

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 28 April 2021 at 19:00

Present:

Mr I Cooper, Mrs S Whiteman, Mr C Fraser, Mr P Riley, Mr J Seaton and Mr S Weaver.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mr J Wrigley, Roads and Environmental Services Manager.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer/Clerk.

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1. Presentation by the Roads and Environmental Services Manager

The Roads and Environmental Services Manager raised and discussed issues requiring members' help and input, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Roads and Environmental Services Manager would consult the island's resident Roads Operative about the positioning and manoeuvring of the recycling skip into a new location in Wood Yard.

B. That the Roads and Environmental Services Manager would follow up members' suggestion of a possible site for relocating the roads depot.

C. That the Roads and Environmental Services Manager would approach the landowner of a site members identified for the temporary storage of material required for road surface dressing.

D. That the Roads and Environmental Services Manager would ask for coastal erosion in Mill Bay and on the sea wall near Mount Pleasant to be investigated.

E. That the Roads and Environmental Services Manager would liaise with the Operations Planner regarding a commencement date and programme of work for repairs to the Rothiesholm beach car park and would forward any information on this to the Community Council Liaison Officer.

F. To note that catch-up work would be undertaken to clean ditches and gullies this year.

The Chair thanked the Roads and Environmental Services Manager for his participation.

The Roads and Environmental Services Manager left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr D Stout.

3. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 3 March 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mrs S Whiteman and seconded by Mr J Seaton.

4. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that two members had yet to see and comment on the two outdoor play equipment brochures that had been circulating, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members would check to see if the catalogues were still in their possession.
2. That, if the catalogues could not be located, new ones would be requested.

B. Bay Kirkyard – Ground Levelling Request

Members heard that the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager had been contacted regarding members' request for the uneven ground in the Bay Kirkyard to be levelled, and that members would be informed of any update when available, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would contact the Roads and Environmental Services Manager and request the uneven ground in the Bay Kirkyard be looked at when a representative from the department visits Stronsay.

C. Ferry Cafeterias

Members heard that since the last meeting a response had been received from a North Isles Community Council on the non-availability of a cafeteria service on the inter-island ferry services and that this had been emailed to members. Members also heard that it was anticipated things would return to normal as COVID levels decreased and that the ferry cafeterias would reopen and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Rothiesholm Beach Car Park

Members heard that the Chair had undertaken a site visit with the Roads Services Technician whose report on the Rothiesholm beach car park had been emailed to members. Work was to proceed but it was not known when, and this had been brought to the attention of the Roads and Environmental Services Manager earlier in the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Grass Cutting Contracts

Members heard that they had previously been consulted and agreed to award the 2021 grass cutting tenders, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Bay Kirkyard Issue – Rabbit Burrowing

Members heard that the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager had been contacted regarding members' concern over rabbit burrowing in the Bay Kirkyard, and that members would be informed of any update when available, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. New Cemetery Car Park

Members heard that their request for the removal of weeds in the new cemetery car park was in hand and that this might have already been completed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Stronsay Bird and Seal Hide Tenders

Members heard that they had previously been consulted and agreed to award contracts to repair the Stronsay bird and seal hides. Liaison had taken place with the Project Officer, North Isles Landscape Partnership, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Community Council Grant Scheme – Carry Over of Unallocated Funds

Members heard that no special conditions had been placed this year to allow Community Councils to carry over Community Council Grant Scheme unspent capping limit, or provide a higher limit, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Islands of Orkney Brochure 2021

Members heard that they had previously been consulted on the Islands of Orkney Brochure 2021 and that notices had been displayed regarding any additions or deletions required for Stronsay's section, and that these had been forwarded for amendment, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

5. Stronsay Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that a blocked drain at the slaughterhouse had been cleared and that they had previously been notified of the slaughterhouse usage between April 2020 and March 2021. Members also heard that the slaughterhouse electricity supplier had provided details of an electricity rate change, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Fish Mart Report

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

Operational issues were discussed and noted. Members also heard that they had previously been consulted and agreed to a request from the Operator to provide financial assistance towards the additional cost incurred in providing COVID-19 cleaning materials. No further information was available on members' request for redecoration and improving the fabric of the building, addressing the heat loss issue in café's vaulted ceiling or on when an extractor fan would be fitted in the café's freezer room. The coin-operated shower unit had been fitted in the public shower

room and an update was given on the cost of installing a wind turbine to help heat the building and reduce hydro costs, Councillor Sinclair had contacted ReFLEX Orkney but had nothing definite to report, and the Clerk had received advice from Voluntary Action Orkney on alternative cost reducing possibilities, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That no further action would be taken on installing a wind turbine to help supplement the building's heating provision.

C. That a further request would be made to address the heat loss issue in the café's vaulted ceiling and in improving and redecorating the fabric of the building.

D. That further enquiries would be made on cost reducing possibilities in heating the Fish Mart.

7. Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative's Report

Members were given a verbal summary of the Stronsay Development Trust's recent activities and projects, and consideration was given to a request for a member to join a newly formed Waste Recycling Committee, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That Mr P Riley would represent the Community Council on the Waste Recycling Committee.

8. Consultation Documents

A. Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions

Members heard that they had previously been consulted on the easing of COVID-19 restrictions on islands, which was circulated to members before the 26 March 2021 closing date, and it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the consultation.

B. The Orkney Partnership

Consideration was given to the Orkney Partnership's consultation on Community Priorities, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021

Consideration was given to the consultation on the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021, but given that this had only been received for circulation that day, it was:

Resolved that members would forward any comments on the consultation document to the Clerk before the 16 July 2021 closing date.

9. Correspondence

A. Thank You Response – Heritage Committee

Members heard that they had previously been forwarded a copy of a thank you email from the Stronsay Heritage Committee in response to members' providing financial assistance to purchase nine ring binders, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Insurance 2021-2022

Members heard that they had previously been consulted and agreed that the cost for Community Council insurance 2021/2022 should be funded through the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Hedge Cutting Donation

Members heard that they had previously been informed that Housing had given the Community Council a donation for having cut an overgrown hedge, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Rothiesholm Telephone Box

Members heard that they had previously been consulted and had no objections to a proposal to remove the public telephone service in Rothiesholm, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Thank You Response – Mrs M Dennison

Members heard that they had previously been forwarded a copy of a thank you email from Mrs M Dennison in response to members providing financial assistance toward travel fares, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. HITRANS – E-Cargo Bikes

Consideration was given to correspondence previously forwarded to members on HITRANS – E-cargo bikes, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Chair had spoken with the Stronsay Development Trust Community Development Officer who had already secured funding for two HITRANS – E-cargo bikes.

G. Orkney Regional Marine Plan – Community Council Update

Consideration was given to correspondence from the Marine Planner, previously circulated to members, on the Orkney Regional Marine Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Community Renewal Fund

Consideration was given to correspondence for Community Councils regarding a new fund which had been made available, copies of which had previously been forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 April 2021 and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved to note that the actual balance was £15,391.60.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 14 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,705.23.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 14 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,058.13.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £922.14.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 14 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £8,723.40.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 14 April 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance had been fully utilised.

11. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Mr R Seeber

Consideration was given to a request for financial assistance from Mr R Seeber to attain a qualification as a Domestic Electrician, and it was:

Resolved to award Mr R Seeber £500 from the Community Council General Fund to attain a qualification as a Domestic Electrician, subject to evidence of expenditure being received.

B. Mrs M Dennison

Following consideration of a request from Mrs M Dennison for financial assistance for ten return air flights for her daughter's attendance at athletic and gymnastic training sessions in Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved to award Mr M Dennison £25 towards the cost of ten return air flights, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

12. Publications

The following publications had been forwarded to members:

- Air Passenger Figures for January and February 2021.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics for February 2021.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Annual Grants

Consideration was given to the Community Council Annual Grant allocation, copies of which had been previously circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that Stronsay Community Council had received an annual grant for 2021/2022 of £4,077.09.

B. Stronsay Plastics Recycling Trial – Final Report

Consideration was given to the final report on the Stronsay Plastics Recycling Trial, copies of which had been previously forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information contained in the report

2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would enquire into whether the report could be made public.
3. That the Environmental Services Team be thanked for producing the comprehensive and detailed information in the final report.

C. Orkney Ferries – Sunday Sailings and Online Bookings

Consideration was given to there being no Sunday morning sailing from Kirkwall to Stronsay in the Summer 2021 timetable and that there was still no information available on the online booking service, and it was:

Resolved that Orkney Ferries would be asked to give clarification on why there was only one scheduled sailing from Kirkwall to Stronsay on a Sunday and when the on-line booking system was going to be operational.

D. Village Play Park Fence

Members heard that the several fence posts dividing the village play park and the adjoining field had rotted and were in need of attention and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That clarification would be sought on whose responsibility it was to maintain the village play park fence.
2. That the Clerk would take and forward photographs of the damaged posts.

E. Vat o' Kirbuster Bench

Members heard that the bench had not yet been positioned at the Vat o' Kirbuster, despite both verbal and written communications having taken place with the successful bidder, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the successful bidder again advising that if work was not completed by 31 May 2021 the project would be re-advertised.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Stronsay Community Council would be held remotely on Wednesday, 25 August 2021 commencing at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15.