

# **Minute of the Meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held in the Rousay Community School on Wednesday, 24 September 2025 at 19:30**

## **Present:**

Mr A Firth, Mrs D Compton, Mrs Z Flaws, Miss A Mainland, Mrs C Mainland (via Teams), Mrs C Maguire, Mr R Tipper.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor S Clackson (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mrs A Byers, Arch Henderson (via Teams).
- Ms C Kriisa, Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

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

## **2. Presentation – Arch Henderson**

Resolved to note that a presentation on the Ferry Replacement Plan and Phase Two of the Harbours Masterplan was delivered to members by Anne Byers, representing Arch Henderson. Members were then invited to consider comments for any future engagement or meetings, and an offer was made to attend a future REWGCC meeting to discuss further.

The Arch Henderson representative left the meeting at this point.

## **3. Election of Office Bearers**

Members agreed to retain their current positions, and it was:

Resolved to note that the following office bearers would remain in place:

- Mr A Firth – Chair.
- Mrs Z Flaws - Vice Chair.
- Mrs C Mainland - Transport Representative.
- Mrs C Maguire - Planning Representative.
- Mrs Z Flaws - Health and Care Representative.

## **4. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council held on Wednesday, 11 June 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mr A Firth and seconded by Mrs Z Flaws.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **A. Memorial at Rousay Kirkyard**

An update was received from Mrs Z Flaws on this item, who advised that stone was available, and a request was made for additional donations of stone that could be incorporated into the design to retain the local connection.

An application had been made to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust for match funding, with £5,000 being awarded to the project, leaving £5,000 to be allocated from the community council's own funds. Favourable quotes had been received for the works and cement foundations, and it was:

Resolved that a vote would be taken later in the meeting regarding REWGCC's proportion of the costs.

## **B. Historic Environment Scotland Car Parks**

Members heard that a meeting had previously been held with Historic Environment Scotland, Democratic Services, the Sustainable Tourism team, and a community council member. It was understood that funding eligibility for any surveys, feasibility studies or improvement works would require the project to have ties to a wider strategic plan or tourism management strategy. A further meeting was due to take place in the coming weeks, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Mrs Z Flaws would attend the next meeting.

## **C. Laybys**

It was advised that Roads Support officers had not yet visited but that this would be arranged in due course, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would ask the Roads Support team to advise of the date of their next scheduled visit.

## **D. Rousay School Issues**

It was reported that a visit to Rousay Community School was recently made by an Orkney Islands Council Officer. The crack in the hall wall was still present, and so it would be arranged for rods and steel plates will be used to reinforce the gap and be plastered over during the October holidays. Following the update, it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

## **E. Post Boxes and Postal Service**

It was agreed that the delivery service was currently working well. The mailbox on Hillside Road was still awaiting replacement. There were currently no updates regarding the future Post Office location or services, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

## **F. Parking at Rousay School**

No new updates had been received on this item, and it was:

Resolved that members will continue to request that visitors to the school park in an appropriate location.

## **G. Pedestrians at Piers**

It was reported that linework improvements had now been undertaken at Rousay Pier. Line painting in the parking areas has been completed, and an 'all traffic turn left' arrow had been painted at the top of the slipway to help guide visitors. All the agreed work between the Community Council and the Harbour Authority had now been completed.

Members commented that the painting of the loading bays was unworkable, with only two long bays marked where previously there were ten, with the additional bays resembling parking spaces. The long vehicle bays were also causing issues as the width of the pier makes it impractical for longer vehicles to manoeuvre into the bays and then onto the ferry. The turn left arrow was located on the flat, not the ramp, making it difficult for drivers to spot until they are upon it.

The Deputy Harbour Master had advised that they plan to roll walkways out at Tingwall Pier and were currently drafting procurement documents for these works. As procurement would capture all piers within Orkney this would be a lengthy process, and any works were unlikely to be achieved this calendar year. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would update Democratic Services on the issues with the new line painting so that this could be reported to the relevant department.

## **H. Parking at Brinian Kirkyard**

Members briefly discussed the possibility that a small number of bays be created for visitors to Brinian Kirkyard. If Roads Support were unable to consider this request, an understanding was required as to whether this work could be carried out on a local basis, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

## **I. Orkney Ferries Booking System**

An update was received from the Transport Representative on this item. Several issues with the booking system were still being experienced by residents, with the inability to cancel online or book multiple journeys under one payment being prominent frustrations. Feedback was being gathered in tandem with the Shapinsay Transport representative, and issues were being worked through with support from Orkney Ferries management. Following the report, it was:

Resolved that the Transport Representative would continue to collate feedback and communicate issues with Orkney Ferries and other Transport Representatives.

## **J. Rousay Road Conditions**

It was noted that repair work to the road was undertaken over the summer period by the Roads Support team. It was reported that parts of the road on the west side were starting to break up, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor S Clackson would make enquiries into any further planned roadworks on Rousay.

## **K. Grass Cutting Tender**

Members discussed the requirements of any future grass cutting tenders offered by Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council. It was confirmed that Orkney Islands Council had the autonomy to decide how many cuts they would fund, and the budget for each area, with the cost of any extra cuts coming from the Community Council's own budget.

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that tenders could be separated out by area or plot requiring a cut, which would also help to build resilience, with 2026 and possibly the subsequent two years needing to be advertised as soon as possible. Previous tenders provided six cuts, plus any additional that were necessary; Egilsay was to be provided at least two cuts. It was confirmed that if members chose, five cuts could be offered as a tender plus any extra.

Thanks were raised to community members who had been taking on the grass cutting work on a volunteer basis throughout the summer. It was agreed that anyone who had cut grass this year could submit an invoice and be paid for their labour, or an alternative form of compensation could be decided by members if cash is not requested, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion.
2. That a draft grass cutting tender document would be created for approval.

## **L. Egilsay Kirkyard**

An Egilsay resident had provided a copy of the Egilsay Kirkyard map to Mrs Z Flaws, which gave details of interments up until approximately 1980's.

It was reported that the gates required repair work. Members were also advised of dumped material located outside the kirkyard, and a resident queried who holds responsibility for its removal. A small garden had been created for a recent burial however it was noted that the resulting debris and items left on the track and gate had been difficult to manage, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would enquire with Orkney Islands Council about repair work to the gates, and responsibility for removing waste.

## **M. War Memorial Lettering**

It was advised that the War Memorials Trust had been considered as a match funder for this project, but the process was deemed too slow and the likely funding amount too small to be worthwhile.

Total costs including VAT and ferries would be £2,032. Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust had agreed to contribute £1,000, leaving £1,032.00 to be covered by the community council, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a vote would be taken later in the meeting regarding the community council's proportion of costs.
2. That a temporary contractor would cut the War Memorial grass before Remembrance Sunday.

## **N. Late Night Ferries – Bus Connectivity**

Orkney Ferries had been thanked for the late-night crossings that were provided over the summer months. The Clerk had spoken with Stagecoach Orkney management prior to each sailing to ensure connections would be made at Tingwall Pier. During the first late-night sailing, the driver was unaware due to their job card not being updated with the information, but the next two services ran smoothly.

Sailings for next year were being considered, with Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council members asked to provide suggestions for dates. More than three sailings may also be considered. A total of 54 passengers were recorded between all three sailings, with it evenly split for each individual evening. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

## **O. Bin Emptying**

Mrs C Maguire reported that she had spoken with Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust, who confirmed that the bin at the Boardwalk was their responsibility and that they had been emptying it more proactively. The public bin at Saviskaill was still very full at times and was the responsibility of the Orkney Islands Council sub-contractor to empty weekly. Following the update, it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

## **P. Grass Verges – Safety Cuts and Ditches**

The Roads Support team had advised that they could write to residents along the Surgery Road to request that all bushes were trimmed and kept clear of obstructing the road. They would also investigate the areas that were to be maintained by the Housing team.

Members raised concerns regarding the condition of the ditches, observing that many had not been cleared for some time, and were contributing to localised flooding. In colder months this runoff may freeze on the roads, posing further safety risks.

The question of whether members can be assured that a June cut will happen was also raised. Councillor S Clackson advised that the topic of verges might be revisited by Councillors, but it did not have the required support at their last meeting and so was not discussed, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would make a formal request to Orkney Islands Council for ditches and offlets to be kept clear.

## **Q. Local Place Plans**

The Clerk reported that she had worked with Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust on an application to the Orkney Town Fund for Place Plan funding. The application was not chosen to be included in the first tranche of Place Plans due to limited funding, but they had been advised to reapply in 2026 when more money will be set aside in the new financial year, and it was:

Resolved to keep the item on the agenda.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a special online feedback session due to take place on 24 June 2025. The session intended to allow community councillors to provide feedback directly to the Community Planning Business Manager, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **B. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland - Communicating RTS Switch-Off Information Within Communities**

Members considered correspondence from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland requesting support in passing on information regarding the Radio Teleswitch Service switch off that was due to take place on 30 June 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **C. Orkney Islands Council – Cruise Liner Income Figures**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the latest cruise liner income figures. The table provided highlighted both Harbour and Passenger Dues income between 2021-2025. The 2022-23 Harbours Annual Report was also provided additional details including number of port calls. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **D. Orkney Islands Council – Orkney Digital Voice Event**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that a drop-in session would be held for the switchover to Digital Voice home phone services. The event was scheduled to take place on 24 June 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **E. Scottish Islands Federation – New National Islands Plan Final Meetings**

Members considered correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation with an invitation to join the last of the online meetings to discuss the New National Islands Plan. The meeting was due to be held on 24 June 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **F. Orkney Islands Council – Winter Service Plan 2025**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council calling for feedback on the Winter Service Plan for 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **G. Orkney Islands Council – Annual Grants 2025/2026**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that Community Council Annual Grants had been approved for 2025/2026, and it was:

Resolved to note that Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council's allocation was £4,994.69.

### **H. Rousay Community School – Letter of Thanks**

Members considered correspondence from Rousay Community School thanking them for their donation towards the costs of purchasing and installing new blinds in the classroom. The donation had allowed the school to provide additional supplies and services that their allocated budget was unable to support, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **I. Rise Adapt – Changing Places Funding**

Members considered correspondence from Rise Adapt, advising that the Changing Places fund was now open, and would be accepting applications until 20 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **J. Thistle Wind Partners - Ayre Offshore Windfarm Supply Chain Event**

Members considered correspondence from Thistle Wind Partners inviting them to the Ayre Offshore Windfarm supply chain event, due to be held on 27 August 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **K. Orkney Islands Council – Draft Ferry Timetables Summer 2026**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding draft ferry timetables for Summer 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **L. Orkney Islands Council – Isles Special Collection Rota**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, which provided details of the isles' special collections up until 31 March 2026, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk will include details in the Review and posters to be displayed locally.
2. To note the correspondence.



## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Scottish Islands Federation - Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy**

Members considered correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation providing details of a consultation process due to take place in Kirkwall and also online until it closes on 22 August 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **B. Orkney Islands Council – Payphone Removal**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the removal of BT payphone boxes. The Clerk contacted BT regarding the phone box located at Hullion and put a placeholder down under the community council's name temporarily.

The Clerk advised that the phone box was available for adoption, and she had received no objections to this. Upon contacting the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust, she was advised that they were willing to take over the adoption process, and the details had been forwarded to BT that the Trust would now be the point of contact for completion of the process, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and update.

### **C. Orkney Islands Council – 20mph Speed Limit**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a proposed Traffic Regulation Order within the area. It was commented that the timed speed-limit lights on some islands were not flashing correctly, and members were asked to notify the Council if they identify any issues, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **D. Thistle Wind Partners – Ayre Offshore Windfarm Consultation Event Reminder**

Members considered correspondence from Thistle Wind Partners regarding three consultation events being held on 27 and 28 August 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### **E. Orkney Islands Council – Our Islands, Our Future**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a tourism survey that was currently open for comments, stories and media uploads. The survey was intended to gather views on tourism in the county and would feed into a future Visitor Management Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **F. Rousay, Egilsay, and Wyre Development Trust – Mobility Audit**

Members considered correspondence from Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust regarding a draft Mobility Audit. Comments were received from members via email and fed back to the Trust, who expressed their thanks, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **G. Transport Scotland – North Isles Ferry Contract Community Drop-in Sessions**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney islands Council regarding Transport Scotland Community Drop-in Sessions for the next Northern Isles Ferry Services contract. Events had been held on 10 September 2025 in the St Magnus Centre, and on 12 September at Stromness Community Centre, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **H. Chris Reilly – Survey on Coastal Change**

Members considered correspondence from PhD researcher Chris Reilly, based at Heriot-Watt University in Stromness who was undertaking a study into local perspectives on climate change. Copies of digital posters and an offer of printed materials was offered to share with residents, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

## **I. Orkney Islands Council – Orkney Coastal Change Adaption Plan Workshop**

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council inviting the community along to a workshop to discuss the development of the Orkney Coastal Change Adaption Plan. The workshop was due to be held on 24 September 2025 at The Space. Mrs C Maguire had attended the discussion, and described the event as very informative but not well attended, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

# **8. Financial Statements**

## **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £34,185.98.

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

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the amount left within the main capping limit was £723.34, and that the balances remaining in the additional and island capping limits were £540 and £755 respectively.

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

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £6,677.80 remaining available to allocate to projects.

### **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement for Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council as at 8 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £7,535 remaining available to allocate to projects.

## **9. Financial Requests**

### **Rousay Community School – Classroom Blinds**

Following consideration of a request from Rousay Community School for funding towards new classroom blinds, it was:

Resolved that £584 had been agreed and awarded as a donation through the General Fund.

### **B. Rousay Horticultural Society - Rousay Horticulture Show 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence from Rousay Horticultural Society requesting funding towards the 2025 show, it was:

Resolved that £200 be awarded as a donation through the General Fund.

### **C. Egilsay Community Association – Fireworks Display 2025**

Following consideration of the request from Egilsay Community Association for funding towards the 2025 Egilsay fireworks display, it was:

Resolved that £350 be awarded, subject to CCGS approval.

### **D. Rousay Community Association – Bonfire and Fireworks Display 2025**

Following consideration of the request from Rousay Community Association for funding towards the 2025 Egilsay fireworks display, it was:

Resolved that £600 be awarded, subject to CCGS approval.

## **E. Rousay Community School – School Hall Painting**

Following consideration of correspondence from Rousay Community School requesting funding support towards improvements to both the school and community halls, it was decided that further information was required before any award is agreed upon.

As a public space, it was agreed that other building users may have some responsibility for the funding of the halls. Councillor S Clackson offered to be a point of contact for the school's Head Teacher, and he would make enquiries to find out whether this will be classed as regular maintenance, and if it should be the responsibility of the Education team. It was also noted that Rousay Parent Council managed to raise £500 at a recent quiz night in support of the refurbishments, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk will request that the Head Teacher makes contact with Councillor S Clackson to provide more information on the request.

## **F. Bench Memorial**

Following consideration of the need for match funding towards the costs of the proposed memorial bench at Brinian Kirkyard, it was:

Resolved that £5,000 be awarded via CDF funding and the General Fund.

## **G. Rousay Community School – Santa Gifts 2025**

Following consideration of the request from Rousay Community School for a donation towards the cost of providing Christmas gifts to all nursery and school children, it was:

Resolved that £500 be awarded via donation from the General Fund.

# **10. Reports from Representatives**

## **A. Planning**

Four planning applications relating to this community council area had been noted by the Planning Representative. She advised that one new build property, one commercial application, and two fish farm applications were still awaiting outcomes, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **B. Transport**

It was suggested that free bus and ferry travel for people under 22 years old was not widely known about. Information could be displayed in public spaces to increase the uptake in travel cards. The representative also advised that there had been further delays in implementing the ZEVl onto the route, with trials forecast to take place before mid-October. The ZEVl vessel was due to visit Rousay, but no date had been set. It was also noted that there was limited luggage space, and a lack of accessibility and so it should not be classed as a dedicated service, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **C. Health and Care**

The Health and Care representative advised that the next meeting was due to be held the week commencing 29 September, and requested that any questions be passed on in advance of this, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **11. Publications**

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

- VAO Training and Funding Update - June, July and August 2025.
- VAO Newsletter - June, July and August 2025.
- Letter from School Place – June, July and August 2025.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – July 2025.
- Rousay Parent Council Playpark Update – June and September 2025.
- Orkney Islands Council Childminding Training - June 2025.

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Remembrance Day Wreaths**

It was advised that wreathes to commemorate Remembrance Day must be requested in advance. Mr Tim Wood MBE had passed on his requests for wreaths and crosses to the Clerk, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk will forward the wreath requests to Democratic Services.
2. That the wreathes would be funded via CCGS, subject to approval.

### **B. Gates at Brinian Kirkyard**

It was reported that access to Brinian Kirkyard had become more difficult as the gate hinges required adjustments, and the gate was often challenging to open and close. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mrs Z Flaws would make enquiries into repairs.

### **C. Speeding at Rousay Pier**

A short discussion took place regarding an email received from a member of the community who shared safety concerns at the speed vehicles were travelling heading towards the pier and expressed their support of speed reductions. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would make a formal request to Orkney Islands Council on behalf of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council requesting a speed reduction in the area.
2. That the Clerk would request support from the local Roads crew to clear overhanging bushes and trees in the interest of safety.
3. To note that the annual 'Be Safe, Be Seen' campaign will be run in the Review over winter and advertised locally on posters.
4. To note that during Harbours' next round of pier visits, the Deputy Harbour Master will cross check the signage with harbour limits and ensure that correct signage is displayed.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council would be held in Rousay Community School on Wednesday, 26 November at 19:30.

### **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.