

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held at St Ann’s, Papa Westray and via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 24 August 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mr N Rendall (via Teams), Mr I Cursiter, Mr A Hourston, Mr B Hourston, Mrs I Hourston, Mrs F McNab and Mrs L Sharp.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson (via Teams).
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mr G Waterson, Corporate Director, Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- Mrs J Foley, Papa Westray Development Trust.

- 2 members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Mr N Rendall and the representatives of White Ribbon Orkney.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held 8 June 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mrs L Sharp and second by Mr A Hourston.

3. Matters Arising

A. Ferry Matters

The Corporate Director, Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration was present at the meeting to discuss the recent media coverage regarding the future plans for Papa Westray's main pier and the report that the pier is to be demolished. Members agreed that they were extremely disappointed to hear this information in local media before the community of Papa Westray had been consulted. Following extensive discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk requests, via the business letter, a face-to-face meeting to discuss:

- The current status of the improvement of the pier.
- A detailed report of the pier, the engineers report regarding the wave screens, the technical assessment to further confirm the reliability if the Nordic Sea.
- The future of the Nordic Sea and the long-term plans for the Papa Westray to Westray crossing.

2. To ask that a meeting be arranged between the community council, the Transportation Service Manager and Orkney Ferries' Service Manager to discuss the outstanding concerns and to confirm that the points raised are fully understood.

B. Papay Water Scheme Update

The Clerk provided a verbal update regarding the recent low water situation and the quantity of water remaining - approximately 2 days' supply for the island. Members were informed that the emergency protocol for the lack of water was followed with the community council informed throughout the process for securing additional drinking water, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members were grateful that the community of Papay pulled together to help, and to note the community council's thanks to the community for their support.

2. To note that members agreed that the proposed sensors which will be supplied by Cloud net should be installed as this will help resolve any abnormalities sooner.

C. Fibre Broadband Proposal Update

Following discussions between members regarding the installation of Cloud net's fibre broadband, it was noted that there were issues regarding the performance and speed of the current broadband. Members asked for information on when the additional routers would be installed and what the estimated timescale was for the completion of the fibre project, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask for further information on the installation of the additional routers and project completion date.
2. To request that, as the community of Papa Westray signed up with the government funding scheme for faster broadband, a report should be kept and shared with regards to the speed, reliability and any outages.

D. Storage of the Gritter and Salt belonging to OIC

Following a verbal update from members, it was:

Resolved to note that it was hoped that the salt bay would be completed by the winter.

E. Cattle Trailers

Following discussions between members, it was:

Resolved to note that the remaining trailer was being progressed for delivery to the island.

F. Benches for Tirlo and Airport

Following an update from the Clerk, explaining that the recycled plastic bench had been delivered and was in use at the airport, and the bench for Tirlo will be constructed when availability arises, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Housing shortage on Papay

Following discussions regarding housing, it was noted that Papay Development Trust had now secured the property Fairview for the intentions of leasing to a key worker for the island, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Community Council Owned Field

Following discussions regarding the £900 quote for materials to fence the community council owned field adjacent to the machinery shed, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk advertise the field for rent in the shop to see if there is any interest by the residents before any commitment of fencing, and that all enquiries should be directed to Mr I Cursiter.

I. New Pier Improvements

Resolved to note that this issue had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

J. New Airfield Terminal Building

Following discussions regarding the existing airfield terminal building, members confirmed that they would like to see the terminal building used by the community council and that an asset transfer would be an easy solution, similar to what has happened on Sanday, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and await a further update.

K. Decentralized Water Scheme Research

A verbal update was provided by members, to accompany the letter which had previously been circulated regarding research into the scheme. Members were advised that the project was being funded by the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and that someone would be visiting Papay soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

4. Correspondence

A. Reps from Orkney Islands Council Housing

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, offering to come out to meet with the community council regarding the housing shortage on Papay, it was:

Resolved to note that, at the current time, members were happy that Papay Development Trusts were progressing the Fairview project to help address this issue.

B. NHS Recruitment Process

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the appointment of an advanced nurse practitioner for the island, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that members were very happy with the appointment.

C. Poppy Wreaths

Following consideration of correspondence which had previously been forwarded from Democratic Services regarding remembrance Sunday and the purchase of poppy wreaths, it was:

Resolved to note that there were sufficient materials left over from previous years and that a wreath was not required this year.

D. Ear Protection on Inter Isles Flights

Following consideration of correspondence previously sent to members from Liam McArthur MSP, regarding the availability of ear protection on inter isles flights, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Rapness Ferry delays affecting Golden Mariana Departures

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the possible delays affecting the Golden Mariana, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information, and that members agreed that the two vessels having communication is a good idea so that if there are any delays, the connecting vessel will delay departure.

F. Flights on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding amended flight times over the festive period, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Summer 2024 Timetables - Orkney Ferries and Loganair

Following consideration of the consultation regarding the proposed air and ferry timetables for next summer, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that no comments were to be forwarded.

B. Draft Procurement Strategy 2023-2028

Following consideration of the consultation on Orkney Islands Council's draft procurement strategy for 2023 to 2028, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members expressed their concerns regarding the aim of having 41% procurement towards local enterprises, in comparison to Shetlands 50%.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 2 August 2023 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £14,227.57.

B. Papa Westray Community Council Water Scheme

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 2 August 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £40,054.79.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2023-2024

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 2 August 2023, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £2,145.69, £743 remained available for allocation in the additional capping limit and £719 was left in the island capping limit.

2. That the Clerk should claim for the Coronation memorabilia which had now been received.

D. Seed Corn

After consideration of the Papa Westray CC Seed Corn statement as at 2 August 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance of £1,000.00 approved but not claimed.

E. Annual Accounts 2022/2023

Members had previously been forwarded the annual income and expenditure account and balance sheets for the General Account and the Water Account for the financial year ended 31 March 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the figures at year end.

7. Financial Requests

A. Papay Fun Weekend 2023

Following consideration of a financial request from Papay Community Association for assistance with the Papay Fun Weekend, it was,

Resolved to request further information on the cost of the event prior to any decision being made.

B. Community Workshop - Wool Spinning

Following consideration of the request for financial assistance of £171 for the craft weekend towards a wool spinning workshop, it was:

Resolved to award £171 subject to CCGS approval.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative was not present and that all related issues had already been raised earlier in the meeting.

B. Planning Representative

Members heard that one retrospective application had been made for the heating installation in the kirk, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that members had no objections to the application.

C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator

Following a verbal update from the Clerk regarding the water supply, it was:

Resolved to note that the discussion earlier in the meeting was sufficient.

The Clerk left the meeting at this point.

D. Papa Westray Development Trust

The Papay Development Trust representative provided an update on their current projects, including the Fairview house project, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Health and Care Representative

The Health and Care Representative advised that there was a positive vibe at recent meetings of the Health and Care group, with appointments made to many of the outstanding vacancies. She further advised that there would be a need for care support in Papay before too long and that the Council needed to speed that process up, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Publications

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

- Loganair - Statistics.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics - April, May, June and July 2023.
- Blide Blether.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Rabbit Population on Papay

Mrs L Sharp suggested that the community council should consider whether to take action to control the rabbit population on Papay, and that a survey could be carried out to gather views and opinions. She had spoken to Chris Bell about it, and gained information from other islands experiencing similar problems, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That this was a good idea and that a survey should be carried out, with a closing date before the next meeting.
2. That Mrs L Sharp would put together a survey and circulate it to everyone who owns land on Papay, including OIC.

B. Water Shortage

Members understood there had been a severe water shortage over the last few weeks and that small leaks had been isolated. This was to do with corrosion of some of the elements and repairs were being carried out. Water had been sent out to keep a supply to the island, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To note thanks to the Island Link Officer and all of those who had coordinated the emergency response.

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 Thursday, 16 November 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 22:20.