

Minute of the Meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council held in North Ronaldsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 1 December 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr P Donnelly, Mr I Deyell, Mr C Dun, Ms A Duncan, Mrs H Scott (via Teams) and Mr I Scott.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Mr D Campbell, Consultant, Local Place Plan.
- Mrs N Bremner, Consultant, Local Place Plan.
- Mr L Fraser, Community Development Manager, North Ronaldsay Trust.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms H Galland, Clerk.

- 11 Members of the public.

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1. Apologies and Welcome

A public meeting had been held prior to the general meeting, where Mr C Dun was elected to the vacancy on North Ronaldsay Community Council and welcomed as the newest member, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the election of Mr C Dun to North Ronaldsay Community Council.
- B. That apologies for absence had been received from Mrs L Paterson and Councillors M Thomson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on Monday, 6 October 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Ms A Duncan and seconded by Mr I Deyell.

3. Matters Arising

A. Local Place Plan

The consultants working on the LPP for North Ronaldsay, as well as the CDO for NRT, were in attendance and provided an update on the project. They advised that a series of local place plan public meetings had been held earlier in the day and were well attended by residents. They highlighted the common themes that had come up in past community council meetings and that these themes would be included when considering the plan.

It was iterated that this was neither a community council or North Ronaldsay Trust derived plan and would be entirely driven by the community. It was important the plan was accurate and far reaching as it would be considered a “funding bible”- there being implications on future funding applications in the future, if the issue is not included in the plan. Following the presentation, it was:

Resolved:

- 1. To note the information provided.
- 2. That the findings of these initial discussions will be shared with the community in the new year.

B. Broken Gate at West Hill

The background of the issue with the gate was discussed, as there had been no update on whether the gate was the responsibility of OIC or otherwise. Members advised that there was some urgency as the gate is necessary to prevent ingress of shore sheep, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would chase this issue up with Roads Support officers and report back to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

C. Lawn Mower Servicing

The Clerk asked members if the community council owned mower should now go for servicing since the grass cutting season had ended, and it was:

Resolved that a member with a van or tractor would deliver the mower to the pier and the Clerk would make arrangements for its servicing, to be paid through CCGS.

D. Island Letter - Third Aircraft Draft Timetable

The letter from North Ronaldsay Community Council had been sent to OIC Transport prior to the 1 December deadline for comments, however someone suggested that the matter of accessibility had not been included, and it was:

Resolved to note that the letter was to address the issue of timetables and schedules and that the matter of the new plane being fully disability accessible was a separate, albeit equally important, issue.

E. Ferry Replacement Options

The Chair advised that a letter had been received from Papa Westray Community Council indicating that their residents opposed the proposals for a new smaller ferry to service Papa Westray, which was the same for North Ronaldsay. A suggestion for a joint letter opposing the proposals was put forward, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To agree on the issuing of a joint letter of opposition, to be sent by Papa Westray Community Council on behalf of the two communities.
2. That the Clerk would ask that the proposed letter be shared with NRCC members for approval prior to it being sent.
3. To ask that the letter be concise to be more impactful.
4. That joint headed notepaper should be used to make it clear that the letter was from both communities, and that the views of North Ronaldsay were as important as those of Papa Westray.

4. Correspondence

A. Complaint/Request for Information - Litter on Island

Correspondence had been circulated to members regarding a resident complaint about an issue raised at the previous meeting regarding domestic waste, and it was:

Resolved that waste/refuse and such matters were not the jurisdiction of NRCC, that the contents of the correspondence were noted and that the correspondence had been responded to.

B. OIC - PTSN Digital Switch Off Information Posters

Correspondence had been circulated regarding the circulation of updates on the PTSN switch off, and it was:

Resolved this information had already been widely shared and distributed to the social media networks for islanders to access

C. OIC - New Ad Hoc Request Form and Guidance

Correspondence on the new form to fill in for ad hoc flight requests and updated guidance was circulated. A member of the public asked what the requirements were to request a launch (boat), and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To note that it was advised that the launch could only be used in emergency situations, in consultation with the community council and OIC.

D. Petition - More Powers for Scottish Community Councils

Correspondence regarding a petition to provide more powers to community councils had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to unsubscribe from any future communications regarding this matter.

E. Charter Request

Correspondence was received from Peter Donnelly, NRCC Chair, to provide a written record of the recent request for a launch to get teachers and workmen off the island when there were plane cancellations due to fog. The members had approved the request at the time and OIC Transport approved it verbally, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Free Bunting

Correspondence had been circulated previously to members regarding free bunting available, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had applied for some free bunting, which was yet to arrive.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Survey on Impact of Coastal Change

Correspondence had been circulated regarding a survey on the impact of coastal change, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for commenting had passed on 17 October 2025.

B. Have Your Say on Tourism - Community Workshops

Correspondence had previously been circulated regarding workshops on various dates in November, as well as two sessions aimed particularly at community council

members. One member had volunteered to engage with one of the workshops, and it was:

Resolved to note that the issues raised in the meeting were primarily mainland Orkney based and did not have much that North Ronaldsay could relate to.

C. Nordic Sea and Third Aircraft Timetables

A reminder had been sent informing members that the deadline was 1 December for feedback on the proposed timetables, for discussion at a special meeting with Transport Representatives on 3 December. Correspondence had been circulated, and the letter from NRCC had been sent prior to the deadline, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Chair and Mr C Dun would attend the Transport Forum to discuss the island's requirements from the third aircraft.

D. Power to the People - Community Energy Fund

Correspondence had been circulated from Steve Shaw in relation to MP support of the Community Energy Fund, and it was:

Resolved members could participate individually if they wished.

E. Burial Grounds Grass Cutting – Future Contracts

Correspondence had been circulated to members in relation to the budget for and future contracts for kirkyard grass cutting. A few members had provided comments including the job required versus the budget available, and how it reflected a society how they treated their deceased, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ensure a letter indicating the stance of NRCC on this issue would be sent to OIC as a matter of priority, as an extension had been given to allow NRCC to respond.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the general fund statement as at 18 November 2025, copies of which were previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £20,755.56.

B. Turbine Fund

Members considered the turbine statement as at 18 November 2025 copies of which were previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £23,856.80.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme as at 18 November 2025, copies of which were previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit had been fully allocated but that £673.20 and £755 remained available to allocate in the additional and island capping limits respectively.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund as at 18 November 2025, copies of which were previously circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the total available for allocation was £8,768.00.

7. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that there were no requests for financial support at this time, but that, following agreement by email, a Poppy Wreath had been purchased for the Island's Remembrance Sunday commemorations, to be paid from the General Fund.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Late correspondence of the draft winter ferry timetable and guidance notes on the consultation and approval process had been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Transport Forum in the New Year would be held on 21 January and the matter would be discussed at the next NRCC meeting in advance of that date.

B. Planning Representative

Resolved to note there was nothing to report

C. North Ronaldsay Development Trust Representative

The CDM provided an update, and members heard that the Trebb project was slightly behind schedule owing to contractor availability, but the aim is for a completion date of the end of February 2026. The CDM was facilitating the Place Plan for the island. There was a Transport Plan being drawn up which will address things like community transport and freight pick up for less mobile residents. The next project will be to look at redeveloping the former wool mill and lighthouse café complex, and a feasibility study was being funded. Comments and ideas for transport and the new project were invited by residents. Following the report, it was:

Resolved to note the update provided.

Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note that the next Joint Isles Health and Care meeting was due to be held on Tuesday, 2 December, and would be reported on at the next CC meeting.

D. Yarn Company Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

9. Publications

The following publications were made available to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2025.
- VAO – Training and Funding – October and November 2025.
- Letter from School Place – October and November 2025.
- SEPA Update – Special - 2 Newsletters - October 2025.

10. Any Other Competent Business - Draft Ferry Timetables Winter 2026/2027

Resolved to note that the late correspondence regarding the draft ferry timetable had been addressed within the meeting and that the members thoughts on the timetable would be discussed during Matters Arising at the next meeting, in advance of the Transport Forum.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 19 January 2026 at 19:30 in the Community Centre.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 20:40.