

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at 19:00

Present:

G Deans, P McLaughlin, K Bevan, J Mowat and W Mackay.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- G Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager.
- G Hill, Area Pools Manager.
- S Craigie, Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Stromness Swimming Pool.....	2
3. Police Matters	3
4. Adoption of Minutes	3
5. Matters Arising.....	3
6. Correspondence	5
7. Reports from Community Council Representatives	7
8. Financial Statements	8
9. Financial Requests	9
10. Publications	10
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
12. Provisional Dates for Meetings	11
13. Date of Next Meeting	11
14. Conclusion of Meeting	11

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of K Donald, E Knight and J Park.

2. Stromness Swimming Pool

The Sport and Leisure Manager thanked members for inviting himself and the Area Pools Manager to the meeting to give an opportunity to update members on developments taking place at Stromness Swimming Pool.

He advised that one of the main developments was changing from the current Learn-to-Swim to the new Scottish Swimming framework Learn-to-Swim programme which would be starting on 1 April 2019. The new programme encouraged more early years teaching. Lessons would be on Tuesdays after school and Saturday mornings. It was hoped that once the programme was up and running there would be less moving around of pupils thereby making it easier for the customer.

As part of the agreement with Scottish Swimming, all swimming teachers were now entitled to get CPD for the coming three years. The new programme was rolling out to all swimming facilities in Orkney.

Another area being worked on was reviewing the timetable. The Sport and Leisure Service Manager informed members that he would be keen to hear from members of the community to ascertain what times would be best to open as it was noted that there were times that the facilities were not being used very much.

A member raised that there was perhaps an opportunity to open before work, or during lunchtimes as well as longer in the evening.

The Sport and Leisure Service Manager went on to say that, as well as trying to make savings at Stromness Swimming Pool, they were also looking at ways to generate income. So, for example, rather than having the swimming lessons breaking for the May Holiday, lessons would run straight through.

Further ways to generate income may be to hire/get sponsorship from companies to open the pool over lunchtimes.

A further development for Stromness Swimming Pool was a plan to refresh the gym to give it a fresher feel and bring it more up to date.

A member also raised the issue of the Market Green Football fencing stabs needing replaced. He felt that the galvanised mesh fence was in good condition and could be reused. Following discussion, the Sport and Leisure Service Manager agreed to contact the member to arrange a meeting on site.

Regarding the facilities at Stromness Academy, the Sport and Leisure Service Manager said that he was keen to get the facilities open and staffed by Sport and Leisure staff from 17:00 until 22:00 which would make it more open to the community to use.

Members raised concerns that the pool/health suite and gym all work well as one unit and would be keen to protect that. If there was a demand for both gyms to be open at the same time which would extend the opportunity to use both gyms, Stromness Community Council would support that.

The Chair thanked the Sport and Leisure Service Manager and the Area Pools Manager for attending the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information above.

The Sport and Leisure Service Manager and the Area Pools Manager left the meeting at this point.

3. Police Matters

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

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 22 January 2019 was approved, being proposed by G Deans and seconded by J Mowat, subject to the following amendment on page 9, paragraph 10:

- That "Town Hall" be replaced with "Town House".

5. Matters Arising

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

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

1. To note that getting the minutes online was still a work in progress.
2. To note that there were a small number of outstanding 2017 minutes which required to be made web-accessible and published before work could start on publishing the 2018 minutes.
3. That the Clerk contact Democratic Services to enquire, as it was the most recent minutes that the public would probably be interested in, would it be possible to upload the most recent 2019 minutes first and then work backwards from there.

B. Adopted Roads

After hearing an update from Councillor J Stockan who had discussed the areas in question with the relevant department, but as yet it was unclear when the maps would be updated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Ferry Services Contract

The Chair informed members that he had sent a letter to Michael Matheson, Minister for Transport and Islands, reiterating points that had been raised with his predecessor in January 2016 and March 2018 regarding concerns with the Stromness to Scrabster route specifically relating to the application of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) to the Northern Isles, the level of commercial rates applied to freight as compared with the average across other Scottish island groups and the loss of the midday sailings from the timetable.

Following discussion from members regarding RET and the implications of what a judicial review could lead to, it was resolved:

1. That members should increase public awareness of the situation.
2. To note that Stromness Community Council were so concerned with the situation and the impact it may have on the community as a whole that they were considering raising a legal challenge against the Scottish Government and were seeking legal advice.

D. Warebeth Cemetery – Rabbits

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services in response to members concerns regarding rabbits causing damage to graves at Warebeth Cemetery, it was noted that the Roads and Environmental Services Manager was aware of the situation, which has been a problem for many years. It was also noted that several of the worst affected graves in the middle cemetery had been repaired over the last few months, that repair work was due to be undertaken again shortly, and that the Roads and Environmental Services Team would continue to monitor the situation and take action where necessary. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Update on Headstone Inspection

Some members had recently met with one of Orkney Islands Council's Press Officers to go over the plans and information prior to it going on display in the Warehouse Buildings. The Press Officer had taken the information gathered back to the Kirkyard Working Group.

The Chair read the response received from the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, where he thanked P McLaughlin for her work to date in engaging directly with the building inspector team and piloting a new method for seeking to raise awareness and identifying families of the relevant grave stones, and it was resolved:

1. To acknowledge gratitude to both Phyllis and Michael McLaughlin for their effort and commitment towards the work they had already undertaken.
2. To note that the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure was confident that a key part of the Kirkyard Safety Programme would be to build on the work already begun with Stromness Community Council at Warebeth.

F. Ferry Road Guard Rail

The Chair informed members that he had been unable to contact the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure regarding this matter, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would write a response to the Executive Director enquiring whether a different solution could be reached rather than installing an additional handrail as it was felt this was not an adequate solution to the problem, and what the cost difference would be if the area was to be tarmacked as opposed to the handrail being installed.

G. Community Council Grant Scheme – Cancelled Grant

After hearing an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note the reasons regarding why a Community Council grant scheme application had been cancelled.

H. Departments Led by Community Suggestion – Liner Timetable

The Chair informed members that he had been unable to contact the Business Development Manager, Marine Services, regarding this matter, and it was:

Resolved that that with the 2020/2021 liner timetable in mind, the Chair would write to the Business Development Manager, Marine Services, to invite him along with members of Stromness Development Forum and Stromness Community Development Trust, to discuss the possibility of increasing liners berthing in Stromness.

I. Speed Bumps in Outertown

After hearing representations from a member who had been approached by a member of the public regarding getting speed bumps installed on the Outertown Road between the mini roundabout and Croval/Brownstown junction, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that, in the first instance, K Bevan would contact the Roads Services Manager to request that road traffic “Smileys” be installed on the Outertown Road between the mini roundabout and Croval/Brownstown junction.

6. Correspondence

A. Deputy Lieutenants

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Deputy Lieutenants, copies of which had been circulated, introducing themselves to the Community

Council, as well as suggesting ways in which Community Councils could help them carry out their duties, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the letter.

B. Energy Supply Company – Our Power

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services on behalf of the Strategic Projects Director, Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that Our Power had ceased trading and that the Council would continue to explore other means to tackle fuel poverty.

C. Self-Build Loan Fund

Following consideration of correspondence received from The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, copies of which had been circulated, regarding a Self-Build Loan Fund that the Scottish Government have provided to act as lender of last resort in relation to self-build finance, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the letter.

D. Bag the Bruck – 30 March to 7 April 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the forthcoming Bag the Bruck event which was due to take place between 30 March and 7 April 2019, and following discussion thereof, it was resolved:

1. That the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to apply for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance in anticipation of receipt of local applications.
2. To note that this activity qualified for an 80% grant through the Community Council Grant Scheme.
3. That funding may be provided to one or several groups, as long as the application was made to the Clerk prior to the event.

E. Jack Renton, Stromness – Proposed Plaque

Members discussed correspondence received from Miss L Finlayson, copies of which had been circulated, which had been addressed to Councillor J Stockan, and passed to the Community Council for consideration, regarding the possibility of a plaque being erected on Jack Renton's house. Following discussion thereof, it was resolved:

1. That SCC supported the idea of erecting a plaque on Jack Renton's house.
2. That the Clerk would, in the first instance, investigate how to commission the erection of plaques and establish costs involved.
3. That Councillor J Stockan would reply to Miss L Finlayson.

F. Historic Marine Protected Areas: The Queen of Sweden and Scapa Flow - Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence received from Historic Environment Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, regarding details of a consultation on two proposed designation orders for The Queen of Sweden and Scapa Flow, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that any comments on the proposals should be submitted by completing Historic Environment Scotland's online survey by 17 April 2019.

G. Stromness Place Plan

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Policy Planner, Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, to raise awareness of the Development and Marine Planning Team's intention to carrying out a "Place Plan" for Stromness over the coming months, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

H. Tesco Bags of Help

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Community Enabler Co-ordinator, copies of which had been circulated, regarding Tesco Bags of Help Centenary Grants, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that the ditch at Brownstown that had been flooding had been fixed. He also raised the issue of the damage to the South Pier, with the concrete breaking up possibly due to 40 tonne lorries using it. He felt that a meeting of the Harbour users should be convened to raise this issue.

He also reported concerns raised at a Business Forum meeting he had recently attended, regarding the Tourist Map on the RNLi building, and whether it would be possible to move it to the railings. Following discussion, members felt it would be best left in its present position, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

Resolved to note that, as there was no Stromness Community Business Forum representative present, there was nothing to report.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members all the funding had now been awarded for the play park. It was hoped that the project would be underway by April.

Funding for the Development Officer had also been successful and an advert looking to recruit to the post would be advertised shortly.

A timescale and outline project plan were now in place for the Christmas Lights with a view to getting them installed by November 2019.

A press release was also planned to be issued shortly highlighting the above projects.

The Chair expressed, on behalf of the Community Council, his gratitude to the member for all the hard work that had gone on behind the scenes for getting all three projects in place, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 21 February 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £3,619.04.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 21 February 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,763.62 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:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval was £618.40.

2. That the Clerk would apply for a Community Council Grant Scheme 2018/2019 towards the purchase of benches for local use to utilise the remaining funds.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 21 February 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 21 February 2019, it was:

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

9. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North District Age Group Championships – Round 2 – Aberdeen

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of one resident from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the North District Age Group Championships, Round 2, in Aberdeen on 2 and 3 March 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given towards the cost of one resident from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the North District Age Group Championships, Round 2, in Aberdeen, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

B. Orkney Schools Concert Band Funding Request – Scottish Concert Band National Finals – Perth

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Schools Concert Band, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of five Stromness residents attending the Scottish Concert Band National Finals in Perth on 16 and 17 March 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the five band members, totalling £65, be given towards the cost of five Stromness residents attending the Scottish Concert Band National Finals in Perth on 16 and 17 March 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

C. Orkney Folk Festival 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Folk Festival, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards travel during the 2019 event, it was:

Resolved to grant £750 to Orkney Folk Festival for assistance with travel, subject to approval from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

D. Stromness Shopping Week

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Shopping Week, copies of which were distributed, requesting financial assistance towards purchasing fireworks for the finale of Stromness Shopping Week 2019, and following confirmation of the amount granted in previous years by Stromness Community Council towards this request, it was:

Resolved to grant £2,500 to Stromness Shopping Week for assistance towards purchasing fireworks for the finale of Stromness Shopping Week 2019, subject to approval from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

10. Publications

A. Scottish Health Council – Newsletter – January 2019

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

Resolved to note the content of the publication.

B. Orkney Research and Innovation Campus – Newsletter – January 2019

Following consideration of a newsletter received from Orkney Research and Innovation Campus (ORIC), copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note the content of the publication.
2. That Councillor Crichton would convey Stromness Community Council's request to meet with them when he attended the next ORIC Board meeting.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Stromness Amenity Site

The Chair advised members that he had contacted the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, to enquire why Stromness Amenity Site had closed on Sunday, 3 March at 15:20 and had a hand-written sign on the gate stating that the skips were full. He had received a response from the Environmental Services Facilities Manager who, on reviewing the early closure, stated the reason as being due to a rumour that the Hatston Recycling Centre was closed, thereby increasing traffic to Stromness, along with a large number of house clearances.

The Environmental Services Facilities Manager also reported that he believed this had been a one-off occurrence, although did note that infrequent early closures have occurred on Sundays in the past. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

B. GMB Garden – Grass Cutting

A member informed that he had been approached by someone who was interested in cutting the grass in the GMB Gardens, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that J Mowat would contact the person concerned.

C. Parking Spaces

A member informed the meeting that he had contacted the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, regarding the parking signpost that had recently been erected between Wishart's and the RNLI building and was awaiting a response, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

D. Marked Parking Spaces – North End Road

A member stated that he had been approached by member of the public regarding the newly painted parking spaces on the North End Road, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

E. Parking at Kirk Road

A member raised that she had been approached by a member of the public raising concern about cars parking at the bottom of the Kirk Road and the difficulties faced by the Hamnavoe Carers bus drivers trying to negotiate the bus round the cars, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should pass this information on to the local police.

12. Provisional Dates for Meetings

Resolved to note that the following had been set as provisional dates for meetings:

- Tuesday, 18 June 2019.
- Tuesday, 27 August 2019.
- Tuesday, 8 October 2019.
- Tuesday, 19 November 2019.
- Tuesday, 21 January 2020.
- Tuesday, 17 March 2020.
- Tuesday, 5 May 2020.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 7 May 2019 in the Town House, Stromness, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.