

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Bruce Stuart, Ute Clackson Gary Flint-Elkins, Ken Snelson and Andrew Wilcox.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
- Cheryl Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant (via Teams).
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

- One member of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received by Cherrie Ellis and Councillors Heather Woodbridge and Stephen Clackson.

2. Election of Development Trust Representative

Following a report from the Chair and Development Trust Representative advising members of the role of the Development Trust Representative and a request for a member to consider taking on this role, it was:

Resolved to note that Gary Flint-Elkins be elected as the Development Trust Representative for Sanday Community Council.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Sanday Community Council held on 20 November 2025 was approved, being proposed by Ken Snelson and seconded by Bruce Stuart.

4. Matters Arising

A. Defibrillators

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the repair of the telephone kiosk door housing the defibrillator in Burness and further discussion with regards to the purchase of defibrillator pads, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the contractor needed a door closer and glass rivets for the panes in the door to complete the works.
2. To note that the ILO would contact the contractor to advise him to order the rivets as he had priced the rivets and found a cheaper supplier for them.
3. To note that the ILO would order the door closer and 3 sets of defibrillator pads for the 3 defibrillators in the phone kiosks.

B. Heritage Centre

Following a report from the Chair with an update on the sale of the Heritage Centre from the Sanday Community Council to the Sanday Development Trust, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would set up a meeting with the Community Development Officer at Sanday Development Trust to discuss how the sale was proceeding.

C. SSE Community Funding to Sanday Community Association

The ILO provided a report regarding a letter she had written to Sanday Community Association on 11 December 2025, and further reminders requesting an update on the funding they received to refurbish the Community Kitchen. There was further

discussion with regards to the School Parent Council Polycrub project, which had also received funding from the SSE Community Fund, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had still not received an update from the Sanday Community Association.
2. To note that the ILO would write a letter to the School Parent Council requesting an update on the funding they received.

D. War Memorial Cleaning

The ILO provided an update with regards to the cleaning of the War Memorial, advising members that she had contacted John G Corse Funeral Director in Kirkwall and had received a quote for the cleaning of the war memorial and the re-lettering of the names. There was further discussion on ways to raise funds to help with the costs for this work, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Andrew Wilcox would contact the Kirkwall and Stromness branch of the British Legion to ask them if there would be any funding available to help with this project.
2. To note that Andrew Wilcox discussed that the wreathes at the War Memorial needed tidying and that he would do that work.
3. To note Councillor Thomson's suggestion to members to advertise to the public asking if they would like their relatives' headstones cleaned and that this may help to share the transport and accommodation costs for John G Corse when they come out to Sanday to work on the War Memorial.
4. To note that Councillor Thomson advised members to enter the Best Kept War Memorial competition suggesting that this would be a good way to turn it into an event for possible fundraising for the War Memorial.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting Update

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the 2025 Christmas Tree Lighting held on Sunday 7 December, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the event had been successful and that the Tree lights were now back in the Link Office.
2. To note that the ILO would add an extra 2 bottles of mulled wine to the order for next year's event.
3. To note that the gospel choir sang at the event and this was a great addition to the evening.

5. Correspondence

A. Service User Representative

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board, who were looking for volunteers to join the Board, to represent the views of service users, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. EASE App

Following consideration of correspondence from the Business Manager for the Scottish Union of Supported Employment, with regards to their development of an App to support disabled people when in work, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had advertised this item on Facebook.

C. Sanday Wreck

Following consideration of an email trail between a Dr Tom Welsh and the Orkney Archives department with regards to the Sanday Wreck, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would update the Heritage Groups Representative on this correspondence.

D. Community Transport Small Grant Scheme

Following consideration from the Transportation Planner, Marine Services and Transportation Enterprise and Resources with regards to the Community Transport Small Grant Scheme for the financial year 2026/2027, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had passed on this information to the Sanday Afternoon Club and the Sanday Community Association.

E. ED3 Think Tank in collaboration with British Red Cross and Kidney Care UK

Following consideration of correspondence from the Customer Vulnerability and Communities Lead at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) with regards to a Think Tank session focusing on how to evolve the Priority Service Register to better support customers in collaboration with British Red Cross and Kidney Care UK, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. European Marine Energy Centre Ltd

Following consideration of correspondence from the Marine Licensing and Consenting Casework Officer at Licensing Operations Team, Marine Directorate with regards to the Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site, where they are planning to increase the size of the site, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Nordic Sea Winter Timetable - 29 December to 31 January 2026

Following discussion with regards to the Nordic Sea Timetable and consideration of the new 2026 summer timetable, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would advertise the new timetable widely stating that feedback from the public should go via the Transport Representative.

6. Consultations

A. Follow - Up Meeting – Nordic Sea/Third Aircraft Timetables

Following discussion of the consultation with regards to the draft Nordic Sea and Third Aircraft timetables, and a subsequent meeting with CC Transport Representatives, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there had been timetabling issues with the third aircraft, as all islands had their own suggestions and requests for the service.
2. To note that the planes would be constrained by the pilot's working hours.
3. To note that the Transport Representative had attended the meeting on 3 December 2025 to discuss possible timetables for both services.

B. Draft Winter 2026-2027 Ferry Timetables

Following consideration of the Draft Winter 2026-2027 Ferry Timetables, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that most of the members were not happy with the timetables as there was still not enough time to catch boats on onwards connections.
2. To note that Stagecoach would not move on their timetables.
3. To note that Andrew Wilcox had filled out an excel sheet with all possible connections and the failure of the timetables to achieve positive connections, and that he would send his excel sheet to the ILO to pass on to Orkney Islands Council.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that she had made her points earlier in the meeting.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report in relation to planning.

C. Development Trust Representative

The Sanday Development Trust Representative gave a report advising members of the success of the Sanday Planning Day held at 59 Degrees North with regards to the priorities and structure to get the major projects of the ground, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £16,458.15.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £2,930.90.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was fully allocated, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £780.00 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £304.95.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £10,806.34.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,689.79.

F. Sanday Future Fund

Following discussion with regards to the Sanday Future Fund and obtaining financial advice with investing for the future, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Councillor Thomson suggested that members discuss the Future Fund with the previous Chair as she would have more information in relation to how it works, as well as Councillor Clackson who was the Chair to the Community Council when the Future Fund was set up.
2. To note that the ILO would get in touch with the previous Chair to discuss.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Sanday Community Council – Book Publication

Following consideration of an application from Sanday Community Council on behalf of Roderick Thorne regarding the publishing of a community book recording the preparations and events leading up to the 75th North Isles Sports, it was:

Resolved that £3,350.00 be awarded from the Spurness Community Fund.

B. Friends of Sanday Kirk

Following consideration of an application from the Friends of Sanday Kirk regarding the purchase of stackable chairs to allow the church's floor space to be utilised by all groups, it was:

Resolved that £1,943.00 be awarded from the Spurness Community Fund.

C. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Cy Gardner (Sanday Sweatworks)

Following consideration of an application from Cy Gardner requesting financial assistance towards the cost of hall hire and equipment to run circuit training sessions, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

2. Ruben Schofield

Following consideration of an application from Ruben Schofield requesting financial assistance towards the cost of accommodation on Friday evenings to attend the Sea Cadets in Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

3. Howard Hardiman

Following consideration of an application from Howard Hardiman requesting financial assistance towards the cost of attending a writing workshop run by the literary magazine Granta, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

4. Jo Walker

Following consideration of an application from Jo Walker requesting financial assistance towards the cost of hall hire at the Kirk and photocopying to run Chi Kung classes, it was:

Resolved that £300 would be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – December 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – December 2025.
- Letters from School Place – November and December 2025 to January 2026.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – December 2025.
- Community Councils Scotland Newsletter – Christmas 2025.
- Near Me Appointments – December 2025.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – November 2025.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Police Scotland

Following a report from Gary Flint-Elkins and further discussion with regards to the recent fatal road traffic accident, the lack of policing on the island, and the absence of a special constable, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the ILO would contact Orkney Islands Council with regards to getting in touch with Police Scotland to ask them to write an article for the Sanday Sound Newsletter informing residents of the road safety laws, including road tax and insurance and to submit regular newsletters for the Sanday Sound going forward.
2. To note that members requested that the local Police come out to Sanday on a regular basis to check up on vehicles.
3. To note that Councillor Thomson would contact Chief Inspector Scott Robinson with regards to the lack of Special Constables on the isles.

B. Twinning

Following a report from the Vice Chair with regards to Town Twinning, it was:

Resolved to note that he had attended a Teams meeting with Inga Burton and Svein Johnsen and was awaiting an update.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Sanday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 19 March 2026, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:40.