

Minute of the Meeting of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council held in St Andrews Community Centre on Wednesday, 12 November 2025 at 19:30

Present:

Mr T Craigie, Mr L Flett, Mrs L McAdie, Mr D Paterson and Miss R Russell.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Moar.
- Mrs J Lennie, Clerk.

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1. Orkney Greylag Goose Adaptive Management Project

Resolved to note that no representative of OGGAMP was present at the meeting, and that consideration would be given to inviting them to a future meeting.

2. Apologies and Role of Chair

The Vice Chair opened the meeting and explained that, as Mrs N Linklater was not present, he would Chair the meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that apologies for absence had been intimated from Mrs N Linklater and Miss J Gowland and Councillors G Skuse and R Peace.
2. That Mr L Flett, Vice Chair, would Chair the meeting.

Councillor J Moar joined the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the general meeting held on 27 August 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs L McAdie and seconded by Miss R Russell.

4. Matters Arising

A. Ayrenergy Ltd Report

The Chair advised that the annual report to Ayrenergy Ltd was required to be submitted to Ayrenergy Ltd by 31 December 2025, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, before 31 December 2025, prepare and send the annual report to Ayrenergy Ltd.

B. Ron Bailey, Parliamentary Researcher

Following consideration of correspondence from Ron Bailey, Parliamentary Researcher regarding the lithium-ion battery campaign, which had been successful and their safety regulations had been included in the Government's Product Safety and Metrology (PRAM) act and passed into law and members are invited to join the webinar, with a date yet to be confirmed, to explain the regulations and also inviting members to make an application to the Electrical Safety-first grant fund before 12 October 2025, it was:

Resolved that members welcomed the progress and safety regulation for lithium-ion batteries from the PRAM act.

C. Mrs J Tait

The Vice Chair advised that it would be appropriate to discuss this correspondence as part of Item 8G, and it was:

Resolved that members approved this decision.

D. Scapa Deep Water Quay

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services providing members with an update of the Scapa Deep Water Quay project and advising that with the submission of additional planning documents, a further planning consultation period was therefore underway for the marine licensing consultation, and it was:

Resolved the Clerk send a response to this consultation that members believe that this project is flawed as the project delivery was too late and it was being progressed at the wrong time and in the wrong place.

E. The Brig, Willowvale, Tankerness

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr T Craigie and photo footage of the excellent repair to the Brig, Willowvale, Tankerness carried out by Mr D Shearer, he requested that the Clerk send his thanks to all involved in the progress of this repair, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to OIC thanking all involved in the progress of the repair to the Brig, Willowvale, Tankerness.

F. Burial Grounds Grass Cutting

Members considered correspondence received from Democratic Services with regard to the burial grounds grass cutting and a breakdown of costs of all burial grounds across Orkney, and with savings options for member's consideration with regard to inactive burial grounds and active burial grounds, which required a response by 28 November 2025. Following much discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To thank members who, voluntarily, had maintained the shed and other areas in St Andrews kirkyard.
2. That, pending a decision on the consultation, budget and a review of the tender documents, members approved advertising the 2026 grass cutting contract.
3. That the Clerk, by 28 November 2025, would send a response to the Burial Grounds Grass Cutting consultation raising the following comments, issues or questions:
 - The standard of grass cutting in kirkyard's in St Andrews and Deerness was recognised by the community as excellent.
 - Currently, the cost of a lair for two internments is £952 with additional cost for excavation of a lair and funeral expenses.
 - Over all of Orkney's kirkyard's, the savings were going to be minimal however, the public perception already to this proposal was heartfelt disappointment, emotive and upsetting.
 - The cost of the Hall of Tankerness kirkyard grass cutting is an error; the tender is not for twelve cuts annually however, six cuts annually.

- Mr T Craigie, member and previous grass cutting contractor for the St Andrews and Hall of Tankerness kirkyard contracts advised that six cuts would not be appropriate to provide any saving with grass cutting over the annual grass cutting season in the active St Andrews kirkyard and he was sure in Deerness kirkyard also; twelve cuts are essential for effective maintenance. With seasonable growth variable, on occasions there is a justification for more grass cuts in each kirkyard.
- A standard charge for grass cutting was not deemed appropriate as old kirkyard's create more strimming and are more expensive to cut than a new kirkyard with fewer lairs and plinths.
- Members were not aware of any consultation with grass cutting contractors on any matter related to this consultation. Have grass cutting contractors been consulted?
- Is kirkyard grass cutting a viable tender or more a public service?
- With regard to active kirkyard's, members had no support for options 1 and 2 and believed that there will be no saving from reducing the number of cuts from twelve to six; due to the inevitable overgrowth and additional time and labour incurred in a more extensive costly cut. Also, prevalent weeds will seed and flourish in the longer time between cuts.
- Hall of Tankerness kirkyard would be suitable for sheep/goats; however, a water supply would be required.
- Could additional cuts be funded from the Community Council Grant Scheme (CCGS)? If so, could the rate qualify for 80% grant assistance for the removing of debris from local areas as per category C1?
- Is there a perceived saving or potentially more cost created from this consultation?

G. Thistle Wind Partners (TWP) and OIC Letters

The Vice Chair advised that Democratic Services and the Clerk were not aware of the Chair having written letters to TWP and OIC to ascertain and confirm any pledge of community benefit from TWP's Ayre Offshore Windfarm, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk send letters to TWP and OIC accordingly.

5. Consultation Documents

A. Community Right to Buy Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Island Federation regarding the Community Right to Buy Consultation, members are invited to join with Scottish Government in an online meeting on 2 October 2025 and to participate in the consultation, it was:

Resolved that members had no response to this consultation.

B. Survey on Impact of Coastal Change

Following consideration of the consultation, Survey on the Impact of Coastal Change, which requires a response by 17 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no response to this consultation.

C. Northern Isles Ferry Services Public Consultation

Following consideration of the Northern Isles Ferry Services Public Consultation and drop-in session on 10 October 2025 and with an extended date for consultation response to 20 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no response to this consultation.

D. European Marine Energy Centre – Fall of Warness

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission regarding the consultation on Section 36 Variation for the construction and operation of the Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site and extension of their consent by an additional two years, with comments due by 20 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that members had no response to this consultation.

6. Correspondence

A. Scottish Hydro Electric – Eday Engagement

Following consideration of correspondence received from Scottish Hydro Electric inviting members to two meetings they were holding about their Eday Grid Supply Point project; one in Eday on 17 September 2025 and one in the Rendall Hall on 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note this information and invitation.

B. RSPB Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from RSPB Orkney regarding an opportunity to invite them to give an update on the RSPB's work in Copinsay over the past year, it was:

Resolved to invite RSPB Orkney to the next meeting.

C. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshops

Following consideration of correspondence from Mott Macdonald and OIC regarding workshops being held on 7 October 2025 and online on 11 November 2025 and the survey, which requires a response by 19 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the survey should be completed by 19 November 2025.

D. Our Orkney, Our Story

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services inviting a representative of this community Council to participate in in a one-hour online stakeholder interview as part of their Our Orkney, Our Story project on 8 October 2025 or 16 October 2025 to share the views on tourism in Orkney, it was:

Resolved:

1. That it was not known if the Chair had attended this interview to represent this community council.
2. To note this information.

E. Creative Entrepreneurship Programme

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Island Federation inviting this community council to share the opportunity for makers, artists and creative practitioners to make an application for a fully funded course on the Creative Entrepreneurship Programme, it was:

Resolved to note this information and that the Clerk had sent this information to local outlets.

F. Scottish and Southern Energy Network (SSEN)

Following consideration of correspondence from SSEN regarding the Customer Vulnerability Strategy webinar on 25 September 2025; updating the progress as ED2 nears its conclusion and SSEN plans for ED3, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Clerk had circulated this information to local outlets.

G. UHI Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence from UHI Orkney inviting the community council to join in celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the UHI Archaeology Institute on 14 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Tourism - Community Workshops

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC inviting members to attend community workshops to discuss tourism in Orkney on 5, 6 and 11 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

I. New Powers for Community Councils - Petition

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr M Gallagher, a former community councillor, requesting that members consider signing his petition, with regard to "Democracy Matters" programme of the Scottish Government and the lack of funding and the lesser powers that community council members have in Scotland compared to those given to English Parish Councils, it was:

Resolved to note this information.

J. Thank You Letters

Following consideration of thank you letters from Mrs V Foubister, Mr Alastair Derbyshire, St Andrews Primary School Nursery, Mrs P Rendall, St Andrews

Football Club, Miss Y Harcus, Mrs S Nicolson, East Mainland Christmas Party Group and Thistle Wind Partners, and it was:

Resolved to note the letters.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the 2025/2026 General Finance statement as of 3 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £17,498.51.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as of 3 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note, that in the 2025/2026 financial year, there remained £221.78 available in the main CCGS capping limit and £0 in the additional CCGS capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as of 3 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £5,000.00.

D. Ayrenergy Ltd Fund

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Ayrenergy Ltd Fund Statement as of 3 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £27,765.91.

8. Financial Requests

A. Revision of Policy

Following discussion of policies set regarding financial applications, it was:

Resolved:

1. That no financial applications would be given consideration out with a scheduled meeting.
2. That the Clerk would amend the clause on financial application forms from:

“Any group/organisation requesting funding over £500 must supply along with the application an indication of the group/organisations current financial situation e.g. most recent accounts and copies of bank statement/s and all investments”

to

“Any group/organisation requesting funding must supply along with the application an indication of the group/organisations current financial situation e.g. most recent accounts and copies of bank statement/s and all investments”

B. St Andrews Community Association

Following reconsideration of St Andrews Community Association’s financial application for refurbished blades for their wind turbine which had been damaged in a recent storm, members suggested that the Community Association had sufficient funds available and that the community council had already supported the football clubs with maintenance and for grass cutting at the Community Association’s pitch, and it was:

Resolved to grant no funding to St Andrews Community Association for the refurbished turbine blades.

C. St Andrews SWI

Following consideration of financial assistance application from St Andrews SWI towards the cost of the 2025 Children’s Halloween Party, it was:

Resolved to grant St Andrews SWI £120 for the 2025 Children’s Halloween Party, subject to CCGS approval.

D. Deerness Community Centre Association

Mr L Flett declared an interest in this item.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Deerness Community Centre Association requesting financial assistance towards the cost of their Christmas lunch for seventy attendees, it was:

Resolved to award financial assistance to Deerness Community Centre Association for seventy Deerness resident senior citizens at £5 per Deerness resident senior citizen, totalling £350 maximum, subject to CCGS approval.

E. St Andrews Senior Citizens

Following consideration of correspondence received from St Andrews Senior Citizens requesting financial assistance towards cost of the 2025 Christmas lunch for fifty senior citizens, it was:

Resolved to award financial assistance to SASC, for fifty St Andrews resident senior citizens at £5 per St Andrew resident senior citizen, totalling £250 maximum from the Ayrenergy Ltd fund.

F. Miss H Pirie

Following consideration of correspondence received from Miss H Pirie requesting travel assistance towards the cost of her participation in the Hadrirgaan trip to the BBC Alba Trad Awards at the Music Hall, Aberdeen, it was:

Resolved to grant travel assistance totalling £40 to Miss H Pirie.

G. Late Education Grant Application

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mrs J Tait, Miss J Brown and Miss J Scott requesting education grant funding, a member advised that at the 27 August 2025 meeting, it had been approved that no late education grant would be considered, and it was:

Resolved that no funding would be granted to Mrs J Tait, Miss J Brown and Miss J Scott for the late education grant letters/applications.

9. Publications

The following publications had previously been made available for members to view and were noted:

- VAO - Training and Funding Update – September and October 2025.
- VAO – Newsletter – August, September and October 2025.
- Glasdon - Brochure.
- Orkneycommunities.co.uk AGM – 9 November 2025 – Information and Procedure.
- Scottish Water – Autumn/Winter 2025 Newsletter.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission – Eday Project

Mr D Paterson advised that he had attended the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission meeting to discuss the three components required for a cable circuit in regard to a subsea cable connection from Eday to the Orkney mainland and onward to the Finstown substation. He advised that the preferred option for many operational reasons was from Eday to Clevie Bay, Stembister, Toab and onward to the Finstown substation. Potentially, this project could commence in 2028. It was noted that it would not involve pylons however trident poles positioned six feet apart and underground cables. In answer to a question regarding potential community benefit from this project, the Clerk advised that it was Scottish and UK Government legislation that local communities directly benefit from these projects, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

B. Orkney Islands Council (OIC) 20 MPH Speed Limit Order 2025

Mrs L McAdie advised that there was general disappointment and dissatisfaction that this community council and the general public's comments on the OIC 20MPH Speed Limit Order 2025 consultation had been ignored by Councillors; and that many community members were disgusted with the process and the voting outcome. Members also expressed their surprise and disappointment with the outcome. Following much discussion on this issue and the purpose of a community council and community council members and the function of this community council to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for

which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable, it was:

Resolved:

1. That, despite the outcome of this consultation, members believed that their response to the 20MPH consultation had achieved their responsibility to this community and was democratic.
2. That the Clerk should share this discussion in the business of meeting letter to OIC, expressing member's surprise, dissatisfaction and disappointment with the consultation process and outcome.
3. That the Clerk also includes in the business of meeting letter that if future amendments are required to the speed limit order, the question of who will pay for any amendment to the Order and works?

C. Remedial Works to Culverts

Remedial work required to culverts in Tankerness was raised, as follows:

- There was a back feeding culvert on the Kirkwall Airport Road, nearby the airport hangar entrance, that had been back feeding water for some time with water pouring across the airport road.
- There was a sunken culvert between Cobrance and Calset, Tankerness, nearby the area for black bales.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk writes to Democratic Services advising that these culverts and surrounding area requires investigation and remedial works to resolve the issue of overflowing water onto the roads.

D. Flooding on Roads in St Andrews and Deerness

Following discussion of the following flooding issues reported to this meeting by members, it was:

Resolved to raise the following issues with OIC, via the Clerk's business letter to Democratic Services:

- Location, in the vicinity of Garth's road end, on the airport road; the emergency route to the airport, the culverts are choked in various locations in this area and ditch cleaning is also requested.
- Dingshowe Road, Toab, at Melbourne Corner, flooding and drain water rising at this location.
- In the Tankerness junction, above the airport and where the Old Tankerness Road from Annfield meets the road to the Tankerness junction, above the airport, water is gathering and the road is sinking and the road surface breaking.
- From Grind, Deerness to Gears, Toab with rainfall, there is bad flooding on the road in this area.

- From Deerness Community Centre to Blowes, Deerness, water sitting on road resulting in some potholes.
- Stove Road, Deerness, lying water causing the creation of potholes.
- Heatherlea, Toab, ditch requires cleaning as lying water eating into road surface and undermining the edge of the road at this location.
- From Veltigar, Tankerness Road end to St Andrews Community Centre junction, on the Veltigar side, the ditch is choked and requires cleaning.
- The Round, Tankerness – a drain is blocked with road chips.
- At the Nissan hut at the Langhill road end, Tankerness, the ditches require cleaning and potentially other remedial works to stop the flooding in this area.

E. Manhole Boxes on the Lower Area of Wideford Brae

Members wished to report concerns regarding manhole covers whereby the concrete surrounding them had broken away and the manholes were potential hazards on the lower area of Wideford Brae and this required investigation and remedial work, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk reports this issue to Democratic Services.

F. Offlets and Ditches in St Andrews and Deerness

Members wish to request the digging out and clearing of offlets and ditch cleaning in St Andrews and Deerness, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk write to Democratic Services requesting this remedial works.

G. Bottom of Brae of the Round, Tankerness

Members wished to report that the road surface had sunk into the peat at the bottom of the Brae of the Round. Tankerness, on both sides of the Brig and with manhole covers also sunken causing a potential hazard to traffic, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk writes to Democratic Services requesting investigation and remedial works of these issues.

H. Junction above the Airport into Tankerness

Members wish to report that where the old Tankerness Road from Annfield, Tankerness meets the road from the junction, above the airport, water is gathering in this area and the road is sinking and the road surface is broken and requires investigation and remedial works, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk reports this to Democratic Services.

I. Road Surface/Pothole Repairs

Following discussion of further road surface and pothole issues, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk writes to Democratic Services to request investigation and remedial repairs to these roads:

- The Yinstay road from Cobrance, Tankerness to Heatherhouse, Tankerness, which is in very poor condition with a poor road surface and potholes. This road is badly in need of resurfacing and remedial work.
- The Hall of Yinstay/Cocklehall Road end, which is used as a passing place, is undermined and burst and it requires remedial work.

J. Missing White Lines on the Road at Dingshowe, Toab

Mr D Paterson and Miss R Russell reported that when the white lines were painted on the road in the area of Dingshowe, Toab, the workforce did not sweep or clear the road of sand and various areas of white lines had disappeared when the sand blew away in the wind, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk writes to OIC to advise them of the missing white lines at Dingshowe, Toab and the remedial work that was required.

K. Freedom of Information Request

Members wished to request from a freedom of information request the number of general public responses for and against the OIC 20MPH Speed Limit Order 2025, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would make this request in the business of meeting letter.

11. Future Meeting Dates

Following consideration of meeting dates for 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the next meetings of St Andrews and Deerness Community Council would be held on 25 February in St Andrews Community Centre, 3 June in Deerness Community Centre, 26 August in St Andrews Community Centre and 18 November in Deerness Community Centre, all commencing at 19:30.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Vice Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:55.