

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 20 November 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Bruce Stuart, Gary Flint-Elkins and Ken Snelson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Mellissa Thomson.
- Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

- Three members of the public.

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1. Apologies

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

2. Election of Health and Care Representative

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

Resolved to note that Ken Snelson be elected as the Health and Care Representative.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 25 September 2025 was approved, being proposed by Bruce Stuart and seconded by Ken Snelson.

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 after a request from the Vice-Chair asking if a second defibrillator could be put in the south end of the island, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the contractor had contacted the ILO to advise her that the installation of the door in the Burness phone kiosk was delayed due to the door frame in the kiosk being no longer square with no adjustment in the frame, meaning that he would have to plane down the door to fit, plus make up shims.
2. To note that the Chair mentioned about a possible cardio caddy for the south end, and the ILO advised members that the first cardio caddy was purchased due to the fundraising efforts of the whole island, and a donation from the Saddle Club, which altogether cost £4,056.00 not including the installation costs.
3. To note that member Gary Flint-Elkins mentioned about the possibility of classes for the islanders on how to use a defibrillator. The ILO advised members that she advertises on the defibrillator maps the opportunity for residents to contact her for training. The ILO advised members that she has a video on how to use the iPad SP1 defibrillators and would forward the video on to the members.

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:

1. To note that the Chair had spoken to the Community Development Officer (CDO) at Sanday Development Trust (SDT) to discuss that the sale price would be £4,800 which was the price the SDT paid for the building when they first took out the lease on it.
2. That the Chair would contact the CDO to advise him to go ahead with arranging the sale.

C. 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 asking for a quote for the work, and it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had not received a quote before the meeting date and would send it over to the members once she received it.

D. Recycling Unit

Following a report from the Chair with regards to a request from members to move the recycling unit from Kettletoft Pier to the car park at the Heritage Centre and a comment regarding local businesses disposing of commercial recycling there, causing the unit to be filled up quickly, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Orkney Islands Council would not be prepared to move the recycling unit again after being removed from the Heritage Centre car park originally.
2. That the ILO would write to the local businesses with regards to recycling.

E. TRI-CE Meeting

Following a report from the Chair who had attended the TRI-CE meeting on Wednesday, 12 November 2025 via Teams, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Sanday Development Trust (SDT) would be paying for photos telling the story of Kettletoft to be displayed in the windows of Kettletoft Stores.
2. To note that SDT would like to purchase the field next to the Sanday Men's Shed which is the property of Marine Services at Orkney Islands Council to turn it into a communal park.
3. To note that the Men's Shed would be advertising for tenders to tidy up the area around the Men's Shed.
4. To note that Jake Ghaleb, as part of his role within the SDT community garden, was growing the grasses for the Dunes Project and the Men's Shed have built the troughs the grasses would be grown in.

5. To note that the next TRI-CE meeting would be held via Teams in May 2026 and that they would be holding these meetings twice a year instead of quarterly.

F. Tender for the Cross Kirkyard Shed Door

Following consideration of the one tender received to fix the Cross Kirkyard shed door, it was:

Resolved to note that the tender from Mr A Simpson was successful.

G. EV Charger

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the siting of an EV charger for public use at a location in Sanday, it was:

Resolved to note that it was agreed that the EV charger would be sited at the Sanday Airfield.

5. Correspondence

A. Air Services

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Service Manager, Transportation, with regards to the Loganair timetable, a third aircraft and the proposal of what can be achieved with an additional pilot and engineer in the system and the costs involved, it was:

Resolved to note that members were happy with the proposals.

B. Ferry Replacement Programme

An update had been received on the Ferry Replacement Programme, following a public consultation event that had been held in Sanday on 27 September, and members discussed the estimated time for the first ferry being in service, following the tender for the building of the new ferries being issued. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that three new vessels were proposed for the Outer North Isles of Sanday, Stronsay, Eday and Westray, with a separate vessel planned for North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray to be progressed later in the programme.
2. To note that there would be more capacity on the new 60m vessels, with three vehicle lanes as opposed to two and the ability to carry additional freight than the existing fleet.
3. To note that one of the Earls would be retained to provide services to North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray during the period of the build programme.

C. Scapa Deep Water Quay Update

Following consideration of correspondence from the Technical Advisor Team, Arch Henderson LLP, with regards to the Scapa Deep Water Quay, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Cross Kirkyard

Following a report from the ILO with regards to correspondence received from the family of a grave, thanking the Community Council for the condition of the kirkyards in the 2025 grass cutting season, and further discussion with regards to the new commercial strimmer purchased for the 2025 grass cutting season having broken down four times, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the correspondence.
2. That, as the strimmer was still under warranty, the ILO would contact the company the strimmer was purchased from to arrange a replacement.

E. Orkney Coastal Change Adaption Plan

Following consideration of correspondence in relation to the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan online introduction event held on 11 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. Transport Scotland Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 Public

Following consideration of the Transport Scotland Northern Isles Ferry Statistics 4 Public consultation, closing date 13 October 2025, which was widely advertised by the ILO, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

B. Survey on Impact of Coastal Change

Following consideration of the survey on Impact of Coastal Change, which was widely advertised by the ILO, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

C. European Marine Energy Centre – Section 36 Variation – Fall of Warness, EMEC, Orkney

Following consideration of the consultation on the European Marine Energy Centre - Section 36 Variation at the Fall of Warness, Eday, Orkney, which the ILO widely publicised, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

D. Follow-Up Meeting - Nordic Sea and Third Aircraft Timetables

Following discussion with regards to the follow-up Meeting with Transport Representatives regarding the proposed Nordic Sea and Third Aircraft timetables, the deadline for comments being 1 December 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that as the Transport Representative was not present at the meeting that the ILO would email her to remind her of the closing date for comments and the subsequent meeting on 3 December 2025.

E. Briefing Note - Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

Following consideration of the Briefing Note from the Service Manager of Roads and Grounds with regards to the Burial Grounds Grass Cutting cuts per season reducing to a proposed six grass cuts instead of the current eight, it was:

Resolved to note that members were not happy with the 3 options proposed in the briefing note and that the ILO would forward the members comments to Orkney Islands Council opposing the reduction in grass cuts by the deadline of 28 November 2025.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative was not present at the meeting therefore there was nothing to report.

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 various projects being undertaken by the Trust at present, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

D. Health and Care Representative

Following a report from the Chair with regards to Health and Care matters, and his previous dealings in relation to the prospect of installing a Changing Places Toilet in Sanday, it was:

Resolved to note that a Changing Places Toilet would now be installed as part of the Care for Sanday project with the Sanday Development Trust and will be designed into the overall build, meaning that it would cost less than the £54,000 price tag quoted for standalone modular units.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £18,463.87.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 5 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £4,135.40.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 November 2025, 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 5 November 2025, 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 5 November 2025, it was:

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

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. North Isles Sports Book - Roderick Thorne

Following consideration of an application from Roderick Thorne regarding the publishing of a book about the North Isles Sports, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members agreed to apply to the Spurness Community Fund on behalf of Roderick Thorne with the funds from the sale of book to go back into the Community Councils funds for community use.
2. To note that the ILO would complete the application form on behalf of the Community Council.

B. Donation to Sanday Men's Shed

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the Sanday Men's Shed constructing wooden planters for the War Memorial, it was:

Resolved to note that a donation of £100 would be awarded from the General Fund.

C. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Charlotte Hoque

Following consideration of an application from Charlotte Hoque requesting financial assistance towards the cost to produce a free Christmas ballet performance on Saturday, 6 December 2025, it was:

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

2. Harrison Hough

Following consideration of an application from Harrison Hough requesting financial assistance towards the cost of dance exams and dance uniform, it was:

Resolved that £135 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

3. Evelyn Hough

Following consideration of an application from Evelyn Hough requesting financial assistance towards the cost of dance exams and uniform, it was:

Resolved that £119 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

4. Sanday Community Association

Following consideration of an application from Sanday Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the cost of a deep clean of the community room floor and the upholstered chairs, it was:

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

5. Ollie Skea

Following consideration of an application from Ollie Skea requesting financial assistance towards the cost of a dance uniform and dance lessons on Sanday, it was:

Resolved that £50 be awarded for a dance uniform from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

6. Therapy Through Horses CIC

Following consideration of an application from Therapy Through Horses CIC requesting financial assistance towards the cost of PPE for one volunteer, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Chair would contact the applicant for clarification on the application.

B. That an email decision could be made once clarification had been received, which would be recorded at the next meeting.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – October and November 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – November 2025.
- Letters from School Place – October 2025.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – October 2025.
- Community Councils Scotland Newsletter – Autumn 2025.

11. Any Other Competent Business - Twinning

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

Resolved to note that he had been in touch with the Community Learning and Development Officer, Orkney Islands Council, and would be meeting with her on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 to discuss Twinning with Bergen instead of the Faroe Islands, which had first been suggested.

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, 22 January 2026, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:08.