Minute of the Meeting of Sanday Community Council held in Heilsa Fjold and via Teams on Thursday, 2 July 2026 at 19:30

Present:

Gary Nickells, Bruce Stuart, Ute Clackson, Cherrie Ellis, Gary Flint-Elkins and Ken Snelson.

In Attendance:

- Gail Speers, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- 3 members of the public.

Order of Business

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Andrew Wilcox and Councillors Heather Woodbridge and Mellissa Thomson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Sanday Community Council held on 14 May 2026 was approved, being proposed by Gary Flint-Elkins and seconded by Ken Snelson.

3. Publication of North Isles Sports Book

Mr Thorne gave a presentation advising members that his new book recording the preparations and events leading up to the 75th North Isles Sports held on Sanday in 2025 had only sold 50 copies at the 2026 North Isles Sports. He asked the members if he could give 40 books to each of the competing islands to see if they could sell them on their islands at £10 per book and that the proceeds go to sports related pursuits as per the members suggestions at the previous meeting, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that members agreed to this, but asked Mr Thorne to wait giving the books to the other islands until after the Sanday Show as members would try to see if they could sell more copies then.

B. To note that Mr Thorne left three copies for the members to read and he would collect these from the Link Officer the following Tuesday.

C. To note that Cherrie Ellis agreed to selling the 40 copies at the Sanday Show in the Sanday Community Shop bar tent.

4. Matters Arising

A. Defibrillators

Following a report from the ILO with regards to the repair of the telephone kiosk door housing the defibrillator in Burness, volunteer defibrillator checkers and replacement pads, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the installation of the door for the Burness telephone kiosk had still not been completed.

2. To note that the Chair and his wife offered to do the monthly checks for the defibrillator at Loth waiting room.

3. To note that the ILO had now replaced the pads in all the defibrillators on the island owned by the Community Council and that replacement pads would not be needed again for another two years.

B. War Memorial

As Andrew Wicox was not present at the meeting, there were no further updates with regards to fundraising for the cleaning of the War Memorial, it was;

Resolved to note that Councillor Clackson suggested that Andrew Wilcox contacts him with regards to a lady in Eday associated with the Best War Memorial competition.

C. Heritage Centre

Following a report from the ILO with an update on the sale of the Heritage Centre from the Sanday Community Council to the Sanday Development Trust, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had sent the Terms of Business to the members after the last meeting and was awaiting replies.

D. Sanday TRI-CE Meeting

Following discussion with regards to the TRI-CE meeting on 20 May 2026, which had been attended by Ute Clackson, it was:

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

E. Police Surgery

Following discussion with regards to the police surgery held at Heilsa Fjold on 10 June 2026, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that only 1 member of the public attended.

2. To note that they had stopped vehicles on the island and were able to issue points on the licences of offending residents.

3. To note that Councillor Clackson attended the surgery and thanked the officers for visiting Sanday.

4. To note that due to a shortage of police officers and a recruitment drive which is currently in place, officers run these surgeries on their days off.

F. Kirkyard Grass Cutting

Following consideration of the Kirkyard grass cutting, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair had visited the Kirkyards and was happy with the grass cutting.

2. To note that the members suggested that the tender process needed looking at as it was daunting for some people to complete the tenders.

3. To note that this item has been deferred to the next meeting for further discussion.

G. Lady and Cross Kirkyard Gates

Following discussion with regards to the dilapidated state of the Lady and Cross Kirkyard gates, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Orkney Islands Council were aware of the state of the gates as the ILO had sent photos to them showing this.

2. To note that Orkney Islands Council were working to resolve this issue.

H. Backaskaill Car Park - Height Restriction

Following a report from Cherrie Ellis that the height-restriction barrier at the Backaskaill car park was too low for visiting campervans, specialist wheelchair-access vehicles, and grave-digging vehicles travelling from Kirkwall, and after further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ILO would contact Orkney Islands Council to request that they change the height restriction bar to a moveable one which opens up either by a lock mechanism or by a QR code.

2. To note that members suggested a donation box at the Backaskaill Car Park for visitors to donate, as it was a pleasant space with picnic tables for vehicles to park and use.

3. To note that Cherrie Ellis suggested that businesses donate some of their beige bags to help with areas without bins, and that she would look into this and give an update at the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

A. Orkney Local Development Plan – update May 2026

Following consideration of correspondence from the Development and Marine Planning team with regards to an update on the review of the Orkney Local Development Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Mobile Library Letter

Following consideration of correspondence from Ute Clackson on behalf of the operators of the mobile library van who mentioned that the site at Burness where the mobile library used to park, not being safe to do so anymore, it was:

Resolved to note that members discussed the options for another suitable site, but could not find anywhere else large enough. Ute would contact the operator to let them know the outcome.

C. Surf Awards 2026 – Scotlands Regeneration Forum

Following consideration of correspondence from the Awards and Communications Manager from SURF with regards to the 2026 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. Island Digital Connectivity Resilience – SIF Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Islands Federation project manager with regards to a follow up to their meeting in November and to inform members that SIF would be hosting a meeting on digital connectivity resilience on 25 June via Zoom, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Voluntary Action Orkney Member Update

Following consideration of correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer of Voluntary Action Orkney, informing members that they would be moving out of Anchor Buildings in Kirkwall temporarily, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. First Responder Discussion

Following consideration of correspondence from the new Community Planning Manager at Orkney Community Planning Partnership, who was doing a piece of work about health provision in the isles, particularly first responders and emergency response, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Island Conversations – Exploring the new National Islands Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the project manager at the Scottish Islands Federation with regards to a further two National Islands Plan online discussions sessions held in June, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Accessible Travel Framework

Following consideration of correspondence from the project manager at the Scottish Islands Federation with regards to online events coming up to help shape the Accessible Travel Framework successor. Transport Scotland is working with Disability Equality Scotland to deliver the events and are trying to reach as many people with disabilities as possible from island, rural and remote communities, it was:

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative would try to attend this online event on 30 July 2026.

I. War Memorial Bench

Following consideration of correspondence from a Sanday resident with regards to the poor state of the War Memorial picnic bench, it was:

Resolved to note that Cherrie Ellis would arrange its removal.

J. War Memorial Drainage

Members considered correspondence from the Roads department in response to the members request at the previous meeting, asking that they look into why the water was not draining away at the base of the War Memorial. On further investigation from the Sanday operative, the Roads department had been advised that this was due to blocked gullies in that vicinity, and it was:

Resolved to note that the gullies and carrier pipes would be jetted and cleared, plus ditching on the other side of the road to help the area, and that these procedures would be performed in due course.

K. New Tesco Grant

Following consideration of the correspondence from the Community Enabler of Greenpeace, Scotland with regards to the new grant available from Tesco supporting children and young people, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO had forwarded the information to the head teacher at Sanday Community School.

L. Third Aircraft

Following consideration of correspondence from the Service Manager, Marine Services and Transportation, with regards to an update on the purchase of an additional aircraft on the ONI network and following a report from the Transport Representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Transport Representative had attended the meeting on 25 May 2026 to discuss the enhanced timetable which was to be fed back to the isles Transport Representatives and Community Councils Chairs at a later date and mentioned that this timetable had not been shared at present.

2. To note that the third plane had not been purchased yet.

3. To note that the Transport Representative advised members that an electrically powered plane would be cheaper, but range and safety could be problematic, due to the range it would need to cover.

M. Haulage Letter Response

Following consideration of correspondence from Councillor Woodbridge who had met with MSP Liam McArthur on 12 June 2026 and had requested that he convenes a joint meeting with the Haulier and the three North Isles Community Councils of Stronsay, Sanday and Eday to discuss the haulage provision on the outer isles, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that MSP Liam McArthur responded to say that he was happy to facilitate the meeting suggested.

2. To note that he would in the first instance, establish if there was a willingness to engage and would keep Councillor Woodbridge, the community councils and any other relevant parties updated on any response.

6. Consultations

A. Draft Summer Ferry Timetables 2027

Following consideration of the Draft Summer Ferry Timetables 2027, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Transport Representative mentioned that there had been a lot of confusion as the draft timetables provided by the Orkney Islands Council for display were the 2026 timetables, but that the 2026 draft timetables would be the same for 2027.

2. To note that the ILO had advertised the draft timetables in the Sanday Sound newsletter, community noticeboards and Facebook requesting the public to email the ILO with comments, the deadline being 4 August 2026.

B. Westray Tidal Array Pre-Application Consultation

Following consideration of the Westray Tidal Array Consultation, where the array would be situated in the Westray Firth comprising of the installation, operation and decommissioning of around 70 Orbital O2-style tidal turbine devices, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would pass on the comments to Orbital Marine that the proposed development would restrict sailings during certain weather and tidal conditions when the north isles ferry needed to change its route to go around the north of Eday and via Calf Sound. This would not be possible if the proposed Westray Tidal Array were to go ahead in the planned area.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Following a report from the Transport Representative advising members that when the Sunday excursions in the North Isles are running, there are no other ferries running on that day to the North Isles, which meant that anyone wishing to travel to Sanday on the Sunday evening, there was no way of getting there, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would put a request in to Orkney Islands Council asking if the Nordic Sea could be used to take passengers from Kirkwall to Sanday in the evening on the dates the Sunday excursions were running.

B. Planning Representative

Following a report from the Planning Representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a planning application had been submitted to reinstate a house (formally two houses) at Brough Cottage.

2. To note that a planning application had been submitted to install a portacabin for use as a craft work space at Bankhouse.

3. To note that a planning application had been submitted for the siting of two caravans as self-catering units at Miry Park (retrospective).

C. Development Trust Representative

As the Development Trust Representative was not present at the meeting, it was:

Resolved to note there was nothing to report.

D. Health and Care Representative

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 June 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance was £20,666.88.

B. Spurness Wind Micro Fund

Following consideration of the Spurness Wind Fund statement as at 22 June 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance was £765.90.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2026/2027 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 June 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £1,148.98, the balance remaining in the additional capping limit was £796 and the Island capping limit balance remaining was £609.39.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 22 June 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £10,806.34.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 22 June 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,689.79.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

A. Archaeology Institute - UHI Orkney

Following consideration of an application from the Archaeology Institute, UHI Orkney requesting financial assistance to support the delivery of community heritage and environment-related activities around the archaeological excavation at Spurness, Sanday, it was:

Resolved that £7,654.00 be awarded from the Spurness Community Fund.

B. Spurness Micro Grant Fund

1. Routes to Roots

Following consideration of an application from Catriona Price requesting financial assistance towards the cost of presenting a fringe concert at the Cross Kirk on Sanday featuring visiting Latin American artists alongside one Orkney based act for one day in the first week of August, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant Fund.

2. Raymond Brown

Following consideration of an application from Raymond Brown, it was:

Resolved to note that the ILO would contact SSE on the members behalf for advice on this application.

3. Sanday Agricultural Association

Following consideration of an application from the Sanday Agricultural Association requesting financial assistance to cover the on-going general costs of holding the show, it was:

Resolved that £300 be awarded from the Spurness Micro Grant.

10. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter – June and July 2026.
- VAO Training and Funding – May and June 2026.
- Letters from School Place – May and June 2026.
- Foundation Scotland E Bulletin – June 2026.
- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – May and June 2026.
- Free Webinar for CC's – Overview of Community Wealth Building plus a community-led approach to care at home in rural Scotland.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Resolved to note there was no other competent business to discuss.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Sanday Community Council would be held on Thursday, 3 September 2026, commencing at 19:30.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:53.