

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Tuesday, 22 January 2019 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- Sergeant S Mackenzie, Police Scotland.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- One member of the press.
- One member of the public.

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1. Police Scotland Matters

Following introductions, the Police Scotland officer took on board comments that there had been no police representative at Stromness Community Council meetings for a few months and assured members that this would, hopefully, not be the case going forward.

Moving on to local police matters, he noted that parking was still an issue and confirmed that in the last few days, ten parking tickets had been issued by officers. He also noted motorists in camper vans following GPS directions and driving through the street to the camp site was an issue. Handouts to ferry passengers highlighting this problem may be the way forward but was unsure, even if this was done via a partnership approach, how this would be funded. The officer also confirmed that enquiries were still ongoing into the recent fireworks in dog bins/post box incidents.

The Police Scotland Officer went on to update members on the October to December 2018 Quarterly Report for Orkney. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 was approved, being proposed by G Deans and seconded by P McLaughlin.

3. Matters Arising

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

A member raised that despite assurances that the minutes of meetings would be available on Orkney Islands Council's website by the end of 2018, they were still not online, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Democratic Services asking for an update on this matter.

B. Adopted Roads

Councillor J Stockan informed members that there were areas that needed to be clarified such as Garson Loan, as well as various lanes around Stromness. He had raised this issue with the relevant section but, as yet, had not heard back about his concerns, and it was:

Resolved that this item be carried forward to the next meeting where Councillor Stockan may be in a position to update members.

C. New Stromness Old Folks Home Visit

After hearing an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved that members should let the Clerk know as soon as possible whether they were able to attend the site visit to the new Stromness Old Folks Home, arranged for Saturday, 26 January 2019.

D. Ferry Services Contract

The Chair informed members that he would draft a letter to the Transport Minister where he would again highlight issues faced during the refit period as well as the bitter disappointment felt following the ferry services contract going out to tender, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write to the Transport Minister highlighting the concerns raised above.

E. Warbeth Cemetery Road to Beach – Potholes

The Chair informed members that correspondence had been received from Democratic Services regarding the condition of the road from the cemetery to the beach, and that the Roads Section would investigate the condition of the road. If it was found the road required maintenance, it would come under Access to the Countryside as it was not a roads issue, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Warbeth Cemetery – Rabbits

The Chair informed members that no response had been received regarding the rabbit problem within Warbeth Cemetery, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Democratic Services again regarding this matter.

4. Update on Headstone Inspection

The Chair updated members on correspondence he had received in connection with concerns raised on behalf of a member of the public and Stromness Community Council regarding both the number of headstones being laid flat and the lack of communication with affected families. The Chair felt that the responses he had received from both the Executive Director and the Head of Infrastructure had been fairly positive and had assured him that they were following common practice across the UK in addressing these sensitive matters.

The Chair continued that, as he understood it, it had been too time consuming to either physically mark the affected headstone or mark them on a plan and headstones were now being recorded using GPS coordinates with no note taken of the names on the affected stones.

A member felt that communication was the key and that communication between the Council and the lair owners had not been good enough. She thought that most families, if contacted, would be happy to arrange to fix the headstone rather than to arrive at the graveyard to see that the headstone had been laid flat without any prior warning.

Councillor J Stockan reminded members that Ethel Young had written a comprehensive book on Stromness Kirkyard which, if there was still a copy available, would perhaps make a good reference book. A member confirmed that there was a copy available in the Warehouse Building.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant service with the following questions/suggestions:

- If there are any plans that would assist in identifying the owner of lairs, could these be made available to Stromness Community Council, who may be able to assist in identifying the owners.
- Could the headstones that do require maintenance be “pegged” or marked in some way so they are easily identified by relatives.
- If the above two suggestions were not feasible, what was being done to identify owners especially of the newer lairs.
- Was there an order/schedule of works available that kirkyards were being attended to?
- Was there a sign off/inspection regime in place to ensure contractors were fulfilling their obligations which would thereby ensure that any work done now would not become a safety issue in the next 20 or 30 years – if not was this something that could be considered?

5. Correspondence

A. Energy Supply Company – Our Power

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services on behalf of the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, outlining discussions made between Orkney Islands Council and Our Power, a not-for-profit energy company, looking at the feasibility of establishing a partnership that could reduce energy bills for residents in Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that while supporting the idea, in principle, it was hoped it would not be too much of a distraction from the issue of fuel poverty.

K Bevan joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

B. OIC Community Transport Grant

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services on behalf of the Transportation Manager, copies of which had been circulated, seeking applications specifically from constituted Community Groups and Trusts to the Community Transport Grant Scheme for the financial year 2019 to 2020, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would forward the information to Hamnavoe Carers.

C. Ferry Road Guard Rail

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services on behalf of the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the solution that had been recommended in response to the issue raised of the grassed area at the crossing point near the Co-op at Ferry Road, and following discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write a response to the Executive Director enquiring:

1. 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.
2. What the cost difference would be if the area was to be tarmacked as opposed to the handrail being installed.

6. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that while some of the issues raised at the previous meeting to the Executive Director had been resolved, there were still ongoing issues. A member raised the issue that the 20mph speed sign at the south end of Garson Loan was not working, and that there was no 30mph sign on the back of it to indicate when the 20mph zone had ended. The MARS representative confirmed that he would log this, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative informed members that the Stromness Bonanza had been a great success with the winners being announced at the Yule Log. She also informed members that the AGM was planned for February and she would inform members of the date when it was known, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members that the Development Trust had recently had a meeting with the Yule Log Committee to discuss how the Yule Log event had gone and how it could be taken forward this coming year. Approximately £500 had been raised during the event.

A LEADER fund application had been submitted for funding for the post of Development Officer. It was hoped that the outcome of this application would be known in time for the next Community Council meeting.

Regarding Christmas Lights, the Stromness Development Trust representative stressed that Colin Begley, HUS Architecture and Design, had noted that the type of lights purchased for Kirkwall were not suitable for Stromness rather than there being an issue with the type of lights Kirkwall had purchased as had been previously minuted. Following a question from the Chair regarding the timescale for the Christmas Lights, the Trust representative said that it was hoped that they would be progressing the work now with a view to the lights being ready for Christmas 2019, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

The Playpark Sub-committee representative informed members that the applications to both LEADER and CDF had been submitted, and that if they were successful, the Sub-committee would meet again to progress things going forward, and it was:

Resolved that the update be noted.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 January 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £3,669.03.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 10 January 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 10 January 2018, it was resolved:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval was £618.40.
2. That the Clerk would enquire as to why the Refurb of Heritage Plaques had been cancelled and report back.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 10 January 2018, 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 10 January 2018, it was:

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

8. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club - DPD – Aberdeen

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of one Stromness resident from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending DPD Training in Aberdeen on 1 and 2 December 2018, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given towards the cost of one Stromness resident from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending DPD Training in Aberdeen, to be funded from the Community Council General Account.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club - North District Age Group Championships – Round 1 - Aberdeen

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of one resident from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the North District Age Group Championships, Round 1, in Aberdeen on 2 and 3 February 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 1, in Aberdeen, to be funded from the Community Council General Account.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A. Departments Led by Community Suggestion

Following on from the SCC meeting held on 20 November 2018, where the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, had suggested that Council departments could be led by the community, a member put forward some examples, copies of which had been circulated, of ideas of what Stromness Community Council could do as a community council if members thought it was worthwhile. Some could, perhaps, be done in conjunction with Stromness Development Trust and Stromness Community Business Forum. His ideas included:

- Liners coming into Stromness – was there scope for additional liners to berth in Stromness.
- Stromness Museum leaflet regarding the historic walks around the town – where were these displayed and how many other Stromness tourism pamphlets existed.
- Possible expansion of Ness Campsite – with there being a lack of camping in Orkney in general, what were the plans to expand.
- Old Stromness Primary School playground and Old St Peter's Home – should the community council seek to push the development of these sites forward ideally for commercial enterprises.
- Was there a list of all development, reserve fund and community good fund properties managed by the Council, together with a list of tenants?

- Was there a list of all second homes, holiday homes, holiday cottages and rented properties available from the Council tax and rates database to see how some of these could be returned to residential occupation.
- Stromness-Kirkwall Bus Timetable should be revisited – for example buses to tie in with going to and from the cinema or being able to have an evening meal out in Kirkwall.
- Developing a “Pride in our Community Campaign” to include, but not limited to:
 - Property Upkeep.
 - Weeding/Hedges etc.
 - Supporting Local Shops/Businesses.
 - Supporting Local Clubs/Activities.

Members felt that these, together with the results of Stromness Development Trust community engagement referred to at Item 9B below, were all very relevant points and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. 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.
2. To note that when looking at these collective issues, which would be a large piece of work, there was a locally based company in Stromness whose speciality was looking at sustainability models and there may be a piece of work that could be commissioned to look at these issues as a whole.

The Police Scotland Officer left the meeting during discussion of this part of this item.

B. Results of Trusts Community Engagement

The Stromness Development Trust member circulated the results of the Trust’s community engagement event, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

C. Stromness Low Carbon Travel and Transport Hub

A member sought an update on low carbon travel and transport hub for Stromness. Councillor James Stockan informed members that there had been a lot of work going on behind the scene, there had been issues getting some of the recharging equipment. The charging points were now to be erected at the north end of the building so charging could be done when going on to the boat. He went on to say that the work on the MV Hamnavoe was taking place with the result, once complete, that there would be a significant drop in noise emanating from the boat at night, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

D. Ness Campsite

The Chair reported that, in response to an email received from the Sport and Leisure Services Manager, he had replied that Stromness Community Council supported, in principle, what was being proposed but prior to any planning submission, but would request to be made aware of what the plans entailed, that some kind of community consultation should take place, and that the grassed area should not be adversely impacted upon, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

E. Scapa 100 Conference

A member confirmed that the Scapa 100 Conference was due to take place on 17 to 20 October 2019, and that the Exhibition was on from April to October, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Speed Bumps in Outertown

A member had previously circulated an email informing members that he had been approached about putting speed bumps on the Outertown Road between the mini roundabout and Croval/Brownstown junction, and it was:

Resolved to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 12 March 2019 in the Town Hall, Stromness, commencing at 19:00.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.