

# **Minute of the Meeting of Eday Community Council held in the Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 15 May 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Mr A Garson, Miss M Byers, Mrs L Garson, Mr A Jones and Mr T McCabe.

## **In Attendance:**

- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities (via Teams).
- Mr B Drummond, Deputy Harbour Master (via Teams).
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk (via Teams).

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr H Thomson and Councillors S Clackson, M Thomson and H Woodbridge.

## **2. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting of Eday Community Council held on 20 February 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Garson and seconded by Mr T McCabe.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. First Responders**

Resolved to note that no further updates had been received.

### **B. Pier Toilets/Waiting Room**

The Deputy Harbour Master advised members that some work had been undertaken including painting, which had been done by a local contractor. Mr T McCabe advised that the community had suggested that it would be beneficial to have some form of shelter provided at the top of the linkspan, like that in Sanday. The Deputy Harbour Master advised that he would investigate the possible funding for and the siting of a shelter, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that some work had taken place on the Pier toilets and waiting room.
2. To note that the Deputy Harbour Master had advised that he would look into the possible funding for and the siting of a shelter.

### **C. Cattle Pens**

The Deputy Harbour Master advised that as he was not fully aware of the project, with assistance from Mr T McCabe, he would familiarise himself with the cattle pens on his next visit to Eday, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Deputy Harbour Master would have a look at the cattle pens and subsequent requirements on his next visit to Eday and provide an update to members for their next meeting.

### **D. Isles Haulier**

The Interim Clerk asked members that Mr Neil was not able to attend this meeting due to other commitments however would be willing to attend a meeting in the near future, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update and that members should put together a list of relevant queries to be forwarded to Mr Neil in advance of his attendance at their meeting.

## **E. War Memorial Refurbishment**

Miss M Byers advised members that the War Memorial lettering and motifs had been re-gilded, and the steps and plinths had all been cleaned with the Eday sandstone now showing. The contractor had done a superb job and more than fulfilled the contract. She also advised that the Chair had done painting and repairs. The War Memorial has been entered in the Best Kept War Memorial Campaign 2025 as a new entrant. The invoice had been received from John Corse for the work, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the update.
2. That the invoice for the work should be forwarded for payment.
3. To note that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance for the cost of the work had previously been agreed.

## **F. On-Island Engagement – PSTN Switch Off/R100**

The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities advised members on the Scottish Government's initiative to get superfast broadband to 100% of homes across Scotland and the PSTN switch off, which was the removal of dial tone on normal traditional phone lines from homes across the UK. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, would check out the situation for Eday with the relevant officer in OIC.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Orkney Ferries SmartCards**

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Services advising on the replacement of Orkney Ferries smartcards to Isles residents, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **B. Community Benefits from Renewable Energy Developments**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding community benefits from renewable energy developments, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had passed.

### **C. Orkney Community Connect**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Transport Manager advising members of Kirkwall Airport Service 4D bus operating between the Travel Centre and the Airport, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **D. Verge Maintenance Plan**

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

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **E. Briefing Note – Ferry Replacement Programme**

Following consideration of a briefing note from the Service Manager Transportation regarding the Ferry Replacement Programme, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the briefing note.

## **5. Consultations**

### **A. Visitor Levy Survey and Public Engagement Sessions**

Following consideration of the Visitor Levy Survey and Public Engagement sessions, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments had passed.

### **B. Winter Service Plan**

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan, it was:

Resolved that members had no comments to make at this time.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Eday Community Council as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £10,835.31.

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

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Eday Community Council as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balances in the main and the island capping limit were fully allocated and that the additional capping limit had £765 available for allocation.

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

Following consideration of the CDF statement for Eday Community Council as at 1 May 2025, it was:

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

## **7. Financial Requests**

### **A. Eday Community Association – Pool Table**

Following consideration of a request from Eday Community Association for assistance with the purchase of a pool table, which had previously been agreed by email, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £3,242.98 should be awarded towards the cost of the purchase of a pool table.
2. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the total cost.

### **B. Eday Partnership – Hostel**

Following consideration of correspondence from Eday Partnership, on behalf of Eday Community Association, requesting support for the possible refurbishment or rebuild of the Eday Hostel, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that funding of £2,000 had previously been awarded towards a feasibility study.
2. That Eday Partnership should be advised that the Community Council were in favour of the project, in principle, however further information on costs would be required to allow members to make a firm decision on possible funding.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

The Chair advised members that the marshalling area at the Kirkwall Pier for North Isles was soon to change, and the Deputy Harbour Master advised that the changes would take place on 16 May, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the discussion.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

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

The Interim Clerk advised members what the Health and Care meetings were about, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that Miss M Byers should be added to the invitation list for the Health and Care meetings.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – March and April 2025.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update – March and April 2025.
- Loganair Statistics to February, March and April 2025.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – January February March 2025.
- SRA Newsletter – March and April 2025.
- Letter from School Place – February, March and April 2025.
- Isles Special Collection Rota – April to September 2025.
- SEPA - New Surface Water Flood Maps.
- Island Games Sports Schedule.

## **10. AOCB**

### **A. Kirkyard/Amenity Areas Grass Cutting**

The Interim Clerk advised members that Mr F Woods had been awarded the annual grass cutting and that a new lawnmower had been purchased, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the contract for annual grass cutting had been awarded.
2. To note that a new mower had been purchased.
3. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance had been applied for on the total cost.
4. That the new mower should only be used for the community council contracted areas and that the contractor had been advised of this.
5. That the old lawnmower should be returned to the depot and used for a backup.

### **B. Benches**

Mrs L Garson asked if a decision had been made on the purchase of benches for use locally. It was suggested that two picnic tables with benches should be purchased, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That two recycled benches should be purchased from Birsay Farmers.
2. That Community Council Grant Scheme should be applied for on the total cost.

### **C. Heritage Centre**

Members raised concerns regarding an area of wall at the Heritage Centre that had been damaged and were of the opinion that this should be followed up with the persons involved. Members suggested that the wall should be fixed as it could become a health and safety issue if left. Members also felt that there was a lack of police presence on the island. The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, suggested contacting Councillor M Thomson, in her role as member of the Police and Fire Sub-committee, who might be able to assist, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact Councillor M Thomson regarding the situation.

### **D. Abandoned Vehicles**

Concerns were raised about an abandoned vehicle at the Council Houses, and it was:

Resolved that photographs of the abandoned vehicle would be forward to the relevant department in Orkney Islands Council for their attention.

### **E. Air Ambulance**

Members were advised that that recently an elderly patient in Eday that was in need of medical attention phoned the doctor and was advised that an air ambulance would not be dispatched because “they had had too many” and was subsequently put on the boat to town. When they got to the Balfour Hospital their condition was such that they were flown to Aberdeen shortly after. The community council felt the community concerns should be looked into further and any appropriate action taken, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk should pass on the Community Council’s concerns to the relevant officers in Orkney Islands Council.

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

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Eday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 31 July 2025 at Eday Heritage Centre and via Teams at 19:30.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:45.