

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams and at St Ann's Kirk on Thursday, 15 February 2022 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr I Cursiter, Mr B Hourston, Mrs I Hourston, Mrs F McNab, Mr N Rendall and Mr S Thompson.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer/Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Mr A Hourston.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 9 December was approved, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and second by Mr S Thompson.

The minute of the special meeting held on 11 January regarding the winter ferry timetable was also approved, being proposed by Mr S Thompson and second by Mr B Hourston.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Ferry Issues**

Following discussions of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Stantec report and a verbal update from Councillor H Woodbridge following the transport meeting of 15 February 2022, members were pleased to hear that further work and engagement with community councils and residents of Papa Westray would hopefully commence this year to ensure that the best suited decision was made for the island. Members were advised that, following the Stantec report, authorities within the transport and infrastructure department will progress to a design suited for the islands even though the Stantec report favoured a link span. Members were assured that the link between Papa Westray and Westray would be considered, and a decision would be made based upon evidence of what's best for Papa Westray, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request more information be made available regarding the costs involved and the ongoing costs for the service should a link between Papa Westray and Westray go ahead.
2. That the Clerk request that representatives of the Transportation department of Orkney Islands Council attend the next community council meeting.

### **B. Papay Water Scheme - Update and Improvements**

Following consideration of the update from the Chair informing members that the new filters for the water supply had been delivered to the island and installation work had started, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Community Resilience - Satellite Phone Funding**

The Clerk updated members of the current situation with the satellite phone and that the Nurse Practitioner who had been assisting with communications for the NHS was currently on leave, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send an email to Westray surgery for advice on the matter.

#### **D. Fibre Broadband Proposal Update**

After consideration of the update from CloudNet regarding fibre and the current situation with planning, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

#### **E. Ferry Arrangements – Papa Westray to Westray Route**

Following discussion between members and Councillors regarding the current situations regarding the morning ferry crossing between Papa Westray and Westray, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk request, via the business letter to Democratic Services, that the Papa Westray children attending Westray School have access to a common room in the mornings whilst waiting for the school to open.

#### **F. Storage of the OIC Gritter and Salt**

The Chair advised that he had been corresponding with Orkney Islands Council on storage options, sending photographs of potential sites to build a shed to house the gritter and salt, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would liaise with the Roads department regarding possible sites, as the proposed site suggested by Orkney Islands Council may have planning permission complications.

#### **G. Airfield Shelter - Waiting Room**

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note that members were happy with the new proposal of another building to be added for passenger shelter, however it was felt that the temporary measure of allowing passengers to wait in the building used by the fire truck would be met with significant health and safety issues which would need to be addressed prior to a permanent decision being made.

#### **H. First Responders for Papa Westray**

After consideration of correspondence from the current first responders, explaining that it would not be recommended to advertise for additional first responders due to the uncertainty of medical staff on Papa Westray, it was:

Resolved to note that members fully understood the concerns.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Strategic Projects Team - Update**

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, giving an update on plans and the outcome of the consultation on the community benefit fund, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **B. Orkney Youth Action Group**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Youth Action Group, copies of which had previously been circulate, regarding setting up a network of groups, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the information should be shared with other organisations on Papa Westray.

### **C. Letter from Ferry Services Manager**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Ferry Services Manager with an update on matters relating to Orkney Ferries, including the text messaging service, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members were very grateful of the amount of information within the letter and felt it was a thoughtful gesture.

### **D. Letter of Thanks - Orkney Drugs Dog**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Orkney Drugs Dog charity, it was:

Resolved to note the thank you.

### **E. Bag the Bruck 2022**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Islands Council in relation to the Bag the Bruck event to be held in April 2022, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should apply for CCGS of £300 to use towards sponsoring any local groups to participate in the Bag the Bruck event.

## **5. Consultation documents**

### **A. Cattle Floats**

Following consideration of the consultation received from Orkney Islands Council, members agreed that they were grateful to Democratic Services for securing funding to purchase two trailers required for shipping livestock, including sheep decks, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should send a letter of thanks to Democratic Services for the hard work that had gone into this project.

## **B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2022**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, asking for feedback on the verge maintenance plan, it was:

Resolved that no comments would be forwarded.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 3 February 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £10,434.17.

### **B. Papa Westray Water Scheme**

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 3 February 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £41,779.67.

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 February 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the main capping limit was £2,701.04 that £576.10 remained for allocation in the additional capping limit, and £654.00 remained in the island capping limit.
2. That a sum of £500 be applied for towards the removal of scrap vehicles on Papa Westray.

## **7. Financial Requests**

Resolved to note that there were no financial requests to consider.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Members were advised that most of the transport concerns had already been covered in the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Following receipt of information on the planning application for a proposed fish farm off the East Coast (Moclett), it was:

Resolved that further discussions would take place under any other competent business.

### **C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator's Report**

Following consideration of the verbal update regarding the new equipment currently being installed, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Papa Westray Development Trust Report**

Resolved to note that the Community Development Officer was unfortunately not able to join the meeting.

## **9. Publications**

The following publications had previously been circulated and were noted by members:

- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Newsletter – January 2022.
- Advert for Provision of Cleaning Services - Pier Waiting Room.
- Outer North Isles ro-ro Service Timetable.
- Holyrood Highlights – various dates.
- VAO Newsletter – January and February 2022.

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

### **A. Planning Application 21/495/MA - Cooke Aquaculture**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the planning application submitted by Cooke Aquaculture (Moclett fish farm), members agreed that they should submit a response to the consultation, but that they had found it difficult to gauge public opinion on this application. To date, residents had not approached the community council with any comments for discussion and members thought it would a good idea to circulate the proposal to residents via email and advertise the development in the local shop. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would draft a letter on behalf of the community council in response to the consultation covering:

- Light pollution the new development may cause and if there are measures in place to restrict this.
- The need to support employment for remote communities and housing.
- Rubbish and debris washing ashore from fishing enterprises and how to limit, restrict and maintain.

- Overall concerns for the environment and the pollution the fish farm will produce and how the impact of the tidal movements will move the spoils into the preservation area effecting marine life and local fishing
- The concern of the growth of the fish farms that currently surrounds Papa Westray, and members hope that there will be no more to come in the future.

2. That the Clerk would send an email to planning, via Democratic Services, to request that Cooke Aquaculture carry out a public consultation on the proposal.

## **B. Note of Thanks**

Members commented on the creation of new signs by community council member Mr S Thompson, which were going to be installed around Papa Westray.

Members also discussed the retirement of Councillor G Sinclair, and expressed their thanks for the work and commitment he had shown throughout his time as a north isles Councillor, and it was:

Resolved to note thanks to both Mr S Thompson and Councillor G Sinclair, and wish Councillor G Sinclair all the best for his retirement.

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

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 12 April 2022 in St Ann's Community Room, Papa Westray and with a Microsoft Teams connection, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15.