

Minutes of Westray Development Trust Board Meeting
Thursday 1st May 2025 in the Community Classroom 7pm

Present: Geordie Thomson (GT) (Chair), Anne Burgher (AB), Gill McEwen (GM), Douglas Leslie (DL), David Seatter (DRS), Kirsty Sinclair (KS)

Attending: Gina Rendall (GR)

1. **Apologies :** David Stephenson (DS), Margaret Rendall (MR), Coilla Drake (CD), Louis Pottinger (LP), Peter White (PW)

2. **Minutes of previous board meetings:**

Minutes of Board Meeting on 3rd April 2025

Proposed by AB, Seconded GM

3. **Matters Arising:**

None

4. **OPS Manager/ AFO report**

i. **AFO**

Fuel Grants: Down to 3 applications waiting for more information, reminders have been sent as the year end is June 2025.

Financial Activities by Month: March financial papers were shared along with budget report for March.

Grants: Most grants have now been cleared up and are as up to date as they can be.

Charges: All Here 2 Help users and regular Hofn users have been notified of the increase in charges from April.

ii. **Housing**

Bayview

Flat 2 is now vacant and an end of tenancy check has been carried out. There are a few routine maintenance issues to follow up.

ACTION – GR to organise maintenance and push advertising of Flat 2 and 4

Jerusalem

Funding: £6000 still with Scottish Land Fund for project management which will happen at renovation stage. Rural Housing Fund have been extremely busy, but conversations continue. Davie Campbell has submitted an application to OIC on our behalf.

Renovation: The amendment to the building warrant with regards to the porch alterations has now been made.

Land: GR has asked for a quote for fencing and is waiting for this. After a discussion with Graham Scott at Scottish College of Agriculture the decision to advertise was made. Today's date is the final day, three offers were received. The Board agreed that the fencing needed to be looked at and if we had a timescale for this then we could discuss with potential renters after that.

ACTION- GR to progress fencing options, order materials.

iii. **Community Spaces**

Community Hall

Purchase: The emptying of the hall has now become time sensitive.

New Build: No update on this today.

ACTION – GR to report back to board next month on progress of emptying and drawings update.

Sailing Club Shed

Servitude and Disposition: This has now all been dealt with and the whole of the Bayview site is now on our title deed. Thanks to Lows for their assistance and the generosity of the landowner Mabel Kent.

Sand o Gill

This month we will try and sort out some of the bruck that is lying there and generally tidy up the area ready for summer visitors. KS notified the trustees that the interpretation board has now been installed.

iv. **Property**

Gallow Hill: The area has been left in quite a state after the GCU company hired the area to store their equipment. They have also left a lot of equipment on the site. They have been contacted to clear the site previously. GR has contacted them and Openreach to express our disappointment at the whole situation and have given them a date of the 11th of May to clear the site.

v. **Golf Club:**

Feasibility Study: The Westray Golf Club and Mens Shed are still to provide information to Davie Campbell, a reminder was sent today.

vi. **Development Plan/Place Plan**

Eve White has started gathering information from groups on the island. Sarah Cowe will be working on the layout with her. It's hoped that we have some information to share with the community on the 28th of June at the Big Lunch, please note new date for this event.

GR was asked to apply to Community Led Local Development (CLLD) rather than the OIC Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund (CECLD) as originally requested.

vii. **Hofn**

Turbine inverter: Plywood is up for the inverter and Burry Boatyard say they will be in Westray soon, GR had chased for a date with no success.

ACTION – GR to chase that visit.

Youth Support Worker: One reference to come in and PVG checks to carryout, GR's counter signatory application has been accepted.

Service Users: During a discussion with our insurance provider, it was discovered that there is no reason we can't allow young folk from outwith Westray into the Hofn on Hofn nights. **The Board Agreed** that anyone wishing to access the Hofn must fill in a permission slip, this will have their contact details, parents contact details but also contact details of a responsible adult in Westray.

ACTION – GR to organise and let interested parties know.

viii. **Accessible Westray**

We have spoken to the Westray Walkers to let them know the wheelchair and rollators are available.

ix. **CDO Meetings:**

At a recent CDO meeting George Vickers from Community Planning Partnership had asked for feedback on the Community Wealth Building document. This was circulated to the board for comment and GR will formalise a response from WDT.

ACTION – GR to progress

x. **Climate Action Plan**

Community Event is on the 24th of May where GR will have the art entries for people to see and climate action plan.

xi. **WDT Audit**

Staffing Structure: New staffing structure has been announced to the public and began today. With promotions for both Mhairi Noble, Book Keeper who will now work Thursday and Friday and also Sarah Cowe, Administration and Grants Officer working Monday to Thursday.

xii. **Orkney Towns Fund**

Nothing new to report.

xiii. **Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)**

Green Grant: We have been invited to apply for this grant. GR met with Shona Flanagan this week and thought it might be better as an in-person meeting.

ACTION - GR to organise.

xiv. **WDT Grants – Review**

SC has been altering the Grants procedures to be ready for launch the 1st of July 2025. We received a travel grant application for July so have explained that things will be changing and to apply again when we launch our new grants structure. GR suggested we give folk warning via social media/Auk Talk.

ACTION - SC to promote

xv. **Annual DTAS conference**

GR had circulated information on this to the board via email. A bursary was applied for and was successful. GR and PW will attend the event.

xvi. **Kelp Green – Rackwick Entrance**

In previous minutes this was referred to as Rosebank but that was leading to confusion. Please note new reference. Nothing new to report.

xvii. **Slipway – Gill Pier**

At last months meeting after a request from Tommy Tulloch and Douglas Hourston to meet to discuss the Slipway. An invitation was sent to potentially meet on the 24th of April. This wasn't a suitable date, no suitable date has been found but GR has set a reminder to follow up.

The matter had been discussed at the Small Boat Owners AGM and it was felt that the Slipway was not profitable for Orkney Marinas to take on.

WRE Report – From Clare Walker, AFO (CW)

No report from CW as she has been on holiday, GT gave a verbal report instead.

i. Turbine

CW joined WRE in person when she was in Westray. There is nothing major to update as things have gone a little quiet. GT is to contact Enercon for more details on requirements as the logistics of it all need to be planned. For example, the transport of machinery to the island.

5. Forward Planning Update

At the WRE meeting GT had discussed the future of this group as DS has stepped back at the moment. The Group agreed that it should still be progressed. GT agreed to take on the responsibility and may seek advice.

6. Wellbeing Report – Erika Pottinger (EP)

EP has been on annual leave so a short report this month.

i. Community Fridge

195 users over January and 290.5kg of food waste saved.

ii. Footcare

Another full clinic organised.

7. Sub Group Reports:

i. Garden –

Phase 1 Kedar Unit: Raised beds are filled and have some plants in them. The group have used some of their fundraising money to improve an area in the poly tunnel using trellis and flowers. They have plans for a flower bed using flowers sourced locally and also more seating but this time using flagstones they have. The bedding plants are looking really healthy.

GR, PW, CD and John Fordyce met last week to discuss the budget. A few of the bigger jobs have been moved to next year. It was also decided it would be good to try and set a meeting time weekly. GR will join the group on Tuesdays.

An open day on the 5th of June to coincide with World Environment Day is in the diary.

Funding: There was no invitation to take the application any further with CLLD. GR had received an email to say it was oversubscribed.

Maintenance: Jerry Wood continues his work on the patio area.

8. PEG

CG10- 2024 – Friends of Westray Playpark- Westray Playpark Improvement

Friends of Westray Playpark are looking for funding to make improvements and do safety work at the current playpark. The playpark is three times a day by the school children and is available to residents and visitors to the

island. The group have applied for a grant to cover the purchase of new equipment, replacement parts and installation to restore and replace broken equipment on the site. **The board agreed** with the PEG recommendations and approved a grant of £38,979.10.

CG11-2024 – Westray Sailing Club

Westray Sailing Club are celebrating 100 years this year and applied for funding to help with the anniversary celebrations. This includes a display on the 100 years of Westray Sailing Club, which will be displayed in the Westray Heritage Centre from May 2025 and after that in the new Sailing Club Shed. A weekend of entertainment including the annual regatta dance and a Sunday Island Fun Day. **The board agreed** with the PEG recommendations and approved a grant of £7,000.

CG12-2024 – Westray Junior Rugby Club – Sevens Trip

Westray Junior Rugby Club are hoping to take a team of Rookies and two Minis teams to the annual Orkney Rugby Sevens Tournament. The ferry will not arrive in time for the minis events so they would like to charter a boat. Anyone with family in Kirkwall will travel the night before. Having this option will save families accommodation costs and mean that the whole team can attend the whole event. **The board agreed** with the PEG recommendations and approved a grant of £478.00

CG13-2024 – Westray Connections – Westray Connections 2025

Westray Connections asked for support for their annual weekend long event in August 2025. Westray Connections is a popular bi-annual event on the Island, attracting many visitors, artists and providing a variety of events over the course of the weekend. **The board agreed** with the PEG recommendations and approved a grant of £4,500

CG14-2024 – SWI – SWI Industrial Show – The SWI applied for financial support to host the annual Industrial show in Westray. Costs incurred are prizes, catering, venue hire and judges' expenses. **The board agreed** with the PEG recommendations and approved a grant of £875

9. Correspondence

None

10. AOCB

None

11. Date of Next Meeting 5th June 2025

Meeting closed at 8.30pm



