

Minute of the Meeting of South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council held in the Burray Community Centre on Wednesday, 5 November 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr R Jackson, Mr R Bland, Mr A Konstam, Mr I Laird (via Teams), Ms F Lawtie, Mr R Smith, Ms K Sinclair and Mr D Ward.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Councillor R Peace.
- Councillor G Skuse.
- Mr J Horrocks, Tomb of the Eagles Community Development Team.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Miss C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant (via Teams).
- Mrs A Byers, Arch Henderson (via Teams).

- One member of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 28 August 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr R Bland and seconded by Ms F Lawtie.

3. Introduction – Arch Henderson – Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 2

The Arch Henderson representative delivered a presentation which detailed the timescales for phase two of the Harbours Masterplan and informed members of an upcoming consultation phase with service users.

Members went on to discuss usage of the piers which included commercial fishing boats, dive boats, fish farm traffic at both St Margarets Hope and Burray Pier. It was noted however that the Masterplan would only address piers under Orkney Harbours ownership which would exclude the St Margarets Hope pier as it was privately owned. It was suggested that there might be a possibility that St Margarets Hope pier could be included in a Local Place Plan if it was to be taken forward. Members suggested that there was possibly a need for small boat facilities at both piers. The consultant advised members that she would be contacting all the pier users for their views and would be willing to come back to a future meeting of the community council to report back, and it was:

Resolved

- A. To note the content of the presentation.
- B. To note that this would be a wide-ranging review to include slipways, buildings and related infrastructure and that on-site meetings with pier users would be held.
- C. That the Arch Henderson Representative would return to a future meeting to report back her findings.

The Arch Henderson representative left the meeting at this point.

4. Matters Arising

A. Orkney Community Connect

The Interim Clerk advised that updated information had been received and emailed to members, and it was hoped that members would assist with promoting the service. It was noted that there was a desire to link with the Tomb of the Eagles however as this was a trial service OIC required to keep it the same meantime. It was suggested that the Tomb of the Eagles group may wish to work up a possible plan with the Community Council and the Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that members were pleased with the new information poster.

B. Local Place Plan(s)

The Interim Clerk advised members that contact had been made with the Development Trust asking if there was a CDO in place and if there would be a possibility of the Trust taking the lead on the provision of a Local Place Plan for South Ronaldsay and Burray, however a response was awaited. It was also suggested that this may be a topic to be raised at the forthcoming TRICE meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that the provision of a Local Place Plan should be raised at the planned TRICE meeting on 10 December.

C. Bus Shelters

1. Quoyangry Road

The Interim Clerk updated members that an estimated cost for repair of the bus shelter at Quoyangry was £1,838.44 including VAT, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To make arrangements for the repair of the bus shelter at Quoyangry, at the price quoted.

B. That the cost should be met from Community Council Grant Scheme.

2. St Margaret's Hope

Members were advised that there was no further update on the bus shelter and bus route through St Margaret's Hope. Members continued discussion on the suggestion that there was a risk of the route being diverted away from Church Road, which would render a shelter at the top of the road as pointless. Members felt this would not be an ideal situation and could other options, such as a smaller bus, be looked at. Members discussed the possibility of putting up posters in the shop windows advising on the situation and to invite the Transport Manager and Stagecoach Manager to the next meeting to discuss the issue, and it was:

Resolved to invite Transport Manager and Stagecoach Manager to the next meeting to discuss the issue.

D. Smiddy Museum

The Interim Clerk advised members that an application had been submitted to the Culture Funds for assistance with upgrading facilities in the Smiddy and that following confirmation that the air source heating unit required to be replaced a quote had been received for the cost of replacing the unit. Ms F Lawtie queried the possibility of putting a full-length viewing window inside the Smiddy and the provision of a Business Plan was discussed. Councillor Skuse advised on possible funding from the Community Development Fund and Economic Development should be looked into, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that content of the report.
2. To note that an application had been submitted to the Culture Fund for upgrading the display facilities in the Smiddy.
3. That the air source unit should be replaced at a cost of £602.30, which should be met from General funds.
4. That quotes should be sourced for the provision of a viewing window inside the Smiddy.

E. Hanging Baskets

The Interim Clerk advised members that all business donations for the Hanging Baskets had been received, and the invoice from Kenny Foulis had arrived for the supply of the hanging baskets, which would be paid from the Community Council Grant Scheme, and for the watering and maintenance, which would be met from the General Fund. Members were also advised that a price had been requested for the testing of the brackets, but a response was awaited and members queried how often this had to be done or if it as an annual inspection. Discussion was held on next year's tendering for the work, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To await information on the testing of the hanging baskets.
3. That tenders should be invited for twenty baskets to be filled, watered once per week, fed as required and maintained in 2026.
4. That funding of the hanging baskets should be discussed at a future meeting.

F. Hope Civic Amenity Site

Members were advised by the Interim Clerk and Councillors that there was no further update regarding the amenity site. Members then raised the condition of the raised gantry at the grass skip and that it needed to be repaired. They also felt that there should be a gantry at both sides of the skip to enable it to be filled properly at both sides, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there was no update.
2. That a request should be submitted to Orkney Islands Council for the gantry to be repaired at the grass skip and that consideration should be given to putting a gantry on both sides of the skip.

G. Christmas Arrangements

The Interim Clerk advised that the Christmas trees had been ordered and that quotes had been invited for the lights to be put up and taken down. Mr Ward advised that some of the lights may require mending, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report and that members would agree the tenders by email.
2. That the electrician should be asked to repair any lights as required and that the cost should be added to the work tendered for putting the lights up.

5. Correspondence

A. Tri Community Exchange Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence regarding holding a TRICE meeting in South Ronaldsay and Burray, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council would be keen to be involved in a TRICE meeting and that Burray Community Association should be invited along as well.

B. Briefing Note – Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

Following consideration of the Burial Grounds Grass Cutting briefing note members were in total disagreement with the proposal to reduce the number of cuts in kirkyards in Orkney and were of the opinion that budgets should be reduced more meaningful in other areas. It was strongly felt that by reducing the cuts it would look like there was no soul in the communities, and it was:

Resolved to respond advising that the community council would be against any reduction in the number of cuts undertaken and paid for by Orkney Islands Council, in the kirkyards.

C. Scapa Deep Water Quay Update

Members had previously been sent an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay summarising the key changes, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Workshop

Members had been sent correspondence regarding the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation workshop due to be held on 9 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that no one had attended and that the deadline had now passed.

B. Invitation – Share Your Views on Tourism in Orkney

Members had been sent correspondence regarding an invitation to attend an online meeting regarding tourism in Orkney on 8 or 16 October and hearing a report from Ms K Sinclair who had attended the meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and report from Ms K Sinclair.

C. EMEC – Section 36 Variation – Fall of Warness

Following consideration of correspondence that had previously been emailed regarding the European Marine Energy Centre consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Community Workshops – Have Your Say on Tourism

Following consideration of correspondence which had been previously emailed to members regarding the workshops being held in November on “Have your say on Tourism”, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Fund statement as at 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £16,475.69.

B. Smiddy Account

Following consideration of the Smiddy Account statement as at 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of -£813.05

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Grant Scheme statement as at 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £681.49 in the main capping limit and £630.00 in the additional categories.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 21 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that £4,000 remained for allocation.

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Burray and Hope Primary Indoor League Football

Following consideration of a request from Hope and Burray Primary Schools, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance to cover the two football teams to enter the school league, it was:

Resolved to award £200 from the General Fund towards the trip.

B. L Lindsay, Netball, Aberdeen

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance towards costs of attending the Netball Orkney Juniors trip to Aberdeen for two competition games, it was:

Resolved to awards a travel grant of £30 towards the cost from general funds.

C. B Moore, BBC Alba Trad Awards, Aberdeen

Following consideration of an application for financial assistance towards costs of attending the BBC Alba Trad Awards in Aberdeen with Hadhirgaan, it was:

Resolved to awards a travel grant of £30 towards the cost from general funds.

D. Burray Community Association – Energy and Heating Upgrade Project

Mr R Jackson declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during discussion.

Following consideration of a request from the Burray Community Association, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards the energy and heating upgrade of the hall, it was:

Resolved to award £3,000 from the Community Development Fund, subject to match funding being secured for the project.

9. Publications

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

- Hope Cohousing Newsletter – September 2025.
- Hope Community Association - Annual Report/Annual Accounts.

The member of the public left the meeting at this point.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Road Signs

Mr A Konstam raised concerns regarding the number of road closed signs that were being placed at road ends, and being left for some time, and not advising that access

to properties was possible, where Openreach were replacing cabling. It was thought that the public should be advised on the situation regarding the signs, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that a means of advising the community should be made by the company.

B. Smiley Faces

Councillor J Moar advised members that funding had been secured by Orkney Islands Council for “smiley face” signs and asked if South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council would be interested in having ones in the area, and it was:

Resolved to note that members did not wish to submit a request for “smiley face” signs to be put up in South Ronaldsay and Burray.

C. Clerk’s Post

The Interim Clerk advised members that a Clerk had been appointed to the post and that they should be in attendance at the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Resolved to note that the following meeting dates be set for 2026:

28 January St Margaret’s Hope.
18 March Burray.
10 June St Margaret’s Hope.
26 August Burray.
4 November St Margaret’s Hope.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:45.