

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Tuesday, 7 May 2019 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, E Knight, K Bevan, G Deans, K Donald, J Mowat, W Mackay and J Park.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- A Mottershead, Arts Officer (for Item 4).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- One member of the press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Councillor M Thomson.

2. Election of Officer Bearers

A. Appointment of Chair

Following a secret ballot for appointment of Chair, the results of which were E Knight 1 vote, P McLaughlin 7 votes, it was:

Resolved that P McLaughlin was duly appointed as Chair of Stromness Community Council.

B. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that E Knight was duly appointed as Vice Chair of Stromness Community Council.

C. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that G Deans be reappointed as Planning Representative of Stromness Community Council.

3. Police Matters

Resolved to note that, as there was no police representative present, there was nothing to report.

4. Scapa 100

The Arts Officer informed members that the Scapa 100 event would run from 15 to 27 June 2019. It would be a busy two weeks with events starting off on 15 June with an event hosted by the West Side Cinema. There was to be a Scapa 100 Hub, which would give a variety of talks and lectures. This would be held upstairs in the Royal Hotel, Stromness, during the first week before moving to the Warehouse Buildings for the second week. On Thursday, 20 June, the Scapa 100 Official Anniversary Event would be held in the Town Hall which would welcome the German Ambassador. On Friday, 21 June there would be a short service at sea on Scapa Flow, followed by a short service at Lyness. Rather than talking members through the entire programme, the Arts Officer confirmed that he would email a copy of the programme to members.

The Arts Officer confirmed that military bands would be playing on 22 June, the time of which was still to be confirmed, and queried about getting access to the outdoor stage area for the bands use. A member confirmed that the stage would already be erected for the Folk Festival and would still be half erected at that time. The Clerk would email a Stage Request Form to the Arts Officer who would confirm the dates required. A member queried whether the street would be closed for this event. The Arts Officer confirmed that he would be contacting the relevant department to organise this.

A member queried whether naval ships would be present for the events. The Arts Officer confirmed that, due to operational matters, none would be present. However, the events were being supported by the likes of the NLV Pole Star and NLV Pharos.

Following a query from a member, the Arts Officer confirmed that, although there were no events specifically aimed at children, there would be events that young people would enjoy.

The Chair thanked the Arts Officer for his attendance, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Arts Officer left the meeting at this point.

5. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 12 March 2019 was approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by W Mackay.

6. Matters Arising

A. Market Green Fencing Stabs

Following a query from the Chair, a member confirmed that he had met the Sport and Leisure Service Manager regarding replacing the Market Green fencing stabs and reusing the galvanised mesh fence. The Sport and Leisure Service Manager had confirmed that he would look at the budget and then approach a local fencing contractor. There had been no indication of when this would be done, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Minutes of Meetings on Orkney Islands Council's Website

After hearing an update from the Chair received from the Community Council Liaison Officer, it was:

Resolved to note that all Stromness Community Council's adopted minutes were now on the Council's website.

C. Ferry Services Contract

Following consideration of a letter received from Transport Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing an update from Councillor J Stockan who confirmed following a meeting with Paul Wheelhouse that the issue with RET would not be resolved until the ongoing court case had concluded, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Update on Headstone Inspection

The Chair informed members that she had met with the Council's Press Officer recently. The planned display in the Warehouse Buildings had been delayed due to the Council's Kirkyard Working Group trying to sort out the ongoing debacle. It had originally been hoped to get the plans displayed this week. Plans had been amended

to make more clear which headstones needed to be repaired. Nine headstones were to be laid down. The Chair went on to say that it was hoped that via the information collected that relatives could be contacted in advance of the display at the Warehouse, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Ferry Road Guard Rail

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, regarding members' request on whether an alternative solution could be reached rather than installing an additional handrail, it was resolved:

1. To note that, following feedback from the Executive Director's team, the Director felt that the most cost effective and best option to encourage pedestrians to the safest route to the pedestrian crossing was the barrier solution.
2. To note that the suggestion from the Community Council to tar the area would cost in the region of £1,000 more than the barrier solution.
3. To note that, as Roads Authority, the Executive Director considered the barrier solution the safest in terms of road safety.
4. That G Deans would respond to the Executive Director to confirm that the Community Council were content with the barrier solution if this was the best solution with regards to safety.

F. Departments Led by Community Suggestion: Liner Timetable

G Deans confirmed that he had received a response from the Business Development Manager, Marine Services, who confirmed that the smaller liners book later in the year – usually by the beginning of May. A list of liners that were due to berth was available on the Marine Services website, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Speed Bumps in Outertown

Councillor R Crichton confirmed that he had contacted the Roads Services Manager regarding the request to get road traffic "smileys" installed on the Outertown Road between the mini roundabout and Croval/Brownstown junction. It was hoped that these would be in place, to gather the information required, by the end of the summer, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Jack Renton, Stromness – Proposed Plaque

Following consideration of correspondence received from Leander Architectural, copies of which had been circulated, giving examples of plaque costs, and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. That, in the first instance, permission needed to be sought from the owner of the property where the proposed plaque would be erected.
2. That J Park would approach Tom Worthington to ascertain if he knew who the owner of the property referred to at paragraph H1 above was.
3. That Councillor R Crichton would ascertain whether the building concerned was a listed building.

7. Correspondence

A. Insurance Certificate

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, enclosing the Insurance Certificate and policy documents for Stromness Community Council, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Democratic Services with the following queries regarding the insurance certificate:

1. What public liability cover does the Community Council have?
2. Is additional cover needed regarding the stage area?

B. Old Stromness Shopping Week Stage

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the old Stromness Shopping Week stage, which was now surplus to requirement, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Democratic Services confirming that the Community Council had no requirement for the stage and it could, therefore, be disposed of as was seen fit.

C. SSEN Planning Application for Finstown Substation

Following consideration of correspondence received from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the planning permission application for the proposed new substation at Finstown, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Royal British Legion – Best Kept War Memorial Competition

Following consideration of correspondence received from Kirkwall Branch Royal British Legion, copies of which had been circulated, regarding a competition to find the Best Kept War Memorial 2019, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that to note the content of the correspondence.

E. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the allocation of annual grants to community councils, and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. That the Clerk would forward the explanation received previously from Democratic Services on the procedure used for calculating annual grants.

8. Name for the New Care Home

Following consideration of suggestions of names for the new care home received from Stromness Primary School and Stromness Academy pupils, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. That the following names be put forward for a public vote:
 - Hamnavoe House.
 - Copland's House.
 - St Peter's House.
 - Cairston House.
2. That the Clerk should liaise with the organiser of the What's Next for Stromness event to be held on 16-18 May, to request an area at the event where members of the public could vote for their preferred name.

9. Intergenerational Opportunities

Following on from the previous request where local school children had been asked to suggest names for the new Care Home, G Deans felt it was important to make the most of the close proximity of the new home to both schools, and suggested that perhaps a short-term working group could be convened to look into the best ways this could go forward. He had already spoken to the Head of Stromness Primary School who was on board with the idea, and it was suggested that it may be an area that could tie in with Orkney College also. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that, in order to bring these ideas forward, "Intergenerational Opportunities" be added to the agenda as a standing item on the agenda.

10. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that he had recently reported vandalism to a wall at Hamnavoe Houses/Scottish Water Pumping Station, where a few stones had been knocked off the top of the wall. This had now progressed to larger stones which was not the work of small children. As yet, he had had no response, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative informed members that the local Police had recently circulated to Stromness businesses a new scheme similar to the Pubwatch scheme but that would be specifically aimed at shoplifters. She also confirmed that Stromness businesses were also getting ready for the Shop Along the Street event, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members that the new Development Officer had been appointed and it was hoped they would be in place by 20 May.

Regarding Christmas Lights, draft proposals would be ready to review shortly.

It was also reported that, following on from the meeting with Stromness Pool Staff and the Trust, the pool and fitness suite was now open for a trial period at lunchtimes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The fitness suite was also now open until 21:00 on a Wednesday evening.

The Trust had also been approached by the Policy Planner regarding Town Centre funding which may be available for both Stromness and Kirkwall, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

The Playpark Sub-committee representative confirmed that everything was on track regarding the playpark. He had recently met with the contractor and it was hoped that work on the site would begin shortly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 11 April 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £6,627.39.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 11 April 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,762.62 of which:

- £3,607.90 would be held to be released once the Christmas lights had been purchased for the town.
- £5,000 which was ring-fenced for redevelopment of the playpark at Guardhouse Park.

- £100 which had been donated from Stromness Drama Club towards purchasing a new flag but as the money was not ring-fenced if replacing the flag did not go ahead the money would be put towards another worthwhile community project.
- £1,050.72 to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2018/2019 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 February 2019, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £0.40.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 11 April 2019, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £4,154.51.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 11 April 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,263.78.

12. Financial Requests

A. Equestrian Event – Halkirk, Caithness – 31 March 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending an equestrian event in Halkirk, Caithness, on 31 March 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given towards the cost of one Stromness resident attending an equestrian event in Halkirk, Caithness, on 31 March 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

1. Buckie Age Group – 13-14 April 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of six Stromness residents attending the Buckie Age Group Swimming Meet on 13-14 April 2019, it was:

2. University of Aberdeen Long Course – 27-28 April 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of one Stromness resident attending the University of Aberdeen Long Course Meet on 13-14 April 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the six Stromness residents, totalling £78, be given towards the cost of six swimmers attending the Buckie Age Group Swimming Meet on 13-14 April 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

3. Thurso Mini Meet – 3-4 May 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of four Stromness residents attending the Thurso Mini Meet on 3-4 May 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the four Stromness residents, totalling £52, be given towards the cost of four swimmers attending the Thurso Mini Meet on 3-4 May 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

C. Stenness Primary School – Hoy Day Trip

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Primary School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of two Stromness residents attending the Hoy Day Trip to be held in May, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the two Stromness residents, totalling £26, be given towards the cost of attending the Stenness Primary School Hoy Day Trip to be held in May 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

D. West Mainland Strathspey and Reel Society Juniors – Banchory Music Festival – 10-12 May 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from West Mainland Strathspey and Reel Society, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 12 Stromness residents attending the Banchory Music Festival on 10-12 May 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the twelve Stromness residents, totalling £156, be given towards the cost of attending the Banchory Music Festival to be held on 10-12 May 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

E. Stromness Primary School – Lagganlia – 10-14 June 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Primary School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 24 Stromness attending the trip to Lagganlia to be held on 10-12 June 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the 24 Stromness residents, totalling £312, be given towards the cost of attending the trip to Lagganlia on 10-12 June 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Fund.

F. Stromness Bowling Club – Purchase New Junior Bowls

E Knight declared an interest in this item and although remained in the meeting, took no part in discussions thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Bowling Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing new junior and smaller sized bowls, and after discussion, it was resolved:

1. That, as members had several queries for Stromness Bowling Club regarding their application, this item be deferred meantime.
2. That the Clerk should contact Stromness Bowling Club with the members' queries.

G. Orkney Yole Association – Assistance to Public Book

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Yole Association, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of publishing a book on Orkney Yoles, and after discussion, it was resolved:

1. That, as members had several queries for Orkney Yole Association regarding their application, this item be deferred meantime.
2. That the Clerk should contact Orkney Yole Association with the members queries.

H. Dornoch Junior Open – 14 April 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of his son attending the Dornoch Junior Open to be held on 14 April 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given towards the cost of one Stromness resident attending the Dornoch Junior Open on 14 April 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

I. Orkney Youth Development Group – Assistance with Four Events

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Youth Development Group, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attendance at four events for two Stromness residents, it was resolved:

1. That a donation of £13 for each of the two Stromness residents attending the four events, totalling £104, be given towards the cost of attending the four events, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.
2. That the Clerk should make the applicant aware of the usual conditions, in that if the event was cancelled, or if the applicant could not attend any of the events, any financial assistance received for that event must be repaid to Stromness Community Council.

J. Assistance towards Three Equestrian Events – June, July and August 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending three equestrian events to be held in June, July and August, it was resolved:

1. That a donation of £13 for each of the three events, totalling £39, be given towards the cost of attending the three events, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.
2. That the Clerk should make the applicant aware of the usual conditions in that if the event was cancelled, or of the applicant could not attend any of the events, any financial assistance received for that event must be repaid to Stromness Community Council.

K. Stromness and Parish Eventide Club – Summer Outing and Autumn Social

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Eventide Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the Summer Outing and Autumn Social, it was:

Resolved to grant £1,000 to Stromness and Parish Eventide Club for assistance towards their Summer Outing and Autumn Social, subject to approval from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

L. Fireworks for Bonfire Night 2019

Resolved that a donation of £1,200 towards purchasing fireworks for Bonfire Night 2019, to be granted from the Firework Donations held in the Community Council General Fund.

13. Consultations

A. National Islands Plan

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding the consultation on the National Islands Plan, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should respond to Democratic Services, prior to the deadline of 10 June 2019, with the following comment:

- A considerable amount of work by the respective islands' authorities had already been done so it was felt that this was going over ground that had already been covered.

B. Housing in the Countryside - Supplementary Guidance

Following consideration of the Consultation Document on Supplementary Guidance: Housing in the Countryside, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Planning Representative should respond on behalf of Stromness Community Council via the Clerk.

C. Winter Plan 2018/2019

Following consideration of the Consultation Document on the Winter Service Plan 2018 to 2019, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Democratic Services prior to the deadline of 30 July 2019 with the following comment:

- Would the priority level for Garson Road be given a higher priority once the new Care Home was opened?

14. Publication - Scottish Health Council Newsletter – March 2019

Following consideration of a newsletter for March 2019 received from Scottish Health Council, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the publication.

15. Any Other Competent Business

A. Boat Access

The Chair advised members that she had been contacted by a member of the public regarding boat access at the slip at Norland, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would reply that while there was an ongoing dispute regarding ownership, Stromness Community Council could not get involved at this time.

B. Wheelie Bins

A member highlighted the ongoing problem of large wheelie bins throughout the street, particularly the ones that can take up half a parking space. The Business Forum representative confirmed that since the cardboard skip had been lost at Wilsons, the Business Forum had had a meeting with the Head of Infrastructure and Strategic Projects. She was now hopeful that with the appointment of the Development Officer this was something that could be progressed, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department to highlight the problem with large wheelie bins in the street and urge the Council to provide a solution.

C. GMB Garden – Grass Cutting

A member confirmed that the new arrangements that were in place for grass cutting at GMB Gardens was going well, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

D. Community Notice Board

A member sought clarification on whether it was acceptable for commercial notices to be on the community notice board, and it was:

Resolved that if commercial notices were on the community notice board these should be removed.

E. Pumping Station, Stromness

A member highlighted the children's pictures that were on the path across from the Pumping Station, which was prompting work, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant department to request that the pictures now be removed.

F. Ferry Walkway

A member highlighted the ongoing issue with the broken ferry walkway and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant department stressing the importance of getting the walkway fixed as soon as possible.

G. Parking Spaces

A member informed the meeting that he had still not heard back from the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, regarding the parking signpost that had recently been erected between Wishart's and the RNLI building and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant department to query why the parking sign had been placed there.

H. Stromness Museum

A member was delighted to inform the meeting that Stromness Museum had been invited to a reception to be held at the Scottish Parliament on 14 May, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

I. Stromness: Pride in Our Community

Following on from previous discussions regarding "Pride in Our Community", a member raised the question on what the best way to bring the ideas forward. Following discussion, it was resolved:

1. That, in the first instance, the What's Next for Stromness event to be held on 16-18 May would be a good platform to promote the "Pride in Our Community" theme.
2. That E Knight would make up some posters for displaying at the above event.

J. Stromness Town House Gardens

A member raised that the bushes at Stromness Town House were in need of some maintenance, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department to see who was responsible for the gardens, including the pruning back of bushes.

K. Camper Vans

A member raised the issue of camper vans parking on Ferry Road taking up two spaces. Members agreed that this had been highlighted previously and that there was a need for more camping spaces. Members hoped this would also be highlighted at the forthcoming What's Next for Stromness event, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

16. Date of Next Meeting

As the proposed date of 18 June 2019 for the next meeting clashed with events taking place during the Scapa 100 event, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 in the Town House, Stromness, commencing at 19:00.

17. Conclusion of Meeting

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