

# **Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann's and via Teams on Thursday, 21 August 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

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

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs A Byers, Arch Henderson Consultants. (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
- Ms J Foley, Community Development Officer, PDT.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that there were apologies for absence from Councillor S Clackson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held on 15 May 2025 were adopted, being proposed by Mr Neil Rendall and seconded by Mr I Cursiter.

## **3. Presentation – Orkney Harbours Master Plan - Arch Henderson**

A short presentation was given by Mrs A Byers of Arch Henderson who were the lead consultants on the Orkney Pier and Ferry Masterplan Phase 2. The presentation focused mainly on the timeline for the consultation, planning and execution of the works. She suggested a community meeting be held, possibly on 1-September if it could be arranged, where she would go over the following and listen to any input from the community:

- The design and specification of the new vessel should be completed by September 2026.
- Naval architects Leadship joined the consultation process in July 2025.
- Pier condition surveys would be carried out during August and September 2025 and any remedial works required will be identified.
- Arch Henderson were the main contractors for any pier structure works and would be presenting their options by early 2026.
- Funding for other works in the vicinity of the pier may be available, and the community will be invited to input any ideas or suggestions they may have. To this end, the contractors would talk to harbour users, external stake holders, local businesses and boat owners.

Council members reiterated their concerns over the provision of haulage services. Councillor H Woodbridge stated that OIC's policy was for a "no worse off position".

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information presented and further discuss the matter.

The Arch Henderson representative left the meeting at this point.

## **4. Election of Office Bearers**

### **A. Appointment of Chair**

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised of the options available for the appointment of Chair, and it was:

Resolved that Mr N Rendall be appointed Chair of Papa Westray Community Council, until May 2026.

Mr N Rendall took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## **B. Appointment of Vice Chair**

Resolved that Mr I Cursiter be appointed Vice Chair of Papa Westray Community Council.

## **C. Appointment of Transport Representative**

Resolved that Mr I Cursiter be appointed Transport Representative of Papa Westray Community Council.

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

Resolved that Mrs L Sharp and Mrs F McNab be appointed as joint Health and Care Representatives of Papa Westray Community Council.

# **5. Matters Arising**

## **A. Old Airfield Building**

It was noted that the OIC Transport Manager had been in touch with PDT and the PWCC Chair about community usage and would contact OIC Estates to establish the next steps in the process once she had received further information. Mr A Hourston pointed out that some remedial works may be required to the building, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. Rabbit Cull**

Mrs L Sharp reported that the Machinery Group had discussed this further and were possibly looking at a date in late November 2025 for the cull. The contractors could now provide six men over 3 weeks to get the job done. There was, however, a shortfall in funding of approximately £3,000. A letter with an update would be going out to all Papay households forthwith. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **C. Generators**

It was advised that the generator handout had begun. The Clerk would send out a circular immediately following the meeting to all Papay households asking that anyone who had requested a generator to attend the Community Shed on the following Saturday, 23 August at 13:00 to collect their machine. Following the update, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

## **D. Pier and Ferry Matters**

It was agreed that this had been discussed earlier in the meeting and that the Clerk would liaise with Arch Henderson contacts to arrange the community meeting, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Annual Grant Letter**

A letter from Democratic Services had previously been forwarded to members regarding the Annual Grant. It was noted that there had been an uplift of 2% in the amount awarded to voluntary organisations. The Community Council Grant Scheme capping limits for 2025 – 2026 were £3,914 for the main capping limit and £780 in respect of costs associated with halls or community centres not in Council ownership or towards transport costs between the islands and the mainland. An amount of £775 had been set for the transportation of aggregates. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the annual grant awarded to PWCC for 2025/2026 was £4,015.70.

### **B. Air Travel Concessions for Under 22s**

Information on Air Travel concessions for under 22s had previously been sent to members, with a further update sent advising that this had now been passed to the Scottish Government for consideration, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and await an outcome.

### **C. Information on SSEN Grants**

Correspondence from SSEN had previously been circulated. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would investigate whether there might be grants available to install solar panels on the water pumps.

### **D. The Orkney Fund - Place Plans**

Information on funding available for the compilation of Local Place Plans had previously been circulated to members, advising of a deadline of 29 June for expressions of interest, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Outer North Isles Airfields**

A briefing note from the Transportation Service Manager, providing an update on aviation related projects happening in Orkney, had previously been circulated. Members noted that a presentation by Windracers had been given on 2 July and was well attended, and it was:

Resolved to note the information given.

### **F. PDT - Letter of Support**

The Clerk advised that a letter of support had been submitted to PDT to accompany their application to the Orkney Fund for Place Plan funding, The CDO expressed

thanks for the support, however advised that PDT had not been successful in receiving funding for the Place Plan due to not having match funding in place, however they planned to apply in the next round and try to source funding meantime. Following the update, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

Councillor M Thomson left the meeting at this point.

## **7. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm – PAC Events**

Information had previously been circulated to members regarding PAC events in relation to the Ayre Offshore Windfarm, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and the dates of the events.

### **B. Scottish Islands Federation**

Information regarding an on-line consultation on 24 June to discuss the new National Islands Plan had been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Our Orkney, Our Future**

A consultation in relation to gathering views on tourism had been circulated to members previously, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for feedback was 19 September 2025.

### **D. Loganair Third Aircraft**

Proposed Summer and Winter timetables for an enhanced air service had previously been circulated to members for consideration, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **8. Financial Statements**

### **A. 2024/2025 Annual Accounts**

Following consideration of the Annual Accounts for Papa Westray Community Council for 2024/2025, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. General Fund**

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

Resolved to note the balance was £23,655.96.

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

Following consideration of the Papay Water Scheme Finance statement as at 4 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £16,562.65.

### **D. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 4 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £2,789.21 remaining, and that £755 and £697.68 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.

### **E. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 4 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £5,000.

## **9. Financial Requests**

Resolved to note that no financial requests had been received for consideration at this meeting.

## **10. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative briefly outlined concerns over the proposed flight timetables and the haulage situation around the new ferry. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Planning**

The Planning Representative advised that no new applications had been made in relation to Papa Westray, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Water Scheme**

The ILO advised that after testing on 9 June 2025, one property had failed on a bacteriological sample. UV tubes had subsequently been changed, and samples had passed on the re-test, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### **D. Papay Development Trust**

The PDT Representative advised the following:

- Funding had been received to enable the Trust to keep the post of CDO for one more year.
- Tenders had been received to carry out the work on Fairview and Holmview but not Daybreak as yet.
- E-bike applications were on-going.
- Morvern House had new tenants.
- The out-of-hours charge for the Charles Anne would remain at £256.
- PDT was subject to a governance audit and received a “clean bill of health”
- PDT is looking into various grant schemes for home insulation and off grid power in an emergency situation.

Following the update, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. Orkney Health and Care**

The Health and Care Representatives advised that they would like to meet again with NHS Orkney before the ANP’s new rota begins. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would liaise with NHS Orkney to arrange a Teams meeting for this.

## **11. Publications**

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

- Liam McArthur, Holyrood Highlights - various dates May and June 2025.
- This week in Parliament, Alistair Carmichael - various dates May to August 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding Updates and Newsletters – June and July 2025
- Letters from School Place - May, June and July 2025.
- Childminder Training.

## **12. Any Other Business**

### **A. Cloudnet**

Mr B Hourston advised that Cloudnet were planning to offer residents Internet Phones. These would require the purchase of equipment, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Orkney Ferries Papa Westray to Westray Ferry**

Members again raised concerns that the Charles Anne would only take twelve passengers at a time and would not make a second run should there be the need. Also, the on-line booking system did not function very well, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion and monitor the situation.

### **C. “Maggie’s Bench”**

Mr A Hourston advised that “Maggie’s bench” was getting in a poor condition and that it could do with either being repaired or replaced, and it was:

Resolved to look at repairing the bench.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of the date of next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 6 November at 19:30 in St Ann’s Kirk and via Teams.

### **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 21:10.