

# Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held in St Ann’s Kirk and via Teams on Thursday, 6 November 2025 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr N Rendall, Mr I Cursiter, Mr A Hourston, Mr B Hourston and Mrs I Hourston.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Ms J Foley, Community Development Officer, Papay Development Trust.
- Mr D Elves, Water Scheme Attendant.
- Mr M Jones, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies .....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes .....	2
3. Matters Arising .....	2
4. Correspondence .....	3
5. Consultation Documents .....	4
6. Financial Statements .....	4
7. Financial Requests .....	5
8. Reports from Representatives .....	5
9. Publications .....	6
10. Any Other Business .....	6
11. Date of Next Meeting .....	6
12. Conclusion of meeting .....	7

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mrs F McNab and Mrs L Sharp, Councillor M Thomson and Mr G Whitton (Cloudnet).

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held on 21 August 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr N Rendall and seconded by Mr B Hourston.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Cloudnet Internet Phones**

There was no more information to be given on Internet phones, however Mr D Elves (on behalf of Cloudnet) spoke about the pros and cons of placing sensors in each of the Community Water Scheme pumphouses. These sensors would provide information on security, control and diagnostics and could be linked to a mobile phone. A vote was taken, and it was:

Resolved to purchase the basic equipment, estimated at £880, subject to CCGS approval.

### **B. Ferry Service - Papa Westray to Westray**

After some discussion, it was decided that the Clerk would write to Orkney Ferries voicing concern about recent cancelling of school runs and general difficulties with the booking system, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would send a letter to Orkney Ferries.
2. To monitor the situation.

### **C. Maggie's Bench**

It was reported that the condition of the bench was worsening and that repair work was urgently required, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would put out an advert requesting tenders for the work to be done.

### **D. Inter-Island Air Service Timetables – Third Aircraft**

The Clerk advised that the draft timetables for the operation of a third aircraft were circulated to members on 19 September 2025, and it was decided that a meeting should be held on 22 November 2025 with PWCC and airfield staff in attendance to discuss the matter further, and it was:

Resolved to await the outcome of the meeting on 22 November 2025 to discuss the draft third aircraft timetable.

## **E. Rabbit Cull Update**

Members were advised that the rabbit cull would begin on 14 November 2025 and that invoices were being sent out as soon as possible. Members discussed whether to provide funding towards the cull, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That a donation of £2,000 towards the cost would be provided, subject to CCGA approval, and that receipts would be requested from the firm carrying out the work.

## **F. Old Airfield Building**

As had previously been discussed, PWCC would like to obtain ownership of the Old Airfield Building and members were advised that a letter should be sent by the community council to OIC Estates to ask that they consider selling the asset, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write a letter on behalf of PWCC asking that OIC consider transferring the asset to PWCC for community use.

## **G. Airfield Water Meter**

It was reported that the airfield building contractors had stated that they had not received a bill for the connection of the water meter to the new building, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would check this with the Water Attendant.
2. To monitor the situation.

## **H. Kirkyard Gate**

It was reported that the gate into the graveyard at St Boniface Kirk was in a poor state of repair. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would advertise a tender for these repairs in the hope that someone locally could carry them out.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Scapa Deep Water Quay Update**

Correspondence providing an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay Project had been circulated to members on 9 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **B. Burial Grounds Briefing Note**

Information from the Service Manager, Roads and Grounds, regarding the various options available for the maintenance of burial grounds to a respectable standard whilst maintaining budgets, had been circulated to members on 28 October 2025 for consideration. Members discussed the options presented, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would respond to OIC advising that PWCC were willing to reduce the number of cuts to 6 cuts per season with any extra cuts required being paid out of the CC Grant Scheme allocation.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Third Aircraft Timetables**

Draft timetables for the introduction of a third aircraft had been provided by OIC Transport and had been circulated to members (as per Item 3D above), and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a Special Meeting may be called to discuss this further.
2. To monitor the situation.

### **B. SIF - Community Right to Buy**

Information from the Scottish Islands Federation had been circulated to members on 27 September 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Survey on the Impact of Coastal Change**

This information from OIC had been circulated to members on 8 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. EMEC - Section 36 - Fall of Warness**

A consultation regarding a section 36 application from the Scottish Government Marine Laboratory had been sent to members on 13 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 20 November 2025.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Fund statement as at 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £23,355.65.

## **B. Papay Water Scheme**

Following consideration of the Water Scheme Account statement as 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £12,290.96.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £2,482.01 remaining, and that £755 and £697.68 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 21 October, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £5,000.

# **7. Financial Requests**

## **A. Stream of Sound Choir**

A request to provide financial assistance to Stream of Sound Choir event of 24 – 29 October 2025 had previously been agreed by email on 14 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that it had been agreed previously to fund £213.40, subject to CCGS approval, plus a donation of £300.

## **B. PCA Events**

Consideration was given to a request from PCA to assist with the costs of Bonfire Night, Pot-Luck Supper and Santa presents, at a total cost of £465, and it was:

Resolved to assist up to the cost of £465 with the events, subject to CCGS approval.

# **8. Reports from Representatives**

## **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative briefly outlined his thoughts on the proposed flight timetables and the situation regarding the proposed new ferry, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **B. Planning**

The Planning Representative advised that no new applications relating to Papa Westray had been made, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Water Scheme Admin**

The Clerk advised that after the recent power cuts, SSEN had paid, as compensation, a total of £950. Additionally, the annual Feed-In Tariff readings for Quoyolie had been submitted. As noted at Item 3A above, members agreed to purchase a number of sensors for the water scheme equipment at a total cost of £800. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update and the intention to buy this equipment.

### **D. Papay Development Trust**

The PDT Representative advised the following;

- Tenders had now been received for Fairview, Holmview and Daybreak and funding applications had been submitted.
- The boat scheme was being well used and cost issues had improved.
- The Community Climate Action Plan projects were underway including household energy improvements and support for the Water Scheme resilience.
- A Growing Towers trial was proposed for the market garden.
- There was a proposed Viking exhibition for the Kelp Store.

Following the update, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Orkney Health and Care**

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representatives were absent from this meeting and therefore no update was available.

## **9. Publications**

The following publications were made available to members and were noted:

- Liam McArthur, Holyrood Highlights - various dates September and October 2025.
- This week in Parliament, Alistair Carmichael - various dates September and October 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding updates and Newsletter – August, September and October 2025.
- Letters from School Place – August, September and October 2025.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Resolved to note that there was no other business to discuss at this time.

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

Following consideration of the date of next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 19:30 in St Ann's Kirk and via Teams.

## **12. Conclusion of meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 21:55.