

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann’s Community Room, Papa Westray, on Tuesday, 13 November 2018 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor K Woodbridge.
- J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- L Sharp, Clerk and Papay Island Link Officer (ILO).
- 2 members of the public.

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1. Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note apologies from A Hourston and I Hourston, and Councillors S Clackson and G Sinclair.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 4 September 2018 was approved, being proposed by F McNab and seconded by S Thompson. The minute of the special meeting held on 16 October 2018 was approved, being proposed by F McNab and seconded by B Hourston.

3. Matters Arising

A. OIC Consultation on Future Boats and Piers

As agreed at the 4 September meeting, the ILO had distributed a summary to Papay residents of the information presented by OIC's Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation, and their views sought on the options. Inputs received had been collated and made available to members ahead of PWCC's special meeting on the 16 October. The PWCC Chair and Transport Representative had then attended OIC's 24 October workshop for the North Isles Community Councils on options for future pier developments and the next fleet of boats. The Chair and Transport Representative reported their disappointment to discover at the workshop that it had just revisited the 2016 report from the STAG2 study, and that there appeared to have been no progress in the intervening period. They had been informed that further consultation visits to the isles are being planned for summer 2019. In response to this news, members were concerned that more consultations would just delay actual progress. In particular, progress in replacing the Golden Mariana was urgently needed. Councillor Woodbridge advised that he was surprised that a Ro-Ro and link-spanned bridge had been presented to PWCC as an option by the Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation, as the STAG2 Strategic Business Case (and which appeared from OIC's 24 Oct workshop to still be the options on the table) had clearly ruled this option out for Papay and North Ronaldsay. He noted that North Ronaldsay Community Council is strongly for a Ro-Ro solution, and felt that a fleet that had vessels all to the same specification would deliver the most cost-effective and reliable service for all. Following discussion, it was resolved:

1. That, due to the apparent inconsistency in the information from OIC and the lack of material progress since the 2016 STAG2 report, that there should be a further special meeting of PWCC on these matters on a date to be determined.
2. To note that the ILO had forwarded a copy of the minute of PWCC's special meeting of 16 October 2018 to the consultants undertaking the STAG2 Study, as requested by the Chair and Transport Representative.

B. Verge Cutting

Resolved to note that a substantive response to PWCC's request for delegation was still awaited from OIC.

C. Kirkyard Earth Boxes and Shed

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer reported that, following the request made by PWCC, it had been agreed that OIC would delegate a budget of £2,000 to cover the local delivery of new earth boxes and a contribution to the Community Groups Shed for their storage. Members welcomed this news, and it was resolved:

1. That the ILO should progress having collapsible earth boxes made locally.
2. That OIC would transfer £2,000 to PWCC and the delegated responsibility for delivery of earthboxes and their storage.
3. That a CCGS application should be submitted for the earthboxes.

D. Community Shed and Land

The ILO reported that the boundary fencing required by OIC as a condition of the sale of land, was now in place. The Chair advised that he would shortly mark out the retained OIC land boundary around the turbine, and it was:

Resolved that, once confirmed by the Chair, the ILO should write to OIC confirming that the fencing and marking requirements were in place.

E. Water Scheme

Members noted that, as agreed at the previous meeting, a strimmer had been obtained for the Water Attendant for maintenance of the land at the wells. The ILO advised that she had written to the owner of the vacant property requesting permission to turn off their water supply at the meter, but no response had been received. The Chair advised that an incident at the property since then had required the meter to be turned off, and so the action had been overtaken by events.

Members also discussed the on-going lack of progress with installing a new water hydrant near Beltane House, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO should ask the Water Attendant if he would be prepared to carry out this work.

F. Empowering Communities – Papay Priorities

Resolved to note that a substantive response was still awaited from OIC.

G. Steps for Plane

Resolved to note that the Chair had yet to follow this matter up with the OIC Airfield Superintendent.

H. Community Playpark

Members heard that there had still been no communication from OIC regarding the playpark, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor Woodbridge and Democratic Services would look into the matter.

I. Bin for St Boniface Kirkyard

Resolved to note that this matter was still with A Hourston, who was liaising with OIC Roads Department to provide a suitable bin.

J. Weed killer Treatment of St Boniface Track and Carpark

The ILO had, as requested, tasked the second annual treatment, and it was:

Resolved to close the matter.

K. Community Resilience – Satellite Phone

Resolved to note that a bid would be made to the forthcoming round of Your Island Your Project for the airtime costs of a satellite phone.

L. Outside Bin at Kelp Store

Resolved to note that this matter was still with A Hourston, who was liaising with OIC Roads Department to provide a suitable bin.

M. Dog Mess bags

Resolved to note that dog bags were now available free from the ILO or the Papay shop, and that this has been advertised in Papay Matters.

N. Flower Bed at Kirkyard

Members felt that the concrete under the old shed should be retained and used as a base for a raised flowerbed that would be accessible by wheelchair users, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO should take this forward.

O. Papay School Expressive Arts Service Provision

An update on this matter was not available at the meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO should update members following the next Papay School Parent Council meeting.

P. Petrol Drought

An email had been received from the OIC Marine Superintendent with contact details for a company that provides fuel tank solutions. N Rendall advised that a temporary solution was now in place, using a small 300 litre bowser. This had made two deliveries so far, but the logistics of boat sailings and sharing with North Ronaldsay

resulted in around 3 weeks between deliveries, meaning that the petrol tank level was still very low and risked becoming empty again. Getting to the reason of why the 2,000 litre bowser had been taken off the road was proving difficult, but it did seem that it had been sent away for repair, and so could be back at some point in the future. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the ILO should send a letter of thanks to the Marine Superintendent.

Q. Letter to OIC Planning Officer - Fish Farms

In discussion of the issues around light pollution from fish farm operations, Councillor Woodbridge noted that there were cases of shielding having been added to the landward side of some fish farms, where light pollution was a problem to local residents, and it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had submitted a letter to OIC Planning as requested.

4. Police Scotland Matters

Resolved to note that no correspondence had been received from Police Scotland.

5. Correspondence

A. Community Conversation Report

Resolved to note the information contained in the report issued by OIC.

B. OIC Isles Operations – Review of Systems of Work and Training

Resolved to note the information contained in the OIC letter dated 18 September.

C. Further Update on Headstone Inspections

Members noted that the headstones in the Papay kirkyard are in good order due to works that they had commissioned previously, and it was:

Resolved to note the information note from OIC dated 2 October 2018.

D. SSE Transmission Asset Development

Resolved to note the information in the email from SSE dated 10 October 2018.

E. Islands of Orkney Brochure

Members agreed to support the Islands of Orkney Brochure as requested in a letter from Democratic Services dated 15 October 2018, however, they requested that Orkney Ferries improve their distribution of the brochures as they were late in being issued to Papay in 2018 and only then after request, and it was:

Resolved that a CCGS application be submitted for a grant of £600 towards the 2019 brochure and that a letter be submitted requesting a timely dissemination of the brochures.

F. Invitation to Lower Speed Community Workshop

Resolved that the Vice Chair would attend the OIC workshop taking place in Kirkwall on 28 November.

G. VAO Training Needs Analysis

Members discussed an email from Voluntary Action Orkney offering a training Needs Analysis, and it was:

Resolved that no training was required at present and a thank you should be sent to VAO.

H. War memorial Report from British Legion Judges

A letter dated 30 July 2018 had been received from the Royal British Legion outlining the result of the Highlands and Islands Area's judging inspection of the Papay War Memorial. The judges felt that the memorial was in good condition and well cared for but that the plinth was in need of cleaning and they were also not in favour of the lichen growing on the memorial, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. MSP Correspondence with MSP - BT Broadband

Members discussed an email received from Liam McArthur MSP dated 6 November 2018, which forwarded further correspondence he had received from Openreach regarding the poor BT broadband service on Papay. Openreach's High Level complaints manager stated:

"As you know, I'd asked our radio planning team whether they could send out a specialist team to review the possibility of providing a radio link to Papa Westray and North Ronaldsay. Unfortunately, after a closer review of what would be needed, it's been decided that a survey isn't viable at this time, particularly as we would be unable to go ahead with any work unless a Communications Provider (CP) was willing to place an order to supply the radio service. I suspect [but can't be sure] that the low populations would make it challenging for any CP to have a case for providing a radio service. I'm really sorry I've not got better news here, and I know the residents will be disappointed that there are no immediate plans to carry out work to increase their broadband speeds."

Members were very disappointed by this response and noted that in BT's published plans for upgrades across Orkney they had given December 2018 as the date for their upgrade of the service on Papay. F McNab reported that at the most recent Orkney Digital Forum, BT had said that the infrastructure at the Papay exchange is obsolete and that it is not possible for them to upgrade it after all. It was:

Resolved to thank Liam McArthur MSP for his efforts and to note the information.

J. Room in Roof Insulation Grant

Members noted the email from Democratic Services dated 5 November 2018, advising of a Government Grant being offered to cover the cost of having all loft

rooms insulated to current building regulations whereby a property has a room in the roof or attic room which is accessed via a fixed staircase, and it was:

Resolved to advertise the scheme in Papay Matters.

K. Community Council Conference

The Chair and Clerk reported that they had attended the Community Council Conference held in Kirkwall on 7 November. This had provided useful information and guidance on planning procedures, running Community Council meetings and on administrative matters, including finance. The Chair had given a short talk about the work of Papa Westray Community Council. OIC Leader James Stockan had spoken about participatory budgeting and had explained that by 2021 all councils in Scotland would be required to have a percentage of their budget spends set through a participatory budgeting process. The conference had finished with group discussions on how Community Councils across Orkney could be more empowered, and the Chair advised that he had suggested verge cutting and kirkyard maintenance as two ideas, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

L. Offer of Talk from Women's Aid Orkney

Members discussed an email from Women's Aid Orkney offering a talk about their work, and it was:

Resolved to extend an invite to talk at a future PWCC meeting.

M. Community Engagement Session

Members had received an email from Democratic Services dated 8 November, inviting PWCC members to a Transport Scotland community engagement session on its procurement process for the next set of Orkney-Scottish Mainland contracts, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the consultation document on the Verge Maintenance Plan, it was:

Resolved that the cuts needed to be earlier than had been done this year, and that PWCC should continue to seek delegation of the budget and responsibility under the Empowering Communities initiative.

B. Islands of Orkney 2019 Brochure

Resolved to note that the ILO had gathered inputs and had submitted these to OIC ahead of the deadline.

C. Review of Gambling Policy

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Account

In consideration of the financial statement for the Community Council's General Account, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £6,855.56 as at 31 October 2018.

B. Papay Water Scheme Account

In consideration of the financial statement for the Water Scheme Account, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £42,278.53 as at 31 October 2018.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the PWCC Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to close item 121710.

D. Community Development Fund

Resolved to note that PWCC's CDF allocation had been spent fully.

E. Seed Corn Fund

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that community hall projects could now potentially be considered for Seed Corn funding. Following consideration of a statement for the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £1,012.54 was available for allocation, as at 31 October 2018.

F. Scrap Car Budget

The ILO reported that the scheme had been re-advertised in Papay Matters, but no further cars had been sent for scrap, and so the balance available still stood at around £800, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

8. Financial Request - PCA Winter Events

A financial request for winter events had been received and circulated via email for decision, as the first event had occurred before the PWCC meeting. Members confirmed in the meeting that it had been:

Resolved that a CCGS application should be submitted for £600 towards the costs of fireworks and Christmas lights, and that a grant of £162.50 be made from the General Account towards Christmas presents for Papay children.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that there was nothing further to report.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

C. Community Development Officer's Report

The ILO reported, on behalf of the Community Development Officer, that PDT had submitted a bid to the Scottish Land Fund to buy a property that would provide much-needed long-term rental accommodation, and that the outcome was expected shortly. The CDO was pleased to report that a related bid to the Rural Housing Fund had been successful and a grant was being awarded to PDT towards renovation of the property and professional fees. She also wished to thank PWCC members for their financial support to the Oy festival, which was due to be taking place over 16-18 November, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Papay Water Scheme Administrator

A major water leak had occurred over the period 13–17 October, which had been traced to a fire hydrant. The ILO had offered bottled water to all households on the 16 October, which had been paid for from the water account. The ILO further advised that the next environmental test of the water scheme was due to take place on 10 December, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

10. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publications had been received:

- Loganair Statistics – August, September and October 2018.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – June, July and August 2018.
- Holyrood Highlights.
- Councillor Clackson Newsletters.
- Scottish Health Council Newsletter.
- Orkney Partnership Autumn 2018.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. ILO Recruitment

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer confirmed that a resignation letter from the ILO had been received, which gave three months' notice. She advised members that, as the ILO role was not part of OIC's core budget, permission to

recruit a replacement would need to go through an approval process that could mean a replacement is not possible within the time given, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Weighbridge

The Chair reported that the weighbridge at the New Pier, which is owned by PWCC, had stopped working. He had been in contact with the company who were to send someone out to assess the problem. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that the repair would be eligible for a CCGS application, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO submit a CCGS application once the Chair had received a quote for the repair.

C. Skip for Scrap Metal

Following discussion of skips for scrap metal, it was:

Resolved that the ILO should put a notice in the shop to determine if there is sufficient demand to order a skip for scrap wire.

D. Recycling Skip

It was reported that the orange recycling skip was full but the springs on its trailer had broken completely so that it could not be towed to the boat for return to Kirkwall. Members heard that A Hourston was trying to find a way of lifting the recycling skip onto the boat as a one-off temporary measure. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer confirmed that the trailer was owned by OIC, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO should send photographs of the broken trailer to Democratic Services, who would investigate replacement of the trailer.

E. Battery Recycling

The ILO reported that the battery recycling container was full, and it was:

Resolved that the ILO should bring this matter to the attention of A Hourston.

F. Ad-Hoc Flights Request

The ILO noted that two ad-hoc flights had been approved out of committee for a burial on 23 November, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved to note that the next meetings of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Tuesdays 15 January and 2 April 2019 respectively.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting concluded at 21:40.