

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 14 August 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Ute Clackson (via Teams), Elaine Snelson and Ken Snelson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Stephen Clackson.
 - Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
 - Anne Byers, Arch Henderson Consultants.
 - Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
 - Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
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- Two members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received by Bruce Stuart and Andrew Wilcox and Councillor Heather Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 19 June 2025 was approved, being proposed by Ken Snelson and seconded by Elaine Snelson.

3. Presentation – Orkney Harbours Master plan Phase 2 Project

The representative from the consulting firm Arch Henderson gave a presentation updating members on the Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 2 project. Phase 2 would include all OIC harbours and piers that were not in Phase 1. She advised members of the timeline of events that would be happening, which would include a plan for marina infrastructure. The plan would be a mini masterplan for each community, where there would be plenty of scope for engagement. In late August a group would be coming out to Sanday to perform baseline condition surveys at Loth pier and in February, consultants would be coming out to show the community the masterplans progress and to gather information from the community. It was further advised that a final community consultation was planned for August/September 2026. Following the presentation, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note thanks to the Arch Henderson representative for the informative presentation.

B. To note that the Chair and member of the Kettletoft Regeneration Group requested that consultants attend a Sanday Development Trust meeting.

C. To note that Councillor Stephen Clackson offered to draw on information from the past with regards to Loth Pier to assist.

D. To note that OIC was conducting a coastal adaption survey on low lying islands and what impact this would have on harbours.

4. Matters Arising

A. Defibrillators

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the defibrillators and an update on the repair to the telephone kiosk door housing one of the defibrillators, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the locum doctor had suggested that the details of who to contact in an emergency, the same signage which replaced the 999 contact details that are displayed on the cabinets housing the defibrillators, also be put on the front of the defibrillator carry cases.

2. To note that the proprietor who had previously made the signs with the emergency details for the cabinets kindly had offered to make signs to go on the front of the cases free of charge.

3. To note that the ILO collected the signs from the proprietor and had now displayed the emergency details signs onto the carry cases of all the defibrillators.

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 to note that the ILO would write to Democratic Services advising them of the clauses members wished to go on the sale agreement discussed at the previous meeting and to start the sale process with the Sanday Community Council solicitor.

C. Sanday Community Council and Development Trust Surgeries

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the joint monthly surgeries held at Heilsa Fjold, it was:

Resolved to note that as no residents were coming to these surgeries, they would be postponed for the time being and be held on an as and when needed basis.

D. Kettletoft Regeneration Group

The Chair provided a report with regards to the Kettletoft Regeneration Group, in particular the plans for the Kettletoft Stores. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that many ideas had been discussed, such as a visitor centre, water sports hire and workshops for crafters.

2. To note that there were plans to redevelop the Men's Shed by putting an extension on at the back.

3. To note that a member mentioned the rubbish at the shoreline, and it had been advised that this was the responsibility of the landowner and not any organisations on the island.

E. War Memorial Cleaning

Following discussion with regards to the cleaning of the War Memorial, it was:

Resolved that as Andrew Wilcox had previously been dealing with this item and was not present at the meeting, the Chair would get in touch with him for an update on its progress.

F. Recycling Unit

Following discussion with regards to the Recycling Unit for glass, metal and paper that was situated at Kettletoft Pier, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would contact Orkney Islands Council to request that it be moved back to its original position at the Heritage Centre car park.

G. Bag the Bruck 2025

Following a report from the ILO with regards to Bag the Bruck 2025, advising that the remainder of the collected bruck had only just been removed in the second week of August, it was:

Resolved to note that members were disappointed in the agencies involved with the delay in collecting the bruck this year and for the ILO to inform Orkney Islands Council of their disapproval in how it was handled.

5. Correspondence

A. SEPA Consultation - Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA with regards to the consultation on a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS), it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair was unable to attend this meeting, but there had been a recording made of it, which could be shared.

B. Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting

Following consideration of the invite from the Orkney Community Planning Partnership to the Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting, which was held on 24 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Update – Ferry Replacement Programme

Following discussion with regards to an update on the Ferry Replacement Programme and the on-island consultation planned for Sanday on 27 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would be participating in this consultation on behalf of the Sanday Community Council.

D. Annual Grants 2025/2026

Following consideration of the Annual Grants 2025/2026, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that Sanday Community Council had been awarded an annual grant of £4,670.33.

E. Briefing Note - SATE

Following consideration of the briefing note from the department of Marine Services and Transportation with regards to the aviation related projects, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. TWP Small Donations Funds for Communities Launch

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Stakeholder Engagement Manager at Thistle Wind Partners with regards to their small donations fund for local communities to groups based in Orkney and Caithness, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would look into this.

G. (Case Ref: AC14494) Greenpower Proposed Windfarm

Following consideration of the correspondence from MP Alistair Carmichael with regards to a letter of objection sent to him by an Eday resident objecting to the proposed windfarm, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. ESS and ETS 2025 Invite

Following consideration of invites to attend the Emergency Services Show and the Emergency Tech Show at the NEC Birmingham in September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Consultation – Air and Ferry Consultative Forum

Following consideration of the invite to the Air and Ferry Consultative Forum on 19 August 2025, and associated draft timetables for summer 2026, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the Transport Representative would be attending the forum and the Chair would attend via Teams.

B. To note that the Transport Representative had put a notice on Facebook asking residents to get in touch with her to voice their concerns so that she could take their comments to the Forum, of which 7 residents responded.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative had discussed her report during the Air and Ferry Consultative Forum item.

B. Planning Representative

Following a report from the Planning Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that an application had been received to install three containers and two modular buildings (for shop/storage purposes), two polycarbonate

polytunnels, fuel pump and tanks, and a foul drainage system, create car parking and a picnic/rest area (retrospective) and create an access at Store, Hillfield, Sanday.

C. Development Trust Representative

The Development Trust Representative gave a report advising members of the various projects being undertaken by the Trust at present, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Health and Care Representative

Following a report from the Health and Care Representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Health and Care Representative voiced her concerns with regards to residents having to travel to Aberdeen for hospital appointments which takes two overnight stays for a brief hospital appointment.

2. To note that Councillor Mellissa Thomson suggested that it may be useful for the Health and Care Representative to attend the Orkney NHS Boards board meetings which were open to the public and held every other month, where members of the public and staff were welcome to attend and observe proceedings. There was an 'Open Forum' at the end of each meeting providing a public questions and answers session.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 28 July 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £19,250.77.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 28 July 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £5,655.40.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 28 July 2025, 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 28 July 2025, 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 28 July 2025, it was:

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

F. Foundation Scotland (previously the Sanday Future Fund)

Following discussion with regards to the Foundation Scotland information leaflet explaining the process on how to obtain statement details, and that the ILO had struggled to access the portal to provide statements for the members, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO would try to access the Foundation Portal again to access statements showing the balance within the fund.
2. To note that Councillor Stephen Clackson would look into the previous policy agreement between Sanday Community Council and the Sanday Future Fund and would pass this information on to the members.
3. To note that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer suggested that members invite the previous Chair of the Community Council who resigned from the role in June 2022, to a meeting to discuss the Sanday Future Fund and other funding matters. The Chair advised members that he would contact the previous Chair directly to arrange this.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Sanday Branch of the Royal British Legion – War Memorial

Following consideration of an application from the secretary of the Sanday Branch of the Royal British Legion, previously agreed via email for the purchase of bulbs and compost for the War Memorial, it was:

Resolved that an application for £24.99 be made to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the costs.

B. Voluntary Action Orkney

Following consideration of the yearly subscription to the Voluntary Action Orkney Newsletter, it was:

Resolved that an application to the Community Council Grant Scheme for £15 would be made to cover the costs.

C. Roderick Thorne

Following consideration of an application from Roderick Thorne for £3,000.00 to cover the costs associated with a revised updated edition of his book 75 Years of Orkney North Isles Sports which would include amendments plus details of the 75th Anniversary of the North Isles Sports held in June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would contact Roderick Thorne for further information and to discuss.

D. Sanday Agricultural Association – Show Costs

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Agricultural Association received on 8 July 2025 requesting financial assistance for the costs associated with the Sanday Show which was held on Friday 1 August 2025, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Community Council Grant Scheme, subject to approval.

E. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Sanday Agricultural Association

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Agricultural Association received on 8 July 2025 requesting financial assistance for the ongoing costs at Sanday Show on Friday 1 July 2025, it was:

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

2. Sanday Community Craft Hub

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Community Craft Hub received on Wednesday 9 July 2025 requesting financial assistance towards travel costs for 2 Community Craft Hub Committee members to attend an awards ceremony in Inverness on Friday 3 October 2025, it was:

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

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – June and July 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – June and July 2025.
- Keep Scotland Beautiful Newsletter – June 2025.
- Letters from School Place – June and July 2025.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – June and July 2025.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Changing Places Toilet Facilities Funding

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the Changing Places Toilet Facilities Funding, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had put forward an expression of interest to the funders and would liaise with the Sanday Development Trust as to where this Changing Places Toilet should be situated if Sanday was to be successful in securing funding.

B. Whale Strandings

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the recent whale strandings of 23 pilot whales at Roo beach, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair and Councillor Stephen Clackson had met up with the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities and had taken him to the site of the strandings.
2. To note that the group had discussed 6 options to dispose of the whale carcasses and that the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities had gone back to SEPA to ask them which option would be the best way forward.

C. Ragwort at Backaskail Whale Car Park

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the ragwort at the Backaskail Whale car park, which she had been alerted to from a landowner that had land situated near the area, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO visited the car park and took photographs to show the members.
2. To note that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised members that it was their responsibility to remove the ragwort.
3. To note that members agreed that the ILO should contact the kirkyard grass cutting contractor to ask if he would be willing to clear the ragwort, tidy up the area and provide a quote for the work for them to consider.

D. Pier Speed Limit Signage

Following a report from Councillor Stephen Clackson with regards to an email he received from the Deputy Harbour Master at Orkney Islands Council in connection with the speed limits at Rousay Pier, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that in the email Councillor Clackson had received, it mentioned that the Orkney Harbour bylaws for vehicles state that; “8a – No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed exceeding 15 mph”.
2. To note that Councillor Clackson mentioned that at Kettletoft Pier it shows that the National Speed Limit applies.
3. To note that the Deputy Harbour Master advised Councillor Clackson that during the Harbours departments next round of pier visits, they would cross check the signage and ensure that the right signage is displayed at Kettletoft Pier.

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, 25 September 2025, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:40.