

Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 13 November 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr A Garson, Ms M Byers Mr M Cockram, Mrs L Garson and Mr H Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mrs R Allen, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Eday Community Council held on 2 October 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs L Garson and seconded by Mr M Cockram, subject to the following amendments:

Item 5F – that “Eday Connection Project” be replaced with “SSEN Eday Connection Project”.

3. Matters Arising

A. Shelter at Linkspan

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this time.

B. Cattle Pens

It was advised that the consultant working on the Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 2 work might have a further update on this in January, and it was:

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this time.

C. Isles Haulier

No update was available and the haulier was not present to speak to this item. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that no update was available.
2. That the community council would encourage residents via the Eday Sound newsletter and Eday Scarfs Facebook page to advise of any problems, issues and good news stories regarding haulage to the island that they wished taken up with the haulier.

D. Use of the Community Council Funds

Discussion resumed about use of funding held by the community council. Mr H Thomson proposed allocating a portion of CCGS to subsidise residents' airfare costs to encourage greater participation in plane travel.

It was also suggested that Eday residents could also benefit from a Road Aggregate Scheme where they claim money back for their aggregate freight cost. It was agreed that funding remaining for the Scrap Car Scheme could be cancelled off and the funding put back into the pot towards a Road Aggregate Scheme. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a poster would be placed in the shop, the Eday Sound and the Eday Scarfs Facebook page to advertise a Road Aggregate scheme and inviting applications.
2. That clear guidance would be set and sent to applications to avoid miscommunication and confusion regarding what costs the scheme covers.
3. That remaining funding in CCGS reference 22303 (Scrap Car Scheme) would be cancelled off and transferred into the Road Aggregate Scheme (reference 22109).
4. That consideration would be given to running a Scrap Car Scheme in future.
5. That further consideration would be given as to how any scheme would be run to assist residents with the cost of plane travel to and from Eday.

E. Ad Hoc Flights

A copy of correspondence from OIC Transport had been sent round members, advising of the availability of Ad Hoc flights for Eday. Members agreed that the community needed to be aware of the availability of these flights, what they could be used for, and the procedure for requesting one, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of correspondence and that the Clerk would advertise the availability of Ad Hoc flights.

F. Eday Surgery

Members discussed the situation at the Eday Surgery, that there was still no secretary appointed, which was causing issues with reaching the surgery and booking appointments. Additionally, members were concerned regarding the shift rotas of the advanced nurse practitioners. It was believed that 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off might be too demanding for the nurses.

Members also raised that the residents were not being adequately informed about which nurse was on duty during specific weeks, nor are they notified in advance of the doctor's scheduled visits. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to that the Community Council Liaison Officer would contact the Head of Primary Care for more information regarding the Eday Surgery and the subsequent plan of action.

G. EV Charger Location

Members had previously advised that a location was required for a new public charger for the island, and it was:

Resolved that pictures of the preferred location would be taken and sent on to the relevant service.

H. School Car Park

Resolved to note that the car park at the school had been repaired and there was no major damage to the road or nearby areas.

I. Public bins

Resolved to note that there was no further update available.

4. Correspondence

A. Scapa Deep Water Quay Update

Members had previously been forwarded information from OIC with an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay project, advising that further information had been requested by a consultee and made available, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Weight Restrictions – Eday Pier

A copy of correspondence from OIC had previously been sent round members, advising that the limit at Eday Pier had been increased to 26 tonnes following further investigations. Members of the community council advised that they were concerned that the weight limit might not be taken seriously by members of the public and the restrictions not followed, and it was:

Resolved to raise the issue to the Harbour Master, via the business letter, suggesting appropriate signage.

C. Briefing Note – Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been sent round members, advising of a review of the budget for cutting grass in active and inactive burial grounds, and asking for the community council's response, it was:

Resolved

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Eday would like at least 6 cuts per year on both active and inactive burial grounds, however ideally 10 cuts per year would be provided by OIC.
3. That members also would like to include Pharay burial grounds in the grass cutting contracts.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Nordic Sea and Third Aircraft Timetables

Following discussion of correspondence in relation to Nordic Sea and third aircraft timetable, copies of which had been previously sent round members, it was:

Resolved:

1. To put forward the following suggestions:

- Third aircraft - it was proposed that Eday have a return plane service every day, with keeping timetable simple, to avoid confusion among residents and tourists.
- Nordic Sea – suggest that on Tuesday Nordic Sea to go straight to Eday instead to Stronsay first.
- Early Nordic Sea from Eday to Kirkwall on Saturdays, so children can attend activities in town. Also, to adjust the Saturday timetable, so the return journey does not take three hours.

2. That Mr H Thomson will attend a special meeting on 3 December to discuss the timetables.

B. Have Your Say on Tourism

Members had previously been sent information on workshops to gather views about tourism pressures and opportunities, to help shape the Council's Visitor Management Plan, to be held on 5, 6 and 11 November, and it was:

Resolve to note the correspondence and that the sessions had since passed.

C. EMEC – Section 36 Variation – Fall of Warness

Correspondence in relation to the EMEC's Section 36 Variation application for the Fall of Warness site had previously been sent round members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop

Correspondence in relation to workshops to discuss the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan had been previously sent round members, and it was:

Resolved to note the copy of correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Fund statement as at 29 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £12,497.82.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 29 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit was fully allocated, that there was £724.95 in the additional capping limit, and that the Island capping limit was fully allocated.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 29 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that £7,167.11 remained for allocation.

7. Financial Request - Eday Community Association

Mrs L Garson declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussion thereof.

ECA had put in a request for £90 towards a Christmas tree for Eday Community School. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £90 towards a Christmas tree for the school.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that transport matters had been raised at various points earlier in the meeting.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there had been some planning requests to change farmland to domestic use, and that the representative could provide a further update if required.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that there were no updates at the time.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – Training and Funding Update – November 2025.
- Letter from School Place – November 2025.
- PSTN Switch Off Information.

10. AOCB

A. Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

Members asked what would happen with the grass cutting for the kirkyards next year. The Community Council Liaison Officer offered to put together tender and advertise it. It was also noted that the community council owned mower required to be serviced, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise a tender once it was known what was happening with the budget for this work.

2. To note that it had been proposed that OIC would only pay for up to 6 cuts per year, and that the Community Council would be willing to pay for any additional ones over and above that, providing they knew the cost of the tender and what funding would be available from OIC.

3. That the mower would be booked with a mechanic in January or February for servicing so that it would be ready for the new season.

B. Eday Community School Grass Cutting

It had been noted that grounds in Eday Community School were usually overgrown in the summer, and members were advised that the school currently had no mower. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask for information, via the business letter, on who is responsible for grass cutting at the school grounds.

2. That the community council could help with covering some costs of the new mower or take responsibility for annual servicing, should the school request assistance with these costs.

C. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Resilience Meeting

It was noted that a meeting had been held on 3 November 2025 with relevant parties as currently there was no fire service on the island. It was also noted that residents had subsequently received letters from SFRS with general advice. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update letter and to monitor the situation.

D. Scottish Water Leak Issues

It had been noticed that incidents involving leaks from damaged or deteriorating pipes had become increasingly frequent on the island, and members suggested that this could affect the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service resilience plan. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that further investigation needs to be undertaken to inspect the Scottish Water infrastructure on the island and that this should be raised to relevant officers.

E. Ms M Byers Celebration

It was reported that Ms M Byers had received a champion award for the restoration work on Eday War Memorial. It was agreed that the community council should organise a celebratory event for the community where Ms M Byers can deliver a speech and show all her prizes. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would book the Heritage Centre for an event on 6 December.

2. That the community council would ask the Heritage Centre to prepare food for the event and would provide a general fund donation towards this.

F. Community Pool Table

It was noted that Eday Community Council had recently provided funding to Eday Community Association for a pool table. Members highlighted the importance of appropriate use and requested that clear rules be implemented, and an information plaque be installed on the table, and it was:

Resolved that no children under 16 were permitted to use the pool table and that an information plaque would be fixed to the pool table, paid for through general fund.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Eday Community Council would take place at 19:30 on Thursday, 5 February 2026 at Eday Heritage Centre.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:50.