

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in the Orphir Community School on Tuesday, 26 August 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr M Clouston, Mrs B Clubley, Mr J Mackay, Mr A Marwick and Mr N Sclater.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor I Taylor.
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Infrastructure Services.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr S Pyke and Councillor K Leask.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Appointment of Chair

Resolved that Mr M Clouston be appointed Chair of Orphir Community Council.

Mr Clouston took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

B. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that Mr N Sclater be appointed Vice Chair of Orphir Community Council.

C. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that Mrs B Clubley be appointed Planning Representative of Orphir Community Council.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Orphir Community Council held on 27 May 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr M Clouston and seconded by Mr J Mackay.

4. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter, Smoogro Road End

The Chair advised members that the concrete plinth had been put in place and that an invoice should be received soon for the work. He also advised that the Men's Shed had agreed to make the shelter however this would require to be chased up with a hope to have the shelter in place before the onset of winter, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair was to contact the Men's Shed regarding the shelter.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre Refurbishment

The Chair advised members that he was to meet on site with the contractor soon and it was hoped that the work would begin in October, when the Centre closed. It was hoped that the structural work would be completed by Christmas which would allow the painters to commence work after the New Year. It was also noted that the total project cost may well increase due to delays in the work being undertaken. The Interim Clerk advised that the Caretaker had reported that the hoover had broken down, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report from the Chair.

2. That a new Hoover should be purchased for the Centre at a cost of up to £300, and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.

C. Road Speed Limits and Road Safety

After hearing a report from the Chair advising members that the audit had been undertaken and completed and that no comments had been received, it was:

Resolved to remove the item from the agenda.

D. OIC Winter Treatment Contracts

The Chair advised members that no names had been forwarded for the contracts and that members should continue to log any issues over the winter, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

E. Ward Hill Turbine Application

Members considered correspondence from Mr M Spence regarding the community benefit payment and advising that due to various factors the decision had been made not to index link the benefit to be provided however would plan to provide support direct to local charitable organisations. He also advised that they may consider offering a public meeting once an accurate timetable for the whole construction process was known, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the community council would offer to assist with setting up a public meeting if required.

5. Correspondence

A. The Orkney Fund - Place Plan EOI Forms

Following consideration of correspondence from The Orkney Fund Board inviting organisations to complete an Expression of Interest to explore funding for the provision of a Local Place Plan, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the deadline for application had passed however should the funding become available again an application could be submitted.

2. To include Local Place Plan for Orphir on the next Agenda.

B. Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence, which had previously been emailed, advising of an online feedback session on 24 June, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the event had already been.

C. Annual Grants 2025/2026

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising of the annual grants for 2025/2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the annual grant for Orphir Community Council was £3,890.88.

D. FRP and Harbours Masterplan Phase 2

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services advising on the commencement of the Ferry Replacement Programme and Orkney Harbours Master Plan Phase 2, it was:

Resolved to invite Mrs A Byers, consultant, to the next Orphir Community Council meeting.

6. Consultations

A. Ayre Offshore Windfarm – PAC Events

Following consideration of the Ayre Offshore Windfarm correspondence advising that a marine licence application would be submitted later in the year, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Orkney Islands Payphone Removal Proposals

Following consideration of correspondence from BT advising that it was planned to remove the phone box opposite Kirk Park, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

C. OIC (20mph Speed Limit)

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the OIC (20mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads on Orkney Mainland and Isles) Order 2025, members agreed that road safety was an issue in the parish and were happy with the proposals, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the consultation and that a letter of support should be forwarded.

D. Our Orkney, Our Future

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the “Our Orkney, Our Future” project launched to gather tourist information, it was:

Resolved to note that members could respond individually to the document if they wished.

7. Financial Statements

A. Annual Accounts 2024/2025

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 annual accounts for Orphir Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the accounts.

B. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Orphir Community Council as at 13 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £27,381.85.

C. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

Following consideration of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre fund statement as at 13 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £49,439.60.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 13 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining approval for the 2025/2026 period in the capping limit was £1,119.68.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 13 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £18,755.42 available to allocate to projects.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 13 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £2,606 available to allocate to projects.

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

Resolved to note that no applications for financial assistance had been received.

9. Publications

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

- OIC – Free Family Fun Day – 15 June 2025.

- VAO – Volunteering Special Newsletter – June 2025.
- VAO – Newsletter – June and July 2025.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – June and July 2025.
- RTS Switch Off Information.
- Childminder Training Information.
- Scottish Rural Action – Newsletter – August 2025.

10. AOCB

A. Viking Longship

Members were advised that members of the public had been asking about the longship that used to be at the Orkneyinga Saga Centre, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would make some enquiries locally about the possibility of having a longship commissioned for the Centre and report back to the next meeting.

B. Remembrance Wreaths

The Interim Clerk asked if members would wish to fund the cost of £36.20 for a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day this year, and it was:

Resolved that members would fund the cost of £36.20 for the wreath and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 28 October 2025 at 19:30 in Orphir Community School.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:05.