

Minute of the Meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held in Graemsay Community Hall on Friday, 20 September 2024 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs R Thomson, Mr A Clark, Mrs T Avis, Mrs I Mathieson, Ms P Johnston and Mr A Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
 - Councillor J Park.
 - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
 - Mrs K Dobrzynski, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
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- 7 members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Ms A Kinsey and Councillor G Bevan.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the special transport meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held on 29 May 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs P Johnston and seconded by Mrs T Avis.

The minute of the general meeting of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council held on 12 June 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Clark and seconded by Mrs I Mathieson.

3. Matters Arising

A. Transport Forum/Community Survey Update

Following consideration of an update on the Transport Forum, along with the Community Survey Update, it was:

Resolved to note the following:

- The request for a change to the first morning ferry, from Monday to Friday, that the Hoyhead will call at Flotta and then to Lyness, would be implemented into the Summer 2025 timetable, and was agreed, in principle.
- The decision was made to keep Saturday sailings as they are at the moment.
- The ILO would distribute a public notification once the draft timetables have been agreed and published.

B. JMF Groat Invoices for Aggregate and Haulage

Following consideration of an update from the ILO to advise that the invoice for both the supply and haulage of aggregate by JMF Groat had been received and paid, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the update and that the ILO would chase payment from residents yet to cover their allowance cost and to check the unused tonnage at Lyness so that the remaining could be fairly distributed to those that had requested it.

C. Request from Graemsay Community for 'on request' call into Graemsay for the Nordic Sea

Following consideration of a request from the Graemsay residents that the Nordic Sea called into Graemsay, where booked in advance, Councillor L Hall advised that a decision was yet to be made on the future provision of the service as this year was a trial exercise to ascertain the need for it. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the request and that the ILO would add the request to the Business Letter.

D. Young Scot non-linked Isles Ferry Travel

Following consideration of a request by Mrs R Thomson that the current allowance of 8 vouchers per Young Person be reconsidered as it was inadequate and unrealistic to provide a fair and un-discriminatory provision for those that lived on non-linked Isles, Councillor Hall advised that OIC recognises the issue and was continuing to lobby for a better allowance, and it was:

Resolved to note the request and that the ILO would raise the issue on the Business Letter.

E. Potholes by St John's Manse

Following consideration of a request by Ms P Johnson that the pothole at St Johns Manse be refilled as it had appeared again after only a few weeks of being filled, the Community Council Liaison Officer advised that OIC had requested that all issues such as these be raised on the OIC portal, MyOrkney, as soon as possible, rather than wait for a Community Council meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the request, and that a public notice would also be distributed to highlight the service to the community to try and speed up repairs and improve reporting.

F. Dog waste bins at Longhope

Following consideration of a request by Ms P Johnson regarding a request received from the community for the provision of a dog waste bin to be sited on the Manse Road, opposite the Housing Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the request and for the ILO to add to the Business Letter.

G. Dog Walking area at Osmandwall

Following consideration of a request by Ms P Johnson that a sign be erected to advise members of the public that the walled, grassed area at Osmandwall Cemetery is not a dog walking area, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the request and the ILO would add the request to the Business Letter.

4. Correspondence

A. TRI-CE Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC asking the CC to discuss interest in the setting up of TRI-CE meetings to co-ordinate work between the Community Councils, Community Associations and Development Trusts, along with OIC, HIE and VAO, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and for the ILO to contact Democratic Services to arrange a meeting.

B. OHAL Committee Recruitment Event – 3 July 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from OHAL inviting Community Council members to their recruitment events on 3 July 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note contents of the correspondence.

C. Refuse Bins at Lyness

Following consideration of correspondence from Scapa Flow Museum, advising that they did not have the capacity to increase their public refuse provision, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and for the ILO to contact Orkney Harbours, via the Business Letter, with another request for the provision of a public waste bin to be sited at the Lyness Terminal.

D. We want your opinion – Sustainable Development Goals action and Scottish Community Councils

Following consideration of correspondence from Scotland's International Development Alliance Team, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Additional Foot Passenger Service – Hoy and Flotta from Stromness

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding an update on the Nordic Sea passenger service, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. SRA Online Hustings

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Federation regarding an online husting on 2 July 2024, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Dates for Community Council Conference 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of an upcoming Community Council Conference, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Amendment to New Scapa Flow (Stromness, Lyness and Flotta) Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Ferries with an update to the Nordic Sea passenger ferry service, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

I. Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters

Following consideration of correspondence from Ron Bailey on the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Hoy, Walls and Graemsay Biosecurity Plan 2024 review

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Native Wildlife Project with an update of the Biosecurity plan for Hoy, Walls and Graemsay, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

K. NS&I CC Attendance

Following consideration of correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, to advise that future attendance from their directorate would be on an annual basis only, unless invited to discuss a particular item, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

L. Orkney Towns Fund Community Workshop

Following consideration of correspondence from the Orkney Towns Fund Board to invite members to a community workshop on 18 July, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

M. Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind energy – ICIA

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation inviting members to a workshop on 22 July 2024, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

N. SSEN - £3M Community Fund

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN advising of the details of the £3 Community fund, with a deadline of the end of August, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

O. ORSAS Open Day

Following consideration of correspondence from ORSAS to advise of their Open Day on 7 August 2024, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

P. Ferry Replacement Programme Update

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of the programme for the Ferry Replacement service, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

Q. Grenfell: Building a Disaster retells the story and we should all listen....Why we don't need more policing – even after the riots

Following consideration of correspondence from the Emergency Services Times with a newsletter, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and for future correspondence from the Emergency Services Times to be added as a Publication.

R. NHS SHARE Needs your Support

Following consideration of correspondence from NHS SHARE regarding and invitation to take part in Health Research, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

S. OIC Winter Treatment Contracts

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC with information on the OIC Winter Treatment Contracts, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

T. National Care Service Sessions

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of National Care Service Islands Communities Impact Assessment Online Sessions on 18 and 19 September, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that a post had been made to the Community Councils Facebook page.

U. Nordic Sea Scapa Flow Service

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Ferries with an update to the Nordic Sea Scapa Flow Service from Monday, 9 September, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would request the data for passenger numbers for the Nordic Sea on the Business Letter.

V. Hoy Weighbridge

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC about the proposed demolition of the weighbridge at Longhope pier, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and for the ILO to advise OIC that the weighbridge was still in use and to request that it is left in situ and to be allocated to the Community for its continued use.

W. Orkney Community Council Conference – 4 October 2024

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC advising of the date of the Community Council Conference on 4 October 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would attend to represent the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council.

5. Publications

Resolved to note that the following publication was made available at this meeting:

- VAO – Newsletter - May and August 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – May, June, July and August 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update - May, July and August 2024.
- Scottish Islands Federation – Newsletter - September 2024.
- Isles Special Collection Schedule to 31 March 2025.

6. Consultations

A. Water Safety Questionnaire

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the Water Safety Questionnaire, with a deadline of 11 August 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. 20mph Engagement with Community Councils

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC with a request for any comments on the new 20mph extents by 22 July 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC Marine Planning Team regarding the consultation on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan which will run from 1 August to 25 October, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Orkney Islands Marine Region - Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC Marine Planning regarding the consultation on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan which was running to 25 October 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. National Care Service

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of the deadline of 30 September 2024 for completion of their survey, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. The Voice of the Communities Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC to advise of a survey by Highlands and Islands Enterprise on the Voice of Communities, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the ILO would complete the survey on behalf of the Community Council.

G. Post School Education and Skills Reform: consultation on legislation

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation on the consultation of post school education and skills reform, copies of which had been previously forwarded, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the community council's general finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £22,478.98 as at 5 September 2024.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval of £2,752.94 as at 5 September 2024

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £8,142.21 as at 5 September 2024

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement, it was:

Resolved to note the funds remaining for approval of £0.00 as at 5 September 2024.

8. Finance Requests

A. YM Empower

Following consideration of an application from YM Empower requesting financial assistance towards the cost of annual insurance for the YM Hall, it was:

Resolved to grant the sum of £395.50 toward the cost of the annual insurance for the YM and that a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted on a project cost of £395.50.

B. Friends of The Hoy Kirk

Following consideration of an application from the Friends of the Hoy Kirk requesting financial assistance towards the cost of annual buildings insurance for the Hoy Kirk, it was:

Resolved to grant the sum of £733.39 toward the cost of the annual insurance for the Hoy Kirk and that a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted on a project cost of £733.39.

C. Graemsay Community Association

Following consideration of an application from the Graemsay Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the cost of annual insurance for the Graemsay Community Hall, it was:

Resolved to grant the sum of £453.33 toward the cost of the annual insurance for the YM and that a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted on a project cost of £453.33.

D. Longhope Lifeboat Museum

Following consideration of an application from the Longhope Lifeboat Museum requesting financial assistance towards the cost of annual insurance for the Museum, it was:

Resolved to grant the sum of £317.04 toward the cost of the annual insurance for the Museum and that a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted on a project cost of £317.04.

E. Hoy Youth Hub

Following consideration of an application from the Hoy Youth Hub requesting financial assistance towards the cost of annual buildings insurance for the St Columba's Kirk, it was:

Resolved to grant the sum of £1,261.79 toward the cost of the annual insurance for the kirk and that a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted on a project cost of £1261.79.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Overhanging Trees

Following consideration of a request by A Clark to address the issue of overhanging trees, it was:

Resolved to note the request and that the ILO would put out a reminder post on social media for residents to cut back any overhanging trees/hedges.

B. Harbours visit to Graemsay

Following consideration of concerns raised by Mrs I Mathieson regarding a recent visit by a Harbours official advising that 'anything but GCA items could be placed in the store' meaning that a local resident who stored their bike there for a couple of hours off island would no longer be acceptable and that parking could no longer take place on the pier, restricting accessibility for less abled residents to access the ferry, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the concerns and that Councillor L Hall would address the issue directly with the official and provide feedback to the CC.

C. Graemsay Timetable

Following consideration of a request that the 18:00 sailing from Stromness to Graemsay and Moaness was made a permanent part of the timetable and no longer needed to be pre-booked, it was:

Resolved to note the request and that the ILO would raise the request with both Orkney Ferries and Orkney Harbours.

D. Kirkyards at capacity

Following consideration of a concern raised that existing kirkyards on both Graemsay and Hoy were nearing capacity, it was:

Resolved to note the concern and for the ILO to request an update on previous OIC discussions to resolve the situation, on the Business Letter.

E. Verge cutting on Graemsay

Following consideration of a concern raised by a Graemsay resident that the verges on the island had not been cut this year, it was:

Resolved to note the concern and for the ILO to raise again on the business letter.

F. Degeneration of gabions on Graemsay

Following consideration of a concern raised that there was an issue with the gabions degenerating on the east side sea wall, it was:

Resolved to note the concern and for the ILO to raise the issue on the OIC portal.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would be held on Friday, 24 January 2025 at 19:30 at the North Walls Centre.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:55.