

# Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness on Tuesday, 20 November 2018 at 19:15

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- G Barr, Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- One member of the press.

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## **1. New Member**

The Chair welcomed K Donald to her first meeting following her election as a member of Stromness Community Council at the Public Meeting held prior to the ordinary meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies were intimated on behalf J Mowat and J Park.

## **3. Police Matters**

As there was no police representative present at the meeting, the Chair advised that, prior to the next meeting, he would contact the police to ascertain if there was an issue as there had been no police representative present at the last few meetings, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

## **4. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 9 October 2018 was approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by K Bevan.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **A. Street Cleaning following Local Events**

The Chair informed members that he, together with members of Stromness Community Business Forum, had attended a very positive meeting with representatives of Orkney Islands Council's Waste Section where items discussed included the longer-term plans of a larger Amenity Site being developed which would be further away from the houses.

No member of Orkney Folk Festival was present at the meeting, however, the issue of street cleaning following local events was also raised. The Council representatives acknowledged that they did have a part in what had happened but stated that no formal request or event plan had been received from Orkney Folk Festival, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

### **B. Stromness Bonfire**

The Chair advised members that a letter would be put in The Orcadian thanking all those who assisted with the bonfire and made it a great success. He went on to say that the collection tins were still in shops and would be until Christmas. Collection tins would also be available at the Yule Log event, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

The Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **C. Minutes of Meetings**

A member advised that copies of the minutes were now available for public inspection at Warehouse Buildings, Stromness. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that getting the minutes of meetings on the website was an Action Point for Democratic Services and it was hoped that this would be completed by the end of the year, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

## **D. Adopted Roads**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that the list of adopted roads was available on the Council's website, and it was:

Resolved that that the Clerk would circulate the website address for the list of adopted roads on the Council's website.

## **E. New Stromness Old Folks Home Visit**

The Chair advised members that Saturday, 26 January 2019 had been set for the visit to the new Stromness Old Folks Home, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the contractor closer to that date to confirm the final arrangements.

## **F. Ferry Services Contract**

Two representatives from Stromness Community Council had attended the recent community engagement sessions in respect of the next Northern Isles Ferry Services Contract. One member had found the meeting to be very positive. The meeting heard that the presentation given included:

- Scottish Government owned the vessels and the staff would stay with the vessel.
- That the contract should be for 8 years rather 6.
- The contract awarded would be based 65% on price and 35% quality of service.
- A market plan, customer relations, staff conditions including pension were to be included in the tender.

Main concerns fed back by the representative included:

- The Stromness to Scrabster route being maintained with the 3 sailings per day.
- Changing the 06:30 sailing to a later sailing as difficult for other users of the ferry outwith Stromness to get to ferry for that time.
- Road Equivalent Tarriff.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write a further letter to the Transport Minister acknowledging the consultation members had attended but reinforcing the concerns previously raised by Stromness Community Council.

## **6. Q and A - Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

The Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure thanked members for the invitation to the meeting which he hoped would be the beginning of a close working relationship between the Community Council and his department.

The Chair advised the Executive Director that members had prepared a list of questions/concerns that they would like brought to the Executive Director's attention and while some of them may seem low level or operational in many cases, this was not the first time the matters had been raised.

### **A. Area at Pedestrian Crossing**

Regarding the muddy triangle of grass at the Pedestrian Crossing near the Primary School, the Executive Director said that this had been flagged up and would be sorted next year. A member suggested that as the area had already been reseeded, a better solution would be a permanent surface.

### **B. Street Lighting**

Concerns were raised over the new LED lighting that had been installed and, although members understood that it was a money saving initiative, they felt there were some issues. The Executive Director informed members that if they were concerned with any "dark" spots they should log them either through Democratic Services or by contacting Customer Services, OIC. An inspector would then be sent out to have a second look and action would be taken from there.

Regarding the issues with the street lighting at Garson Road's junction with Cairston Road, the Executive Director reported that work would commence in this area on the week commencing 26 November, where it was hoped this issue would be addressed. Regarding the labelling of the LED lights, the Executive Director said that all lights should be labelled which helped ensure that the light got fixed promptly.

The Executive Director went on to explain that regarding the street light at the junction of Ness Road and Back Road being disconnected to permit sewer installation was, at that time, out with the control of the Council as the works were being carried out by Scottish Water.

In connection with areas where street lights were obscured by foliage or bushes encroached onto pavements, the Executive Director again stated that this should be reported via Democratic Services or Customer Services and should include, if possible, photos and the street light reference number. If the issue was on private property, the landowners would, in the first instance, be contacted. If the problem was not resolved by the landowner, then the Council would take action and would then bill the landowners.

### **C. Street Paving**

Members raised concern regarding street paving and the continual problem of loose slabs, particularly from Church Road to John Street. The Executive Director said that work on the loose slabs should be completed by the end of the week. Following

discussion, members felt if the sealant was replaced more timeously when the faults were logged this would help the situation. The Executive Director said that his team would try to get back more regularly to fill the gaps.

## **D. Ongoing Issues**

- Regarding the flooding at Brownstown Road which had been ongoing for some time, the Executive Director noted that he would get back to the Community Council with a possible project design solution.
- With the issues at the gabion breach at the school, the Executive Director said this would require more exploration. A member stated that this had been logged and a works order issued some time ago. The Executive Director agreed to chase this up.
- A member raised an issue regarding the high step and no handrail at the south end of the pavement at the Bank of Scotland and the damaged handrail at the north end of the same pavement. The member felt that this restricted access to anyone with mobility issues trying to access the cash machine at the bank. The Executive Director felt that, in the first instance, the Community Council should raise the issue with the Bank of Scotland.

## **E. General Maintenance/Core Paths**

Regarding the overall maintenance programme, in the context of spend to save, the Executive Director explained that due to budget challenges across the board, there had been a reduction in maintenance. There were approximately 50 staff to carry out maintenance and it was a case of how to best prioritise available people to the jobs. Regarding Core Paths, he explained that there was a budget of around £30,000 for all of Orkney's paths and, again, it was a case of prioritising areas. There was an option to work with Community Councils in the future to mobilise core path countryside project. If there were areas of concern to members, they should be logged and would be investigated.

Members then discussed various ways that the public could be engaged in taking pride in their community, such as the gardening initiative that had recently taken place at Orkney Library and the planting of bulbs in the fountain.

## **F. Regeneration/Investment in Stromness**

The Executive Director stated that there had been a lot of investment and regeneration in the last 10 years in Stromness with projects such as the Orkney Campus. It was hoped that there would be an exercise similar to "Your Kirkwall" in Stromness ("Your Stromness") which was scheduled to take place in early 2019.

Questions were raised regarding what was going to happen with St Peter's House when the building was empty, and the old Stromness Primary playground. In connection with St Peter's House, the Executive Director said that, as yet, the property had not been formally declared surplus. However, when it was declared surplus there may be an option for a business to take it on and develop it into accommodation for the Orkney Campus, for example. Regarding the old Stromness Primary playground, it was still in Council ownership but, again, there may be an opportunity for it to become attached to the campus.

## **G. Amenity Site/Recycling**

The Chair said that he had been to a meeting recently with members of the waste section and the business community regarding the amenity site, where the point had been raised about containers being emptied less regularly leading to more complaints from residents living near the amenity site about the smell coming from the black bags. He went on to say that there was an issue from the business community regarding the large recycling bins having to be stored in the narrow streets.

The Executive Director said that it was hoped in the future that Community Councils would be more involved in recycling management to make the best use of waste – one person's waste was another person's resource. There was a four-year budget target that would look at getting more out of recycling centres.

## **H. Planning**

A member raised future developments and access, giving an example of several houses being given planning permission in the same area, each having their own separate access when it would have been more logical to have one cul-de-sac type access for them all. The Executive Director stated that the background to individual access was to ensure a more rural character rather than in an urban setting. He went on to say that this was something that could be brought up in the "Your Stromness" exercise mentioned above.

## **I. Community Conversations**

Regarding recent community conversations, a member enquired whether the Council were taking any of the ideas forward and, if so, what and how. He gave an example of identifying the need for a Development Officer and trying to get the funding and asked how the Council could help. The Executive Director said that the Economic Development team would be able to assist. He went on to say that there was a more limited economic development budget than there had been 10 years ago but there were other sources of funding available to fill the gap. The member replied that he was already working with the Development Team but stated that, remembering that this was all done on a volunteering basis, getting the correct language and terminology required to complete the funding applications was difficult.

## **J. North Isles Ferry Service Tender**

The Executive Director confirmed that members of the Transport Section of the Council were meeting with the government team to go through the tender. He confirmed that the midday sailing was firmly in their sight.

## **K. Copland's Dock**

Regarding Copland's Dock, the Executive Director explained that, under delegated powers, the access road to Copland's Dock had been refused. This would then be taken to the Local Review Committee. Members hoped that it would be a timely resolution.

## **L. Harbour Masterplan**

Members asked that the Community Council get sight of the new Harbour Master Plan in advance of public awareness.

## **M. Community Council Involvement**

The Chair stated that, often, maintenance work had started around Stromness and that was the first that the Community Council had any knowledge of it. He went on to say that if the community council were made aware of planned works, in the same way, for example, as planning is automatically notified, perhaps they could contribute and give more of a collective knowledge of works required at the same time which could possibly lead to savings.

The Executive Director advised members that there was an annual meeting where maintenance programmes were set for the coming year. He would endeavour to meet with the Community Council prior to the maintenance programmes being set.

The Chair thanked the Executive Director for attending the meeting and answering the Community Council's concerns, and it was:

Resolved to note the information contained in paragraphs 6A to 6M above.

The Executive Director left the meeting at this point.

## **7. Tree Lighting Ceremony**

After consideration of the Christmas Tree Lighting checklist, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the final arrangements for the tree lighting ceremony were now in hand.

## **8. Correspondence**

### **A. Consultation Document – Gambling Policy**

After consideration of a consultation document on the Review of Gambling Policy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses for comment should be returned by 23 November 2018 via the Clerk and that none had been received to date.

### **B. Grass Cutting**

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding any comments regarding grass cutting the community council may wish to make in respect of the prioritisation of works within the community council area, copies of which had been circulated, the Community Council Liaison Officer offered to send the Clerk a list of works that are currently undertaken and frequency, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments to be received was 30 November 2018.

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

### **A. MARS**

The MARS representative informed members that most of his issues had been covered above during the discussion with the Executive Director. However, he would be reporting a couple of loose slabs outside the library shortly, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

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

As the Business Forum representative was absent, the Vice Chair informed members that she, along with the Business Forum representative and other business representatives, had met with a representative from the Bank of Scotland.

The main thing that came out of the meeting was reassurance that the branch was not under threat of closure. The Bank representative agreed that during the Summer the service had been less than adequate due to staff absence, but they were now actively recruiting staff to be available on an on-call basis so that situation could not arise again. Opening days were also being investigated with the possibility of opening on Tuesdays and Fridays rather than the current Wednesdays and Fridays. Changes to opening times were also being investigated. The bank representative also encouraged businesses to use the nightsafe, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members that arrangements were progressing well for the Yule Log event.

Regarding Christmas Lights, there had not been a board meeting of the Trust since the last community council meeting. Colin Begley, HUS Architecture and Design, was drawing up an outline proposal. He had noted that there had been an issue with the type of lights Kirkwall had purchased.

The Chair wondered if something should be fed back to those that had raised funds towards the new Christmas lights to give them an update of the situation, and it was:

Resolved to that this be noted.

Councillor R Crichton left the meeting during discussion of this item.

### **D. Playpark Sub-committee**

The Playpark Sub-committee representative informed members that they were working to finalise the funding application to LEADER which had to be completed by 29 November. He went on to explain that the Sub-committee had been given contradictory advice by officers so there were now doubts as to whether the application would be successful. If this was the case, new funding would need to be sourced, and it was:



Resolved to note that this be noted.

## **10. Financial Statements**

### **A. Community Council General Account**

After consideration of the Community Council's General Finance Statement as at 8 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £4,270.06.

### **B. Sea Haven Account**

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 8 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £9,762.62 of which:

1. £3,607.90 would be held to be released once the Christmas lights had been purchased for the town.
2. £5,000 which was ring-fenced for redevelopment of the playpark at Guardhouse Park.
3. £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.
4. £1,050.72 to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme Statement**

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme Statement 2018-19 as at 8 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining for allocation was £618.40.

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

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 8 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining for allocation of £4,154.51.

### **E. Seed Corn**

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund as at 8 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,263.78 remained for approval.

## **11. Requests for Financial Assistance**

### **A. Orkney Gymnastics Club – Fyrish, Alness – 5-6 October 2018**

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Gymnastics Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards four gymnasts attending an event in Alness on 5-6 October 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the four gymnasts residing in the Stromness area from Orkney Gymnastics Club attending an event in Alness on 5-6 October 2018, totalling £52.

### **B. Orkney Gymnastic Club – Inverness – 3-5 November 2018**

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Gymnastics Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards four gymnasts attending an event in Inverness on 3-5 November 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the four gymnasts residing in the Stromness area from Orkney Gymnastics Club attending an event in Inverness on 3-5 November 2018, totalling £52.

### **C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – DPD – Aberdeen – 28-29 October 2018**

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards one swimmer attending the 2nd Scottish National Bronze Squad Training event held in Aberdeen on 28-29 October 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to one swimmer, residing in the Stromness area, attending the 2nd Scottish National Bronze Squad Training event held in Aberdeen on 28-29 October 2018.

### **D. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Gibson Cup – Wick – 3 November 2018**

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards three swimmers attending an event in Wick on 3 November 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the three swimmers, residing in the Stromness area, from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending an event in Wick on 3 November 2018, totalling £39.

### **E. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North District Open, Aberdeen 3-4 November 2018**

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards one swimmer attending an event in Aberdeen on 3-4 November 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to one swimmer residing in the Stromness area from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending an event in Aberdeen on 3-4 November 2018, totalling £13.

### **F. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – North Districts Age Groups, Inverness 23-26 November 2018**

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards two swimmers attending an event in Inverness on 23-26 November 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the two swimmers, residing in the Stromness area, from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending an event in Inverness on 23-26 November 2018, totalling £26.

### **G. Stromness Golf Club Junior Section – 6 Events at Links Golf Academy - October 2018 to March 2019**

After consideration of an application received from Stromness Golf Club Junior Section, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards four junior golfers attending six events to be held at Links Golf Academy to take place between October 2018 and March 2019. Members noted that the amount requested was £210. However, members felt that they should be given the £13 per applicant per event that they were entitled to, and it was resolved:

1. To grant £13 to each of the four junior golfers attending the six events to be held at Links Golf Academy between October 2018 and March 2019, being £52 per event, multiplied by six events, totalling £312.

2. That the Clerk should make the applicant aware of the usual conditions in that if the event was cancelled, or if the applicant could not attend, any financial assistance received for that event must be repaid to Stromness Community Council.

## **12. Publications**

After consideration of the Community Planning News – Autumn 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the publication.

## **13. Any Other Competent Business - Warbeth Cemetery**

A member reported that the road down to the beach beside Warbeth Cemetery was in a poor condition due to potholes. Another member reported that in the Cemetery itself there was a rabbit problem, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Democratic Services to report both matters.

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

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 22 January 2019 at 19:00 in the Town House, Stromness.

## **15. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 21:22.