

# **Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, and via Teams on Monday, 18 March 2024 at 19:00**

## **Present:**

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, D Fischler, D Harrold, J Park, C Sinclair and W Mackay (via Team).

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- H Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- D Manson, Team Manager (Development Planning).
- P Barber, Head Teacher, Stromness Academy.
- S Mehmi, Eco Prefect, Stromness Academy.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

## **Chair:**

- P McLaughlin.

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## **1. Resignation**

The Chair advised members that V Anderson had, unfortunately, recently resigned from Stromness Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **2. Eco Presentation**

The Chair welcomed the Head Teacher and the Eco Prefect from Stromness Academy, who, following concerns raised at a previous meeting and a meeting between the Chair and V Anderson, had been invited to give a short presentation to the Community Council.

The Head Teacher expressed his disappointment at the article regarding the litter concerns raised by the Community Council, and published in The Orcadian, which he felt did not portray the Academy pupils in a true light and was not what the school nor the pupils deserved. He continued that the meeting between the Chair, V Anderson and himself had been a very positive meeting and thanked the Chair for the opportunity for himself and the Eco Prefect to speak to members.

The Eco Prefect introduced herself and explained that she was part of the Sixth Year Leadership Team. She explained that she felt that there was good awareness of litter, recycling and the environment from the majority of pupils. She then described various methods in which the school were trying to make a difference such as paper recycling and introducing “red plates” which were smaller plates of food at a cheaper price which had had a big impact in the reduction of food waste at the school. She had also raised awareness of fast fashion versus eco fashion and encouraged pupils to recycle clothes, such having a preloved Christmas jumper stall at the recent Winter Fayre.

The Head Teacher informed members that approximately 150 pupils went down the street daily for lunch and with that number there would be some litter issues. While he could ensure that the bins around the school were emptied, he felt that some of the issue was due to litter being blown out of the bins which were full. He also commented that there was a considerable distance between bins on the path up to the Academy from the Co-op.

The Chair queried whether one of the bins located on North End Road could be relocated closer to the co-op.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure informed members that some of the bins had had plastic flaps which were called Gullfingers on them, unfortunately the one at the primary school had already been damaged.

The Chair thanked the Stromness Academy representatives for their attendance, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation and discussion.

The Stromness Academy representatives left the meeting at this point.

### **3. Litter Bins**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Team Manager (Environmental Services Policy), copies of which had been circulated, regarding litter bin provision around Stromness Academy, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **4. Orkney Quiet Routes**

The Chair welcomed the Team Manager (Development Planning) who gave a presentation on the Orkney Quiet Routes initiative.

He advised members of the proposal to pilot Quiet Routes in Orkney which was an initiative being developed in partnership with Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS).

He continued that Quiet Routes were a way of delivering active travel network connections in rural areas, where segregated path infrastructure was not feasible or would be cost-prohibitive.

The criteria that other local authorities had used to designate quiet roads included:

- Narrow, unlined rural roads, on average no more than 4m wide.
- Daily traffic volumes of less than 800 vehicles
- Speed limits to be implemented in line with existing speeds.
- Routes already used by pedestrians.

As many of the roads in Orkney fitted the above criteria, Council officers had worked in partnership with HITRANS and had identified a number of locations to collect pedestrian, cycle and traffic data.

He then presented a map of the proposed locations in and around Stromness, advising that they were only potential routes. The proposed project for Stromness was to improve interconnectivity of a number of core paths adjoining the coastline at the south end of Stromness. Roads under consideration included Warebeth Road, Outertown Road, Brownstown Road, Loons Road, Weaverhall Road and Heatherbraes Road.

He further confirmed that the initial stage of work would be to collect data, following which a decision about which routes to recommend to the relevant Committee of the Council would be made by officers, which would depend on:

- Data collection showing that the areas met the criteria.
- That there was an indication of community support from the respective community councils.
- 100% funding being available from HITRANS.

Following a query from a member, the Team Manager (Development Planning) confirmed that there would be advisory signage erected informing the public that

they were entering a quiet route. He confirmed that the proposed Quiet Routes were in areas where the speed of vehicles was generally low. However, elsewhere there had been changes made to lower the speed levels.

He also confirmed that he would send members images of the type of signage that had been used in other areas.

A member raised concern regarding tractors that would be working in some of the proposed quiet areas.

Another member queried whether bridleways could be used as there would be fewer cars in those areas and indicated some potential bridleway's that could be used to the Team Manager (Development Planning).

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that Stromness Community Council were generally supportive of the pilot scheme.

The Chair thanked the Team Manager (Development Planning) for his attendance, and he left the meeting at this point.

## **5. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024 were approved, being proposed by J Park and seconded by D Fischler.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **A. Garage Door**

Following an update from K Bevan, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the delivery of the door had been delayed by 2-3 weeks.

### **B. Warebeth Kirkyard**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Head of Neighbourhood Services had advised that, contrary to public opinion, the gates at the cemetery had not been vandalised but were damaged as a result of the wind after being left open by a visitor.
2. To note that the repairs to the gates had been completed.
3. To note that the Property Section of the Council were of the opinion that the best solution regarding the roof of the old shed was to remove it.

## **C. Defibrillator**

Following an update from D Fischler, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the D Fischler was in the process of ordering new pads for the defibrillator located at Stromness Swimming Pool.

## **D. Stromness Accessibility Improvements**

Following discussion regarding the proposed pedestrian island to be situated at the junction at the bottom of the Back Road, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that no response been received from the relevant department to concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding the proposed island to be placed at the bottom of the Back Road.

2. To note that the Head of Neighbourhood Services would forward the correspondence.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **A. Request for Letter of Support**

A letter had been previously circulated from Grieveship Residents Association seeking support on an application for funding, and it was:

Resolved to note that all members had agreed, via email, to support the application for funding and the Clerk submitted the supporting letter by the deadline of 4 February 2023.

### **B. OIC Speed Limit Order**

Following consideration of correspondence received from P Maxton, Solicitor, Orkney Islands Council, regarding the 30mph speed limit order for Finstown, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **8. Consultations**

Resolved to note that no consultations had been received.

## **9. Publications – Orkney Ferries Statistics**

Following consideration of Orkney Ferries Statistics for January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the publication.

## **10. Reports from Community Council Representatives**

### **A. MARS Updates**

Resolved to note that the following had been reported:

- The public toilet on Ferry Road which had gutters missing.
- Various potholes, including the track across from John Allans shop.
- The grill drains on Ferry Road which were loose in places.

### **B. Stromness Community Business Forum**

Following an update from the Stromness Community Business Forum representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Annual General Meeting was due to be held on 21 March and all were welcome to attend.
2. To note that a presentation on AI had been well received.

### **C. Stromness Development Trust**

Following an update from the Stromness Development Trust representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there was no further update to give on the Community Centre.
2. To note that the Development Trust had meet with Shopping Week members regarding their plans for this year and how the Trust could support that.

## **11. Financial Statements**

### **A. Community Council General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 3 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,392.72.

### **B. Donations Account – 2023/2024**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 3 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,589.72 of which:

- £100 had been donated from Stromness Drama Club towards purchasing a new flag but as the money was not ring-fenced, it would be put towards another worthwhile community project if replacing the flag did not go ahead.

- £1,050.72 was to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage area.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024**

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024 had been fully allocated.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 3 March 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that an allocation of £1,524.04 for Tranche 5 had been added.
2. To note that the balance remaining for approval was £6,524.04.

### **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 3 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £340.03.

## **12. Financial Requests**

### **A. Stenness Primary School – Trip to Hoy – 22-26 April 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Community School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards two Stromness residents participating in Outdoor Education in Hoy on 22-26 April 2024, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that, as this application was out with the current Travel Policy, no assistance be provided.

### **B. M Kirkpatrick – ND Age Group Round 1 – 10/11 February 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the North District Age Group Round 1 held in Aberdeen on 10/11 February 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **C. M Kirkpatrick – ND Age Group Round 2 – 2/3 March 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the North District Age Group Round 2 held in Aberdeen on 2/3 March 2024, it was:



Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **D. Stromness Golf Club Juniors – Royal Dornoch Golf Club Links Academy**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Golf Club Juniors, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of three junior members attending five trips to the Links Golf Academy at Royal Dornoch Golf Club during March and April 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 per junior member per trip, totalling £300, be given towards the cost of the three Stromness residents from Stromness Golf Club Juniors attending the five events at the Links Golf Academy at Royal Dornoch Golf Club.

### **E. R Slater – U13 Netball Trip – Aberdeen – 2 March 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from R Slater, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Under 13 Netball Trip held in Aberdeen on 2 March 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **F. M Craigie – U16 Netball Trip – Dundee – 1-3 March 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Craigie, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Under 16 Netball Trip held in Dundee on 1-3 March 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **G. Orkney Folk Festival**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Folk Festival Committee, requesting financial assistance towards internal transport costs for the Folk Festival 2024, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £750 be given towards the internal transport costs for the Folk Festival 2024, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme being agreed.

### **H. M Craigie – U17 Netball Trip – Dundee – 22-23 March 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Craigie, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Under 17 Netball Trip held in Dundee on 22-23 March 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

## **13. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Stromness Harbour Users Group Meetings**

A member queried when there would be a Stromness Harbour Users Group meeting, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor G Bevan would contact the Harbours Department to request a meeting of the Stromness Harbour Users Group is scheduled.

### **B. Kirkyard – Stones being removed from Dyke**

A member raised concerns regarding stones being removed from the dyke at the pillar at the end of the road to the beach, with the cement having been picked out of the stones, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant section of the Council.

### **C. Road to Warebeth**

A member raised concerns about the state of the road at the seaward end towards Warebeth beach, and following discussions, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant section of the Council.

### **D. Sign to Warebeth Cemetery**

The Chair had been approached by a member of the public who highlighted that there was no sign pointing towards Warebeth Cemetery, and following discussion where a member indicated that there had previously been a sign saying Warebeth Churchyard, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant section of the Council.

### **E. Safety Barrier Posts at Garson Burn**

A member raised that there was a safety issue at Garson Burn where there had previously been a fence, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would highlight the concerns with the relevant section of the Council.

### **F. Town House Flagpole**

Following discussion regarding the flagpole at Stromness Town House, it was:

Resolved that when W Mackay returned to Orkney he would contact K Bevan and D Harrold to arrange a day to take the flagpole down for maintenance.

### **G. Map at Pierhead**

Following discussion regarding the map at the Pierhead, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that as the map had been replaced within the last few years there were no plans meantime to refresh/renew it.

2. To note that when the time came to renew the map, the height of the map should be looked into.

### **H. Christmas Lights on posts at roundabout**

A member queried how long the Christmas lights at the roundabout stayed on for, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the lights remained on the posts permanently and were came on when the lights came on, which would get less in summer months.

### **I. Road over Brinkies Brae**

A member raised concerns regarding the amount of rubbish on the road over Brinkies Brae and would like her concerns noted regarding the volume of cars that drive up Brinkies, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the concerns with the relevant section of the Council.

### **J. Extension of Path Round Shore**

A member queried whether the path round the shore would be extended as it was a well-used area for both walkers and cyclists, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **K. Stromness Hotel**

A member queried if anything could be done about the number of bins outside the Stromness Hotel which were an eyesore, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the concerns raised.

### **L. Old Stromness Pony Club Field**

A member queried who owned the land that Stromness Pony Club used previously, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that, having been shown the area on a map, the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would investigate and report back.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, on Monday, 13 May 2023 at 19:00.

The member of the press left the meeting at this point.

## **15. Matters Arising - Continued**

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was taken in private.

Following further discussion regarding correspondence recently received from Marine Services, it was:

Resolved that as no response to the queries previously sent had been received, this item would be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.

## **16. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:43.