

Minute of the Meeting of Orphir Community Council held in the Orphir Community School and via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Manson.
- Councillor S Cowie.
- Councillor I Taylor.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant/Interim Clerk.

- One member of the public

Order of Business

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor K Leask.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of meeting of Orphir Community Council held on 28 October 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr M Clouston and seconded by Mr N Sclater.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bus Shelter, Smoogro Road End

The Chair advised there was no update, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre Refurbishment

The Chair provided an update to members on the renovation, including the electrical work. He also advised that a painter and decorator had been booked for February and that he would obtain quotes for flooring and labour. The Chair advised that he had had meetings with Ms C Batey to discuss the content of the information boards, however a designer would be required to assist with putting the boards together, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that works had started at the Centre.
2. To note that the Chair had arranged for a painter and decorator for February 2026.
3. That the Chair would obtain quotes for the flooring and labour.
4. To note that the Chair had met with Ms C Batey regarding the information boards and would continue to liaise with her.
5. To note that a designer would require to be engaged for designing the information boards.

C. Viking Longship

Members discussed a quote received for the production of a replica Viking longship for outside the Saga Centre. It was also raised that a new plaque or information board documenting the build process should be considered, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda, and revisit when all quotes for the Saga Centre refurbishment had been secured.

Mrs B Clubley entered the meeting at this point.

D. Local Place Plan for Orphir

The Chair advised that Orphir Community Association was progressing the Local Place Plan, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

E. Winter Service Plan

A member queried why, during the recent heavy snowfall at the beginning of January, the snow ploughs were not lowered to actually clear the roads. Members would also like to enquire about the possibility of the snow ploughs having location trackers, similar to the Highlands Council, to allow the public to know where the gritter/ploughs were, enabling the public to follow the ploughs when they knew they were passing their area as this would be the safest time to travel. In addition, they would like to enquire if there were any ideas being considered of how to reduce the snow drifts at Hobbister, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would raise the points above in the Business Letter to Democratic Services.

Mr S Pyke left the meeting during discussion of this item.

4. Correspondence

A. Historic Marine Protected Area – Scapa Flow Notifications

Following consideration of correspondence from Historic Environment Scotland regarding the Historic Marine Protected Area in Scapa Flow which came into force on 1 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Community Transport Small Grant Scheme

Members discussed copies of correspondence, copies of which had been previously circulated, with regards to the Community Transport Small Grant Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for applications to the scheme had now passed.

C. OIJB – Service User Representative

Members considered correspondence from the Orkney Integration Joint Board who were looking for someone to join the board to represent the views of service users, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Residual Landholdings - Houton Estate - RSSWS

Members considered correspondence from the RSSWS regarding land in their ownership within the Houton area that they were looking to possibly sell back to the community, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact RSSWS and would report back at the next meeting.

5. Consultations

A. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop

Members had previously been sent information regarding the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop which had taken place on 11 November 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that the sessions had since passed.

B. Northern Isles Ferry Services User Surveys

Members had previously been sent information regarding the user surveys for the Northern Isles Ferry Services Contract, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline had now passed.

C. HES – Properties and Collections Strategy

Members had previously been sent information from HES regarding a consultation on the new Properties and Collections Strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Safeguarding Scotland's Water Environment

Members had previously been sent information from SEPA on the consultation of significant water management issues, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the consultation was open to 3 March 2026.

E. Ayre Offshore Windfarm

Members had previously been sent information from Thistle Wind Partners on the Ayre Offshore Wind Farm regarding a consultation period for the application, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. EMEC – Fall of Warness – EIA Section 36 Consent

Members had previously been sent information from EMEC regarding their application for the Falls of Warness Tidal Test Site, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Planning Application at Houton – 25/315/PP

Members discussed the planning application for temporary housing at Houton at length. The Interim Clerk advised that while the closing date had passed for comment, it had been extended for the Orphir Community Council to allow them to submit a representation after their meeting should they wish to do so, and it was:

Resolved that Mr J Mackay and Mr M Clouston would submit a representation on behalf of the Orphir Community Council, and submit before Friday 23 January 2026, via Democratic Services.

One member of the public entered the meeting at this point.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £22,789.07.

B. Orkneyinga Saga Centre

Following consideration of the Orkneyinga Saga Centre Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £48,424.06.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Grant Scheme statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £917.48 in the main capping limit.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that £15,395.42 remained for allocation.

E. Seed Corn

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 7 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £2,606.

7. Request for Financial Assistance - Harray YF Speechmaking – Edinburgh

Following consideration of a request from Harray Young Farmers, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance on behalf of R Leslie and K Ballantyne to attend the National Junior Speechmaking finals in Edinburgh on 6 December 2025, it was:

Resolved to award £50 per child, totalling £100, from the General Fund towards the trip.

8. Publications

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

- VAO – Newsletter – November and December 2025.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – November and December 2025.
- ORSAS Newsletter – November 2025.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – December 2025.
- Scottish Water – Stakeholder Edition Autumn/Winter 2025.
- PSTN Switch Off Information.
- Free Training Sessions for Community Councils.
- OHAC – Near Me Appointments.

9. AOCB - Orchard Project

Mrs B Clublely raised that a member of the Orphir Kirk was looking to collaborate with the Orphir School on an orchard project to plant in the school playground and may be looking for financial assistance with the project, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs B Clublely would provide the financial application form to the member.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved to note that the next meeting of Orphir Community Council had been set for Tuesday, 17 March 2026 at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:18.