

Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Westray School Community Classroom and via Teams on Monday, 6 October 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr Daniel Marcus, Mr Adam Baird, Mrs Janice Kirkness, Mr Louis Pottinger, Mrs Ann Rendall and Mrs Rosalind Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs Hayley Robinson, Incoming Clerk.
- Ms Lorna Richardson, Head of Infrastructure Services.
- Mrs Gina Rendall, Operations Manager, Westray Development Trust.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Matters Arising	2
3. Adoption of Minutes	3
4. Correspondence	3
5. Consultation Documents.....	3
6. Financial Statements	4
7. Financial Requests	4
8. Reports from Representatives	5
9. Publications	5
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	6
11. Dates of Next Meeting	7
12. Conclusion of Meeting	7

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mrs Elizabeth Drever and Councillor Heather Woodbridge.

2. Matters Arising

A. Kerbside Recycling

In a discussion with the Head of Infrastructure Services, regarding the provision of recycling facilities in Westray, members asked whether more recycling points could be provided. The Head of Infrastructure Services highlighted that recycling bins needed to be on council-owned land and that one centralised collection point was logistically easier.

Members asked about plastic recycling and the Head of Infrastructure Services explained that it is very expensive as the volume of the material is high and the density low. A trial of plastic recycling in Stronsay was very expensive and so not economically viable to continue.

Members asked what impact the deposit return scheme would have on plastic recycling in Westray and the Head of Infrastructure Services said that, although she was unsure what the full impact would be, it would mean some access to plastic recycling on the island as plastic bottles will be returned to the shops. Following the discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Pierowall Kirkyard

The Head of Infrastructure Services stated that she had asked for a review of all OIC burial grounds and would look to identify those with capacity issues. Priority would then be allocated based on need and would require a submission of a bid for capital funding for any works required.

Members expressed their frustration with the situation. The Head of Infrastructure Services reiterated her understanding of the strength of feeling on the issue, but that she was limited by the funds available. Following the discussion, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and return to the issue upon completion of the OIC review.

C. Village Footpath

No further update had been received on the village path. It was reported that installation of the new play equipment would commence in the next two weeks, and it was:

Resolved that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would ask for an update from the Service Manager, Development and Marine Planning.

D. Winter Service Plan Criteria

After reviewing the winter service plan criteria for road treatment, members asked whether Noup Road, from Monivey onwards, could be upgraded from a priority 2S to a priority 2, as it was a known trouble spot, and it was:

Resolved that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would make the request to Roads Support.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 18 August 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs Ann Rendall and seconded by Mr Adam Baird.

4. Correspondence

A. Roads Responses to CC Winter Service Plan Comments

Following consideration of the responses from OIC Roads Support to the comments made by community councils as part of the last Winter Service Plan consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. Draft Outline Vessel Design

Members had previously been forwarded a draft design for the new Outer North Isles ferries. Following a review of the information provided, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

C. Islands Creative Entrepreneurship Programme Invitation

Following consideration of the invitation from the Islands Creative Entrepreneurship Programme, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Enhanced ONI Air Service

The information and draft timetables relating to the forthcoming enhanced air service was reviewed. Members noted there was no improvement to the Westray service at the weekend and that there was no overall increase in flight frequency, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write to request a return flight every Saturday and to request that the proposed Sunday flight operating “on request” only should be scheduled.

B. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop

Members had previously been sent information on a workshop on the OCCAP. The Chair stated that he had attended the event and highlighted areas of coastal erosion of concern in Westray, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Share Your Views on Tourism in Orkney

Members had previously been sent an invitation to attend a focus group for community council members to speak about the impact of tourism in Orkney, and they discussed who would attend the event, and it was:

Resolved that the member attending the event would be confirmed shortly.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £46,061.78.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the main capping limit had £2,781.88 remaining, and that £755 and £780 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.
2. That the balance of grant 202501 should be cancelled as it had not been claimed.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the fund balance of £0.

7. Financial Requests

A. Westray Heritage Centre

It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Heritage Centre confirming the Community Council's decision regarding the funding request. Members discussed that there were other funding streams that the Heritage Centre could apply for, and it was:

Resolved to provide the Heritage Centre with some information regarding these other funding streams.

B. Remembrance Wreaths

Following confirmation of the cost of the wreaths at £37 each, it was:

Resolved to agree to the purchase of the wreaths from the Community Council Grant scheme, subject to approval.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that there was no further update. Members discussed the Ferry Design presentation that had taken place earlier in the month and that it had been well received.

Members also mentioned a potential safety concern with the increase of marine traffic at Gill Pier, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

B. Planning

The Planning Representative advised that no new planning applications had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Health and Care

The Health and Care Representative had nothing new to report, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. WDT

The WDT Operations Manager advised that the contractor was on site at Jerusalem and that Bayview should be fully occupied by Christmas. Planning on the Community Hall would be going to full planning committee but she was confident there would be no issues. Various funding avenues were being explored to fund the work on the community hall. The Operations Manager also shared that WDT would be applying to install solar panels on the Hofn and that the Hofn turbine needed a replacement hub. Following the report, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

9. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – August 2025.
- Letter from School Place – August 2025.
- Transport Scotland Community Drop-In Sessions.

- Draft Summer 2026 Timetables.
- Isles Special Collection Rota to March 2026.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Tree lighting Ceremony

The Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony was discussed. It was confirmed that the tree lighting would be at Kalisgarth at 19:00 on 6 December 2025 and that the primary school bairns would lead in the singing of a couple of carols and the lights would be switched on by the youngest pupil in the school. This would be followed by mince pies and entertainment by Meryl Sandison and also the Salvation Army Band in the school hall. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would book the school hall and the kitchen for 6 December 2025.
2. That the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would order the same tree as last year on behalf of Westray Community Council, and that it would be funded via CCGS.
3. That the Christmas streetlights would be switched on from 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.
4. To note that the Salvation Army band had been booked and an application would be made to WDT for funding.

B. Firework Display

A discussion was had as to whether the Community Council should organise a firework display. Following a discussion that involved safety concerns and costs, it was:

Resolved that a firework display would not be organised by the community council.

C. Grass Cutting Tenders

Following consideration of the grass cutting tender, it was:

Resolved to ascertain whether the community council was still in tender, and if not to put it out to tender.

D. Boardwalk to Castle o' Burrian

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer shared that a works instruction had been issued for the damaged section, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Fire Doors at Westray Junior High School

A member shared concerns about the fire doors at the school, which needed replacing. Councillor M Thomson shared that the doors had been ordered and were awaiting delivery, and it was:

Resolved that the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer would raise the issue with Orkney Islands Council officers and ask for an update.

F. Electric Vehicle Charge Points

Consideration was given to the potential location of charging points for electric vehicles, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Healthy Living Centre could be a potential location.

G. School Car Park

A member raised the issue of congestion in the school car park at key times and it was discussed whether an extension would be possible, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would carry out a survey of adjoining land to consider options for an extension.

11. Dates of Next Meeting

Following consideration of dates for the next meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Westray Community Council would be held on Mondays 1 December 2025 and 9 February 2026 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 21:14.