

Minute of the Meeting of Papa Westray Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 21 January 2021 at 19:30

Present:

Mr I Cursiter, Mr A Hourston, Mr B Hourston, Mrs I Hourston, Mrs F McNab, Mr N Rendall and Mr S Thompson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Ms J Foley, Papa Westray Development Trust.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr P Baker, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies had been received.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held 26 November 2020 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Thompson and second by Mrs F McNab.

3. Matters Arising

A. Ferry Issues

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that questions previously directed to the Transport Manager and Ferry Services Manager had been passed to the consultants carrying out the Outline Business Case work, as officers were not able to provide answers to specific queries at this stage. Members were advised that it was hoped to carry out further consultation with the communities in coming weeks.

It was noted that the Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbour Master, had paid a visit to Papa Westray before Christmas, not for the above reasons, but did manage to talk with the Chair regarding the questions. Members felt disappointed that the visit was not announced in advance, missing an opportunity to discuss concerns. They were also disappointed that they had not been informed that the new vessel, the Nordic Sea, was carrying out sea trials around the island recently, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the questions drafted by the Community Council members to the Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbours and the Ferry Services Manager had been passed on to the consultants.
2. That the Clerk would find out if a date had been set for further consultations with island communities.

B. Storage of Frozen goods aboard Orkney Ferries

After consideration of the correspondence sent to Orkney Islands Council regarding the transportation arrangements of frozen foods to Papa Westray, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would contact North Ronaldsay Community Council to find out how the freezers they use were funded and if the lifting accessories belong to the island or Orkney Ferries.
2. That the Clerk would contact Orkney Ferries and request the specification of the freezers required, along with any costings that may be involved.

3. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would look for further information as to when and how North Ronaldsay received their freezers for the ferry.

C. Papay Water Scheme Update

After consideration of correspondence and quotations received from Whisper pumps, Filpumps, Pure water and CloudNet for improvements that would reduce the lime in the water and manage the system more effectively, it was:

Resolved

1. That the quotes from Filpumps and Cloud-Net were best suited to the needs.
2. That the Chair would contact Filpumps to find out the costs for the filter media.
3. That the Clerk would contact Democratic Services for advice on possible sources of grant funding.

D. Community Resilience - Satellite Phone

After consideration of correspondence from NHS Orkney, copies of which had been previously circulated, explaining that they were looking into an alternative mobile telephone network and that the satellite phone would not be required by the medical team should this be successful, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would not purchase any more airtime tariff for the Satellite phone until feedback was received from NHS Orkney.

E. Community Shed - Completion Certificate

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council's Building Standards office, copies of which had previously been circulated, informing the Community Council that the expiry date for the building warrant would expire on 5 February 2021, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair had now received the emergency light that was required for the completion certificate and that he would install the light and take photographic evidence, once installed.
2. That the Clerk would send the photographic evidence to Building Standards, once received.

F. Lease of Land - Community Shed

Following consideration of the draft lease from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members were happy to pursue with the draft lease and felt that further legal consideration and advice was not required.

G. Fibre Broadband Proposal

Following consideration received from Cloud-Net regarding the fibre proposal and the link for individual households to register an interest in being connected, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would circulate the link to islanders and issue paper copies to those unable to access the internet.

H. Kirkyard Road

Following discussions regarding the condition of the kirkyard road, it was:

Resolved to note that this item should remain on the agenda.

I. Papa Westray to Westray Ferry Route

Members considered correspondence received from the Ferry Services Manager in relation to the need to ensure that there was not a break in service. Members were concerned as future plans had yet to be decided and Orkney Ferries could decide to take this service in-house and queried what the outcome of this would be. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would send a letter to the Ferry Services Manager, NHS Orkney and the Education department expressing the concerns raised regarding the future of the service between Papa Westray and Westray.
2. To note that members expressed their disappointment regarding the trial run of the new vessel and that this arrangement had not been made known to the islanders.
3. That Councillor G.Sinclair would enquire as to the future funding of the Ad-Hoc boat scheme and the availability within future arrangements.

J. Community-owned Skip

After consideration of the verbal update received from the Clerk regarding the skip, members queried the maximum load it could carry and whether it needed welding or not, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would enquire and send follow up emails to members.

K. Papay's Fuel Container

After consideration of the verbal update received from members explaining that the fuel container was now in use by the residents of Papa Westray, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

4. Correspondence

A. Covid-19 Recovery Fund

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Papa Westray Development Trust, regarding applications for available funding, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, Chair and the Development Trust speak at another time due to connection problems during the meeting making discussion difficult.

B. R100 - Roundtable Meeting

Following consideration of the correspondence from Liam McArthur MSP regarding a meeting to discuss rural connectivity and the roll out of 5G and broadband, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would be attending the online meeting.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 8 January, copies of which had previously been circulated, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance remaining was £4,859.04.

B. Papa Westray Water Scheme 2021

After consideration of the Papa Westray Water Scheme statement as at 8 January, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £44,903.00.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2020-2021

Following consideration of the 2020-2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 January, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit was fully allocated, that £634.80 remained for allocation in the additional capping limit, and £648.00 remained in the island capping limit.

D. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn statement as at 8 January, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated approved but not claimed balance was £1,000.00.

6. Financial Requests

A. Papa Westray Playground Committee

Following consideration of correspondence from the Papa Westray Playground committee, requesting an increase to the current financial award from £660.00 to £1,500 to purchase a piece of equipment for the public playground, it was:

Resolved:

1. To increase the current award to £1,200.00 utilising CCGS funding.
2. That, should the remaining balance not be funded by any other means, the Playground Committee should be advised to submit another financial request.

B. Road Aggregate

Members heard that queries had been received regarding assistance with the cost of aggregate to improve the tracks leading from the main road past the community shed towards the East of the island, and for the track leading to property owned by the Development Trust (Bewan). Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that members felt that, at this present time, the Community council were unable to assist with road/track improvements.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Members were advised that there were Air and Ferry Consultative Forum meetings coming up in February and asked that if they wanted any information shared then to pass it to the Transport Representative. Members were unsure of what future vessel would be best suited for the needs of Papa Westray and members hoped that the discussion of this would be included at the next stage of the consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

C. Papa Westray Water Scheme Administrator's Report

Resolved to note that there was no information to provide.

D. Papa Westray Development Trust Report

Due to technical difficulties, the PDT representative was unable to share the report. Members were asked if they were agreeable to a RSPB bird warden coming to stay for the spring/summer months on Papa Westray, and whether this would be supported in respect of the current Covid situation, and it was:

Resolved that if measures were taken to protect the community by the warden isolating on arrival, there would be no objections from members.

8. Publications

The following publications had previously been circulated and were noted by members:

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics - September and October 2020.
- My Place Awards.
- Orkney Scam Action Group.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Storage of Gritter and Salt

Following discussion regarding the storage of the gritter and salt, it was agreed that there should be a permanent site found for housing these, undercover, to ensure that weather corrosion was reduced, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write a letter to Orkney Islands Council to see if they would be interested to purchase a small piece of land from a local farmer to house a suitable structure.

B. Ferry Catering

Following consideration of the correspondence from Stronsay Community Council, regarding Orkney Ferries' response explaining the current situation regarding the availability and restrictions of the catering service on board the ferry due to the current pandemic, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Papa Westray Community Council would be held on Thursday, 15 April 2021 in St Ann's Community Room, Papa Westray, if possible, or via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 19:30.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.