

Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 14 May 2026 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Ute Clackson, Cherrie Ellis, Gary Flint-Elkins, Ken Snelson and Andrew Wilcox (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Police Sergeant Michelle Quinn (via Teams).
- Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

- 5 members of the public.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

The Island Link Officer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She advised that the election of officer bearers would take place by secret ballot and explained the process. She also advised that the presentation from Orkney Police Scotland would be first on the agenda, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. To note that apologies for absence had been received from Bruce Stuart and Councillors Mellissa Thomson and Stephen Clackson.

2. Presentation – Police Orkney Scotland

Police Sergeant Michelle Quinn from Police Scotland was invited by the ILO to answer traffic related questions, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the officer would look into the questions the members posed and would send the answers to the ILO to be shared with the members.

B. To note that the police would be coming out to Sanday on 10 June 2026 for a routine visit and planned to hold a surgery.

C. To note that the members would compile questions for the surgery, which would be useful for the Sanday Residents, and the Communications Officer would advertise the surgery and its agenda in the Sanday Sound Newsletter.

3. Election of Office Bearers

A. Chair

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Gary Nickells be elected Chair of Sanday Community Council.

B. Vice Chair

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Bruce Stuart be elected Vice Chair of Sanday Community Council.

C. Transport Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Ute Clackson be elected Transport Representative of Sanday Community Council.

D. Development Trust Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Andrew Wilcox be elected Sanday Development Trust Representative.

E. Planning Representative

It was intimated that Ms G Speers be nominated for the role of Planning Representative, as this role was integrated into her role of Island Link Officer, it was:

Resolved that Ms G Speers be elected Planning Representative of Sanday Community Council.

F. Health and Care Representative

Following a secret ballot, it was:

Resolved that Cherrie Ellis be elected as Health and Care Representative of Sanday Community Council.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Sanday Community Council held on 19 March 2026 was approved, being proposed by Ken Snelson and seconded by Gary Flint-Elkins.

5. Publication of North Isles Sports Book

Mr Thorne gave a presentation advising members of the contents of his new book recording the preparations and events leading up to the 75th North Isles Sports. He showed the members his book and mentioned that as the book was smaller than his first one, he did not feel that the price of £15 per book would be fair and suggested to members that he would like to charge £10 per book. This would mean that there would be a £1,000 less sales return to pay back to the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that members agreed to the sale price of £10 per book and suggested that any monies raised from the sale, could be ringfenced for sports related pursuits.

B. To note that the Communications Officer would write a piece for the Sanday Sound June newsletter on behalf of the Community Council congratulating Alfie Ap Dafydd for completing the British Standard Distance Duathlon National Championship held in Burghley, securing first place in his age group and taking home the gold medal.

6. Discussion with Members of the Public

The Chair invited other members of the public present to speak. Mrs Tarabuta took the floor and asked why she had not heard from the community council with regards to the recent email she had sent them. The ILO advised Mrs Tarabuta that she would

be receiving a reply on 15 May 2026, Mrs Tarabuta asked for it to be read to her at the meeting, which the ILO did, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the letter addressed to Mrs Tarabuta answered her questions with regards to the Spurness Micro Grant fund, but that further grievances were aired, which were not with the community council, but those ongoing with other organisations within Sanday.

B. To note that Mrs Tarabuta had been advised that her queries were beyond the Community Council's scope of operation and would be passed on to the relevant officers within Orkney Islands Council.

C. To note that the Community Council Liaison Officer advised Mrs Tarabuta that she should put any queries she wished discussing at a meeting in writing and send to the ILO for adding to the agenda, as this would ensure everyone was prepared to answer her queries in a timely manner.

7. Matters Arising

A. Defibrillators

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the repair of the telephone kiosk door housing the defibrillator in Burness and the enlisting of 4 new volunteer defibrillator checkers, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the installation of the door for the Burness telephone kiosk had still not been completed.

2. To note that the ILO would be training two of the new monthly defibrillator checkers on 15 May 2025 for the CardioCaddy at the Lopness Destroyer viewpoint.

3. To note that the Transport Representative had displayed the defibrillator maps made by the ILO in most of the North Isles ferries and would display the remaining maps soon.

B. War Memorial

Andrew Wilcox provided an update with regards to fund-raising plans to help with the costs of the War Memorial cleaning, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Mr Wilcox had been in touch with the Community Development and Operations Manager of the Sanday Development Trust to ask if they would be the fund holding group for the War Memorial fund-raising proceeds, and they had agreed.

2. To note that he was still to contact the Stromness British Legion with regards to the Sanday British Legion merging with them.

3. To note that Alan Simpson's work party had met at the War Memorial on 28 March 2026 and they had applied wet and forget at the base.

4. To note that the ILO had passed on Alan Simpson's suggestion of holding an event at the War Memorial during the September 2026 Soulka weekend to raise the War Memorial's profile and to help with the fundraising efforts by holding a barbecue and that Andrew Wilcox would meet up with Alan soon to discuss this.

5. To note that Cherrie Ellis suggested that members could use the Sanday Community Shops stretch tent to help with fund raising events.

C. 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:

1. To note that the Chair and the ILO had filled in all the documents to prove their identity to Lows as part of the sale agreement.

2. To note that the ILO would send round the sales terms of business to the members for their consideration.

D. Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Following consideration of the Grass Cutting Tenders for the 2026 season, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the contract to cut the grass at the War Memorial and Burness Kirkyard had been awarded to J Boxall.

2. To note that the contract to cut the grass at the Lady Kirkyard, Cross Kirkyard and extension had been awarded to K Cowell.

3. To note that Gary Flint-Elkins agreed to cut the area of grass surrounding the Backaskaill Car Park free of charge and would only claim for fuel costs.

4. To note that an application would be made to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the costs of the grass cutting at the War Memorial.

E. Backaskaill Car Park

Following a report from the Chair with regards to the lease of the Backaskaill Car Park from Scottish Water to the Community Council, and the rateable value provided by the District Valuer, being £400, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had been in touch with the Scottish Waters Land and Property Development Manager and he would send her the conditions of the lease for the members consideration in time for the next meeting on 2 July 2026.

F. Sanday TRI-CE Meeting

Following discussion with regards to the upcoming TRI-CE meeting on 20 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would not be able to attend the meeting and that Ute Clackson would go in his place.

8. Correspondence

A. Haulage Letter Response

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services confirming that the letter sent to MSP Liam McArthur and MP Alistair Carmichael, highlighting haulage provision on the outer isles, had received an out of office reply from MSP Liam McArthur due to the Scottish Parliament being in recess ahead of the election in May, and that we may still get a reply from Alistair Carmichael, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Winter Service Plan Priorities

Following consideration of correspondence in response to the members question at the last meeting asking if Priority 2S was a higher priority than priority 2, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a road that is classed as a Priority 2S is for school bus routes and only treated on school days. When the schools are closed the Priority 2S becomes a priority 3.
2. To note that this information can be found within the Winter Service Policy 2021-2026 document, which was sent to members recently.

C. Loganair Check-In Times

Following consideration of the new Loganair check-in times for flights leaving the isles, which have been amended to 15 minutes prior to the flight leaving rather than 10 minutes as it was previously, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Orkney SPRINGBOARD Local Assembly

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney SPRINGBOARD local assembly with regards to an invite to attend the assembly on Tuesday, 28 April 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Sanday – North Ronaldsay Subsea Cable Update

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks with regards to the survey data needed to design the replacement route for the subsea cable between Sanday and North Ronaldsay, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Stagecoach Bus from Kirkwall to Stromness Return

Following consideration of correspondence from the Transport Manager and Stagecoach in response to the members request for the X1 bus to stop at the North Isles Pier car park for passengers travelling from Kirkwall to Stromness and return to enable them to make their connections for onwards travel, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Transport Manager advised the members that as the X1 bus was commercial and not under contract with Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Islands Council did not have any control over their timetable or route.
2. To note that Stagecoach advised members that after talking to their commercial department in response to their request, it would not be feasible at this time to re-route the X1 as they would need to re-time the route, re-register the route and they had already printed the summer timetables which started on 6 April 2026. They further commented that it is a 7-minute walk from the car park to the Travel Centre in Kirkwall.

G. Annual Grants 2026/2027

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, advising of the Annual Grant amounts provided to community councils for the 2026/2027 financial year, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. New Loganair Problems

Members heard a report from the Transport Representative with regards to the new Loganair booking system for booking a Sunday plane, with booking facilities not opening until 14:00 Friday and closing at 12:00 on a Sunday. She had written to the Transport Representative on North Ronaldsay, to enquire if these booking times also applied to North Ronaldsay and having received no response to date, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would forward this request for information to Orkney Islands Council.

9. Consultations

Resolved to note there were no consultations to consider.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative advising members that she had written an article requesting that the 20-mph speed limit should remain permanently at Sanday School, a request for Transport Representative Teams meetings out with the Transport Forums and the proposed ferry surcharges, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO would forward the request for Transport Representative Teams meetings to OIC.
2. To note that Councillor Woodbridge advised members that the 38% ferry surcharge had been delayed, that there were no plans to cut services, and she suggested that the Transport Representatives could meet for an informal coffee and chat before or after the Transport Forum when they would all be at the Forum.
3. To note that Andrew Wilcox discussed how successful and useful the combined Chairs and Clerks meetings involving all the Community Councils were when he and the ILO/Clerk attended a few years ago.
4. To note that the Chair requested if another Chairs and Clerks meet up in Kirkwall could be arranged.

B. Planning Representative

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

C. Development Trust Representative

Resolved to note that as the CC had not had a Development Trust Representative for the past few months, there was nothing to report.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

11. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 1 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £11,492.18.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 1 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £850.90.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 May 2026, 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 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £304.95.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 1 May 2026, 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 1 May 2026, it was:

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

F. Sanday Sound Income

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the Community Council Grant Scheme Sanday Sound Production costs being in deficit and needing topping up and suggestions from members on how to add to the funding, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £1,600 be allocated to the Sanday Sound Production costs and that an application would be made to the Community Council Grant Scheme to cover the costs.
2. To note that the ILO would contact Royal Bank of Scotland to ask if they would consider paying for an advert to go into the Sanday Sound Newsletter advertising their services and the dates they plan to come out to Sanday.
3. To note that the ILO would discuss with the Sanday Sound Administrator ideas to increase funds and price increases for subscriptions and adverts to help with the production costs.

12. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Spurness Sanday Community Fund

Resolved to note there were no funding applications made to the Spurness Sanday Community Fund.

B. Spurness Micro Grant Fund - Sanday Gospel Choir

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Gospel Choir requesting financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing sheet music, learning tracks and licences to put on a free Christmas concert on 19 December 2026, it was:

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

C. Spurness Community Fund Discussion

Resolved to note that this item would be postponed to the next meeting.

13. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – March 2026.
- VAO Training and Funding – March and April 2026.
- Letters from School Place – March and April 2026.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – March and April 2026.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – March 2026.

14. Any Other Competent Business

Resolved to note there was no other competent business to discuss.

15. 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, 2 July 2026, commencing at 19:30.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:01.