

Minute

General Meeting of the Council

Wednesday, 6 May 2026, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, David Dawson, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, Raymond S Peace, John A R Scott, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Duncan A Tullock and Heather N Woodbridge.

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Ivan A Taylor and Owen Tierney.

Clerk

- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Corporate Governance.

In Attendance

- Oliver D Reid, Chief Executive.
- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Lorna Richardson, Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.
- Gareth Waterson, Director of Enterprise and Resources.
- James Wylie, Director of Education, Communities and Housing.
- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

Observing

- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Graham A Bevan, Convener.

1. Licensing Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 5 March 2026

On the motion of Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Kristopher D Leask, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 5 March 2026 as a true record.

2. General Meeting of the Council

Minute of Meeting held on 10 March 2026

On the motion of Councillor Graham A Bevan, seconded by Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the General Meeting of the Council held on 10 March 2026 as a true record.

3. Planning Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 24 March 2026

On the motion of Councillor Owen Tierney, seconded by Councillor David Dawson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 March 2026 as a true record.

4. Planning Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 25 March 2026

On the motion of Councillor Owen Tierney, seconded by Councillor Duncan A Tullock, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 March 2026 as a true record.

Councillor P Lindsay Hall joined the meeting at this point.

5. Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 31 March 2026

On the motion of Councillor Kristopher D Leask, seconded by Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee held on 31 March 2026 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee held on 31 March 2026.

6. Education, Communities and Housing Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 1 April 2026

On the motion of Councillor Ivan A Taylor, seconded by Councillor Graham A Bevan, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Education, Communities and Housing Committee held on 1 April 2026 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Education, Communities and Housing Committee held on 1 April 2026.

7. Local Review Body

Minute of Meeting held on 2 April 2026

On the motion of Councillor Owen Tierney, seconded by Councillor David Dawson, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Local Review Body held on 2 April 2026 as a true record.

8. Monitoring and Audit Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 2 April 2026

On the motion of Councillor P Lindsay Hall, seconded by Councillor Gillian Skuse, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Monitoring and Audit Committee held on 2 April 2026 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Monitoring and Audit Committee held on 2 April 2026.

9. Policy and Resources Committee

Minute of Meeting held on 21 April 2026

On the motion of Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, the Council resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 April 2026 as a true record.

The Council thereafter resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 April 2026.

10. Integration Joint Board – Appointment of Voting Members

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Corporate Governance, the Council:

Resolved:

10.1. That the following members be reappointed to the Integration Joint Board for the period to May 2027:

- Councillor Rachael A King.
- Councillor P Lindsay Hall.
- Councillor Jean E Stevenson.

10.2. That Councillor Rachael A King be reappointed as Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board for a period of one year to May 2027.

10.3. That the following members be reappointed as proxies to the Integration Joint Board for the period to May 2027:

- Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson.
- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

11. Orkney Ferries Limited – Proposed Implementation of Fuel Surcharge

After consideration of a report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources, copies of which had been circulated, Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor David Dawson, moved that:

- A fuel surcharge be introduced by Orkney Ferries Limited, set to recover approximately 25% of the over-budget fuel costs, through the application of a 10% surcharge to all passenger and commercial fares.
- Powers be delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources to reduce or remove the surcharge in the event of a material reduction in fuel prices.

Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, moved an amendment that:

- A fuel surcharge be introduced by Orkney Ferries Limited, set to recover approximately 25% of the over-budget fuel costs, through the application of a 10% surcharge to all passenger and commercial fares.
- Powers be delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources to reduce or remove the surcharge in the event of a material reduction in fuel prices.
- The surcharge outlined above should only be implemented from 1 July 2026, should sufficient additional support from Scottish or UK Government not be made available to cover the additional cost above budget and anticipated future cost of fuel going forward for as long as fuel prices remained high.

The result of a recorded vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Owen Tierney and Heather N Woodbridge (17).

For the Motion:

Councillors David Dawson, Raymond S Peace, Gillian Skuse and Duncan A Tullock (4).

The Amendment was therefore carried and the Council thereafter:

Resolved:

11.1. That a fuel surcharge be introduced by Orkney Ferries Limited, set to recover approximately 25% of the over-budget fuel costs, through the application of a 10% surcharge to all passenger and commercial fares.

11.2. That powers be delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources to reduce or remove the surcharge, referred to at paragraph 11.1 above, in the event of a material reduction in fuel prices.

11.3. That the surcharge, outlined in paragraph 11.1 above, should only be implemented from 1 July 2026, should sufficient additional support from Scottish or UK Government not be made available to cover the additional cost above budget and anticipated future cost of fuel going forward for as long as fuel prices remained high.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:20 the Convener declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Graham A Bevan.