

# Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm and via Teams on Wednesday, 12 November 2025 at 19:30

## Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson and Robbie Thomson.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse.
- Cheryl Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant (via Teams).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

## Chair:

- Alan Scott in the Chair.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies .....	2
2. Adoption of Minute .....	2
3. Matters Arising .....	2
4. Correspondence.....	3
5. Financial Statements.....	4
6. Financial Requests.....	4
7. Consultations .....	5
8. Meetings Attended by Members.....	6
9. Publications .....	6
10. Any Other Competent Business .....	7
11. Date of Next Meeting.....	7
12. Conclusion of Meeting.....	7

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Erland Drever and Karen Spence and Councillor James R Moar.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 10 September 2025 was approved, being proposed by Christine Muir and seconded by Bill Robertson.

Martin Lee joined the meeting at this point.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Local Place Plan**

After hearing an update from the Clerk on progress with the Local Place Plan, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the first meeting of the Steering Group would take place on 18 November 2025.
2. To note that the application to use Seed Corn funding to assist with the cost of the consultants had been approved, with a small balance being required from the General Fund.

### **B. St Mary's Christmas Decorations**

After hearing an update from the Clerk regarding the Christmas lights, it was:

Resolved that the cost of connecting and disconnecting the braids, estimated at £355 plus VAT, be approved, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

### **C. Maintenance of Kirkyard Gate**

The Clerk advised that she had received an estimate from R Thomson for refurbishing the kirkyard gate, and it was:

Resolved that R Thomson be asked to refurbish the kirkyard gate, at a cost of £417.60, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

### **D. Remembrance Sunday and War Memorial**

After hearing updates from the Chair and the Clerk regarding works at the war memorial ahead of the Remembrance Sunday service, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Ewan MacKenzie and Andrew Drever thanking them for all their work associated with tidying up the war memorial and arranging the Remembrance Sunday service.

## **E. Financial Assistance**

The Clerk had received notes of thanks from various individuals and groups regarding financial assistance received from the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Update on Visitor Levy**

Following consideration of correspondence from T Eagle MSP providing an update on the proposed introduction of a visitor levy in Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **B. Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Campaign**

Following consideration of correspondence from Ron Bailey providing information in relation to a webinar and an electrical safety-first grant fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Patient Advice and Support Service (PASS)**

Following consideration of correspondence providing information on the Patient Advice and Support Service, part of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. Scapa Deep Water Quay – Update**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council providing an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **E. New Powers for Community Councils**

Following consideration of correspondence from Michael Gallagher, a former Community Councillor, seeking support for a petition to the Scottish Government for new powers for community councils in Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 25 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 25 October 2025 of £11,123.47.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 25 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 25 October 2025, projects to the value of £6,942,69 had been approved, of which £1,685.69 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £nil.

3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £257.02.

4. That the Clerk should contact St Andrews Primary School Parent Council to confirm whether or not the trim track project was still proceeding.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 25 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £1,000.

### **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 25 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £nil.

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. U16s Orkney Rugby**

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his son participating in away games for the Orkney U16s rugby team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 per game attended be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **B. U14s Orkney Rugby**

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his son participating in away games for the Orkney U14s rugby team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 per game attended be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **C. Gymnastics**

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his daughter participating in a gymnastics competition held in Edinburgh on 2 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **D. Gymnastics**

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his daughter participating in a gymnastics competition held in Edinburgh on 5 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **E. Orkney U13 Football**

Following consideration of an application from Y Rendall requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in the Orkney U13s football trip to Inverness on 27 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be provided, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **F. Gymnastics and Football**

Following consideration of an application from S Brown requesting financial assistance towards her daughters participating in a gymnastics competition held in Inverurie on 4 October 2025, and her son participating in football trips to Shetland on 28 August 2025 and Caithness on 21 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be provided in respect of each competition and/or game, subject to confirmation of attendance.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. EMEC – Section 36 Variation – Fall of Warness**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Marine Directorate, Scottish Government, regarding an application submitted by EMEC for a variation to the existing section 36 consent for the construction and operation of the Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site, for which responses were required by 20 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **B. Have Your Say on Tourism at Community Workshops**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding workshops to help shape the future of tourism across the islands, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Martin Lee had attended the workshop at the Pickaquooy Centre on 8 November 2025.

## **C. Burial Grounds Grass Cutting**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding options for grass cutting in burial grounds, for which responses were required by 28 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council advising that the Council should continue to pay for 10 cuts of the Holm kirkyard, namely the status quo.

## **8. Meetings Attended by Members**

### **A. Island Meeting with Scottish Government**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online Island Meeting with Scottish Government held on 2 October 2025, at which Scotland's Land Use Strategy, the Land Use and Agriculture Just Transition Plan and Community Right to Buy was discussed, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop for East Mainland, Burray and South Ronaldsay held in the Cromarty Hall, St Margaret's Hope on 7 October 2025, and an online meeting held on 11 November 2025, including links to an online survey, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Share Your Views on Tourism in Orkney**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding online stakeholder interviews as part of the Our Orkney, Our Story project, held on 8 and 16 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Martin Lee had attended the online session on 16 October 2025.

## **9. Publications**

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- ORSAS – Quarterly Newsletters – September and November 2025.
- VAO Orkney – Training and Funding Updates – September and October 2025.
- Orkney Islands Council – CLDE Team – Childminder Training.

- VAO Newsletters – September and October 2025.
- PSTN Switch Off – information from Orkney Islands Council.
- Scottish Water – Engage: Digital Stakeholder Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2025.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. SSEN – Holm-Burray Subsea Cable Project**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Strategic Project Liaison Lead (North) advising that the team would be in Orkney during the first week of November, as part of the planned survey works, and would also be hosting a drop-in event in Kirkwall on 24 November 2025, with delivery partner Freedom, focussing on the land-based elements of projects being delivered by SSEN in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Historic Marine Protected Area – Scapa Flow**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Historic Environment Scotland advising of the designation of Scapa Flow as a Historic Marine Protected Area, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Speed Indication Devices**

The Clerk had received correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that speed indication devices (smiley faces) would be available for installation in the village, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Orkney Islands Council requesting three speed indication devices to be located at either end of the village, and one near Alfie Flett's workshop.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on 28 January 2026 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:10.