

# **Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Gary Nickells, Bruce Stuart, Andrew Wilcox, Ken Snelson, Elaine Snelson and Ute Clackson.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- Two members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received by Councillors Stephen Clackson and Mellissa Thomson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 1 May 2025 was approved, being proposed by Andrew Wilcox and seconded by Elaine Snelson.

## **3. Presentation– Coastal Erosion**

Jake Galeb, the Sanday Development Trust Community Garden gardener, gave a talk advising members of his plans working with various agencies such as Marine Engineering at Orkney Islands Council, the Sanday Men's Shed, funding organisations, local farmers and landowners all with the aim to help stop the erosion of land around Sanday's coast. The plans entailed applying for funding to grow lime grass, which would be propagated at the Men's Shed, and training on conservation techniques. Members heard that farmers and landowners had offered areas of their land around the coast to be used as part of the trial to help with the erosion, these being the laying of road chips, sand track fencing, pinning fleece to the face of dunes as well as other treatments. This was due to the different landscapes, as different areas of the island needed to be treated differently. Following the presentation, it was:

Resolved to note that members were impressed with the presentation and offered their help and support for the project.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Defibrillators**

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the defibrillators, defibrillator maps and the tender for the repair to the telephone kiosk door housing one of the defibrillators, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had updated and distributed the new maps containing all the 24 hour public accessible defibrillators on the island to shops, Doctors surgery and displayed them at all the defibrillators and public noticeboards.
2. To note that the ILO gave the Transport Representative six A5 laminated copies of the map to display on the North Isles ferries at her request.
3. To note that the locum doctor (Dr Grant Thomas) had run a defibrillator training session at Heilsa Fjold's youth drop-in.
4. To note that the tender for the repair of the Burness telephone kiosk door was awarded to Johnny Boxall.

## **B. Heritage Centre**

Following a report from the Chair with an update on the sale of the Heritage Centre from the Sanday Community Council to the Sanday Development Trust, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO would get in touch with the Community Development and Operations Manager at the Development Trust to ask him which solicitor the Development Trust use, as members felt that both parties could not use the same solicitor for the sale.
2. To note that Ute Clackson suggested that if the Sanday Development Trust were ever to dissolve, that a clause should be added to the sale agreement stating that the ownership of the Heritage Centre automatically be returned to the Sanday Community Council.

## **C. Sanday Sound Newsletter**

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the Sanday Sound Newsletter production costs, it was:

Resolved to note that an application would be made to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £1,000 to cover the costs.

## **D. Kirkyard Grass Cutting**

The ILO advised that a new mower and strimmer had been purchased from local company MLM Engineering and that an application had been made to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the costs, as agreed. She advised that the grass cutting contractor had mentioned that the new mower and strimmer worked well, but that the strimmer was a bit on the heavy side. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
3. That Andrew Rae would be asked to dispose of the old mower, which was not fit for purpose, in exchange for him being able to recycle any useful parts from it.

## **E. Sanday Community Council and Development Trust Surgeries**

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the monthly surgeries held at Heilsa Fjold, it was:

Resolved :

1. To note that these were not well attended and that members would continue to hold them for the time being and would keep advertising them in the Sanday Sound each month.

2. That the ILO would make enquiries to the Sanday Soulka group asking how the members can arrange the setting up an information stall at the Sanday Show to advertise the Community Council.

## **F. Kettletoft Regeneration Group**

The Chair provided a report with regards to the Kettletoft Regeneration Group, of which he was a member, advising that the group was originally set up with the aim of regenerating the Kettletoft stores, but was now extending its scope to the whole of Kettletoft, thus allowing the residents of Kettletoft, the Sanday Men's Shed and businesses there being able to have a say in the regeneration of Kettletoft. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **G. Bag the Bruck 2025**

Following a report from the ILO with regards to Bag the Bruck 2025 and a report from one of the group members who collected on the island and had been in touch with Greener Orkney with regards to the bruck still not having been collected, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Sinclair Haulage had been informing members and the public that the reason why the Bruck had not been collected yet, was due to waiting for the go ahead from Orkney Islands Council.
2. To note that the group member had been in touch with Greener Orkney and explained that the reason why the Bruck had still not been collected was due to reasons beyond their control and that the Bruck would be getting collected soon.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Sanday School House**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Interim Head of Planning and Community Protection with regards to Orkney Islands Council's asset disposal process in connection with Sanday School House, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Island Games Road Closures**

Following consideration of the correspondence and maps sent out to residents who would be affected by road closures during the Island Games, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. SEPA – Online Information Session**

Following consideration of the SEPA consultation on a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS), a fair way to report on performance with the deadline for participation 30 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would be participating in this Consultation.

## **D. Nordic Sea Timetable**

Following consideration of the Nordic Sea timetable, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Councillor Woodbridge suggested that any points members would like to raise with regards to the Nordic Sea timetable and any other transport matters, that the best place to raise them would be at the Air and Ferry Transport Forum.
2. To note that the Transport Representative mentioned that she would like to get together with all the other Transport Representatives via a Teams meeting to discuss Transport issues and to hold future regular meetings in this way.
3. To note that the ILO would contact Democratic Services to request that they facilitate a Teams meeting with all the Transport Representatives and to set up future regular meetings via Teams,

## **E. National Islands Plan**

Following consideration of the National Islands Plan online Orkney meeting being held on 24 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would be attending this meeting.

## **F. Ferry Replacement Programme**

Following consideration of the Ferry Replacement Programmes on-island consultation visit to be held on Sanday 27 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **G. Sanday Shipwreck Project**

Following consideration of correspondence from Hilary Hines on behalf of the Sanday Shipwreck Project with a request to seek further support from the Sanday Community Council and all groups on the island for the next stage of investigation and work with the shipwreck found in Sanday in 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **H. Free Family Fun Day**

Following consideration of the poster advertising the Free Family Fun day which was held at the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall on 15 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had advertised the event on the Community noticeboard in the Community Wing, the Sanday Residents Facebook page and the Sanday Community Council Communications Facebook page.

## **I. Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Highlands and Islands Community Fundraising Officer for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance with regards to him visiting Orkney on 6 August 2025 and a request to meet up with the Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note that the members would be happy to meet with the Fundraising Officer and that the ILO would contact him to arrange.

## **J. Funding From SSEN**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Resilience Manager of SSEN with regards to the Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **K. 2025 Surf Awards Launch**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Events, Information and Communications Manager from SURF with regards to the 2025 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **L. Consultation – Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan For Offshore Wind Energy**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government with regards to the consultation on the draft updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **M. The Orkney Fund**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Fund Board with regards to the Orkney Fund Boards plan to allocate a portion of this funding to support community organisations in developing or refreshing local Place Plans, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would discuss this fund with the Community Development and Operations Officer at the Sanday Development Trust.

## **N. Ayre Offshore Windfarm**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Engagement Manager of Thistle Wind Partners with regards to the proposed Ayre Offshore Windfarm to be located 22km off the east coast of Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **O. Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting**

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Orkney Community Planning Partnership with regards to an online Teams meeting for Community Councils to give their feedback on the plan, It was:

Resolved to note that Andrew Wilcox would be attending the online meeting on 24 June 2025.

## **P. Orkney Islands - Assistance required to communicate RTS Switch-off information within communities**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Engagement Team who are currently collaborating with E-On Next to promulgate critical information in respect of the forthcoming Radio Tele switch Service (RTS) switch off, scheduled for 30 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would advertise this information on the Sanday Residents and Sanday Community Council Communications Facebook pages.

## **Q. Digital Voice**

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC's Digital and Connectivity Officer with regards to a drop-in session on the 24 June 2025 at the Orkney Library in Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **R. National Islands Plan Online Meeting**

Following consideration of the National Islands Plan Online meeting being held on 24 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair advised the members that the Community Development and Operations Manager of the Sanday Development Trust would be attending this meeting.

## **6. Consultation - Winter Service Plan 2025**

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2025/2026, with a deadline for comments being 30 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that members have requested that the North Loch Road is changed from a Priority 2 to a Priority 2S and that the ILO would forward this information on to Democratic Services.

## **7. Reports from Community Council Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Following a report from the Transport Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing new to report.

## **B. Planning Representative**

Following a report from the Planning Representative, it was:

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

## **C. Development Trust Representative**

Following a report from the Development Trust Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that he would be attending a meeting on Tuesday, 24 June 2025 to discuss the Heritage Centre and the Kettletoft Regeneration project.

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

Following a report from the Health and Care Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representative had had technical computer problems at the meeting and that the next meeting would be held in September 2025.

# **8. Financial Statements**

## **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 4 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £17,350.51.

## **B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund**

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 4 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £5,955.40.

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

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 4 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £1,322.94, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £743.00 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £268.95.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 4 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £10,806.34.

## **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 4 June 2025, it was:



Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,689.79.

## **9. Applications for Financial Assistance**

### **A. Sanday Community Association**

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Community Association requesting £2,492.40 towards their Village Hall Scheme which the group run every summer for 5 weeks over the summer holidays to provide a quality activity for the young people of the island and for visiting young people, it was:

Resolved that £2,492.40 be awarded from the Spurness Community Fund.

### **B. Spurness Micro Grant Fund – Emma Neave-Webb**

Following consideration of an application from Emma Neave- Webb requesting financial assistance towards travel costs to take part in the 2026 Sea Women Expedition in pioneering ocean research and leadership in Antarctica, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

## **10. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – April 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – April to May to 2025.
- VAO Newsletter Volunteering Special Edition – June 2025.
- Loganair North Isles Flight Statistics – April 2025.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – April 2025.
- Letters from School Place – May 2025.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – June 2025.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – May 2025.
- Scottish Flood Forum Spring 2025 Newsletter.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Town Twinning**

Following a report from the Vice Chair with regards to Town Twinning and his eagerness to get this started, and suggestions from Councillor Woodbridge, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Councillor Woodbridge was keen to get Town Twinning started again and advised members that there was a small budget at Orkney Islands Council for Twinning and that the Orkney Norway Friendship Organisation also had some funding for this.
2. To note that Councillor Woodbridge and the Vice Chair agreed that it would be good if there could be more connection for groups to be involved with Twinning, for

example the young farmers organisation going to Norway for short trips, rather than individual students going to Norway and vice versa for longer periods of time.

3. To note that Councillor Woodbridge would liaise with the Vice Chair to share contacts in Orkney and Norway with regards to organising the Town Twinning.

## **B. Apology**

Following a report from Andrew Wilcox offering an apology to members for his lack of communication over the past couple of months, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Sanday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 14 August 2025, commencing at 19:30.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:35.