

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in the North Walls Community Centre and via Teams on Friday, 4 July 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr A Clark, Mrs T Avis, Ms L Crowson, Mrs I Mathieson (via Teams), Mrs G Robertson, Mr A Sinclair and Mr A Trafford.

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Miss C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.

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1. Apologies and Welcome

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G Bevan and J Park, and to welcome new community council members, Ms L Crowson, Mrs G Robertson and Mr A Trafford, who had been elected at the public meeting held prior to the meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held on 13 May 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Sinclair and seconded by Mrs T Avis.

3. Matters Arising

A. Lyness Pier – Bus Shelter

The Interim Clerk reported that the Transportation Service Manager had responded to say that they would contact Harbours to see if there was agreement to site a shelter and discuss where a suitable location would be. Members were also advised that this would be subject to funding being available, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

B. Graemsay Kirkyard Gate Repair

After hearing a report from the Interim Clerk advising members that the Burial Grounds Officer had been in contact with a Graemsay resident about the repair of the gate and confirmation from Mrs I Mathieson that it had been repaired, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the reports.

C. Osmandwall Cemetery Signage

After hearing a report from Mr A Sinclair advising that he had the sign and would be putting it up soon, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Core Paths Works

The Interim Clerk advised members that no work had been carried out, but it was hoped that something could be arranged. The Roads Service Technician wished to thank members for their input, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

E. Graemsay Car Parking – Island Games

Following consideration of correspondence from the Team Manager, Marine Planning, regarding the arrangements for the Graemsay residents parking area during the Island Games, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney Island Games – Road Closures

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney 2025 Organising Committee advising of the events and associated road closures during the Island Games, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Community Housing – CC Support

Following consideration of correspondence from the Island of Hoy Development Trust requesting a letter of support for the purchase of the School House, it was:

Resolved that a letter of support should be provided to the Trust for the project.

C. Rackwick Car Park

Following consideration of correspondence from a visitor to the island regarding the Rackwick Car Park, it was:

Resolved to provide the correspondent with the email address of the Hoy Trust, as owners of the car park.

D. The Orkney Fund – Place Plan EOI Form

Correspondence from The Orkney Fund advising of possible funding for Local Place Plans had previously been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Communication of RTS Switch Off Information

Correspondence advising on the RTS Switch Off Information had previously been emailed to members for their consideration, and it was:

Resolved to note that there had been an overall lack of communication on this and that the deadline had been changed again.

F. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence advising members of the Annual Grant to be awarded to Graemsay, Hoy and Walls for this year, it was:

Resolved to note that an Annual Grant of £4,573.07 would be made to the account.

5. Consultations

A. Community Wealth Building Action Plan

Members had previously been emailed an invite to the Orkney Community Planning Partnership's Community Wealth Building Action Plan online meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Islands Payphone Removal Proposals

Following consideration of correspondence from the BT payphones team regarding the removal of two telephone kiosks, at Groat's Stores and Hoy Hotel, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council should look into the possibility of adopting the two telephone boxes for community use.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the community council's general finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £20,609.33 as at 23 June 2025.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to note the balances remaining for approval of £3,148.60 in the main capping limit, £743.00 in the additional capping limit and £719.00 in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 23 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £7,876.10.

7. Finance Requests

A. Longhope Sailing Club – Insurance

Members had been emailed a financial request from Longhope Sailing Club requesting assistance towards the annual insurance costs previously, which had been agreed by email, and it was:

Resolved to note that a grant of £962.33 had been awarded and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance had been applied for on the total cost.

B. Bag the Bruck

Members noted that a request had been received from Longhope Sailing Club and Graemsay Community Association for funding for taking part in the annual Bag the Bruck 2025, and it was:

Resolved to award funding of £150 each of the two groups for the annual Bag the Bruck and that an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance of £300.

C. Haey Hope Club – Lunch Club

Following consideration of a request from Haey Hope Club for financial assistance towards the local lunch club costs, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £700 towards the provision of the Haey Hope Club's lunches and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Members noted that the next Transport Forum was due to be held on 19 August and that any comments regarding the summer 2026 timetables should be addressed at this meeting. It was agreed that Mrs G Robertson would take on the role of Transport Representative and would attend the next Transport Forum meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Mrs G Robertson would take on the role of Transport Representative.
2. To advertise the Transport Representative's contact details on the local Facebook page.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there were no details to be reported.

C. Health and Care

Members discussed the format of the Joint Isles Health and Care teams meeting and suggested that it would be worthwhile if the Chair was to ask each representative if they had anything they wished to raise as sometimes it could be difficult to intervene. Members asked Ms L Crowson if she would be willing to be the Health and Care Representative on behalf of the community council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To suggest that the Chair encourage each representative to take part in the Joint Isles Health and Care meetings.
2. To note that Ms L Crowson agreed to be the Health and Care Representative.

9. Publications

The following publications had previously been emailed to members and were noted:

- VAO – Training and Funding – May and June 2025.

- OIC – Free Family Fun Day.
- Orkney Digital Voice Event.
- OIC – Childminding.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Collection of Aggregates

Members discussed an amount of aggregate that was still to pick up and a new allocation for 2025/2026, and it was:

Resolved

1. To note that the recipients of the allocation of aggregates to be collected had been advised to contact the haulier.
2. That a new allocation should be arranged for the 2025/2026 financial year.

B. Island Link Officer Post

The Interim Clerk advised that the post had recently gone through the vacancy panel and was due to be advertised soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. North Walls Centre SCIO

Following consideration of correspondence from North Walls Centre SCIO asking if members would consider providing a letter of support for their project for rejuvenating the tennis court as the school, it was:

Resolved that a letter of support should be provided.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would be held on 26 September 2025 in Graemsay.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:20.