

Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Community Room, Westray Junior High School on Monday, 31 March 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr Danny Marcus, Mr Adam Baird, Mrs Elizabeth Drever, Mrs J Kirkness and Mr Louis Pottinger.

In Attendance:

- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mrs Edith Costie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs A Rendall and Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 27 January 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Adam Baird and seconded by Mrs Elizabeth Drever.

3. Matters Arising

A. Special Collections

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the next OIC collections were scheduled for weeks commencing 5 May and 23 June. It was reported that more items had been fly tipped recently, and members discussed whether funding a collection would deter people from doing this. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to see how well utilised the May collection was, and to consider funding a collection later in the year if it was deemed necessary.

B. Kirkyards – Shed Repairs

The Chair advised that the tender had been awarded, and work was ongoing, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

C. Howanbrek Bin Lid

The Chair advised that he had contacted OHAL and that bins were going to be issued to residents, and the bin store made redundant. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Playpark Fence

Members had previously been sent correspondence, advising that neither the school or Sport and Leisure had no arrangements or available budget for the fence to be fixed. It would be reported again to the Building Inspector and highlighted as a health and safety risk. Members discussed whether they should find a local solution however, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to ask again whether the fence could be repaired by the Council, as it was unsafe.

E. Grass Cutting

The Clerk reported that the tender had been advertised for cutting the grass around the Council houses for the 2025 and 2026 summer seasons, and that one tender had been received. The tender was circulated to members and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to accept the tender for grass cutting from Ms C Owen for 2025 and 2026.

F. Local Signage

The Chair advised that he had forwarded on photographs of the various signs across Westray that required repair or replacement, and that he had received confirmation that these would be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Community Benefit - Faray Turbine

Members had previously asked if there had been minutes taken when meetings had taken place between OIC and Westray Community Council regarding possible community benefit from the Faray turbines. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that, unfortunately, no information was available as no detailed minutes had been taken. A letter from the then Acting Strategic Projects Director and the committee report from the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 June 2022 was made available to members and further discussion was had. It was noted that Westray should receive community benefit from the Quanterness Turbines once they were operational, and it was agreed that, should the Faray project move forward and discussions open again on community benefit to Westray, the community council should raise this matter again, and it was:

Resolved to remove this item from the agenda meantime.

H. Village Footpath

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there was nothing further to report at this stage but that a meeting was due to be set up with relevant stakeholders, including a representative of Westray Community Council, and that they would be proposing to do Phase 1 along the side of the park and sports pitches first, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

4. Correspondence

A. Have Your Say – Community Benefits

Members had previously been sent information from the Scottish Community Development Centre, who were hosting a number of community conversations across Scotland to gather opinions on community benefits generated through offshore and onshore renewable energy developments, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the event had since taken place.

B. Visitor Levy – Kathryn Johnson

Members had previously been sent information on the Highland Council Visitor Levy consultation, and had been asked to consider responding to the consultation highlighting the impact this would have for island residents when travelling to mainland Scotland for work or appointments, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. Quiet Routes – Briefing Note

Following consideration of a briefing note on the Quiet Routes project, copies of which had previously been circulated, members noted that officers would be looking to deliver some of the projects in the 2025/2026 financial year once funding had been confirmed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Our Budget Challenge – Survey Results

Members had previously been sent correspondence from the OIC Chief Executive, which provided a summary of the main findings of the OIC Budget Survey that had been circulated to the public ahead of the OIC budget setting process commencing. There had also been a link included to access the full report. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkney Ferries – Smart Cards

Information on the issue of replacement Orkney Ferries SmartCards to isles residents had previously been circulated to members. The card would be compatible with the new booking system and would be active from 1 April. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

F. SEPA – New Surface Water Flood Maps

The Community Council Liaison Officer passed round copies of correspondence from SEPA, advising that they had published new surface water flood maps, which for the first time included small watercourses. The information had been circulated to help support communities to avoid flood risk where they can, protect where they cannot and act when warned of flooding. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Trees and Woodland Strategy

Members had previously been sent information on OIC's draft Trees and Woodland Strategy, along with accompanying Environmental Reports, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had been 24 March 2025.

B. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Strategic Plan 2025/2028

Following consideration of the consultation document on the SFRS Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2028, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open until 2 April 2025.

C. Visitor Levy Survey and Public Engagement Sessions

Members had previously been sent information on public engagement sessions looking more closely at the feasibility of a visitor levy on overnight stays in certain accommodation in Orkney, on 25 and 26 March. People were also being encouraged to complete an online survey by 11 April 2025. Members discussed the proposed levy and how it should be applied. It was noted that Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association would be submitting a response to the consultation, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That individual members should complete the survey.
2. That Westray Community Council would support a levy which was applied at point of entry.
3. That Westray Community Council should submit a corporate response to the consultation, which was similar to that of Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association.

D. Winter Service Plan 2025

A copy of the proposed Winter Service Plan for treatment of roads had previously been circulated to members for comments. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to ask that the Noup Road be changed from a P2S to a P2, that the Ness Road be upgraded, and Goltiquoy Road be removed.

E. SATE Survey

Members had previously been sent information on a survey by the 3X1 group regarding the sustainable aviation sector and what it could achieve, and it was:

Resolved to note the survey.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 17 March 2025, it was

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £41,028.19.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 17 March 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £1,067.23 remaining for approval and that £740 and £297 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 17 March 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £500 remaining for allocation.

7. Financial Requests

A. Westray Golf Club - Junior Golf

Members had previously been sent correspondence from Westray Junior Golf, who were looking to run winter golf and coaching sessions over the summer as well as competitions. They were requesting financial assistance with the cost of purchasing additional equipment and trophies. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to award £500 towards the equipment, subject to CCGS approval.

B. E Hutchison – Athletics

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from S Hutchison, on behalf of her daughter, who was attending two indoor athletics competitions in Glasgow and Edinburgh, it was:

Resolved to cover the accommodation costs for the two trips, totalling £275, from the general fund.

C. WHT Staffing Summer 2025

Members considered a request which had been circulated at the meeting from Westray Heritage Trust, who were asking for assistance with staffing costs over the summer season. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact WHT to discuss the request.

D. Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association

Resolved to pay an invoice for membership to Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association of £12, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative had recently attended a consultation meeting with other community members from Westray, Eday, Sanday and Stronsay to discuss the outline plans for the new north isles' ferries, and that further community consultation would be happening later in the year.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there had been local applications at Damsay, Marcroft and the relocation of two salmon sites.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that a new nurse had been employed which would provide some stability in relation to the service on Westray.

D. Westray Development Trust

Resolved to note that the turbine was currently out of order.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – January and February 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – February and March 2025.
- Letter from School Place – February and March 2025.
- Stop Smoking Resources.
- Orkney Ferries – Statistics – January and February 2025.
- SEPA Proposed Changes.
- Loganair Inter Isles Statistics Year to Date.
- Isles Special Collection Rotas April – September 2025.
- Improving the Cancer Journey.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Airfield Building

Members were advised that the contract for construction of the airfield building had been awarded, and that works would be commencing shortly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Dog Bin in Village

A member asked if it would be possible to have another bin in the vicinity of the public toilets in Pierowall. The Community COuncil Liaison Officer advised that it was unlikely that the Council would provide more bins, but arrangements could be made if the community council felt that any bins could be relocated to more appropriate locations, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

C. Local Place Plan

Resolved to note that Westray Development Trust had been successful in securing funding to pull together a place plan and that progress would be monitored.

D. Street Lights – Hofn

Resolved to note that the community council had received good feedback from residents regarding the additional street lighting in the vicinity of the Hofn and that

the comments would be passed via Democratic Services to the relevant officers within OIC.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of dates for future meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Westray Community Council would be held on Mondays 26 May and 23 June 2025, in the Community Classroom at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:23.