

# Minute of the Meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held in Hope Community Centre on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr R Jackson, Mr A Konstam, Mr I Laird, Ms K Sinclair and Mr D Ward.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms S Jessen, Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr R Bland, Ms F Lawtie and Mr R Smith, and Councillors R Peace and G Skuse.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held on 5 November 2025 were approved, being proposed by Mr I Laird and seconded by Mr A Konstam.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Orkney Community Connect**

There was nothing further to update on this item, other than the trial was due to finish at the end of the financial year, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and await further feedback.

### **B. Local Place Plan(s)**

The Chair advised that Local Place Plans had been discussed at the recent TRICE meeting for South Ronaldsay and Burray and that the Community Development Officer was prepared to lead on the project. It was reported that she had already submitted an application for funding towards the formation of a plan and a working group would be set up soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the report and await further information.

### **C. Bus Shelters in St Margaret's Hope**

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that the work to replace the broken panels in the bus shelter at the end of the Quoyangry Road had recently been completed and that an invoice had been received. It was confirmed that the community council was responsible for this shelter and members queried whether they were responsible for any others.

Members had also previously been advised that OIC Transport proposed to site a new bus shelter on the road below Braeburn Court, and that they had spoken to the Manager and Staff at the Care Home who had expressed support for the proposal. However, members discussed the fact that they had been asking for a new shelter within the village for a long time, had previously let OIC know of their preferred locations, and that they did not support a shelter on the new road. They felt that the best location for any new shelter would be at the top of the old road, or in the vicinity of Doull's/Robertson's, as this was where most people would wait for a bus. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the repair to the bus shelter at the end of the Quoyangry Road had been completed and that the invoice would be paid from CCGS.

2. To respond to the Transportation Service Manager advising that members did not support the siting of a bus shelter on the St Margaret's Road, below Braeburn Court, and would prefer to continue looking at other options for a shelter elsewhere in the village.
3. To ask for assurances from the Transportation Service Manager that the bus through St Margaret's Hope would continue to come back up through the village and via Church Road on its route back to Kirkwall.
4. To query whether there were any other bus shelters within South Ronaldsay and Burray that the community council were responsible for.
5. That land ownership of the area at the top of the village (at junction between old and new road) would be further investigated.
6. That the Clerk would contact Stagecoach to see if a representative would be willing to attend a future meeting.

## **D. Smiddy Museum**

Members were advised that the air source heating unit had been replaced and was working well.

It was also reported that the Smiddy Sub-Committee had approached a local contractor for a quote to install a viewing window within the museum, and that a quote had been received. It was agreed to invite one more quote for the works before selecting a contractor and arranging works to be done.

The Community Council Liaison Officer reported that the application submitted to the OIC's Culture Fund had been successful, and that a grant of £3,000 had been awarded towards the refurbishment

Resolved:

1. That a second quote would be invited for the works within the Smiddy to install a viewing window, and that the decision on awarding works would be delegated to the Smiddy Museum Sub-Committee.
2. That consideration may need to be given to increasing the CDF allocation of £5,000 to include this work, as it was in addition to the work already budgeted for.
3. To note that a grant of £3,000 had been awarded to the Community Council from the Culture Fund.

## **E. Hanging Baskets**

The Community Council Liaison Officer shared a draft tender notice for the work to plant, put up, water, maintain and take down the hanging baskets in St Margaret's Hope for the 2026 summer season. Members also queried whether the brackets required to be tested, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise the tender for the work involved in the hanging baskets for 2026
2. That further consideration would be given to having the brackets tested prior to the baskets being hung.
3. That Mr R Smith would be asked if he would be willing to approach local businesses for sponsorship towards the hanging baskets again this year.

## **F. Hope Civic Amenity Site**

Members had previously received correspondence, advising that the gantry had been repaired but that the Council would not be providing an additional one, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. Christmas Arrangements**

It was reported that the lights in both villages had now been taken down, and that some of the decorations were faulty, as well as some of the sockets within the columns.

Mr D Ward also queried whether South Ronaldsay Golf Club would be provided with a donation from the community council for storing the lights for St Margaret's Hope, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would report the faulty sockets via the business letter to Democratic Services.
2. That the faulty decorations would be investigated further so that repair could be arranged.
3. That consideration needed to be given to providing a donation towards the storage of the decorations.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. IJB Service User Representative**

Members had previously been sent information from the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, advising that the Integration Joint Board were looking for someone to join the Board to represent the views of service users, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **B. SEPA – National Flood Risk Assessment 2025 Report**

Correspondence in relation to the NFRA 2025 Report had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **C. Thank You Notes - Hope and Burray Football Teams**

Resolved to note that a letter of thanks had been received from the Hope and Burray Primary Football Teams for the funding that had been provided to them towards competition fees.

## **D. South Ronaldsay and Burray TRICE Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of a TRI-Community Exchange meeting held on 10 December 2025 had previously been circulated to members, detailing what had been discussed when members of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council, Burray Community Association, Hope Community Association and South Ronaldsay and Burray Development Trust had come together with representatives from VAO, OIC and HIE, to discuss what each organisation was working on and to identify projects that they could possibly collaborate on.

The Chair advised that the possibility of drawing up a Local Place Plan (or two plans, one for each area) had been discussed and that because South Ronaldsay and Burray Development Trust had recently appointed a Community Development Officer, it was welcome that she was now leading on the project, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that it was a good outcome regarding the LPP.

## **5. Consultations**

### **A. HES - Properties and Collections Strategy**

Members had previously been sent an email advising of Historic Environment Scotland's consultation on the Properties and Collections Strategy, which was aimed at guiding HES's approach to looking after historic sites and collection, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that the deadline had passed on 23 January 2026.

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

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of a public consultation around safeguarding Scotland's water environment and significant water management issues, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and the deadline for completion of 3 March 2026.

### **C. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm Ltd – EIA Section 36 Consent**

Information on the submission of an offshore consent application to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate had previously been sent to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that the deadline for any comments on the application was 8 February 2026.

## **D. EMEC – Fall of Warness – EIA Section 36 Consent**

Members had previously been sent information on EMEC’s application for EIA Section 36 consent for the tidal test site at Fall of Warness, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that the deadline for comments

## **E. SEPA - Flood Risk Management Plan**

A consultation from SEPA had been circulated to members on the day of the meeting, which related to Flood Risk Management Plans. People across Scotland were being asked to share their experiences of local flooding, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that members could complete this as individuals should they wish to do so.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Fund statement as at 12 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £12,689.35.

### **B. Smiddy Account**

Following consideration of the Smiddy Account statement as at 12 January 2026, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the estimated balance of -£1,005.52.
2. That funds should be transferred to the Smiddy Account from the General Fund to bring it out of a negative balance.

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

After consideration of the CCGS statement as at 12 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had been fully allocated, and that £630 remained available in the additional capping limit.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 12 January 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that £4,000.20 remained available for allocation to projects.

## **7. Requests for Financial Assistance**

Resolved to note that no requests for financial assistance had been received.

## **8. Publications**

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

- Hope Cohousing Newsletter – December 2025.
- Free Training Sessions – Rural and Islands Community Councils.
- NHSO Near Me Appointments.
- SCDA Orkney District Information.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Storage of Lights**

Mr D Ward queried whether South Ronaldsay Golf Club would receive a donation towards the storage of the festive decorations/lights. The Chair also queried whether this meant that Burray Community Association should also receive a donation. It was suggested that storage of the lights should be considered and discussed at a future meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a general fund donation of £200 would be provided to South Ronaldsay Golf Club for the storage of the festive decorations/lights.
2. That the storage of the festive decorations/lights for both villages should be added to the agenda for discussion at a future meeting of the community council.

### **B. Barrier Closures**

Councillor J Moar asked if there had been many barrier closures recently. A discussion followed, with members agreeing that the conditions at the barriers were changing and water coming over the whole causeway at the second barrier, not just at the north end. Members asked to be sent the correspondence from Councillor G Skuse to OIC's Leader on this, as well as the Leader's subsequent response, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion.
2. That the Clerk would circulate the letters from Councillor G Skuse and the OIC Leader, Councillor H Woodbridge, to members again for their reference.

### **C. Kirkyard Grass Cutting**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the contracts for kirkyard grass cutting would need to be advertised soon, and it was:

Resolved to advertise the tenders for grass cutting with a closing date of prior to the next meeting, subject to the outcome of the recent consultation on this subject.

## **D. SSEN Update**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the project team had asked to present an update to members at the next community council meeting, and it was:

Resolved to extend an invite to SSEN representatives to the next meeting.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved to note that the next meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 17 March 2026 in Burray Community Centre at 19:30.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:45.