

# **Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in the Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 2 October 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Mr A Garson, Ms M Byers, Mr M Cockram, Mrs L Garson, Mr A Jones and Mr H Thomson.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor M Thomson.
- Mrs M Slater, Service Manager, Customer Services and Corporate Admin (via Teams).
- Ms R Allen, Incoming Clerk.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Election of Office Bearers**

### **A. Chair**

Resolved to note that Mr A Garson was elected as Chair for Eday Community Council.

### **B. Vice Chair**

Resolved to note that Mr H Thomson was elected as Vice Chair for Eday Community Council.

### **C. Transport Representative**

Resolved to note that Mr H Thomson was elected as Transport Representative for Eday Community Council.

### **D. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that Mr A Garson was appointed as Planning Representative for Eday Community Council.

### **E. Health and Care Representative**

Resolved to note that Ms M Byers was appointed as Health and Care Representative.

## **2. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr T McCabe and Councillors S Clackson and Ms H Woodbridge.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of meeting of Eday Community Council held on 31 July 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs L Garson and seconded by Mr M Cockram.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Neven Point**

Following the previous meeting, a letter had been received from Elizabeth de Stanford Willitt, and a holding response had been sent. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a response should be sent to the correspondent along with a copy of the minute of the meeting, as requested.

### **B. Shelter at Linkspan**

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this time.

### **C. Cattle Pens**

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this time and that this could possibly be addressed through the Harbour Master Plan.

## **D. Isles Haulier**

Following discussion regarding various items that had been raised in the community including paying for home deliveries which were left at the pier, pricing schedule and service differences between islands, it was:

Resolved to invite the community, via the Eday Sound, to advise the community council of any problems, issues and good new stories regarding haulage to the island that they wished taken up with the haulier.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Survey on Coastal Change**

Following discussion of correspondence in relation to a survey on Coastal Change from a researcher at Heriott Watt University, which had previously been sent to members, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Eday Island Mobility Plan Draft**

A copy of correspondence from the Eday Partnership had previously been sent round members, advising of the draft mobility plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **C. NWS Engagement Team**

Correspondence in relation to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had previously been sent to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the Clerk should request an update from Orkney Islands Council on digital connectivity.

### **D. Draft Summer 2026 Timetables**

Following discussion of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, which had previously been sent round members, advising of the draft Summer 2026 timetables, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the timetables.

### **E. Draft Outline Vessel Design**

Members had previously been sent an update on the draft outline vessel design, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided
2. That Eday had had the highest percentage attendance at the public meetings that were held.

3. To note that Orkney Islands Council had agreed to the project.

## **F. Eday Connection Project**

Following consideration on correspondence advising on public meetings to be held regarding the project and how further information would be welcomed on the project, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. To note that a further public meeting was due to be held soon.

## **G. Orkney Coastal Adaptation Plan Workshop**

A copy of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council had previously been sent round members, advising of the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop on 23 September 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **H. Share Your View on Tourism in Orkney**

Members discussed correspondence Orkney Islands Council advising on meetings being held regarding the future of tourism in Orkney, and it was launched to gather the views of local people and industry on tourism in Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and should anyone wish to attend they should advise Democratic Services.

## **I. Eday Enhanced Air Service**

Following discussion regarding the enhanced air service and how Eday would not have a daily plane service, it was:

Resolved to feed back that the Eday community would like to see a minimum of a daily return service to be provided to Eday to be equal to the service provided to the other islands.

# **6. Financial Statements**

## **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Fund statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £14,336.71.

## **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

After consideration of the Grant Scheme statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval was £164.83 in the main capping limit and £780 and £0 in the additional categories.

2. That the Clerk should find out if CCGS 22309 awarded to ECA was still to be claimed and if not arrange for it to be cancelled.

### **C. War Memorial Restoration**

Mr H Thomson noted the War Memorial clean-up project and wished to commend Ms M Byers for all the work she had put into the restoration of the Eday War Memorial resulting in receiving the new entrants and champion of champions awards which she collected in Edinburgh. Mr Thomson suggested she should be reimbursed for any costs involved in travelling to Edinburgh, and it was:

Resolved to note the report and that there was no reimbursement to be made as there had been no costs involved with travelling.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that £7,667.11 remained for allocation.

## **7. Financial Requests**

### **A. Eday Remembrance Wreaths**

Information from the Royal British Legion had been received for wreaths for Remembrance Sunday, and it was:

Resolved to purchase one wreath for £37 and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the full cost.

### **B. Eday Community Association**

#### **1. Christmas Events**

Following consideration of correspondence from Eday Community Association requesting assistance towards the Christmas events, it was:

Resolved to award a donation of £550 towards the cost of gifts, Santa's visit and the Christmas party.

#### **2. Harvest Home**

Following consideration of correspondence from Eday Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the Harvest Home, it was:

Resolved:

A. To award a donation of £520 towards the cost of the visiting band.

B. To award a grant of £291.80 towards the travel costs and decorations.

C. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost of £291.80.

### **C. Bonfire Night**

Members discussed the annual bonfire night and the requirements, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the event should be held on 8 November.

2. To ask Eday Community Association if they would prepare the food for the event, which Mrs L Garson subsequently advised that this had been agreed by ECA already.

3. That the fireworks should be purchased from W Shearer's and that £600 would be allocated to the cost.

4. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost of £600.

5. That £150 would be provided to ECA towards the cost of the food and refreshments.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative advised that he had provided the updates earlier in the meeting but wished to reiterate on the major step ahead with ferries that had been taken by Orkney Islands Council today and thanked everyone who had worked so hard to progress the ferries project to where it was, and it was:

Resolved that a letter of thanks should be forwarded to the Transport team.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note that there had been a few planning applications, all of which appeared to be straightforward.

### **C. Health and Care**

Ms M Byers advised she had attended the Health and Care Teams meeting and that various interesting topics were discussed including the unpaid carers group, care at home, lack of carers and lack of accommodation for NHS staff being employed to work in the islands, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – Training and Funding Update – August, September and October 2025.
- ORSAS – Newsletter – September 2025.
- Letter from School Place – August and September 2025.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – August 2025.

## **10. AOCB**

### **A. Benches**

The Chair advised members that the picnic benches had been placed in the areas previously discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the update provided.

### **B. Use of Community Council Funds – Projects**

Mr H Thomson suggested the Community Council should give consideration to possible projects that could be undertaken or funded by the community council, and it was:

Resolved that members should give this some thought and resume consideration at the next meeting.

### **C. Ad Hoc Flights**

Members noted that five Ad Hoc flights were available to Eday however they required clarity on how the Ad Hoc flights could be used, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council on how the Ad Hoc flights could be used.

### **D. Eday Surgery**

Members queried how the operational side of the reception at the Surgery worked now as it would appear that calls were being diverted to Stronsay or Sanday for most and questioned if the receptionist position at Eday Surgery would be filled again, and it was:

Resolved to ask if the receptionist position at Eday Surgery would be filled again.

### **E. Kirkyard Maintenance**

The Interim Clerk advised members that the contractor had advised that he had completed the grass cutting for this year and would clean and return the mower to the Council shed. She also advised this year was the end of the contract therefore it would require to be advertised for next year again, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that tenders would require to be invited in 2026 for the grass cutting of the Kirkyards.

## **F. EV Charger Location**

The Interim Clerk advised members that Orkney Island Council had funding for placing EV chargers in islands with Eday being identified as one of them, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would take photographs of the most suitable spaces for EV chargers in the carpark at Eday Community School and forward to Democratic Services.

## **G. School Car Park**

Members discussed the condition of the School Car Park following a burst pipe and the Chair reported that it was to be sorted. Members suggested that photographs should be taken of the area showing the water bubbling up through the car park and forward them to Democratic Services, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would take photographs of the area and forward them to Democratic Services.

## **H. Dredging at Pier**

Councillor M Thomson advised members that the area identified to be dredged at the pier did not include the correct steps therefore it is to be looked at again with a view to sorting the problem, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **I. Siting of Picnic Benches**

Mrs L Garson advised on correspondence received regarding the proposed siting of a picnic bench at London Bay being on privately owned land, and it was:

Resolved to contact the correspondent asking for the landowners contact details.

## **J. Rubbish Bins**

Mrs L Garson asked if there had been any progress on the provision of rubbish bins for the island. The Chair suggested that there were no public rubbish bins on the island for visitors to use therefore they often used bins at private properties. It was suggested that a request should be submitted to Orkney Islands Council for public bins to be provided, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council if public bins could be provided in Eday.

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

Resolved to note that the next meetings of the Eday Community Council had been set for 13 November 2025.



## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:51.