

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton (for Items 5B to 16).
- S Shaw, Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care (for Items 1 and 2).
- Sergeant M Arbuckle, Police Scotland (for Items 1 to 3).
- M Davidson, Orkney Yole Association (for Items 8 to 11).
- 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 J Mowat and Councillors J Stockan and M Thomson.

2. Orkney Health and Care

The Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care, thanked members for allowing her to attend the meeting which should be looked at as the beginning of the conversations between Orkney Health and Care and the Community Council.

The main aim of her attendance was to highlight the draft Strategic Plan, which was on the agenda for consultation later in the meeting. She went on to explain that the previous Strategic Plan ran from 2016 to 2019 and could be viewed on the Orkney Island Council's website. It was hoped that the 2019 to 2022 plan would be easier to understand.

One of the approaches on the new plan was Community Led Support. Community Led Support Workshops had been organised which would enable members of the public to work with Orkney Health and Care to develop better community health and social care services for their community. The next Workshop Session was to be held on 27 and 28 June 2019.

The Chief Officer/Executive Director went on to explain Tech Enabled Care, which was another of the named approaches. Tech Enabled Care included looking into using the likes of Facetime to monitor more independent living in the home, for example. It was also being investigated on how it could be used safely in the new care home.

With regard to consultation, the Chief Officer/Executive Director hoped to attend as many Community Council meetings as possible to answer any questions members may have. Orkney Health and Care were also going to have a presence at Stromness Shopping Week, as well as the Dounby and County Shows to gather as much feedback as possible. She went on to say that feedback on the Draft Strategic Plan should be emailed to OHACfeedback@orkney.gov.uk by 9 August 2019.

The Chair confirmed that she had attended the first local support session and intended to attend one of the next workshops.

A member referred to the new care home facility which was in close proximity to both the primary school and the academy. He stated that Stromness Community Council were keen to promote the well documented benefits to both older and younger people that come from intergenerational interaction.

The Chief Officer/Executive Director agreed that she too was keen to pursue this. She also agreed that she would be keen to see an area outside where young people could play and residents could sit on benches and watch.

She went on to say that three wings would initially be open in the new care home. With the new Carers Act that had come into force, they would be monitoring the impact of respite needs and the impact on space.

A member said that the role of the carer should be more valued and should, perhaps be seen as a stepping stone to a career in nursing. The Chief Officer/Executive Director agreed.

The Chair thanked the Chief Officer/Executive Director for her attendance, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

G Deans joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. Police Matters

The Police Scotland Officer gave a rundown of Stromness related incidents that had been reported since the last Community Council meeting:

- There had been several road traffic incidents including drivers on mobile phones, parking tickets and careless driving.
- Speeding checks at Stromness Primary School and Stromness Academy had resulted in fines.
- Other incidents included the theft of seats from a speedboat and theft of beer from the Hamnavoe.
- Calls had been also received regarding a drunk individual and a nuisance neighbour.

He went on to say that the police still held a Stromness Surgery in the Warehouse Buildings on Mondays from 14:00 to 16:00 and, although not well attended, was very worthwhile.

On an Orkney-wide front:

- Road traffic offences were still being targeted under Operation Cedar with eyesight tests due to be targeted shortly.
- There had been a significant seizure of drugs, which was now the subject of an ongoing enquiry.
- During the first weekend in July, there would be two traffic motorcycle officers in the county who would speak on how best to ride a bike.
- Planning was in place for a visible presence for the busier periods during Stromness Shopping Week and at the Shows.

A member queried the recent theft of the Scapa 100 banner. The Police Scotland Officer was unsure of events but confirmed that he would confer with the officers involved and email members.

Another member queried whether a Shopwatch scheme similar to that run in Kirkwall would be rolled out for the businesses in Stromness. The Police Scotland Officer confirmed that it would be, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 7 May 2019 was approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by J Park.

5. Matters Arising

A. Market Green Fencing Stabs

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Sport and Leisure Service Manager, copies of which had been circulated, regarding prices for replacing the Market Green fencing stabs, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant department highlighting safety concerns that had been raised by members regarding the poor condition of some of the fencing stabs and requesting that that the unsafe fencing stabs be replaced.

B. Jack Renton - Proposed Plaque

After hearing an update from a member to say that she had been in contact with the current owner of the property where Jack Renton had resided, and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. That the Clerk investigate the standard plaque size and price of plaques.
2. That the Clerk contact the relevant department regarding what needs to be done to enable the proposed plaque to be erected on a listed building.
3. That, once all the necessary information regarding size, cost and planning permission had been gathered, a letter formally requesting permission to erect the plaque should be sent to the owners.
4. That the wording to be used on the proposed plaque should be:
 - Jack Renton.
 - 1848 – 1878.
 - Who was castaway with a tribe in the Solomon Islands for seven years was born here.

C. Insurance Certificate

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Community Council Liaison Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding members' queries regarding the insurance policy, and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Community Council accepted that leaving part of the stage erected between events was an acceptable risk should any damage occur.

D. Name for New Care Home

Resolved to note that following a public vote held at the recent What's Next for Stromness event, the most popular name chosen from a shortlist of names provided by local schoolchildren for the new Stromness Care Home was Hamnavoe House.

E. Wheelie Bins

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

1. To note the response from the Head of Infrastructure and Strategic Projects advising that Stromness Community Business Forum members had previously raised the issue and that the Council were waiting further information from businesses in order to take the matter further.
2. To note that it had been suggested that a walk-round in Stromness with representatives from the Community Council, Business Forum and Council officers would be useful, to advise and identify any potential spots suitable for a communal facility.
3. That, as the matter was in hand between the Business Forum and the Council, the Business Forum representative would take the response received to the Business Forum for their attention.

F. Parking Sign between Wishart's Shop and the RNLI Building

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

Resolved to note the response from the Roads Support Manager, Development and Infrastructure, advising that the siting of a sign which had been erected in the middle of a parking space between Wishart's Shop and the RNLI building had been noted and arrangements were in place to move the sign.

G. Stromness Town House Gardens

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

Resolved to note the response from Development and Infrastructure advising that maintenance of the Stromness Town House Garden area is in Orkney Islands Council's Grounds Maintenance contract.

H. Ferry Walkway

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the ongoing issue with the broken ferry walkway, it was:

Resolved to note the response from the Head of Marine Services giving an estimated timescale of 3-4 weeks for most of the repairs to be completed.

I. Proposed Siting of Memorial Bench, South End

Following consideration of correspondence received from F Matheson who was seeking planning permission to put a memorial bench at the former shingle beach, South End, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair write a letter on behalf of Stromness Community Council supporting the proposed siting of the memorial bench.

6. Intergenerational Opportunities

G Deans had nothing to report on this item at this time but referred to the conversation that had taken place earlier in the meeting with the Chief Officer/Executive Director regarding opportunities that it was hoped could be brought forward, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Stromness: Pride in Our Community

E Knight reported that the What's Next for Stromness event had been successful. There had been good suggestions and was pleased that there had been some interest shown in green areas. Although perhaps too late to promote this year, he suggested that an event, similar to beach clean ups, be organised where a weekend was promoted to clear weeds, cut back shrubs etc. and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Correspondence – Voluntary Action Orkney

Following consideration of the Membership Renewal 2019/2020 pack received from Voluntary Action Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to renew membership of Voluntary Action Orkney for 2019/2020.

9. Consultations

A. Orkney Harbours Master Plan

Following consideration of the consultation document on Orkney Harbours Master Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 22 July 2019.

B. Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc – HVAC Cable

Following consideration of the consultation document regarding the HVAC Cable from Orkney to Mainland Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 4 July 2019.

C. Orkney Islands Council (Off Street Parking) Order 2019

Following consideration of the consultation document regarding Orkney Islands Council (Off Street Parking) Order 2019, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments had been received prior to the deadline of 17 June 2019.

D. Orkney Health and Care - Draft Strategic Plan

Following consideration of the consultation document from Orkney Health and Care regarding the draft Strategic Plan 2019/2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 9 August 2019.

E. Community Transport Survey

Following consideration of the consultation document regarding the Community Transport Survey, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant department with the following comment:

- Members felt that the timescale given to respond to the Community Transport Survey was too short to give a meaningful response. However, members were interested in contributing in the future.

10. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that he had reported a broken dog waste bin at Downie's Lane some time ago but, as yet, nothing had been done about it. He advised that he would report the broken bin again.

A member reported that there was a blocked drain near the Sorting Office on the Back Road. The MARS representative confirmed that he would report 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 Shop Along the Street initiative was due to begin again shortly. This year, it would be running for 3 weeks from 1-27 July 2019. She confirmed that she would be highlighting the response the Community Council had received regarding wheelie bins to the Business Forum, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members that the report on the new Christmas Lights had been received which he had emailed to members for information. Talks were still ongoing regarding the final plans. The plans had also been sent to those who had raised funds towards the Christmas lights to get their input. It was hoped that there would be something in place this year.

He also reported that the What's Next for Stromness had raised various proposals. As the Development Trust and the Community Councils logos were both used to promote the event, both should go back with feedback. He suggested that perhaps a joint feedback session before the last session should be arranged, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

The Playpark Sub-committee representative confirmed work on the new playpark was due to begin very shortly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Financial Requests – Orkney Yole Association

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 May 2019, where consideration of Orkney Yole Association's request for financial assistance towards the cost of publishing a book on Orkney Yoles had been deferred for further information.

A representative of Orkney Yole Association, who had been invited to the meeting to enable members to receive more details about the proposed venture, gave a general outline of what the content of the book would entail. He also gave details on the background of the Association, community events the Association was involved in annually, as well estimates of the number of books the Association hoped to publish, together with proposed publishing costs.

Following a question and answer session, the representative of Orkney Yole Association left the meeting to enable the Community Council to consider his request, and it was resolved:

A. That the Clerk contact the relevant department to enquire whether the proposed project may be entitled to apply for funds from the Seed Corn Fund.

B. That, if the project was deemed eligible, the Clerk email the representative of Orkney Yole Association a Request for Financial Assistance form requesting full details, together with the total cost of the project and exact amount of funding that was being requested from the Community Council.

C. That once the completed form had been received from Orkney Yole Association, and prior to the application being forwarded to the relevant department, the final amount of Seed Corn Funding to be applied for would be determined by members.

12. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 13 June 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,394.45.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 13 June 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9824.62 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 2019/2020 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 13 June 2019, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £202.70.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 13 June 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 13 June 2019, it was:

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

13. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Youth Development Group – Caithness Trip

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Youth Development Group, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of two Stromness residents attending an event in Caithness on 25 May 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the two Stromness residents, totalling £26, be given towards attending an event in Caithness on 25 May 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Midsummer Meet

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of five Stromness residents attending the Midsummer Meet in Shetland on 15-16 June 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the five Stromness residents, totalling £65, be given towards attending the Midsummer Meet in Shetland on 15-16 June 2019, to be funded from the Community Council's General Account.

C. Stromness Drama Club – Youth Final, Stranraer

P McLaughlin 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 Drama Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of six Stromness residents attending the 2019 Scottish Communities Drama Association Youth Final in Stranraer on 14-16 June 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the six Stromness residents, totalling £78, be given towards attending the 2019 Scottish Communities Drama Association Youth Final in Stranraer on 14-16 June 2019.

D. Stromness Youth Football Club – Edinburgh Cup

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Youth Football Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of six Stromness residents attending the Under 10s Edinburgh Cup International Youth Football Festival in Edinburgh on 2-4 August 2019, it was resolved:

1. That a donation of £13 for each of the six Stromness residents, totalling £78, be given towards attending the Under 10s International Youth Football Festival, Edinburgh on 2-4 August 2019.
2. That the Clerk should make the applicant aware of the usual conditions, in that if the event was cancelled, or if any of the applicants could not attend the event, any financial assistance received must be repaid to Stromness Community Council.

E. John Rae Society – Hall of Clestrain – 250th Year Celebrations

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

Following consideration of correspondence received from The John Rae Society, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of fireworks for the 250th Year Celebrations, and after discussion, it was resolved:

1. That, on this occasion, the request for financial assistance towards the purchase of fireworks be refused.
2. That the Clerk should contact The John Rae Society to convey that if the Society required assistance towards something that would help in their fund-raising effort, for example, a publicity leaflet, the Community Council may be more minded to donate towards that.

F. Stromness Bowling Club – Assistance to Purchase 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 a revised request from Stromness Bowling Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards purchasing new junior and smaller sized bowls. With reference to the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 May 2019, it was:

Resolved to grant £454.97 to Stromness Bowling Club for assistance towards purchasing new junior and smaller sized bowls, subject to Community Development Fund approval.

G. Orkney Gymnastics Club

1. Scottish Gymnastics 2-Piece Competition – Perth – 14-16 June 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Gymnastics Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards four Stromness residents attending the Scottish Gymnastics 2-Piece Competition in Perth on 14-16 June 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the four Stromness residents, totalling £52, be given towards the cost of attending the Scottish Gymnastics 2-Piece Competition in Perth on 14-16 June 2019.

2. Glitterball 2-Piece Competition – Gairloch – 28-30 June 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Gymnastics Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards four Stromness residents attending the Glitterball 2-Piece Competition in Gairloch on 28-30 June 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the four Stromness residents, totalling £52, be given towards the cost of attending the Glitterball 2-Piece Competition in Gairloch on 28-30 June 2019.

H. Orkney Islands Games Association – Gibraltar 2019

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Orkney Islands Games Association, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of two Stromness residents attending the Islands Games to be held in Gibraltar on 6-13 July 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 be given towards the cost of attending the Island Games to be held in Gibraltar on 6-13 July 2019.

I. Doors Open Day

Following consideration of correspondence received from Doors Open Day, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of Doors Open Day which provided free access to sites of historic, cultural or community interest across Orkney, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given towards Doors Open Day which provided free access to sites of historic, cultural or community interest across Orkney.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A. Campsite Sign at Foot of Back Road

A member raised that the campsite sign at the foot of the Back Road could easily be missed as it was low on a garden wall and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton should consult with the relevant section of the Council to see if the sign could be raised and made more noticeable.

B. Town Map

A member confirmed that she had spoken to Iain Ashman regarding replacing the town map, who was now ready to start to work on it, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Property at Springfield Crescent/Franklin Road

A member raised that they had been approached by a member of the public regarding a small patio that had been built on a property at Springfield Crescent/Franklin Road. The owners had filled planters which were near the road and had enquired whether this was allowed, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton should consult with the relevant section of the Council regarding this matter.

D. Mobility Scooter Rally, Shopping Week

A member raised concern regarding the recently publicised mobility scooter rally to be held in Shopping Week and, following discussion where it was noted that in holding such a rally the committee's approach was that they were being inclusive, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Stromness Town Hall

A member raised the issue of proper toilet facilities and the ongoing issues with the heating system in Stromness Town Hall, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should raise the matter of upgrading Stromness Town Hall's heating system and toilet facilities with the relevant department.

F. Right of Way Access – Warebeth Road/Gaudiesback

A member raised the issue of a right of way that had been blocked by a fence being erected, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton should consult with the relevant section of the Council regarding this matter.

G. Traffic Queuing on Ferry Road

A member raised concern regarding what was now getting to be a dangerous situation with traffic queuing for the ferry, which coincided with the end of the school day and children walking or cycling down Ferry Road, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that members should feedback this concern via the Orkney Harbour Master Plan consultation prior to the closing date of 22 July 2019.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair enquired whether the meetings should now be moved back to Mondays or whether members were happy with Tuesdays, and following discussion, it was resolved:

A. That the meetings should revert to Monday evenings.

B. That the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 26 August 2019 in the Town House, Stromness, commencing at 19:00.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

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