

Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 20 February 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr A Garson, Mr M Cockram, Mrs L Garson, Mr A Jones and Mr T McCabe.

In Attendance:

- Mr G Baxter, Director of Development, Green Power.
- Mr N Forrest, Head of Development, Green Power.
- Mr S Layton, Project Manager, Green Power.
- Ms R Liddicoat, Consultation Adviser, Green Power.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk (via Teams).

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Miss M Byers and Mr H Thomson and Councillors H Woodbridge and S Clackson.

2. Presentation – Green Power International

Representatives of Green Power International were in attendance to provide a presentation and answer questions on the Neven Point Wind Farm project.

They provided information on the background to the project, previous consultations, and where they were now with plans. They shared plans to show the location of the five 180m turbines, and also of the proposed jetty to the southeast of Eday Pier, which would help protect and maintain the ferry service. It was explained that they had moved the turbines as far away from residences as possible, and that they planned to connect to the new Orkney-mainland grid in 2030. Representatives of Green Power International also shared initial ideas around any potential community benefit, including an energy discount scheme for residents of Eday.

Members had queries around the construction phase, how the jetty would get to site, and also how to accommodate workers during this time. Flicker effect and the community benefit aspect was also discussed.

Following discussion, the Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that further consultation would follow.

The Green Power representatives left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Eday Community Council held on 26 September 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr T McCabe and seconded by Mr A Garson.

4. Matters Arising

A. First Responders

Councillor M Thomson advised that there had recently been a local meeting to try and recruit more first responders, but that it had raised no interest. She further reported that Scottish Ambulance Service were still proposing to roll out the volunteer model and not to pay first responders but offer more training. There was a lot of resistance to this proposal amongst current first responders, and that they would be monitoring this going forward. It was suggested that perhaps this is something that could be funded locally should community benefit from renewables become available. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to keep this item on the agenda and await further information.

B. Pier Toilets/Waiting Room

Councillor M Thomson advised that she had spoken to Marine Services and that officers would be willing to attend a future meeting to discuss what could be done to improve facilities at the pier, including the cattle pens. It was also discussed that they could discuss with the community council the proposals that Green Power had submitted, and it was:

Resolved to invite representatives from Marine Services to discuss the pier facilities, including the cattle pens and Green Power proposals.

C. Cattle Pens

Resolved that this item had been discussed as part of item 4B above and that it should be kept on the agenda.

D. Isles Haulier

Members advised that issues were still ongoing, no improvements had been made to the service and that there had been a recent price increase for haulage. Councillor M Thomson advised that Eday Partnership were keen to have a meeting with the haulier, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would endeavour to arrange a separate meeting, in person, with the haulier, to allow the community council to discuss ongoing issues with the haulier service, and that Eday Partnership should also be invited to any meeting.

E. War Memorial Refurbishment

It was noted that members had previously agreed, via email, to fund the full cost of having the lettering on the war memorial regilded and the memorial cleaned. The Interim Clerk advised that Miss M Byers had been in contact with a contractor who had supplied a quote, and that they had been advised to proceed with the works. The Interim Clerk suggested that she would contact the contractor again to ensure that this work could be completed and invoiced within this financial year. It was also suggested that a separate quote would be required for the repair of the steps and railings, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members had agreed to fund the full cost of the war memorial refurbishment, being cleaning of the memorial and regilding.
2. That the Interim Clerk would contact the contractor about having the works done as soon as possible.
3. That the Interim Clerk would contact a separate contractor about the refurbishment of the railings and steps around the war memorial.

F. Access to Pier Steps

Members advised that this issue had improved, and that they would move the vessel if asked to. It was also reported that the Council was in the process of applying for a licence to dredge the area at Eday Pier, amongst other areas, and that this work would be happening in due course. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Parking at Eday Pier

Members advised that the parking situation was better, as some of the scrap cars had been removed and there were less contractor vans being left in this area. It was also advised that it was planned to extend the parking area which would allow more vehicles to be parked next to the cattle pens. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the parking situation had improved at the head of Eday Pier.

5. Correspondence

A. Winter Service Plan 2024-2025 Comments

Members had previously been sent comments from Roads Support in relation to the responses from community councils to the Winter Service Plan consultation which had been done over the winter period, and it was:

Resolved to note that the request to change the priority of the road to The Green to a priority 2 had been submitted and that Education still needed to confirm that there were children on that route but that any amendments would be made later in the season when confirmation had been received.

B. Orkney Community Wind Farms Project Update

Following consideration of correspondence from the Strategic Projects Director regarding the Orkney Community Wind Farms project, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. MyOrkney

Members had been previously sent information on MyOrkney, where members of the public could report faults, make payments and apply for services. It was reported that some individuals on the island had already used the portal to log repairs and nothing had been done about the issues, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That anyone who had not received a response to logging an issue should be advised to flag this with Orkney Islands Council.

D. R100 Broadband Evaluation

Following consideration of correspondence from Stantec, the R100 Broadband Evaluation Team, asking for feedback on the programme, it was:

Resolved to ask the relevant officer if it would be possible to arrange an on-island community event to discuss the programme and the PSTN switch off.

E. VAO – Small Grants Scheme

Members considered correspondence from VAO regarding funding available to groups for small projects or activities to help their community, and it was:

Resolved that members would consider some projects that they could apply to the fund towards.

6. Consultations

A. PAN Notice – Neven Point Wind Farm

A Proposal of Application Notice by Neven Point Wind Limited had previously been circulated to members, advising of their intention to submit a full application to the local authority for planning permission for a wind farm, as discussed at item 2 above, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Private Water Supply Research

Members had previously been sent information on a research project and survey in relation to private water supplies in Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to display this survey on the community noticeboard should any residents wish to complete.

C. Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies

Resolved to note that this consultation had closed on 15 November 2024.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the proposed VMP for 2025, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make.

E. PAN Notice – Neven Point Wind Farm (Landing Point)

Resolved to note the PAN notice which had previously been circulated to members, in relation to the planned jetty at the south end of the island, to service the proposed wind farm development previously discussed at item 2.

F. Trees and Woodland Strategy

Resolved to note that information had been received on the consultative draft of the Orkney Islands Council Trees and Woodland Strategy and that no comments had been put forward.

G. SFRS Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Members had previously been sent information on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2025-2028 consultation. It was noted that there were local issues with low numbers available and willing to go through all the necessary training that was involved, and that this needed to be highlighted, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation would close on 2 April 2025 and that members could complete this individually.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Eday Community Council as at 10 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £12,697.89.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Eday Community Council as at 10 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balances of £1,139.02 and £765 in the main and additional capping limits, and that the island capping limit had already been fully allocated.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement for Eday Community Council as at 10 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that £7,667.11 remained available for allocation to eligible projects.

8. Financial Requests

A. Eday School – Christmas Tree

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed, via email, to provide funding towards the Christmas Tree and that £93.15 had been funded through CCGS.

B. Eday School – P7 Hoy Trip

Members considered a request from Eday Community School, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the cost of two primary 7 pupils and one adult to take part in a school trip to Hoy. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award for the travel within Orkney, subject to CCGS approval.

C. Island Games Banners

Members considered correspondence from the Island Games Organising Committee, advising that each school in Orkney would be making a banner for a visiting team, which would be displayed in the Pickaquoy Centre before being handed back to the school to keep, and it was:

Resolved to award £200, subject to CCGS approval.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Chair advised that he had attended the recent Transport Forum meeting and that there had been a lot of talk about new system coming into place, books of tickets and discount received, working on new concession tickets. Councillor M Thomson advised that the Nordic Sea was being well used and would continue to be deployed on the north isles' routes. She also advised that the PSO contract had recently been awarded to Loganair and that ad hoc flights had been added to the contract for the first time. A third plane was also discussed, with a potential increase to Eday. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning

Resolved to note planning approval for the new airfield building.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that another meeting was due to take place on 4 March 2025.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – September, October and December 2024 and January 2025.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – October, November and December 2024 and January and February 2025.
- Loganair Statistics to October 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – October, November and December 2024.
- SRA Newsletter – November and December 2024.
- Letter from School Place – October, November and December 2024 and January 2025.
- Transportation Service Infographic.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Resolved to note that nothing was raised at this item.

12. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Eday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 15 May 2025 at Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:15.