# Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm, on Wednesday, 11 June 2025 at 19:30

**Present**:

Erland Drever, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson, Alan Scott, Karen Spence and Robbie Thomson.

**In Attendance**:

* Councillor James R Moar.
* Councillor Raymie S Peace.
* Councillor Gillian Skuse.
* Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
* Cheryl Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
* SSEN (via Microsoft Teams) (for Item 6 only):
* Hamish Rutherford – Submarine Cable Design and Project Engineer.
* Mark Steward – Marine Consents Manager.
* Katy Urquhart – Environmental Consents Manager.
* Geraldine Higgins – Strategic Project Liaison.
* Hazel Flett, Clerk.

**Chair**:

* Hazel Flett, Clerk, for Items 1 and 2.
* Alan Scott in the Chair, for Items 3 to 18.

Order of Business**.**

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## 1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Martin Lee.

## 2. Appointment of Chair

Resolved that Alan Scott be reappointed Chair.

## 3. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that Martin Lee be reappointed Vice Chair, subject to confirmation.

## 4. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that the Clerk be reappointed as the Planning Representative.

## 5. Appointment of Health and Social Care Representative

Resolved that the Chair be appointed as the Health and Social Care Representative, with the Vice Chair deputising if required.

## 6. Holm-Burray Submarine Electrical Cable Replacement

Following a presentation from representatives of SSEN regarding an upgrade to the local power distribution network, including a replacement subsea cable connecting Holm to Burray, and survey works to be carried out over the summer, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation.

The SSEN representatives left the meeting at this point.

## 7. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 2 April 2025 was approved, being proposed by Robbie Thomson and seconded by Christine Muir.

## 8. Matters Arising

### A. Local Place Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from S Shearer providing feedback on representations received at the Tabletop Sale held on 6 April 2025, together with correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding potential funding from The Orkney Fund, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council should proceed with the development of a Local Place Plan for Holm.

2. To establish a working group to progress the Place Plan, with the following core members:

* Community Council representatives:
* Erland Drever.
* Christine Muir.
* Bill Robertson.
* Karen Spence.
* Susan Shearer.
* Anna Mason, Holm Community Heritage at St Nicholas Kirk.
* Graeme Bartlett, Holm Sailing Club.
* Representative from Rockworks/East United Football Club/Holm Parish.
* Representative from Loch of Ayre Walkway.
* Representative from Holm Community Association.

3. That the Clerk should submit an Expression of Interest for funding the local Place Plan to The Orkney Fund.

### B. St Mary’s Christmas Decorations

The Clerk had received information from Martin Lee regarding costs associated with eight new Christmas decorations, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should purchase eight new Christmas motifs at a cost of £300 each, and associated commando plugs.

2. That Erland Drever should contact Orkney Sea Farms, operator of the Fish Farm at Westerbister, to ascertain whether they would be prepared to provide a financial contribution towards the cost of the new Christmas motifs.

3. That the Clerk should contact West of Orkney Windfarm to ascertain whether they would be willing to provide a financial contribution towards the cost of the new Christmas motifs.

4.That the balance of the cost of the new Christmas motifs be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme and/or the Community Development Fund.

### C. Visitor Levy

Following consideration of correspondence from Tim Eagle MSP regarding his open letter to Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister, regarding the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 and proposals to introduce a local visitor levy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### D. Maintenance of Kirkyard Gate

Robbie Thomson advised that the second gate at the old kirkyard required repainting, and it was:

Resolved that the cost of painting the gate in the old kirkyard be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

### E. Financial Assistance – Notes of Thanks

The Clerk advised that she had received notes of thanks from Emma Thomson, Morag Ewing, Charlie Taylforth and Bill Robertson for financial assistance received from the Community Council in respect of their children participating in sporting and other events, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### F. Planters/Flower Tubs and War Memorial

The Clerk advised that she had contacted The Yard Nursery to seek an update on the provision of bedding plants in the planters along the village, as well as proposals to upgrade the area around the war memorial, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that The Yard Nursery had provided a quote of £250 for the supply of bedding plants and planting up the six planters in the village and the two planters at the war memorial.

2. To note that The Yard Nursery still intended to undertake works at the war memorial, however, if this was not completed in time, they would ensure the area was tidied up ahead of the Remembrance Sunday event in November 2025.

## 9. Correspondence

### A. Island Games – Sports Schedule

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the draft competition schedule for the Island Games in July 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### B. Verge Maintenance Plan – Community Council Comments

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council responding to comments received from community councils in respect of the verge maintenance plan, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Orkney Islands Council had already taken the decision to reduce verge maintenance to one cut per year.

2. To note that Orkney Islands Council would appreciate reports of injurious weeds and any safety cuts required.

### C. Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Campaign

Following consideration of correspondence from Ron Bailey regarding the safety campaign in respect of the disposal of lithium-ion batteries, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### D. Orkney 2025 – Council Service Changes

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising of service changes during the Island Games 2025 (12 to 18 July 2025 inclusive), copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the following arrangements:

* Domestic recycling collections in Stromness and the West Mainland were cancelled for the week of the Games
* Refuse collections in Kirkwall and the East Mainland would go ahead as usual although timings might be impacted by road closures.
* Commercial collections would go ahead as usual, although timings might be impacted by road closures.
* The Garson Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) would be closed on Sunday, 13 July 2025, due to the triathlon event taken place in and around Stromness, although all other HWRCs would be operating to their usual times.
* Additional public bins would be placed in Kirkwall and Stromness town centres to provide extra waste/recycling provision.
* Street cleaning would be carried out as normal, although some timings might be altered to avoid clashing with scheduled Island Games events.

### E. Island Games Road Closures

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a letter and maps sent out to residents who would be affected by road closures during the Island Games, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Orkney Islands Council was distributing the correspondence on behalf of Orkney 2025 and any follow up questions or comments should be referred to them and not Orkney Islands Council.

2. To note that follow-up communications would be arranged nearer the Games and it would be important that later updates were rad carefully as it was still likely that the timings of some closures would alter.

## 10. Financial Statements

### A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 29 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the new statements for 2025/2026 did not include the annual grant, as that had not yet been confirmed.

2. To note that a donation of £1,000 had been paid to Holm Community Association in respect of the Senior Citizens Party held in December 2024.

3. To note the estimated balance as at 29 May 2025 of £9,848.10.

### B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 29 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 29 May 2025, projects to the value of £3,665 had been approved, of which £200 had been claimed.

2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,467.

3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

### C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 29 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,000.

### D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 29 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,003.33.

## 11. Financial Requests

### A. A-L Moar – Athletics

Following consideration of an application from C Moar requesting financial assistance toward her daughter participating in an athletics competition in Inverness in May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made.

### B. J Sutherland – Athletics

Following consideration of an application from K Swan requesting financial assistance toward her son participating in athletics competitions in Inverness in May 2025 and Grangemouth in June 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a donation of £40 be made in respect of each competition.

2. That the Community Council’s policy regarding financial assistance be limited to those 18 years and under and in full-time education.

### C. Parish Food and Drink Competition - May 2025

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Parish food and drink competition held in May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed, via email, to give a donation of £70 to Holm Community Association in respect of ingredients required for entries to the Parish food and drink competition.

### D. J Bruce – Scottish Women’s Paddle Symposium

Following consideration of an application from J Munro requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in the Scottish Women’s Paddle Symposium held in Aviemore from 16 to 18 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made.

### E. O Rendall – KGS Football

Following consideration of an application from Y Rendall requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in a KGS activities football trip to Aberdeen from 26 to 29 May 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made.

### F. Holm Community Association

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting financial assistance towards painting the totem pole, the Gala Day on 5 July 2025 and the purchase of a new fridge for the hall kitchen, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £132.20 be provided in respect of painting the Totem Pole, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

2. That sponsorship of £500 be provided in respect of the Gala Day.

3. To meet the cost of a new fridge, utilising the additional grant scheme category, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

### G. J Bruce – KGS Drama Trip

Following consideration of an application from J Munro requesting financial assistance towards her daughter participating in a KGS trip to the Central Belt in September 2025 as part of the Advanced Higher Drama course, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made.

### H. M Robertson – Rugby Training and History Trip

The Clerk had received an application from S Robertson requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in rugby training in France from 25 to 31 August 2025, and a history trip to Ypres in October 2025, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £70 be made in respect of each trip.

### I. G, L-M and E Drever – Gymnastics and Football

The Clerk had received applications from E Drever requesting financial assistance towards his children participating in various sporting competitions, and it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made in respect of each of the following events:

* Gymnastics competition, Inverness, 12 March 2025 (G Drever).
* Gymnastics competition, Motherwell, 12 April 2025 (L-M Drever).
* KGS football trip, Aberdeen, 26 May 2025 (E Drever Junior).

### J. M Thomson – KGS Trip to Berlin

After hearing representations from Robbie Thomson, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £70 be made in respect of M Thomson participating in the KGS S3 trip to Berlin in April 2025.

## 12. Provision of Defibrillator in St Mary’s

Following consideration of correspondence from K Muir regarding the provision of a defibrillator in St Mary’s, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing further representations from C Muir, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Cooke Aquaculture regarding funding towards the provision of a defibrillator in St Mary’s.

## 13. Consultations

### A. Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council requesting comments on the Winter Service Plan, for which response were due by 30 June 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved that members should submit any comments to the Clerk by the deadline of 30 June 2025, which would be passed to Orkney Islands Council.

### B. SEPA – Proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme, designed to provide a common standard to rate an operator’s environmental performance and to secure improvements in compliance, for which response were due by 30 June 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was

Resolved that members should submit any comments to the Clerk by the deadline of 30 June 2025, which would be passed to SEPA.

### C. Scottish Government – Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation advising of the Scottish Government’s consultation on the draft updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, for which comments were due by 22 August 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a number of in-person events would be taking place, including one in Kirkwall on 11 June 2025, as well as online events on 11 June, 16 July and 11 August 2025, which would focus primarily on assessment findings and would be attended by the consultancy responsible for the assessment.

2. That members should submit any comments to the Clerk by the deadline of 22 August 2025, which would be passed to the Scottish Government.

## 14. Meetings Attended by Members

### A. Online Workshop – Local Place Plans

Orkney Islands Council had provided details of an online workshop relating to developing local place plans, held on 21 May 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that Holm Community Council had not been represented.

### B. Scottish Government’s Islands Team – National Islands Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding sessions organised by the Scottish Government’s Islands Team to discuss the new National Islands Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that Holm Community Council had not been represented.

## 15. Publications

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

* VAO Newsletters – March and April 2025.
* VAO Orkney – Training and Funding Updates – April and May 2025.
* ORSAS – Quarterly Newsletter – May 2025.
* OIC CLDE – Free Family Fun Day, Picky Centre, 15 June 2025.
* VAO – Volunteering Special Newsletter.

## 16. Any Other Competent Business

### A. Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance

Following consideration of correspondence from Michael Hanratty, Community Fundraising Office, Highlands and Islands, raising awareness of the essential work which Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) did throughout the region, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that SCAA would be visiting Orkney in August and attending Dounby and County Shows and would be available to meet with individual community councils.

### B. Ayre Offshore Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence from Allan Tait, Community Engagement Manager, Thistle Wind Partners, advising that marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure would be submitted later in 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that progress would be shared by series of formal Pre-Application Consultation Events on 27 and 28 August 2025 in Deerness and Kirkwall.

### C. Scapa Deep Water Quay

The Clerk had been contacted by the Technical Advisor team regarding developments with the Scapa Deep Water Quay, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That representatives be invited to give a presentation at the next meeting.

2. That details regarding the Holm Gala Day be passed to the team so that consideration could be given to a wider public engagement session.

## 17. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on 3 September 2025 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

## 18. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:38*.*