

# Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 19 January 2026 at 19:30

## Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mr I Deyell, Ms A Duncan, Mr C Dun and Mrs H Scott (via Teams) and Mr I Scott.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms H Galland, Clerk.
  
- 9 members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M Thomson and S Clackson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held on 1 December 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Ms A Duncan and seconded by Mr C Dun.

The summary of a meeting held on 18 December 2025 was also discussed and was noted by members. It was also noted that this meeting could not be classed as a special meeting as it had not been arranged in line with the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils.

The Chair took a moment to remind members of the public of the procedure to be followed at CC meetings and that public were asked to raise their hand if they wanted to speak, which would be at the discretion of the Chair. He also advised that any matters to be discussed should be sent two weeks in advance of the meeting to the Clerk in order for it to be added to the agenda.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Gate at West Hill**

Further to requests regarding the ownership and responsibility of the Gate at West Hill, and an update which had been previously forwarded to members, it was:

Resolved:

1. To purchase a gate in the next financial year, using CCGS funding.
2. That members disputed the statement that OIC were no longer responsible for this gate, given that they had a recollection of them paying for repairs previously and there were other gates on the island that might also be under question.
3. That the community council would continue to lobby OIC to pay for the replacement of the West Hill slap.
4. That the Clerk would ensure the issue is on the agenda of the first meeting in the new financial year.

### **B. Lawnmower Servicing**

The issue of the CC owned mower going missing at the end of the summer was raised and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should purchase a shed hasp and lock suitable for outdoor use, to be paid for from general funds.

2. That one key would be retained by the Clerk and the other given to the allocated contractor for kirkyard grass cutting.
3. That the terms and conditions for the grass cutting tender be amended to ensure that contractors were fully aware that CC owned equipment is to remain in the shed when not being used for CC related work.

### **C. Ferry Replacement Options**

Further to the suggestion by Papa Westray CC to write a joint letter of concern in relation to proposed options for ferry replacement and infrastructure changes, and further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would send a request to Papa Westray CC asking if they would be available to have a joint meeting or for NRCC to join their next CC meeting on 12 February 2026 to discuss these issues prior to a letter being sent.
2. To request that all North Isles councillors attend this meeting.
3. To note the suggestion that approaching the Scottish Government in a move to bypass OIC might be counterproductive given that OIC own the ferry fleet.
4. That the formation of a separate committee to oversee this issue would be added to the next NRCC meeting agenda.
5. That lobbying local councillors to get them on side and remind them they have a duty to hear the needs of all their constituents not just their own island would be beneficial.
6. That arranging a joint meeting of PWCC and NRCC with Head of Transport would be discussed after the initial joint meeting of both islands.

### **D. Transport Forum Meeting – 21 January 2026**

It was noted that there was a Transport Forum meeting scheduled for 21 January and that NRCC would be represented.

Following a discussion that the recent public meeting regarding the Ferry Replacement Programme had resulted in inappropriate comments and behaviour, it was:

Resolved that it was in the best interests of the island to show respect to the Transportation Service Manager and that engaging their support would be the most productive way to get the islands' needs met.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Scottish Union of Supported Employment - Online App**

Correspondence regarding the availability of an in-development online app to help people in supported employment had been circulated to members previously, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the details had been shared on the residents' social media and noticeboards.

### **B. NHSO - Improving the Cancer Journey Service**

Correspondence regarding local support available to people dealing with cancer had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the details had been shared on the residents' social media and noticeboards.

### **C. Head of Primary Care, OHAC - Near Me App**

Correspondence from the Head of Primary Care regarding an app that enables residents to book video appointments with consultants and other specialists had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the details had been shared on the residents' social media and noticeboards.

### **D. Participation Requests**

Correspondence from Mr M Purvis regarding community council support for a participation request, in particularly relating to transport issues, had previously been circulated to members. The Chair responded, and it was:

Resolved to note that OIC already had the Transport Forum set up to address this matter on the issue of transport, but it might be something to consider for other issues.

### **E. SEPA - National Flood Plan Report 2025**

Correspondence regarding details of the national flood plan report had been circulated to members previously, and it was:

Resolved to note that North Ronaldsay hadn't traditionally been involved in the plan because of issues with insurance for properties in possible flood zones but given the predicted direction of weather it may be something to participate with in future.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

### **A. SEPA - Safe Use of the Water Environment**

A consultation from SEPA had previously been shared with members, with a deadline of 3 March 2026, and it was:

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

## **B. Thistle Wind Partners - Ayre Offshore Wind Farm**

Members had previously been forwarded an email in relation to the Marine Directorate's consultation on the offshore consent application submitted by Ayre Offshore Wind Farm, which was proposed to be located to the east of Orkney and north-east of Caithness, following the submission of their onshore planning application to The Highland Council in Summer 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation was open until 8 February 2026 should any members wish to take part.

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

Following consideration of a consultation on an application for section 36 consent by EMEC, to construct and operate the Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 31 January 2026, and that members could participate individually but no statement by the NRCC would be forwarded.

# **6. Financial Statements**

## **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 17 December 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £20,718.56.

## **B. Turbine Fund**

Members considered the turbine statement as at 17 December 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £23,856.80.

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme as at 17 December 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the total approved but not yet allocated was - £545.35.
2. To note that £240 would shortly be taken from the white goods project but that the remainder from the £400 total could now be released for other projects, and that members agreed to this.

3. To note that grass cutting funding set aside could be utilised towards other projects.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund as at 17 December 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the total available for allocation was £8,768.

## **7. Financial Requests**

Resolved to note that there were no requests for financial support at this time.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport Representative**

Resolved to note that transport issues had been discussed and would further be discussed in AOCB.

### **B. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that there was nothing in relation to Planning to report at this time.

### **C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative**

Resolved to note that the Trebb Project was near completion with a push to meet a deadline of the end of February.

### **D. Health and Care Representative**

It was reported that the last meeting had been held on 2 December 2025 and there were discussions relating to child services and to the digital switch over. After mainland Orkney had encountered a recent power cut and found themselves unable to contact their NHS services, there seemed to be more sympathy for some of the issues experienced by the outer isles on a more regular basis. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there was a need to know what will be available to replace the reliability of landlines, in the face of power cuts and also bad weather affecting digital and satellite solutions.
2. To note that, previously, there had been a request from OIC for expressions of interest in care training which had not been delivered, and the Clerk would chase up what had happened with this scheme.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – December 2025.

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – December 2025.
- Letter from School Place – December 2025.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – December 2025.
- SEPA Update - January 2026.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Grass Cutting Tenders 2026**

It was advised that the 2026 tender for kirkyard grass cutting was due to be advertised, but that there had been no outcome as yet of the consultation that had been carried out at the end of 2025 relating to the number of OIC funded cuts. Members suggested to assume meantime that the number of cuts being paid for would be 6 per year and that members would need to decide whether to contribute to any discrepancy between the tender and the amount available from OIC.

Storage of CC owned equipment was also discussed, and it was agreed that additional security measures would be required.

It was confirmed that moss clearing had not been undertaken, despite residents being informed and offered the chance to carry out the works prior to it being undertaken by the Council. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise the grass cutting tenders for 2026 based on 12 cuts, and that the deadline would be set as 13 March 2026.
2. That the Clerk would review the terms and conditions and ensure there is a clause stating that all CC equipment must be stored in the kirkyard shed when not being used for CC work.
3. That any request to use the CC equipment out with the tender should be sent to the Clerk for the members to approve.
4. To note that there had been no expressions of interest for the work to install rabbit proofing at the Old Kirk and the Clerk would make enquiries with the rabbit controllers who were recently on island to provide a quote for such work to put to OIC.

### **B. CC Owned Cattle Floats**

A question was forwarded on whether there were restrictions on what animals could be transported in the floats owned by the community council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there had been no amendment to the conditions of use, and all livestock species could be carried but that priority was given to their primary use as cattle transportation to the Auction Mart in Kirkwall, and that any use out with this, or

for an “alternative use” (i.e. not livestock) must be approved by members prior to use.

2. That there may be a requirement to charge for their use in future to help meet maintenance costs.
3. That there may be requirement in future that trailers hold a sump for effluent and there would be a need to stay abreast of new regulations.

### **C. Election of Transport Representative**

Following the departure of the Transport Representative, it was agreed to elect a new one at this meeting. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Ms A Duncan be elected to the role of Transport Representative, being proposed by Mrs H Scott and seconded by Mr I Deyell.
2. That Mr C Dun was appointed as the shadow Transport Representative and would accompany Ms A Duncan to the next Transport Forum, if the OIC agreed that it was acceptable for an island to send more than one representative to the meeting.
3. To note the Chair’s thanks to those members for agreeing to step up and take on this difficult role.

### **D. Resignation**

It was noted with sadness that Mrs L Paterson had handed in her resignation following the previous meeting. As she had been the Planning Representative, members deliberated on whether to elect someone else to this role, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would take on the role of Planning Representative, and would circulate the weekly list to members, highlighting any relevant applications.
2. That the Clerk would send a letter of thanks to Mrs L Paterson, on behalf of NRCC, for all her hard work and support.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 16 March 2026 at 19:30 in the Community Centre.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:26.