# Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Community Room, Westray Junior High School and via Teams on Monday, 27 January 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr Danny Harcus, Mr Adam Baird, Mrs Elizabeth Drever, Mr Louis Pottinger, Mrs Ann Rendall and Mrs Rosalind Rendall (via Teams).

In Attendance:

* Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
* Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
* Mrs Gina Rendall, Operations Manager, Westray Development Trust.
* Mrs Edith Costie, Clerk.

Order of Business**.**

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mrs Janice Kirkness and Councillors Stephen Clackson and Heather Woodbridge.

## 2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 11 November 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs Elizabeth Drever and seconded by Mrs Ann Rendall.

## 3. Matters Arising

### A. Special Collections

It was noted that there was a Special Collection scheduled for 3 February 2025. There has been a suggestion, by the Community Council Liaison Officer, that WCC fund the next scheduled Special Collection (May/June) this would also give plenty time to advertise.

Mr Adam Baird informed the meeting that the local hauliers would take away scrap cars free of charge, but only if they were delivered to the haulier’s yard. There would be a charge if the haulier had to pick up the vehicles to take to the yard. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask Democratic Services, via the business letter, if it would be possible to get a date in May or June for a CC-funded special collection.

2. That Mr Adam Baird would ask the hauliers to advertise the scrap car scheme locally.

### B. Street Lighting – Northend to Hofn

It was reported that the work to install the lighting columns was due to start on 10 February, going on until mid-April, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### C. Public Toilets

Resolved to note that there was nothing further to report but that the work would likely be carried out towards the summer.

### D. Kirkyards

It was advised that a tender had been received from Mr B Goodway to do all repair/replacement work needed at both kirkyard huts. The quote appeared to be reasonable and was approved in principle with a few changes to the original repairs requested. Payment for the work was discussed, and it was agreed that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would take it back to OIC. She advised that the community council might be asked to pay a percentage of the cost, and that this would be eligible for assistance under CC Grant Scheme, and it was:

Resolved that, pending information from Democratic Services on payment for the work, Mr Danny Harcus would contact Mr B Goodway and instruct the work to be carried out.

### E. Howanbrek Bin Lid

It was reported that this was still an ongoing problem. The Men’s Shed had looked at the broken lid but had not done anything to fix it. It was suggested that the tenants be asked to request wheelie bins from OIC, which would prove much more convenient for the bin men as it was not possible to reach the bin bags at the back of the communal bin at present. It was suggested that this would be the responsibility of OHAL, and it would be between them and the tenants to resolve, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write a letter to OHAL requesting that they look into this issue.

### F. Playpark Fence

The fence around the playpark still required a repair. It was felt that the fence along the main road should be a high fence because of footballs/frisbees going over the dyke and maybe hitting a passing vehicle or pedestrian. The high fence was also vital for keeping the children from climbing the dyke and then falling into the main road. It was felt that the fence along the other road, up past the school, was not so dangerous and therefore could be taken down from the gate that enters the playing field. The lease was discussed, and it was felt that the border fence was not the responsibility of the tenant (Friends of Westray Playpark). It was noted that it had now been approximately 18 months since this was brought up and at the time it was classed as a priority, and it was:

Resolved to ask the Community Council Liaison Officer to try again to bring this up and we would await further feedback.

### G. Bay of Swartmill, Westray

The meeting was informed that an email had been received from Democratic Services, advising that no further action would be taken at this time, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### H. Grass Cutting Contracts

The tenders for the grass cutting contracts at the three kirkyards for 2024, 2025, and 2026 had been considered and agreed by the members. It was advised that the contract for the Council Houses needed to be put out to tender to incorporate 2025 and 2026 to bring the two contracts back in line, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would put notices out inviting tenders for grass cutting at the Council Houses for 2025 and 2026.

### I. Local Signage

It had been advised that there were a few signs around the island that were in need of attention; the “Welcome to Westray” sign at Rapness Pier, the information sign at Tifter, and the Tuquoy Kirk sign. There was also a faded “passing place” sign near Noltland, also one of the speed limit signs had fallen down and was lying in the grass. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that photographs should be taken and sent to the Clerk who would pass them on to Democratic Services to be reported to the relevant Council section(s).

### J. Community Benefit/Faray Turbine

A question was asked about the proposed community benefit from the Faray Turbines. When the turbine was agreed to, the then meeting was told that Westray Community Council would get the highest level of community benefit, the same as Eday Community Council. Westray Community Council had voiced their support for the project at the time because of what was presented to them however, since then, they had learned that the proposal was for them not to get the same level of community benefit as Eday. Members felt that this should be taken back to the Committee, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would investigate this and check to see if there were minutes of those initial meetings.

### K. Tree Lighting

It was advised that there had been great reports from the community, and all agreed that it had been a fantastic event. Mrs E Drever was thanked for pulling the event together. It was also agreed that the entertainment provided by Ms Meryl Sandison was a great asset to the evening and it had been agreed by email to present her with a voucher as a thank you. This coming year the Salvation Army will be due to play at the event, but it was felt that Ms Sandison should be asked also, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and discuss again later in the year.

## 4. Correspondence

### A. My Orkney

Correspondence had been forwarded to members previously with information on MyOrkney, which was an OIC website where members of the community could access a list of services and were able to advise of problems or make complaints etc. Members were advised that this would be better than individuals reporting repairs through the community council as waiting to discuss at a meeting could lead to a delay in them being dealt with.

Members advised that there were quite a few of Westray’s roads that were in need of repair: the Sandy Road (between Lastigar and Marcroft), the road at the school, the road at The Hofn, the corner at Farrivald, the road at Tuquoy, Sand o Gill junction, and the road approaching Ha’Breck. It was stated that it would be good if members of the community would use this site to request repairs and present photographs of the potholes etc., and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Westray Community Council should put the information on roads requiring repairs to OIC.

2. To encourage the community to use this site to log repairs and access services.

### B. VAO - Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence advising that VAO’s Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund had become available again, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### C. Webinar for CCs – Rural and Islands Poverty

Members had been forwarded information regarding a webinar on 15 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

### D. Tri-Community Exchange Meeting for Westray

Members had been sent information on a proposed TRICE meeting, which would be held online between members of WCC, WDT and WCA on 24 February 2025. Mr D Harcus and Mrs R Rendall would represent WCC at this meeting. It was a chance for the three community bodies to discuss ideas and maybe work together to make common goals achievable, and it was:

Resolved to await a report from the meeting.

### E. Island Games Banners

A letter had been forwarded from Bev Clubley asking for WCC to fund the Westray Junior High School in a project that will involve all the schools in Orkney making banners for the Island Games. This would cost £200. All were in agreement that this was a good thing to support and agreed to fund this in principle, via CCGS, providing the school were able to complete the project, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the school and discuss whether or not it was something they want to be involved with.

### F. R100 Fibre Programme

The digital switch over has been pushed back to a deadline of 2027. Concern was voiced re power going down, is there anything put in place to enable essential services to operate phones when there are no land lines. Should there be at least one place that could be covered by satellite internet? Could there be a battery backup system? It was

Resolved to keep this on the agenda, let Outreach know that OIC are continuing to monitor this.

## 5. Financial Statements

### A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 January, 2025, it was

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £41,849.58.

### B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 14 January, 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had £1,946.23 remaining for approval and that £740 and £537 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.

### C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 14 January, 2025 it was

Resolved to note that there were no funds remaining for allocation.

## 6. Financial Request – Westray Golf Club

Members considered a financial request from Westray Golf Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, asking for assistance towards the cost of cladding for the external walls of the club store. The total cost was £1,300 and they were asking for £1,000. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved the sum of £1,000 was approved, subject to CCGS approval.

## 7. Consultation Documents

### A. Neven Point Wind Farm – Proposal of Application Notice

Proposed Notice for Proposal of Landing Point on the Island of Eday was sent to Members. There was no objection from Members to the proposal and it was

Resolved to note the contents of the proposal.

### B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Members had been sent a copy of the OIC Verge Maintenance Plan for 2025, and it was

Resolved to note the contents of the document.

### C. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Information had been sent to the Members giving information on Polling Districts and Polling Places, and it was

Resolved to note the information provided.

### D. 20mph Speed Limit in Pierowall and Gill Pier

After discussion the Members agreed that they are happy with the 30mph through the village and happy with the 20mph restrictions around the school, and it was

Resolved to leave the speed limits as they are until the National Plan is enforced.

### E. R100 Broadband Evaluation

Members considered information which had been circulated from the Scottish Government, regarding an assessment of the success of R100 and how to access a survey. It was agreed to advertise this locally, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would display the poster for members of the community to see.

## 8. Reports from Representatives

### A. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that Orkney Ferries’ refit was going to be extended by up to 3 weeks late, possibly longer. There would be free travel for under 22s introduced, and there would also be a concession card introduced shortly. Orkney Ferries were experiencing issues with the booking system - booking on standby had to be booked at the office, then it was at the discretion of the crew who got on, depending on the size of the vehicle on standby, if there is room. Members were also advised that the Friday timetable would alter after summer, it would be 07:00 ferry and it would be the same all year.

The Transport Representative also advised that Loganair had a new contract lasting 5 years. They were happy to extend the extra Saturday flight while the ferries were on refit. The time limit for using Open Return tickets was now 6 months. There was no facility for booking an Open Return online. There will be an introduction of weight restrictions, only 7 seats are usually booked and if there are weight restrictions there is a possibility of using the 8th seat if needed. There was also the possibility of a £10 million Capital Grant for transport, and the possibility of purchasing a 3rd plane. This would help greatly with connectivity for travel.

Members were told that the ZEVI trial, realistically would be next summer before it serves Westray. They agreed it would be interesting to see how it works for other isles, out with normal timetables.

Regarding the Outer North Isles replacement ferries, the Ships architects have started sketching up. It was felt that there would need to be a working group put together, out with OIC. It was important to get members of the communities, who use and work with the ferries, to get involved in discussions and put across suggestions to make sure that it caters for what is important to Westray, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### B. Planning

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

### C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report at this time, and that the next meeting was due to be held on 4 March 2025.

### D. Westray Development Trust

Resolved to note that there was no WDT news to report at this time.

## 9. Publications

The following publications had previously been forwarded to members and were noted:

* VAO Newsletter – December 2024.
* VAO Training and Funding – November 2024 and January 2025.
* Letter from School Place – November, December 2024 and January 2025.
* Cross Party Group on Islands.
* Transportation Service Statistics.
* Draft Timetables, Air and Ferry 2025/2026.

## 10. Any Other Competent Business

### A. Chapel of Rest Electricity Meter

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from OVO asking for a date to come and change over the existing electric meter, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk will contact OVO and arrange a suitable time for them to come.

### B. Village Footpath

A map of the proposed Village Footpath was emailed to members for their information. It was pointed out that the proposed footpath stops at the village side of Chalmersquoy’s dyke. The original plan was to go right to the Broughton Road junction. Phase 1 was due to start soon, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would speak to the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning, about the original plan and ask if it would be possible for the path to go as far as the Broughton Junction.

### C. Fibre Broadband Connectivity

It was mentioned that there were still members of the community reporting they are being missed. It was advised that there was help available via OIC, and WDT also employed Wellbeing Coordinators who could assist individuals. Members agreed that it was quite confusing for people, and most think it is just going to happen and do not realise that they have to contact their provider to register an interest to be connected, and it was:

Resolved that details of how to get help would be publicised for the community’s information.

### D. Westray Development Trust

The Operations Manager of Westray Development Trust attended the meeting to discuss items with the community council.

Waste/Recycling – she reported that HIE had a graduate placement programme where the idea of a Waste Co-ordinator had been discussed. This role would be for 12 months and could capture where Westray is as regards to Waste disposal. They would ask questions such as what are we recycling? what are we shipping off? would this be a benefit for Westray? A sort of feasibility into the whole waste management.

Local Place Plan – It had been agreed that Westray should have a Local Place Plan drafted and led by constituted community groups and it needed to represent the whole community. A community consultation needed to be carried out with members, old, young, parents, businesses, service providers, school etc. WDT has a lot of community suggestions brought forward from their Island Conference already at hand. The Plan would be beneficial for successful fundraising for large projects, also for newcomers to the Island, one plan for one community. There is advice available on preparing the Plan and what to add to it. WDT would take the lead but would work with a steering group, Mr Adam Baird said he would be part of the steering group and there would also be a representative of the Westray Community Association involved, and it was:

Resolved that WDT would take the lead in these projects, and that Mr Adam Baird would assist and report back to Westray Community Council.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting, it was

Resolved that the next meetings of Westray Community Council would be held on Mondays 31 March and 26 May 2025 at 19:30 in Westray Junior High School Community Classroom and via Teams.

## 12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:18.