

Minute of the Meeting of Holm Community Council held in the Graeme Room, Holm Community Centre, Holm, on Wednesday, 10 September 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Alan Scott, Martin Lee, Erland Drever, Christine Muir, Bill Robertson and Robbie Thomson.

In Attendance:

- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Raymie S Peace.
- David Sawkins, Deputy Harbour Master (Strategy and Support), Orkney Islands Council (for Items 2 and 3).
- Naomi Bremner, Technical Advisor Team – Arch Henderson/Haskoning and Eylandskyn/Orkney Business Consultants Ltd (for Items 2 and 3).
- Hazel Flett, Clerk.

Chair:

- Alan Scott in the Chair.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Karen Spence and Councillor Gillian Skuse.

2. Scapa Deep Water Quay

Following a presentation from David Sawkins, Deputy Harbour Master (Strategy and Support), Orkney Islands Council, and Naomi Bremner, Technical Advisor Team – Arch Henderson/Haskoning, providing an update in relation to the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the contents of the presentation in relation to progress with the proposed Scapa Deep Water Quay.

B. To note that the Community Council would receive a presentation on Phase 2 of the Orkney Harbours Masterplan, which would cover all the remaining piers and harbours infrastructure not covered in Phase 1.

3. Holm Local Place Plan

Following a presentation from Naomi Bremner, Orkney Business Consultants Ltd, providing an overview of the process for developing a local place plan, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation, including the proposal for monthly focussed meetings of the Steering Group.

David Sawkins and Naomi Bremner left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minute

The Minute of the Meeting held on 11 June 2025 was approved, being proposed by Christine Muir and seconded by Bill Robertson.

5. Matters Arising

A. Local Place Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Business Consultants Ltd, The Orkney Fund and Orkney Islands Council regarding various aspects of the local place plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the quote submitted by Orkney Business Consultants Ltd, in the sum of £15,000 in respect of the production of a local place plan for Holm, had been accepted.

2. To note that the undernoted offers of grant funding had been received:

- The Orkney Fund – £8,450.
- CLLD – £2,800.

3. That the funding shortfall, amounting to £3,750, be met from the Seed Corn Fund allocation, if eligible, with the balance met from the General Fund.

B. St Mary's Christmas Decorations

Following an update from the Clerk in respect of festive decorations in St Mary's, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the motifs had not yet been ordered therefore it was unlikely that new decorations would be available for 2025.
2. To note that a donation of £500 had been received from Thistle Wind Partners.
3. That the Clerk should contact West of Orkney Windfarm and Cooke Aquaculture to ascertain whether they would be willing to provide some assistance towards the cost of the motifs.

C. Maintenance of Kirkyard Gate

R Thomson advised that he had emailed a price for painting the kirkyard gate to the Clerk, but this had not been received, and it was:

Resolved that R Thomson should resend the price.

D. Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Campaign

Following consideration of correspondence from Ron Bailey providing an update on the lithium-ion battery safety campaign, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Financial Assistance

The Clerk had received notes of thanks from various individuals and groups regarding financial assistance received from the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Provision of Defibrillator in St Mary's

Following consideration of correspondence from G Bartlett regarding provision of a defibrillator in St Mary's, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that sufficient funds had been raised in order to submit an order to St Johns Ambulance for a community defibrillator, which would be located at the premises of Alfred Flett Builders, who had indicated they would be willing to take on maintenance responsibilities.
2. To note that funding had also been earmarked for community training.
3. That the Chair would provide details of trainers which could be passed to G Bartlett.

G. Ayre Offshore Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence from Allan Tait, Community Engagement Manager, Thistle Wind Partners, advising of formal Pre-Application Consultation Events held in Deerness and Kirkwall on 27 and 28 August 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

6. Correspondence

A. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising of the annual grants to community councils for 2025/2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the annual grant to Holm Community Council for financial year 2025/2026 was £4,055.67.

2. To note that the capping limit for the Community Council Grant Scheme for financial year 2025/2026 was £3,914, with an additional capping limit of £780 in respect of costs associated with halls or community centres not in Council ownership.

B. East Mainland Agricultural Society – Pavilion and Public Amenity Area

Following consideration of correspondence from the East Mainland Agricultural Society advising that the full funding package for the pavilion and public amenity area at the show park had now been secured, and thanking the Community Council for its financial contribution, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland – Switch from Analogue to Digital

Following consideration of correspondence from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland regarding the UK's telephone network going digital, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Survey on Coastal Change

Following consideration of correspondence from a PhD researcher at Heriot-Watt University regarding a short survey to gather local perspectives on coastal change and related decision-making processes, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Remembrance Day Wreath

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Remembrance Day wreath, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Clerk had asked Andrew Drever to arrange the annual remembrance service at the War Memorial, who had confirmed he was happy to make the necessary arrangements, and had also removed the wreath carrier for maintenance.
2. That the cost of the community poppy wreath be met from the Community Council Grant Scheme.
3. That C Muir should contact Mr and Mrs Sneesby to ascertain whether they would be able to tidy up the war memorial ahead of Remembrance Sunday, failing which the Chair would ask Ewan Mackenzie.

7. Community Council Accounts

Following consideration of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 26 August 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance as at 26 August 2025 of £12,533.49.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 August 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, as at 26 August 2025, projects to the value of £4,182.71 had been approved, of which £867.71 had been claimed.
2. To note the balance remaining for approval within the main capping limit of £1,156.37.
3. To note the balance remaining for approval within the additional capping limit of £743.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 26 August 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £2,000.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 26 August 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval of £3,093.33.

9. Financial Requests

A. Loch of Ayre Walkway Association – Erection of Stone Structures at Loch

Following consideration of correspondence from the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association requesting assistance towards a funding shortfall associated with the erection of stone structures at the loch, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £1,000 be made, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved, making a total of £10,000 awarded over the last five years.

B. Orkney Under 15s Football

Following consideration of an application from Y Rendall requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in the Orkney Under 15s football trip to Shetland on 28 and 29 August 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made.

C. St Andrews Nursery

Following consideration of an application from St Andrews Nursery for financial assistance towards development of the garden space, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £500 be made, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

D. Holm Community Association

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the annual kids Hallowe'en Party to be held on 1 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made.

E. Holm Community Association

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the annual tree lighting ceremony to be held on 29 November 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council should meet the cost of the Christmas tree, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

F. Holm Community Association

Following consideration of correspondence from Holm Community Association requesting financial assistance towards the annual senior citizens' Christmas meal to be held on 6 December 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £1,000 be made, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved, noting that, should no receipts be submitted, no assistance should be provided.

G. Wick U15s Football

Following consideration of an application from L Rutherford requesting financial assistance towards her son participating in league games for Wick Under 15s football team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £40 be made in respect of each game attended, up to a maximum sum of £240 for financial year 2025/2026.

10. Consultations – Our Orkney, Our Future

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a project launched to gather the views of local people and industry on tourism in Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that individuals could enter submissions on the online platform up to 19 September 2025.

11. Meetings Attended by Members

A. Community Council Chairs

M Lee had attended a recent meeting of Community Council Chairs where various items, including the Council's response to flooding from the sea, had been discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the position.

B. Transport Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence from Transport Scotland advising of Drop-in Sessions regarding the Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 contract held in the St Magnus Centre on 10 September 2025 and in Stromness Community Centre on 12 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

12. Publications

The following publications had been sent to the Clerk and were forwarded to members via email:

- VAO Orkney – Training and Funding Updates – June, July and August 2025.
- Orkney Islands Council – CLDE Team – Childminder Training.
- VAO Newsletters – June, July and August 2025.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Holm Community Council should be held on Wednesday, 12 November 2025 in the Holm Community Centre, commencing at 19:30.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15.