

Minute of the Meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held in the Burray Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 17 March 2026 at 19:30

Present:

Mr R Jackson, Mr A Konstam, Mr I Laird, Ms K Sinclair (via Teams), Mr D Ward and Ms F Lawtie.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Peace.
- Councillor G Skuse.
- Councillor J Moar.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Ms S Jessen, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr R Bland.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held on 28 January 2026 was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Konstam and seconded by Mr D Ward.

3. Matters Arising

A. Orkney Community Connect

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that the project was still in operation and that an update would be requested following completion. Members wished to note that they had previously highlighted the requirement of the bus service being extended to include the Tomb of Eagles as part of the route, and it was:

Resolved to convey members wish to have the Tomb of the Eagles included in the bus service delivery.

B. Local Place Plan(s)

The Chair advised that the Local Place Plan was being taken forward by the South Ronaldsay Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

C. Bus Shelters in St Margaret's Hope

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC advising members that following a period of discussion back and forth with the Community Council, it was noted that they would rather not have a bus shelter positioned in the Hope if it were to be located in the proximity of Braeburn Court. The recommended locations suggested by the CC were not suitable as the land was either not owned by the Council or the location was deemed unsuitable by the roads team. It was therefore agreed that the shelter would be relocated to another community for 2025/2026.

Members were advised, as they had been at previous meetings, that inconsiderate parking on Church Road made it challenging for bus drivers to serve this area. OIC had appealed to the community council previously and there had also been several articles in the paper over the years noting the challenges. Members were further reminded that whilst there were no plans to change the registration to amend the route, if the operator continues to have challenges serving this area, then OIC may be forced to amend the route going forward. However, it was noted that there had been no recent report of problems.

It was also advised that the bus shelter in Burray was the responsibility of Transportation Services. Any maintenance issues should be reported to this service area for repair going forward, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members wished for it to be noted the suggested location of a bus shelter at the new road was made by Orkney Islands Council and not the Community Council.
2. To note that the CC's preferred location for a bus shelter would be on a road that was confirmed to be owned by OIC.
3. To note that OIC had previously provided draft drawings for the shelter at the location the community council had identified and preferred, at the top of Church Road.
4. To note that the landowner had been approached regarding the siting of the bus shelter at the above location and had advised it would be preferred not to have it located outside their property.
5. That members were of the opinion that OIC's desire would be to situate the shelter on the new road.
6. To ask Orkney Islands Council to do a land search to ascertain ownership of the land at the top of Church Road.
7. That members wished to pursue the siting of a bus shelter where the community wished to have it.
8. That this matter should be included in the Local Place Plan work as an aspiration of the community.

D. Smiddy Museum

Ms F Lawtie updated member on the funding of the upgrade of the Smiddy Museum with £3,000 being awarded from the Culture Fund and £5,000 agreed from the Community Council's CDF allocation towards the total project cost of £8,000. She also advised that a quote had been received for the provision of the viewing window, however this would not be progressed until such time as a funding package was secured. Members felt that another quote should be secured for the provision of the viewing window. As part of raising funds, a week's slot from 31 October to 1 November had been arranged in the Pop of Shop, for which volunteers would be required to cover the shifts.

It was agreed that the Smiddy Museum would be opened on 1 May 2026 and that an advertisement should be put up locally and on social media for a caretaker, with a closing date of 13 April 2026. It was also suggested that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for to cover the curator costs.

It was also suggested that an updated QR code should be placed in the Smiddy once it was open.

The Interim Clerk advised members that the electricity meter in the Smiddy was not working and that this had been reported to SSE who subsequently advised that it would be replaced with a smart meter. This problem has created estimated invoices which SSE have agreed to put on hold until the smart meter is fitted, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £3,000 funding had been awarded from the Culture Fund.
2. That further funding was being sought for the viewing window.
3. To note that a slot had been booked in Pop Hup show for 31 October to 1 November 2026.
4. That the Smiddy would be opened on 1 May.
5. That a Caretaker/Custodian should be appointed and that adverts should be placed locally and on social media.
6. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the total cost for the Caretake//Custodian.
7. To ask Democratic Services for an updated QR code which should be placed in the Smiddy.
8. To consider submitting a funding application to The Orkney Fund for funding in 2027.
9. To note that a smart meter will be installed in the Smiddy and there would be a requirement for a community council member to be present at the time.

E. Hanging Baskets

Following consideration of tenders received in relation to the hanging baskets for 2026 and discussion regarding the number of brackets and the testing of them, it was:

Resolved:

1. That D Ward would compile a list of the twenty brackets that was to be used for hanging baskets.
2. To accept the tender for the supply plants, plant up and display twenty hanging baskets from K Foulis.
3. To request a new quote for the testing of only twenty brackets that were to be used.
4. That a funding application should be submitted to The Orkney Fund.
5. To purchase ten collection tins that could be placed in local venues.
6. To contact last year's contributors asking if they would like to contribute again.

F. Repair/Storage of Festive Decorations

Following discussion of the repair and storage of the festive decorations, members were advised by the Interim Clerk that the storage of the lights for South Ronaldsay

at the Golf Club had been agreed initially based on an annual donation being made for their storage. They were also advised that the lights had been repaired, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a donation of £200 should be paid to the Golf Club for the storage of the lights.
2. To note that the lights had been repaired.

G. Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Following consideration of tenders received for the kirkyard grass cutting, it was:

Resolved:

1. To accept the tenders for Flaws, St Peter's and St Lawrence Kirkyards from K Foulis.
2. To ask for an additional tender price for six cuts at St Mary's Kirkyard.
3. To email the additional quote to members for a decision to be made.
4. That Ms F Lawtie would seek the view of St Mary's Trust regarding the grass maintenance.

4. Correspondence

A. Briefing Note – Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

A copy of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council had previously been sent round members, advising of the update to the burial grounds grass cutting maintenance contracts for 2026. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the briefing note.

B. South Ronaldsay Community Football Pitch

Following consideration of correspondence in relation to the grass cutting and maintenance of the South Ronaldsay community football pitch had previously been sent to members. The Interim Clerk advised members that OIC was waiting for clarification of grass cutting tenders and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request an update of the grass cutting tenders, via business letter.

C. Meet the Buyer Event – 9 March 2026

A copy of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council had previously been sent round members, advising of a 'Meet the Buyer' event at the Orkney Auction Mart on 9 March for anyone looking to sign up to be a contractor for snow clearing, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Orkney Marine Planning Stakeholder Update

A copy of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council had previously been sent round members, advising of an update to the framework for the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Best Kept War Memorial

Members had previously been sent information with regards to the Royal British Legion Best Kept War Memorial competition, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that Mr R Jackson would put the information on the Burray Community Association Facebook page.

F. T Demaine – Various

Following consideration of correspondence from T Demaine requesting additional bins and a bench at Sands of Wright and the possibility of clearing the seaweed from various places in the village, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advise T Demaine that the area at Sands of Wright was under private ownership and that they should report the seaweed issue to Orkney Islands Council through the MyOrkney reporting system.
2. To ask Orkney Islands Council if the bins at Sands of Wright could be emptied more often in the tourist season or larger bins be provided due to the volume of waste and the bins often overflowing.

5. Consultations

A. Winter Service Policy 2026 – 2031

Following consideration of the Winter Service Policy 2026 – 2032, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the Winter Service Policy and that members had no comments to make.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2026 Updates

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that the first year of the five-year Verge Maintenance Plan had been completed and that they were looking for reports of problem areas to be considered for safety cuts in 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the Community Council General Fund statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £7,833.42.

B. Smiddy Account

Following consideration of the Community Council General Fund statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £494.48.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval was -£1,731.74 in the main capping limit and £630 in the additional category.
2. That the grant of £1,200 awarded to South Ronaldsay Golf Club towards the mower should be funded from 2026/27 grant scheme allocation and that the donation of £1,200 should be released from general funds.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that £1,000.20 remained for allocation.

7. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. South Ronaldsay Golf Club – Mower

Resolved to note this was discussed under financial statements and that £1,200 should be released from General Funds and the remaining £1,200 should be paid from the 2026/2027 grant scheme allocation.

B. Burray Parent Council – P7 Trip to Hoy

Following consideration of a request from the Burray Parent Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance on behalf of 7 pupils to attend the P7 residential trip to Hoy later this year, it was:

Resolved to award £20 per child, totalling £140, from General Funds.

C. Burray Ball Group – Hall Hire

Following consideration of a request from the Burray Ball Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance to assist with the weekly hall hire for the year, it was:

Resolved that no funding would be awarded to Burray Ball Group on this occasion and to suggest they contact Voluntary Action Orkney who provide small grants for this type of project.

D. South Ronaldsay and Burray Agricultural Society – Show Park

Following consideration of a request from the South Ronaldsay and Burray Agricultural Society, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards upgrading the show park and the purchase of cattle gates, a container, walkie talkies and wet weather ground mats, it was:

Resolved that no funding would be awarded to South Ronaldsay and Burray Agricultural Society for upgrading the show park on this occasion.

E. M Lindsay – Netball Trip - Aberdeen – February

Following consideration of a request from M Lindsay, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance on behalf her daughter to attend the U17s Scottish Cup event on 28 February 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the applicant had already received funding for the maximum number of trips as per the financial policy for the financial year, and that no award would be provided on this occasion.

F. M Lindsay – Netball Trip – Aberdeen – March

Following consideration of a request from M Lindsay, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance on behalf of her daughters to travel to Aberdeen to watch the U17s Netball European Cup, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award funding of £30 for one daughter from the General Fund towards the trip.
2. To note that the second daughter had already received funding for the maximum number of trips as per the financial policy for the financial year, and that no award would be provided on this occasion.

G. Burray Community Association

Mr R Jackson declared an interest in this item.

Following consideration of a request from Burray Community Association requesting assistance towards the annual grass cutting of Burray Play Park, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £224 and that an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance on the total cost of £224.

H. Hope and Burray Brownies and Guides

Following consideration of a request from Hope and Burray Brownies and Guides requesting funding for participating in the Bag the Bruck 2026, it was:

Resolved:

1. To submit an application for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance of £300.
2. To note that the £300 should be divided between all applicants.
3. To award Hope and Burray Brownies and Guides funding for participating in the annual Bag the Bruck.

8. Publications

The following publication had previously been emailed to members and was noted:

- Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Water Sound Bluegrass and Roots Festival

The Community Council had received a request asking if they would be willing to provide a letter of support for the festival which could be used by them for making funding applications, and it was:

Resolved that members agreed for a letter of support to be provided.

B. Queries from Member of Public

Ms F Lawtie advised that a member of the public had approached her regarding various issues including the loss of Bio-best Laboratories and staff, the condition of the phone box at Lythes Road and the lack of toilet facilities at St Peter's Kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the issues raised.
2. To ascertain if the painting the phone box would be something that the criminal justice team could do.
3. To note that the Friends of St Peter's Kirk were looking into the possibility of installing a composting toilet in the grave diggers shed.
4. To note that they should contact Friends of St Nicholas Kirk, Holm, who were in the process of providing similar facilities.
5. To ask Orkney Islands Council if the grave diggers shed in St Peters Kirkyard could be used for installing a composting toilet.

C. ONWP Update

Following a request from Orkney Native Wildlife Project advising that they would be willing to come along to the next meeting to provide an update on the project, and it was:

Resolved to decline the offer of an update on the project.

D. SSEN

Following consideration of correspondence asking if they could attend the next meeting, via Teams, to provide an update on the proposed plans for Holm-Burray subsea cable installation and also ask for input from the community council on their plans to host public pre-application consultation events after the Summer, it was:

Resolved to invite SSEN to attend the next meeting, via Teams.

E. Signs and Signposts

Members were advised that concerns had been raised by a member of the public regarding the signposts opposite the war memorial at the junction off the A961 and Haybrake Road as the for-sale signs were blowing off the posts with the posts still remaining in situ, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council if the signposts could be removed.

F. Signpost at Herston

A member advised that the signpost for the first turning, after Blanster Brae, into Herston had disappeared, and it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Islands Council accordingly.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved:

A. To note that the next three meetings of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council had been set for:

- 10 June 2026, St Margaret's Hope.
- 26 August 2026, Burray.
- 4 November 2026, St Margaret's Hope.

B. To note that the meetings should all start at 19:00.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

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