkney Native Wildlife Project

The Chair welcomed the Biosecurity Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project (ONWP), to the meeting. He provided information and updates regarding the aims, objectives and progress of the ONWP in relation to having strategy and biosecurity in place to protect from stoats in the outer isles. He advised on the progress of the project in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, and asked if the Community Council would consider partnering him on drawing up a plan for the island, and what level of involvement they would want in the project going forward. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation and that the Community Council would be happy to assist with drawing up a plan.

3. Election of Office Bearers

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the meeting held on 13 March 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr A Firth and seconded by Mrs C Cox.

5. Matters Arising

A. Notice Boards

Members were advised that there was no update available, and it was:

Resolved to note that a response was awaited.

B. Kirkyard Matting

As Mrs Carole Maguire was not at the meeting an update was not available, and it was:

Resolved that an update would be received at the next meeting.

C. Memorial/Path at Rousay Kirkyard

As Mrs Zoe Flaws was not at the meeting an update was not available, and it was:

Resolved to discuss at the next meeting.

6. Correspondence

A. E-Cargo Bikes

Members discussed correspondence, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding interest in an E-Cargo bike for use in the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Briefing Note – Community Renewal Fund

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Community Renewal Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the deadline had already passed.

C. Orkney Regional Marine Plan

Members had been forwarded an email regarding the preparation of a statutory Regional Marine Plan for Orkney, which provided information on future updates and how to find details, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Annual Grant 2021/2022

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising members that the annual grant was £4,944.74, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. OIC – Adoption of Planning Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding three planning guidance documents that had recently been approved by Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Agri-Environment Climate Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from the Rural Planner, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding improvements to public access, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and forward a copy to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust.

G. Tesco Community Grant Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence advising members of the reopening of the Tesco Community Grant Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and forward a copy to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust.

H. Surface Dressing Update

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been emailed, regarding the Surface Dressing programme for summer 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

I. Workshop 3 – Mobile Networks

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been emailed, inviting members to a Workshop, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

J. Connecting Scotland – Phase 3

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been emailed, regarding Phase 3 of the Connection Scotland project, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Account

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 1 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £23,287.75.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £2,801.18, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £676, and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £654.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of a statement for the Community Development Fund as at 1 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £5,427.80.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of a statement for the Seed Corn Fund as at 1 June 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that £9,035 remained available for allocation.

8. Financial Requests

A. E Soames – Ferry Tickets

Following consideration of correspondence from E Soames regarding the inter isles ticket scheme operated by the Community Council, it was:

Resolved to advise the applicant that, at present, the scheme was not in operation and that the new pricing structure for fares was in place.

B. Rousay School Pond

Following consideration of correspondence from Rousay School requesting financial assistance towards the cost of upgrading the school pond, it was:

Resolved to request additional information regarding the costs.

9. Consultations

A. Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions on Islands

Following consideration of the Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions on Islands consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation and that members had no comments to make.

B. Orkney Partnership – Community Priorities

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a consultation on community priorities undertaken by the Orkney Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation and that members had no comments to make.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils

Following consideration of the document circulated previously by Democratic Services, regarding amendments to the Scheme for Community Councils, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the Scheme and that members had no comments to make.

D. Island Wellbeing Survey

Following consideration of the Island Wellbeing Survey, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

E. GO-HI Rural MaaS Project

Following consideration of the survey, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding transport options, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

F. R100 Scottish Isles Fibre Optic Cable Project

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the R100 Scottish Isles Fibre Optic Cable Project, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

G. Under 22's Free Bus Travel

Following consideration of a survey regarding the impact on Island Communities of free bus travel for young people under 22, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the survey.
2. To suggest the travel should be extended to ferry travel.
3. To forward the information to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust and Rousay Parent Council.

H. Local Place Plan Regulations

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Local Place Plan Regulations, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the consultation.

I. Winter Service Policy 2021-2026 and Winter Service Plan 2021/2022

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of its winter service policy and service plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that comments had been forwarded by Mr Richard Tipper, for Rousay, and Mrs Christina Cox, for Egilsay.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

The Planning Representative advised that there had been six applications relating to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre recently, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that there was nothing to report as there had not been any meetings recently and members then discussed the ferry times in relation to school pupils travelling on a Friday, the online booking system and when it would be in place, and why the Tingwall Office could not be opened on a Saturday to accept bookings.

Members discussed the proposed winter Sunday sailings and their wish to see the summer sailings to be extended. A proposed timetable for Sunday sailings had been forwarded to Orkney Ferries by members. Egilsay residents had indicated that it would be a benefit to them if the winter sailing at 16:05 from Tingwall arriving at Egilsay at 17:00 could be reinstated and that the 18:00 from Tingwall to Egilsay on a Saturday remain available on request.

Members also noted that at present if you wished to travel on the lunchtime boat from Tingwall to Egilsay it had to be booked before 17:00 the previous day unless it was on a Monday when it can be booked before 09:00 that morning. Also, it was noted that if a visitor/tourist had booked the lunchtime ferry to or from Egilsay a resident would be permitted to travel to/from their island of residence by piggy backing that booking, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the proposed Sunday timetable and other issues had been forwarded direct to Orkney Ferries.
2. That a request should be forwarded to Orkney Ferries asking if bookings can be made before 09:00, for the lunchtime sailing, to and from Egilsay on the day of travel and, if not, a response as to why it is not possible.

11. Publications

The following publications had been previously emailed to members, and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – March, April and May 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – March, April and May 2021.
- Letter from School Place – March, April and May 2021.
- Orkney Ferries – Statistics – February and March 2021.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Scrap Cars

Members discussed the remaining allocation of £335 in the scrap car fund, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £335 remained in the fund.

2. To continue funding the freight cost of cars until the funds were fully utilised.
3. To reconsider this item at the next meeting.

B. Sunday Sailings

Members were advised by the Chair that a proposal had been submitted to Orkney Ferries to have three return sailings to Rousay, which included two return trips to Egilsay and Wyre on a Sunday, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

C. Screen Machine

The Chair suggested that a letter be sent to Screen Machine inviting them back to the island on their next tour to Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to write Screen Machine inviting them back to Rousay on their next trip to Orkney.

13. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved to note that the next meeting would be held on 9 September 2021 at 19:30.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:10.