

# **Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm, on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Erland Drever, Christine Muir and Robbie Thomson.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor Raymie Peace.
- 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 .....	3
6. Financial Requests .....	4
7. Consultations .....	5
8. Meetings Attended by Members .....	6
9. Publications .....	7
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 Bill Robertson and Karen Spence and Councillors James Moar and Gillian Skuse.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 12 November 2025 was approved, being proposed by Robbie Thomson and seconded by Christine Muir.

## **3. Matters Arising**

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

Following an update from the Clerk regarding progress with the Local Place Plan, it was:

Resolved to note that the draft community survey was now with Steering Group members for testing before going live, and a draft Local Place Plan was anticipated to be available for comment in late April.

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

Following an update from the Clerk regarding Christmas decorations, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that an Expression of Interest had been submitted to The Orkney Fund seeking assistance for 16 motifs and associated costs, with a funding bid still to be submitted to Orkney Seafarms.
2. That the Clerk should ascertain who was responsible for both the cost and installation of the plug on the lamppost for any new motif.
3. That Martin Lee should draw up a plan for braids and motifs, based on minimum disruption to existing lampposts with plugs for 2026 and bearing in mind phase 2 for a further eight motifs and extending the braids.
4. That the Clerk should order eight motifs in the first instance.

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

The Clerk advised that R Thomson's quote had been accepted and the works would progress, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

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

The Clerk had contacted A Drever and E Mackenzie thanking them for their work associated with Remembrance Sunday and maintenance at the war memorial, and it was:

Resolved to note that E Mackenzie had offered to provide a quote for landscaping works, following discussion with D Sneesby on his original plans.

## **E. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks**

Following consideration of notes of thanks received from various individuals and groups regarding financial assistance received from the Community Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **4. Correspondence**

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

Following consideration of correspondence from Tim Eagle MP advising that an Amending Bill would be brought forward in early 2026 to address key issues with the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Holm Community Heritage – Update**

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Heritage advising that the purchase of the gravedigger's hut was no longer progressing and that a long lease was being looked at instead, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should ask Holm Community Heritage whether they could provide evidence of any expenditure related to a capital project, in order to claim the £500 previously approved from the Community Council Grant Scheme, failing which Holm Community Heritage should submit a fresh application, once they had an approved project which might be eligible for funding from the Community Council.

### **C. National Flood Risk Assessment Report**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA advising of the publication of the National Flood Risk Assessment report for 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **5. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 12 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 12 January 2026 of £10,338.68.

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

Following consideration of the 2025/26 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 12 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 12 January 2026, projects to the value of £6,942.69 had been approved, of which £2,702.69 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £0.

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

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

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 12 January 2026, 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 12 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £0.

## **6. Financial Requests**

### **A. Holm Children's Christmas Party**

The organisers of the Holm Children's Christmas Party had submitted an application for assistance towards the 2025 Christmas Party, and it was:

Resolved to note that a donation of £450 had been agreed via email and subsequently paid.

### **B. E Drever Jnr – U14s Orkney Rugby**

Erland Drever declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his son participating in cup competitions for the Orkney under 14s rugby team in January and February 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given in respect of each game, subject to confirmation of participation.

### **C. R Drever – U16s Orkney Rugby**

Erland Drever declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his son participating in games for the Orkney under 16s rugby team in January and February 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given in respect of each game, subject to confirmation of participation.

### **D. R Drever – Scottish Rugby Player Development Hub**

Erland Drever declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Following consideration of an application from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his son participating in a Scottish rugby player development hub at Highland and Deeside Rugby Clubs in April 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given in respect of each session, subject to confirmation of participation.

### **E. Holm Community Association – Purchase of Dishwasher**

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting assistance towards the purchase of an industrial dishwasher, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £2,300 be provided, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

### **F. Orkney Youth Darts**

Following consideration of applications from Y Rendall requesting financial assistance towards her sons participating in the Junior Intercounty darts competition held in Shetland from 6 to 8 February 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be given in respect of each player, subject to confirmation of participation.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Historic Environment Scotland – Properties and Collections Strategy**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding Historic Environment Scotland's consultation on its new Properties and Collections Strategy, for which responses were required by 23 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. SEPA – Safeguarding Scotland's Water Environment**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA seeking views on significant water management issues, for which responses were due by 3 March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm – EIA Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Applications**

Following consideration of correspondence from The Marine Directorate, The Scottish Government, and Thistle Wind Partners advising of the Marine Directorate’s consultation on the offshore consent application in respect of the Ayre Offshore Wind Farm, for which responses were due by 8 February 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **D. EMEC – Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site – EIA Section 36 Consent Application**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Marine Directorate, The Scottish Government, regarding the EIA Section 36 consent application submitted by EMEC in respect of the Fall of Warness tidal test site, for which responses were due by 31 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

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

### **A. SSEN Distribution/Freedom – Community Drop-in Session**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Freedom Group, the delivery contract partner for SSEN Distribution in the Orkney Islands, advising of a community drop-in session held in the Firth Community Hall on 24 November 2025, to provide further detail on an upcoming programme of essential works in the areas of Finstown, Hatston, Quanterness and St Mary’s, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Scottish Islands Federation – Island Digital Connectivity Resilience**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of an online meeting to discuss island digital connectivity resilience on 24 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Scottish Islands Federation – Islands Business Resilience Fund**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of online engagement sessions for the Islands Business Resilience Fund held on 25 and 27 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Orkney – Training and Funding Updates – November and December 2025 and January 2026.
- VAO Newsletters – November and December 2025.
- NHS Orkney – Near Me Appointments – Press Release.
- SCDA Orkney District Committee.

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

### **A. Digital Connectivity Resilience Enquiry**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of a survey, which was open until 13 February 2026, which would collate experiences on the impact storm and subsea cable damage could have on digital infrastructure in island communities, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should respond to the survey on an individual basis.

### **B. SEPA – Flood Risk Management Plan**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA advising of a public consultation on local flooding concerns to inform Flood Risk Management Plans covering 2028 to 2034, which would set out how Scotland would reduce the impacts of flooding and building resilience for the future, for which responses were due by 22 April 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to the next meeting.

## **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 1 April 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 20:30.