

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 25 September 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Bruce Stuart, Ute Clackson, Ken Snelson and Andrew Wilcox.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Stephen Clackson.
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

- One member of the public.

Order of Business

1. Welcome and Election	2
2. Apologies	2
3. Adoption of Minutes	2
4. Matters Arising	2
5. Correspondence	5
6. Consultations	6
7. Reports from Representatives	7
8. Financial Statements	7
9. Applications for Financial Assistance.....	8
10. Publications	9
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	10
12. Date of Next Meeting	11
13. Conclusion of Meeting	11

1. Welcome and Election

The Community Council Liaison Officer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She gave an overview of the community council vacancy procedure for election. She then called for a proposer and seconder for each of the two nominations, who had put their intention to stand for election in writing due to not being able to attend the meeting in person, and it was:

Resolved to note that Gary Flint-Elkins was elected to Sanday Community Council, being proposed by Gary Nickells and seconded by Ken Snelson, and Cherrie Ellis was elected to Sanday Community Council, being proposed by Andrew Wilcox and seconded by Gail Speers.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received by Councillors Heather Woodbridge and Mellissa Thomson.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 14 August 2025 was approved, being proposed by Ken Snelson and seconded by Gary Nickells.

4. Matters Arising

A. Christmas Tree Lighting

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the Christmas Tree Lighting 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members agreed that the Christmas Tree Lighting should be on Sunday, 7 December 2025.
2. To note that the ILO would order the Christmas Tree, to be funded via CCGS.
3. To note that the ILO would send details of the refreshments that were purchased for last year's event to the Chair to decide how much to order for this year.
4. To note that the broken set of the new Christmas Tree lights that were purchased last year were with an ex-community council member and that he was in the process of mending them.
5. To note that the ILO would contact the Community Association bookings clerk to book the community room's kitchen for the heating of food and drink for the event.

B. 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 the update on the repair to the telephone kiosk door at Burness and advice given to members that the contractor suggested putting a latch on the door, and that members had agreed that a latch was unnecessary.
2. That the ILO would make 5 replacement laminated defibrillator maps for Councillor Stephen Clackson to display on all the Orkney Ferries, if the five already given to the Transport Representative were not found.

C. Heritage Centre

Following a report from the Community Council Liaison Officer 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 advised members that both parties could use the same company of solicitor, but each would use a different solicitor within the company.
2. To note that the Chair would speak with the Community Development Officer at Sanday Development Trust to discuss terms of the sale.
3. To note that Sanday Development Trust would be asked to submit a written request to purchase the Heritage Centre from Sanday Community Council.

D. War Memorial Cleaning

Andrew Wilcox provided an update with regards to the cleaning of the War Memorial, advising that he had contacted the funeral director in Kirkwall, but had not received a reply to date, and that he would call in to see them when he was next in Kirkwall. The Community Council Liaison Officer offered to chase this up on behalf of the community council, and ask for a quote, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would contact the funeral director on behalf of Sanday Community Council and ask for a quote for cleaning the War Memorial.
2. That Ute Clackson would contact the custodian of St Magnus Cathedral to ask their advice as to who they employ to clean the stonework at the Cathedral.
3. To note that Andrew Wilcox advised members that the Sanday Branch of the British Legion had disbanded and it was agreed that the Community Council would purchase a British Legion wreath to place at the war memorial alongside one that the Community Council purchase every year for Remembrance Day.

E. Cross Kirkyard Shed Door

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the need to replace the Cross Kirk shed door as it had broken off, it was

Resolved to note that the ILO would compile, advertise and display a tender notice for this in the Sanday Sound Newsletter, community noticeboards, Facebook and shops on the island.

F. Scrap Metal

Following a report from the ILO with regards to arranging a scrap metal collection, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO had contacted Sinclair Haulage to book their lorry, and that this would be arranged for November 2025, and that the ILO would advertise this in the November Sanday Sound, Facebook and community noticeboards.
2. To note that the ILO had been in touch with Orkney Aggregates to arrange the transfer of the scrap metal value collected on the previous collections to be transferred into the Community Councils Grant Scheme fund, and that the Community Council Liaison Officer would ensure that this was done.

G. Sanday Sound Laptop

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the need for a new laptop for the Sanday Sound Newsletter Production and further discussion on the funding left in the Community Council Grant Schemes Sanday Sound Newsletter Production fund, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members agreed to purchase a Laptop from Orkney Tech for £250 and that this would be paid from the General Fund.
2. To note that as the funds for Sanday Sound Production were low at present, funds from another grant scheme allocation that had not been used could be transferred over.

H. Backaskaill Car Park Lease

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the lease at Backaskaill Car Park from Scottish Water to Sanday Community Council which had been set up as a 25 year lease, with an option to extend in favour of the Community Council, and following an independent assessment by the district valuer of what the rental value should be, giving consideration to who is responsible for site maintenance, including surfaces, furnishing and fencing as this could impact on the rental value, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Scottish Water had been in contact with the Chair to discuss getting a formal lease in place so that the Community Council's occupation was secured going forwards.
2. That the Chair would continue communications with the Property Manager at Scottish Water.

I. Disabled parking signs in Backaskaill Car Park

Following a report from the ILO advising members that the disabled parking signs had fallen down at Backaskaill car park, it was:

Resolved to note that members agreed that the disabled parking signs would be easy to fix and that the Chair would look into their repair.

J. Grants Protocol

Following a lengthy discussion with regards to the Spurness Community Fund and Spurness Micro Grant fund, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a separate meeting would be arranged to discuss this item fully, and that the ILO would look for an appropriate date for this.
2. That the ILO would invite the Community Investment Manager at SSE to join to provide advice.

K. EV Charger

Following a report from the ILO with regards to possible funding to install an EV charger for public use at a location in Sanday, it was:

Resolved to note that this item needed to be discussed further as members were unsure as to where this charger should be located.

L. Special Collections and Bag the Bruck

Following a report from the ILO with regards to Special Collections and her communication with the Waste and Recycling Officer, Infrastructure and Organisational Development Infrastructure Services at Orkney Islands Council, in connection with a place to store Bruck for collection, if there was extra room on the Special Collection lorries when they came out to the island, it was:

Resolved to note that this item would be postponed for further discussion.

5. Correspondence

A. Orkney Transport News

Following consideration of correspondence from a reporter from The Orcadian Newspaper with regards to two newspaper articles he was working on in relation to transport issues, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. SSE – Delivering Impact in Communities

Following consideration of correspondence from the Head of Community Investment at SSE with regards to their Community Investment Review, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Orkney Islands Community Councils - Request for help to cascade information from NWS

Following consideration of correspondence from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland with regards to the National Telecare campaign and the BT Connected Together campaign, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Responses to Comments on Winter Service Plan 2025-2026

Following consideration of the responses to the comments community councils made on the Winter Service Plan 2025-2026, it was:

Resolved to note that members would request again that the North Loch Road be changed to a Priority 1 due to the Harbour Master living on that road.

E. Grants Available for Community Projects on Electrical Safety

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Electrical Safety Council with regards to their Electrical Safety Campaign, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Draft Outline Vessel Design

Following consideration of the correspondence from Orkney Islands Council with regards to the draft outline vessel design, it was:

Resolved to note that the Sanday public consultation event on the plans would be held on Saturday, 27 September 2025.

6. Consultations

A. Survey on Coastal Change

Following consideration of correspondence from Chris Reilly, a PhD researcher at Heriot-Watt University in Stromness, requesting that members and the wider public complete his survey on coastal change, it was:

Resolved to note that the survey link had been sent to members in August 2025 for their input and the ILO had put the details on Facebook.

B. Transport Scotland Drop-in Sessions Consultation

Following consideration of the Transport Scotland Drop-in sessions consultation (previously circulated) from Transport Scotland with regards to the Transport Scotland drop-in sessions that were held in Orkney on 10 and 12 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the consultation.

C. Enhanced Air Service

Following consideration of the Enhanced Air Service Consultation form Orkney Islands Council with regards to the Inter-Island Air Service Timetable, and discussion following a report from the Transport Representative, in particular issues with connections for travelling onward from Orkney and issues with regards to patients being discharged from hospital with no travel plans in place, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the practice of discharging patients before arranging travel arrangements for their journey home had been discussed at the Joint Isles Health and Care meetings.
2. To note that the Transport Representative requested that all the Transport Representatives get together to discuss issues.
3. To note that the deadline for comments was 1 December 2025.
4. To note that this item would be put on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative, it was:

Resolved to note that mainly the Air and Ferry timetables were mentioned at the Air and Ferry Forum held on 19 August 2025, but not the Nordic Sea timetable.

B. Planning Representative

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

C. Development Trust Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report in relation to Sanday Development Trust.

D. Health and Care Representative

As the Health and Care Representative had resigned recently, it was:

Resolved to note that the new Health and Care Representative would be elected at the next meeting and the Chair would be attending the next Joint Isles Health and Care meeting in the interim.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £18,501.87.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £4,135.40.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 September 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 8 September 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 8 September 2025, it was:

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

F. Foundation Scotland – Sanday Community Future Invested Fund

Following consideration of the Foundation Scotland statement as at 27 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £118,223.91.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Wreath – War Memorial

Following consideration of the annual purchase of a wreath to be placed at the War Memorial for Remembrance Day, it was:

Resolved to note that an application for £36.20 had been made to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the cost.

B. Ragwort at Backaskaill Car Park

Following consideration of a quote from the kirkyard grass cutting contractor for the removal of ragwort and a tidy up at Backaskaill car park, it was:

Resolved to note that an application for £600 had been made to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the cost.

C. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Henry Hough

Following consideration of an application from Henry Hough requesting financial assistance towards the cost to attend a school residential field trip in Glasgow on 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed via email that £230 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

2. Logan Sawyer

Following consideration of an application from Logan Sawyer requesting financial assistance towards the cost to attend a school residential field trip in Glasgow on 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed via email that £230 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

3. Josiah Nickells

Following consideration of an application from Josiah Nickells requesting financial assistance towards the cost to attend a school residential field trip in Glasgow on 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that it had previously been agreed via email that £230 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

4. Rose Snelson

Following consideration of an application from Rose Snelson requesting financial assistance towards the cost to attend a school residential field trip in Glasgow on 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved that it had previously been agreed via email that £230 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – August 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – August and September 2025.
- Letters from School Place – August and September 2025.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – August and September 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 gone to the webinar on 16 September 2025 which outlined the specification of a Changing Places facility, the costs involved and the sources of potential support with funding and advised members that the costs to install a changing places toilet in Sanday was not financially feasible.

B. Picnic Bench by the War Memorial

Following discussion with regards to the wooden picnic bench by the war memorial being in a bad state and deemed unsafe, it was:

Resolved to note that the bench needed to be removed and would be discussed further at a future meeting.

C. 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 this item needed further discussion and would be put on the next agenda for discussion.

D. Scrap Car Scheme

Following discussion with regards to the Scrap Car Scheme and the suggestion from the Community Council Liaison Officer of adding funding to the Community Council Grant scheme for Scrap vehicle removal in the next financial year, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a Scrap Car Scheme would be discussed at a future meeting.
2. To note that the ILO advised members of the two schemes (Autogreen and CarTakeBack) which she has had success in getting vehicles removed and continues to advise residents of these schemes as and when requested.

E. Kirkyard Strimmer

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the new kirkyard strimmer having broken down already, and that it had been temporarily fixed by the mechanic on the island, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the mechanic had advised that, as the strimmer was still under warranty, it would be best to send it back for a replacement.

2. That the ILO would contact the mechanic to ask for a report detailing the issues involved with the trimmer so that this could be shown to the manufacturers when the replacement is requested.

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, 20 November 2025, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:31.