

# **Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Community Room, Westray School and via Teams on Monday, 26 May 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Mr Daniel Marcus, Mr Adam Baird, Mrs Elizabeth Drever, Mrs Janice Kirkness, Mr Louis Pottinger, Mrs Ann Rendall and Mrs Rozalind Rendall.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- 1 member of public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Councillors Stephen Clackson and Mellissa Thomson.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 31 March 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs Janice Kirkness and seconded by Mr Adam Baird.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Kirkyards – Shed Repairs**

After hearing a report advising members that the work had been completed and the invoice had been processed for payment, the cost of which was being met by Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **B. Kirkyard Maintenance**

Members were advised that there was a requirement to purchase a strimmer for the kirkyard grass cutting. Mr Adam Baird agreed to source the relevant requirements and advise the Interim Clerk who would process the purchase order for the equipment, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a strimmer should be purchased for the kirkyard grass cutting.
2. To apply for Community Council Grant Scheme on the cost.

### **C. Village Footpath**

The Chair queried the route of the village path in relation to the playpark and suggested that this could have an impact on the playpark refurbishment. The Interim Clerk advised that there was no further update, and it was:

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this time and that the Interim Clerk would ascertain what the present plan for the path in relation to the playpark was and pass the information on to members.

### **D. Playpark Fence**

After hearing a report from the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advising that the Team Manager, Sports and Leisure, had spoken with the Health and Safety Officer to ascertain the actual requirements for fencing the area for which a response was awaited and that an estimated cost had been received for fencing, it was:

Resolved to note the update on this item and that progress would be made before the next meeting.

## **4. Correspondence - Verge Maintenance Plan - Comments**

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan responses, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

### **A. SEPA – EPAS Communities Information Session**

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA advising of an event taking place on 4 June, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

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

Resolved to note the balance was £40,544.27.

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

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the main capping limit had £220.03 remaining, and that £297 and £740 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.
2. That the following grants should be cancelled 202207 and 202404.

### **C. Community Development Fund**

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

Resolved to note that £500 remained available for allocation to projects.

## **7. Financial Request**

### **A. Westray Auk Club**

Following consideration of an application, which had been previously agreed by email, from Westray Auk Club requesting financial assistance towards their summer outing, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award a grant of £500 towards the cost of their summer outing.
2. That an application should be submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance on the cost of £500.

## **B. Bag the Bruck 2025**

Following consideration of applications from Westray Development Trust and Westray Junior High School requesting funding for the annual bag the bruck, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award a grant of £150 to both groups towards the annual bag the bruck 2025.
2. To note that the Trust would be forwarding the funds to local charities through the Bargain Box.

## **C. Westray Connections**

Following consideration of an application from Westray Connections for assistance towards the costs involved in the Westray Connections music festival due to be held on 29 - 31 August 2025 and the purchase of a marquee, it was:

Resolved:

1. A grant of £500 be awarded towards the running costs of the festival.
2. That a Community Council Grant Scheme application should be submitted on the cost of £500.
3. In principle, towards providing funding towards the purchase of a marquee but wished to have additional information before finally committing funding.

## **D. Westray Junior High School**

Following consideration of an application from Westray Junior High School requesting assistance towards the cost of pupils participating in In-school activity days and residential activity days in Hoy, it was:

Resolved to award a donation to match fundraising by the school towards the costs up to a maximum award of £500.

# **8. Reports from Representatives**

## **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative advised that there was nothing to report apart from the problems faced by the uncertainty of standby bookings on the ferries, and it was:

Resolved to note that Orkney Ferries was endeavouring to fix the problem.

## **B. Planning**

The Planning Representative advised that he had nothing to report, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **C. Health and Care**

The Health and Care Representative R Rendall informed the members that the next meeting was due to be held soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

## **D. Westray Development Trust**

The WDT Representative had nothing to report, and it was:

Resolved to note that no further update was available.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – April 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding – April 2025.
- Letter from School Place – April 2025.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – March and April 2025.
- Loganair Statistics – April 2025.
- Orkney Islands Games Sports Schedule/Road Closures.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Friends of Westray Surgery**

Following consideration of correspondence from Westray Surgery regarding the appointment of community members, it was:

Resolved to proceed with the recommendations from the Surgery.

### **B. Roads Inspector Visit**

Mr Adam Baird advised that he had met with the Roads Inspector and had advised on the various road issues in the island, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **C. Windracer Meeting**

The Chair advised on the upcoming public meeting to be held in Westray, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **D. Visitor Levy**

Mrs Elizabeth Drever advised on the visitor levy consultation and how the process had been paused. She advised that there was a questionnaire that required to be completed and returned with the view of the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that Mrs Drever would email the documents round members for their views before returning.

### **E. Westray Heritage Centre – Funding**

The Chair advised members that he had been in contact with the WHT regarding the funding application and to look at ways where additional funding could be achieved by WHT, and it was:

Resolved to contact WHT regarding possible funding avenues.

### **F. Community Council Feedback**

The Chair advised members that a Community Council Feedback questionnaire had been received and required to be completed, and it was:

Resolved that the response should be “No Budget”.

### **G. Winter Service Plan**

Members asked if a response had been received on their request for winter maintenance, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would seek a response regarding the request.

### **H. Chapel of Rest – Outside Lights**

A member advised that the outside light at the Chapel of Rest was in need of repair and suggested the possibility of putting up a light with a sensor. Members also discussed the need of an outside light on the Roads Depot building, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would arrange for the light to be repaired and connection a light sensor on the Chapel of Rest.
2. That the provision of a light on the Roads Depot building should be raised by staff through Roads section in the first instance.

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

Following consideration of the date of next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Westray Community Council would be held on Monday, 18 August 2025 at 19:30 in Westray JH School Community Classroom and via Teams.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 21:11.