

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held at St Ann’s, Papa Westray and via Teams on Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 19:30

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge.
  - Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
  - Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
  - Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
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- 8 members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that an apology for absence had been intimated on behalf of Ms J Foley (Papay Development Trust).

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held 29 September 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mrs F McNab and second by Mr I Cursiter.

The Chair took the opportunity to personally thank Mr I Cursiter for the commitment of previously being Chair for a significant period.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. No East Moclett**

It was agreed by members that for the benefit of the members of public attending, a discussion regarding the correspondence from No East Moclett be discussed first.

Following the update from Cooke Aquaculture, read to the room by the Clerk, members were pleased to hear that Cooke Aquaculture were taking measures to improve the existing sites by potentially introducing eco-friendly, low noise output generators. No other comments were made from the members of public at this time.

It was noted that members had received a copy of the letter, addressed to the Minister for the Environment, titled Fish Farm Moratorium/East Moclett, which was sent by No East Moclett group.

Following a request to address members, No East Moclett group advised members that:

- The documents that Cooke Aquaculture had produced had been thoroughly read by representatives of No East Moclett and comparisons of the Environmental Impact report first copy highlighted significant changes to the second copy. The summarised recommendations to date had not been completed by the fish farms.
- This is not just a local issue that is causing pollution of the seabed, noise and visual effecting the environment; it is a national and global issue being created by fish farm companies. The concerns raised from No East Moclett group highlighted the detrimental effects of using chemicals in the waters that could have lasting effects on the lobsters, crabs and other marine life.
- The faeces from the proposed farm that will be washing into the ocean on a daily basis had been worked out to be the equivalent size area of Maidstone, Kent, and the concerns for the long-term effect to the environment are not being addressed.
- They had organised two meetings on 29 November and 1 December for anyone to attend regarding the fish farm development, where open discussions will take place regarding the findings and the current circumstances.

Members advised that they felt that certain information that had been delivered to the media, such as radio, had not been as accurately portrayed as it should and explained that not all Papa Westray residents were against the proposed

development. Members acknowledged concerns and agreed that certain documents have been a difficult read and were not as straight forward as they should have been, including the Minister of the Environment - Fish farm moratorium/East Moclett letter. Certain information regarding the use of chemicals had been previously discussed at the consultations with Cooke Aquaculture on 5 April 2022 and residents had been advised that no chemicals were being used and that fresh water was being used to resolve any infestation of lice that the fish may have.

Following discussions regarding all of the information detailed above and the reports provided, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the No East Moclett group should respond to Democratic Services' email directly and request the offered digital copies of the minutes requested.
2. To note that members felt there were some pros and some cons to the development and that they had noticed a significant divide within the community over the proposed development, with a difference of opinion between residents, and individuals needed to make up their own mind to move forward.
3. To note thanks to the No East Moclett group for their input.

## **B. Orkney Inter Island Transport Study and Meetings**

There was discussion between members regarding the ferry proposals and the public meeting held by Orkney Harbours' Technical Superintendent and the Transportation Manager. Members felt that for such an important event it was poorly attended and felt that a strong push for the link span between Papa Westray and Kirkwall was favourable to Harbours, to include the possibility of up to four sailings per week but no return journey within a day. It was:

Resolved that the Clerk sends a business letter to Marine Services requesting:

- Feedback from the public meeting, detailing the haulage issue of who is to be responsible for the haulage logistics should a link span be introduced to Papa Westray and any costing involved for the island.
- A confirmed agreement of the plan for the haulage logistics before any decisions are made between the two options (link span and ro-ro).
- Confirmation that the Technical Superintendent and the Transportation Manager had read and understood the concerns following on from a study done by a Papa Westray resident regarding the comparison of haulage charges and operations between the link span and ro-ro option.
- A meeting for open discussions regarding the outstanding issues of cancellations. Members would like to request that, if possible, a skipper of the vessel attend to help discussions.
- That, should Papa Westray go ro-ro between Westray and Papa Westray, could the spare vessel that would be available for Shapinsay and Rousay also be a spare for Papa Westray?

- A breakdown of the works that are intended for Papa Westray pier to be made available for members, following from the information shared in the media of £225,000 upgrades.
- Confirmation that the purchase a tractor for loading and unloading of the trailers for Papa Westray has or will be actioned soon.
- An update regarding the Nordic Sea.

### **C. Papay Water Scheme Update**

Following consideration of a verbal update from members regarding the last sensors which were yet to be installed, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

Following an update from the Clerk, explaining that communications had been made with the NHS and further discussions needed to take place within their IT department, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Fibre Broadband Proposal Update**

Following consideration of a verbal update from members who had been liaising with Cloudnet, explaining that the works were still carrying on and that an achievement had been made with some households being able to use fibre, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

Following a verbal update from members, advising that aggregate had arrived for the roads department, and that the Roads team were just awaiting instruction as to what was to happen next, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **G. Cattle Trailers**

Following consideration of the verbal update from Councillor H Woodbridge, explaining that the trailers were progressing, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **H. Benches**

Following discussion, members agreed that the Clerk should purchase one bench made of recycled material for the airport and one bench (to be located at Tirlo) made with locally sourced stone, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would order the benches accordingly.

2. That the benches would be funded from CCGS if possible, and the general fund if not.

### **I. Housing Shortage on Papa Westray**

Following discussions regarding the housing shortage on Papa Westray and that there was no update from Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk request an update from Orkney Islands Council regarding the previous business letter sent.

### **J. Community Council Owned Field**

Following discussions regarding the possibilities of fencing the community council owned field adjacent the machinery shed, it was:

Resolved that members would source prices for the materials and discuss at the next meeting.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. No East Moclett Group - Information Request**

Following consideration of correspondence from the No East Moclett group, and the discussion at the beginning of the meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Scottish Islands Federation - Island Housing Group**

Following consideration of the update from a member who attended the on-line meeting, organised by Scottish Islands Federation, it was:

Resolved to note that the meeting was very informative regarding the individual needs of each island and the specification of the housing to suit, and that feedback would be given by the individual who attended or passed to the Clerk to respond.

### **C. SSEN Distribution – Stakeholder Surgeries**

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN, it was:

Resolved to note that members expressed their gratitude for the engineers of SSE for their quick responses and flexibility for island life and transport, and that a linesman had been appointed for Papa Westray to assist with any outage.

### **D. Shapinsay Community Council - Letter to the Isles**

Following consideration of correspondence from Shapinsay Community Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the ferry situation, it was:

Resolved that Papa Westray Community Council agreed with Shapinsay Community Council's concerns, and especially over the length of ramp on the boat.

## **E. Appointment of Orkney Islands Council Chief Executive**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been forwarded to members previously, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Avian Influenza**

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a recent outbreak in Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. Memorial inspections**

Following consideration of correspondence which had previously been circulated to members from Orkney Islands Council, regarding the recent inspections in the county's cemeteries, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

# **5. Consultation Documents**

## **A. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Following consideration of the consultation on the verge maintenance plan from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members expressed their concerns regarding the condition of the ditches and if any machinery were to be used to dig the ditches, care would need to be taken in relation to the communication cables nearby.

## **B. Application to Vary Section 36 Consent - EMEC**

Following consideration of the consultation on an application to vary a consent, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **C. Deep Sea Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub**

Following consideration of the consultation regarding proposed projects, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members could comment individually if they wished to.

# **6. Financial Statements**

## **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 November 2022 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members were pleased to hear that the grant application to the SSEN Resilience Fund to purchase multiple portable generators for power outages, to support the elderly, vulnerable and families with children, was successful to the amount of £11,000.

2. To note that the estimated balance remaining was £25,357.19.

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

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 10 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £41,558.51.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2022-2023**

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 10 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £1,096.25, that £743 remained available for allocation in the additional capping limit and £719 was left in the island capping limit.

# **7. Financial Requests**

## **A. PCA - Fireworks**

Following consideration of the financial request from Papay Community Association for the purchase of fireworks for the community event, it was:

Resolved to award the full amount of £300, subject to CCGS approval.

## **B. PCA – Papay Children’s Christmas Presents**

Following consideration of a request from Papay Community Association for assistance of £175 towards Christmas presents, it was:

Resolved to award the full amount of £175, subject to CCGS approval.

# **8. Reports from Representatives**

## **A. Transport Representative**

Members were advised that no further information was available that had not already been discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

### **C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator**

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

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

Resolved to note there was no report from Papa Westray Development Trust due to a representative being unable to make the meeting.

## **9. Publications**

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

- Orkney Harbours - Offshore Wind Community Newsletter.
- Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place.
- Blide Blether.
- NHS Scotland – SHARE.

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

### **A. NHS 24**

Following discussion regarding the proposed NHS24 service being rolled out to the isles as a replacement for phoning the Balfour out-of-hours, members felt that the service was moving forward as the original plans set out and with the lack of public consultation it was difficult to gauge individual island's needs, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note thanks to Councillor H Woodbridge for the work and commitment that she had demonstrated towards this particular concern.
2. That an additional member from the community council attend the next NHS meeting on 16 December 2022.

### **B. Kirkyard Maintenance**

Following discussions regarding some general repairs that were required to the hinges of the North and South gates, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk advertise a tender in the local shop for the repairs and replacement hinges.

### **C. New Pier Improvements**

Following discussion between members, it was felt that the improvements should have been discussed and information made available to the community council and residents. It was also agreed that members would like to inform Harbours that there are two lights that need replacing at the pier – one on top of the pier and one at the side of the waiting room, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would include this in the business letter to Orkney Islands Council.

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

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursdays 26 January and 6 April 2023 in St Ann's Community Room, Papa Westray and via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting closed at 21:25.