

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilisa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 19 March 2026 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Bruce Stuart, Ute Clackson, Cherrie Ellis, Gary Flint-Elkins, Ken Snelson and Andrew Wilcox.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Stephen Clackson.
- Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
- Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

- Two members of the public.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Presentation – North Isles Sports Publication	2
3. Adoption of Minutes	2
4. Matters Arising	2
5. Correspondence	5
6. Consultations	8
7. Reports from Representatives	8
8. Financial Statements	9
9. Applications for Financial Assistance	9
10. Publications	10
11. Any Other Competent Business - Sub-Sea Cable Damage	11
12. Date of Next Meeting	11
13. Conclusion of Meeting	11

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received by Councillor Heather Woodbridge.

2. Presentation – North Isles Sports Publication

Mr Roderick Thorne gave a presentation advising members of the contents of his new book recording the preparations and events leading up to the 75th North Isles Sports. He mentioned that the amount of funding he required to complete his project was higher than what he had first anticipated in the funding application submitted by the Sanday Community Fund on his behalf. He asked members when this funding would be released, and it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would chase this up with SSE.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Sanday Community Council held on 29 January 2026 was approved, being proposed by Ken Snelson and seconded by Andrew Wilcox.

4. Matters Arising

A. Defibrillators

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the repair of the telephone kiosk door housing the defibrillator in Burness and further discussion with regards to the purchase of defibrillator pads, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had ordered and replaced the defibrillator pads in the three defibrillators in the telephone kiosks.
2. To note that the requested door closer for the Burness telephone kiosk had arrived and was now with the contractor.
3. To note that the ILO had asked the contractor for an update on the repair of the Burness kiosk, but had not received one in time for the meeting.
4. To note that as two of the volunteer defibrillator checkers were leaving the island, one who already had, the ILO would advertise in the Sanday Sound newsletter and Facebook for volunteer checkers.

B. Heritage Centre

Following a report from the ILO with an update on the sale of the Heritage Centre from the Sanday Community Council to the Sanday Development Trust, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Community Council Liaison Officer had contacted the ILO and the CDO of the Development Trust to ask the Development Trust if they were happy to proceed with the sale.

2. To note that the ILO had received an email from the Community Development Officer of the Sanday Development Trust advising her that the board had voted to proceed with the purchase of the Heritage Centre and that he would inform Democratic Services and the Chair, G Nickells.

C. SSE Community Funding to Sanday School Parent Council

The ILO provided a report regarding a letter she was asked to write to Sanday School Parent Council requesting an update on the funding they received to install a water irrigation system in the school polycrub, and it was:

Resolved to note that SSE had advised the ILO that as they deal with the Sanday Community Fund on the Community Council's behalf, that they would chase this up when they felt the time was right

D. War Memorial Cleaning

Andrew Wilcox provided an update with regards the cleaning of the War Memorial, and fund-raising plans to help with the costs of the cleaning, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Andrew Wilcox would ask the Development Trust if they would allow them to be the fund holding group for the War Memorial fund raising proceeds on behalf of the Community Council, as they provided this service to other organisations on the island.

2. To note that Alan Simpson had kindly organised a working party to start tidying the memorial site, which would take place at the War Memorial at 10:00 on Saturday, 28 March to kick start the fund-raising campaign.

3. To note that Andrew Wilcox would write an article for the Sanday Sound to advertise this event and that the ILO would facilitate this.

4. To note that Andrew Wilcox was in the process of trying to reinstate the Sanday Branch of the British Legion and the possibility of merging with the Stromness or Kirkwall Branch of the British Legion.

5. To note that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised members that the War Memorial cleaning costs would be eligible for the Community Council Grant Scheme funding, although Andrew Wilcox advised members that he felt that this would be used only as a last resort to top up the fund-raising efforts.

E. Backaskail Car Park

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the lease of the Backaskail Car Park from Scottish Water to the Community Council, and the rateable value provided by the District Valuer, being £400, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Scottish Water were keen to get the lease formalised and to discuss all the points raised in the District Valuers report.
2. To note that the Chair would contact Scottish Water as soon as possible to discuss.

F. Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tenders

Following discussion with the Grass Cutting Tenders for the 2026 season and the briefing note stating that the cuts to inactive burial grounds would be reduced from eight to two and the addition of a contract for the grass cutting at the Backaskaill Car Park, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the members have agreed to wait until they receive the grass cutting tender for 2 cuts at Lady Kirkyard, before they make the decision whether they agree to fund extra cuts at Lady Kirkyard from the Community Council Grant Scheme.
2. To note that the new Backaskaill Car Park grass cutting tender contract would be for 3 cuts, with no collection of the grass.
3. To note that the ILO would advertise the Kirkyard Grass Cutting tenders with a deadline being the end of March 2026.
4. To note that the ILO had arranged for the trimmer to go back to MLM Engineering in Orphir for repair, funded by CCGS.
5. To note that the ILO would arrange for the servicing of the lawnmower, funded by CCGS.

G. Bag the Bruck 2026

A report was provided by the ILO with regards to the Bag the Bruck 2026 event, advising members that she had been working closely with David Warner who would be asking all the groups taking part to register with him on behalf of Greener Orkney, simplifying the process, and that she had asked him to send her the email addresses of the groups taking part. The ILO would then send the claim forms to the groups for her to arrange payment after the event, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

H. Police Orkney Scotland

Following discussion with regards to the members request at the previous meeting asking that the Police come out to Sanday on a regular basis, that they write an article for the Sanday Sound newsletter advising the public about road safety and the abandoned car on the road junction, just past Lady Village, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had put these requests to Police Orkney Scotland on their website and had not had a response from them. She had also advertised the online recruitment event by Police Scotland to recruit Police Constables and Special Constables to be held on Thursday, 26 March 2026.
2. To note that Councillor M Thomson had spoken to the Chief Inspector Scott Robinson, and she advised members that he would be happy to attend a meeting via Teams.
3. Councillor M Thomson mentioned the funding of driving lessons to help with the safety campaign. The ILO advised everyone that Sanday Community Council already fund driving lessons for young people through the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.
4. To note that the ILO would forward all the details of the abandoned car to Councillor Clackson to enable him to contact the relevant OIC officers with this issue.
5. To note that the ILO would contact OIC again with regards to the abandoned car.

5. Correspondence

A. Flood Risk Management Plans – Community Council Update

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency with regards to the Flood Risk Management Plan Phase 1 Consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Picnic Bench

Following consideration of correspondence from a Sanday resident in relation to the picnic bench in the field close to Saville being in a state of disrepair, and further discussion with regards the picnic bench at the War Memorial, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO would research the cost to purchase a recycled picnic bench, similar to the picnic benches purchased by the Community Council in March 2022.
2. To note that members would look into the removal of the picnic bench at the War Memorial as it was in a bad state of repair.

C. Email from Resident

Following consideration of an email from a resident with regards to nesting ravens at the Lady Kirk, requesting if she could arrange for a piece of timber to be placed either side of the window to support the ravens, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had forwarded this request to Democratic Services for their advice.

2. To note that the Burial Grounds Officer had replied and has requested that they would need more information about the work on the Lady Kirk before approving people to make alterations.

3. To note that the ILO had passed this information on to the resident.

D. Community Council Funding Awards

Following consideration of correspondence from a member of the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council, asking if other Community Councils had noticed an increase in funding requests from island groups, in particular insurance cost requests and what other isles guidelines were for similar requests, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO advised members that she had not seen an increase in these types of funding requests

E. Nordic Sea Summer Timetable 2026 Draft

Following a report from the Transport Representative with regards to the Nordic Sea Summer Timetable 2026 Draft, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there have been requests for the Nordic Sea sailings to be earlier in the day.

2. To note that the Transport Representative had written to the Service Manager for Transportation and that the Service Manager had said there was very little room for tweaking the timetable.

F. Sanday GP Surgery

Following consideration of correspondence from the Head of Primary Care advising members that there had been a resignation on Sanday, but as this had coincided with the day they were interviewing candidates for Stronsay, rather than risk losing a good doctor, they decided to fill the Sanday vacancy as well, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Prepaid Paper Tickets and Bookings

Following consideration of correspondence from the Team Manager of Orkney Ferries with regards to pre-paid paper tickets which have now expired (as per the sale terms) and would no longer be accepted as a means of payment on board their vessels and the pre-payment for bookings, which was put in place to ensure the limited deck space on board was utilised accurately, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Spurness Archaeological Excavation

Following consideration of correspondence from Professor Jane Downes of the UHI Archaeology institute with regards to a request for Spurness funding to continue the archaeological excavations at Spurness prehistoric settlement on Sanday, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would send this information on to SSE for their consideration and add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

I. North Ronaldsay – Sanday

Following consideration of correspondence from the Strategic Project Liaison Lead (North) at SSE with regards to the fault which occurred on the cable connecting Sanday and North Ronaldsay on the evening of 11 February and the additional vessels in the waters around the island over the weeks following the fault, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Isles Part-time 20 MPH Update

Following consideration of the briefing note for elected members, CLT and Community Councils with regards to the removal of the part-time 20 mph signage in the Isles, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members are requesting that the speed limit in Lady Village be reduced to 30 mph, Kettletoft 20 mph and Kettletoft Pier 15mph and for the ILO to send this information on to Democratic Services.
2. To note that Councillor M Thomson who is Vice-Chair of the Development and Infrastructure committee would forward the concerns on to the Roads Support team.
3. To note that Councillor S Clackson would get in touch with the relevant officer to request that Kettletoft Pier signage be changed to 15mph, which he had looked into previously.

K. Sinclair Haulage Rates 2026

Following consideration of Sinclair Haulage Rates for 2026, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Andrew Willcox would write a letter to Liam McArthur MSP and Alistair Carmichael MP with regards to the haulage for the isles and that if agreed by the members the ILO would send this letter on for their attention.
2. To note that Councillor M Thomson has weekly correspondences between herself and Liam McArthur MSP.
3. To note that Councillor M Thomson would forward the letter to Luke Fraser, Community Development Officer for North Ronaldsay, on behalf of Sanday Community Council.

L. RBL Best Kept War Memorial

Following consideration of correspondence from the Royal British Legion Kirkwall Branch with regards to the RBL Best Kept War Memorial competition, with the deadline for entering being 31 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that Sanday would not be ready for the competition this year, but would be interested in entering the competition next year.

6. Consultations

A. Briefing Note – Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

Following discussion with regards the briefing notice for the Burial Grounds Grass Cutting, it was:

Resolved to note that this item had been discussed during item 4f – Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tenders.

B. Winter Service Policy 2026-2031

Following consideration of the Winter Service Policy 2026-2031 consultation, it was:

Resolved to note that members are requesting the following changes:

- Oyce Road be changed from a Priority 3 to Priority 2, due to the Harbour Master living in that road.
- Rue Road be changed from a Priority 2S to Priority 2, due to one of the nurses living in that road.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan 2025 – 2030

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2025-2030, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the Consultation.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative and further discussion with regards to the X1 bus from Kirkwall to Stromness and return, it was:

Resolved to note that connections for onwards travel to mainland Scotland were difficult and that members are requesting that the X1 bus stops in the North Isles ferry car park to and from their routes to Kirkwall and Stromness and that the ILO would forward this request to Orkney Islands Council.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report in relation to planning.

C. Development Trust Representative

Following a report from the Chair advising members that Gary Flint-Elkins could not take up the role of Development Trust Representative at present, and that it was hoped that he could possibly take on the role as a non-voting representative to be discussed at the Development Trusts AGM, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £17,938.85.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £1,730.90.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was fully allocated, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £780.00 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £304.95.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £10,806.34.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 3 March 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,689.79.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Spurness Sanday Community Fund

Resolved to note there were no funding applications made to the Spurness Sanday Community Fund.

B. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Ewan Barnes-Wilcox

Following consideration of an application from Ewan Barnes-Wilcox requesting financial assistance towards the cost of attending an outward-bound trip to Hoy in June 2026, it was:

Resolved that £125 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

2. Roxy Lanyon

Following consideration of an application from Roxy Lanyon requesting financial assistance towards the cost of attending an outward-bound trip to Hoy in June 2026, it was:

Resolved that £125 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

3. Morgan Asquith

Following consideration of an application from Morgan Asquith requesting financial assistance towards the cost of attending an outward-bound trip to Hoy in June 2026, it was:

Resolved that £125 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

4. George Holly

Following consideration of an application from George Holly requesting financial assistance towards the cost of attending an outward-bound trip to Hoy in April 2026, it was:

Resolved that £205 would be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

5. Maria Fisher

Following consideration of an application from Maria Fisher to facilitate body confidence workshops from April 2026 to March 2027, it was:

Resolved that £300 would be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – March 2026.
- VAO Training and Funding – February 2026.
- Letters from School Place – February 2026.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – February 2026.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – January and February 2026.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – February 2026.

- Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme – March 2026.

11. Any Other Competent Business - Sub-Sea Cable Damage

Following discussion with regards to the Sub-Sea Cable breakage causing the Full-Fibre broadband outage on the island, it was:

Resolved to note that residents must report the fault with their own broadband provider to receive compensation.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Sanday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 14 May 2026, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:04.