

Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Community Room, Westray School and via Teams on Thursday, 15 February 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs Elizabeth Drever, Mr Adam Baird (via Teams), Mrs Mr Daniel Marcus, Mrs Janice Kirkness, Mr Louis Pottinger and Mrs Ann Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Mellissa Thomson.
- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Ms Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs Edith Costie, Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Correspondence	4
5. Financial Statements	6
6. Financial Request – Children’s Christmas Party	6
7. Consultations	6
8. Reports from Representatives	7
9. Publications	7
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	8
11. Date of Next Meeting	8
12. Conclusion of Meeting	9

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mrs Rozalind Rendall and Councillor Stephen Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 13 November 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Danny Harcus and seconded by Mrs Janice Kirkness.

3. Matters Arising

A. Recycling/One-Off Plastic Collection

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council providing an update on the recycling service to the island along with details on the results of the feedback received from households, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Option 3 had been the preferred option.
2. To note that Orkney Islands Council was going to continue with the refuse and recycling service currently in place.
3. That the Roads Operative could advise the service when the recycling bins were filling up.
4. That members wished the disposal of “white goods” to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

B. Village Path

The Interim Clerk advised members that there was nothing further to report at this meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

C. Street Lighting – Northend to Hofn

The Interim Clerk advised that she did not have an update available for the meeting. Members queried the ownership of the Chapel of Rest, and it was:

Resolved to note that there was no update available and that members wished clarification on the ownership of the Chapel of Rest.

D. Community Room

Members were advised that there was no further update at this time. Mrs E Costie advised that the Community Association was in contact with Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting

Members discussed the tree lighting and thought that all had gone well. The Interim Clerk advised that Westray Development Trust had provided funding of £700 towards the cost which had been claimed and paid to the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the reports.

F. Roads - White Lining

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised members of the process involved in renewing white lining on the roads, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

G. 2024 Sunday Excursions

Members were advised that the 2024 Sunday excursions were not discussed at the Forum as it was the winter 2024 timetables that were being discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

H. Health and Care

Resolved to note that no update was available.

I. Airfield Building

Members were advised that Officers had been in contact with the Airfield staff regarding the new building, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

J. Community Benefit

Following consideration of correspondence from the Acting Strategic Projects Director regarding the proposed community benefit fund and how it would be distributed to the communities, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. To note that the decision taken at Policy and Resources Committee resulted in Westray not being a host island.
3. That members felt that this decision should be reconsidered once the turbines were operational.

K. Kirkwall Pier

Members were advised that Orkney Ferries were willing to replace the information on the notice board if the Tourist Association would provide the poster, and it was:

Resolved to advise the Tourist Association that Orkney Ferries were happy to replace the information on the notice board if they were to provide it.

L. Grass Cutting

Following consideration of a briefing note from the Burial Grounds Officer advising on restrictions on burial ground grass cutting budgets and the wish to reduce the number of cuts of the kirkyards, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the number of cuts should remain as previously.
2. That tenders should be invited with a closing date of Monday, 4 March 2024.
3. That powers should be delegated to Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to open the tenders.
4. To note that Kalisgarth no longer wished to include their grass cutting with the community council's tenders.

4. Correspondence

A. Zevi Funding

Following consideration of correspondence from the Transportation Services Manager regarding the zero-emission vessel infrastructure funding award, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. R100 and SBVS

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the R100 programme update, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

C. Community Development Fund Allocation

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising members of an additional tranche of £5,000 funding from the Community Development Fund had been allocated to each Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Community Council situational update request

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding community council situational updates in connection with the effects of the recent snow and wind on local communities. Members noted that in the past OIC held a list identifying persons who could assist in clearing the road however it appeared that this may no longer be the case and that it was relied on volunteers doing the work. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that this was being addressed and it

was planned to put this in place again. It was also agreed that the gritting teams had done an excellent job during the snow, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and subsequent conversation.

E. Accounts Commission

Following consideration of correspondence from Audit Scotland advising on information available on their website regarding Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

F. Scottish Rainforests

Following consideration of correspondence from D Gunn asking for information on whether the Scottish population's understanding and perception of the Scottish rainforest impacts the conservation of this special habitat for his BSc Honours Project, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that members should respond individually.

G. Thank You

Members were advised that letters of thanks for funding provided had been received from Westray Youth Rugby and the Interkirk fund group, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

H. Orkney Quiet Routes

Following consideration of a briefing note providing information on the proposed pilot project of providing quiet routes in Orkney. The proposed quiet routes for Westray were B9066 from Pierowall ferry terminal around the bay to Broughton and to Noltland Castle, and it was:

Resolved that members required further information on the plans before any feedback could be provided.

I. Beach Rubbish

Following consideration of correspondence from Westray Development Trust asking about the possibility of organising a beach clean for larger items, members were of the opinion that it would be difficult to co-ordinate and price, and it was:

Resolved that information would need to be provided on what and where the larger items of bruck was before any decisions could be taken.

J. Scottish Islands Passport

Following consideration of correspondence from HITRANS regarding the Scottish Islands Passport App, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and arrange for it to be posted on the Community Council's Facebook page.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 29 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £37,043.61.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 29 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had been exceeded by £127.58, but that £377.46 and £743 remained available in the island and additional capping limits respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 29 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that £6,983.28 remained available for allocation to projects.

6. Financial Request – Children's Christmas Party

Following consideration for financial assistance towards the Children's Christmas Party, which had been previously agreed by email, it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to award a donation of up to £400 towards the costs.

7. Consultations

A. Local Development Plan Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Local Development Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members could complete the survey as individuals if they wished to do so.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan, copies of which had been emailed, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the Plan and that members had no comments to make.

C. Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan, copies of which had been previously emailed, it was:

Resolved that the following comments should be forwarded to Orkney Islands Council:

1. That a request for the road to Grimbust to be changed to P2 should be made.
2. That consideration should be given to areas where carers resided.
3. That the local roads operatives should be allowed more input into the island road clearing.

D. NHS Orkney Listening Event

Following consideration of the NHS Orkney Listening Event consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative provide an update from the Air and Ferries Forum meeting held in January, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning

The Planning Representative advised that he could not access the new system, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Health and Care

Members noted that a new doctor had been appointed to the island and that Mr Adam Baird had been involved in the interview process. He suggested that this had been a good process and felt this should be continued in the future. It was also noted that a newly appointed nurse had moved to the island, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the conversation.

D. Westray Development Trust

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report to this meeting.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2023.
- VAO Training and Funding – November and December 2023, January 2024.
- Letter from School Place – November and December 2023, January 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – October, November and December 2024.
- Scottish Water.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. North Isles Depot

Members were advised that Streamline had the contract for the north isles shipping depot and that improvements had been made. It was suggested that there was still a lack of refrigeration and freezer space. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that if customers had any problems relating to the depot, they should contact the Service Manager, Orkney Ferries.

B. Potholes

Members raised concerns about the condition of the roads and the process for repairing potholes. It would appear that when potholes are filled in the infill does not remain in place for any time, which was a waste of time and funds. Mr Danny Harcus suggested they should go back to cutting out around the area and consolidating the infill with a vibrator. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that new equipment was awaited for the purpose of filling in potholes and it would be scheduled to go to the islands, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

C. Transport

Members discussed travel difficulties often faced by people having medical appointments in Kirkwall. Often appointments could be arranged with short notice and when trying to book there was no space for a car on the boat. Members asked if there was a way of having more effective links between the Kirkwall pier and the hospital. It was noted that Dial-a-Bus was available to be booked for such type of travel, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

D. Road Scheme

A member raised the possibility of organising another road scheme. Members noted there was no scheme at present and that the Trust had been approached regarding a joint project. Mr Louis Pottinger would make queries with the Trust, and it was:

Resolved that Mr Louis Pottinger was to contact the Trust in this connection.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Westray Community Council would be held on Monday, 8 April 2024 at 19:30 in Westray School and via Teams.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.