

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Monday, 20 January 2020 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- N Shearer, John Rae Society (for Items 1 and 2).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- R Merriman, Development Officer, Stromness Community Development Trust (for Items 5b to 12d).
- One member of the press.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Presentation by John Rae Society.....	2
3. Police Matters.....	2
4. Adoption of Minutes.....	2
5. Matters Arising.....	2
6. Intergenerational Opportunities.....	5
7. Stromness: Pride in Our Community.....	5
8. Correspondence.....	6
9. Consultations.....	6
10. Publication.....	7
11. Reports from Community Council Representatives.....	7
12. Financial Statements.....	9
13. Financial Requests.....	10
14. Any Other Competent Business.....	10
15. Date of Next Meeting.....	12
16. Conclusion of Meeting.....	12

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Councillor M Thomson.

2. Presentation by John Rae Society

Following a presentation by N Shearer, a representative of the John Rae Society, regarding the Society's plans to restore the Hall of Clestrain and open it to the public as an interpretation centre and community resource, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that the Society had purchased the Hall of Clestrain in 2018.
- B. To note that a Project Manager had been employed by the Society to bring the project forward.
- C. To note that the website address for the Society was www.johnraesociety.com/
- D. To note that the Society were going to gather views of the wider public.
- E. To note that the Society would email a questionnaire to members to gather views.
- F. To note that there would be a number of public sessions where the public could view the plans and give their views.

3. Police Matters

Resolved to note that there was no police representative present at the meeting.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 25 November 2019 was approved, being proposed by G Deans and seconded by J Mowat.

5. Matters Arising

A. Jack Renton – Proposed Plaque

Following some confusion regarding whether a fee would be charged or not, the Chair provided an update received from a planning representative, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a planning representative had confirmed the following:
 - Listed building consent was required for the proposed plaque, for which there was no fee.
 - If the size of the plaque was 12", or 30.5cm, this would be an area of 0.07 square metres, which was below the threshold of 0.2 square metres, and therefore advertisement consent would not be required.

- It should be confirmed that the text and border were raised, rather than printed.
- Confirmation should be given as to whether the plaque cast was metal or resin.
- A 1:1250 location/site plan would be required, together with dimensions, profile, text, font, colours, finish, and method of fixing.
- A photograph marking the location on the building would also be required.

2. That W Mackay would provide the Clerk with the required photograph.

3. That the Clerk should:

- Purchase the required 1:1250 location plan.
- Seek comparative costs between a metal and resin plaque.

B. Hillside Road – Play Space

Following an update from the Chair regarding the above and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Sport and Leisure Services Manager had confirmed that he would be contacting the residents who had erected the rope swings.

C. Town Centre Fund

The Chair informed members that the previous week herself and E Knight had met with the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, and the Sport and Leisure Services Manager to discuss the Town Centre Fund. The Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure had advised them that the three projects that had been proposed were:

- Work on the entrance to the new campus, proposed by J McGlynn, ORIC.
- Electric bikes, proposed by Transport Section, OIC.
- Additional Big Belly bins, proposed by Waste Section, OIC.

The Chair had queries regarding projects raised by Stromness residents and was given the answer of time scale being an issue. The Chair had highlighted to G Barr that the Community Council had only been informed of the Fund in October 2019.

The Executive Director noted the projects raised again by the Chair – the community centre, updating the nursery, access to upstairs, general improvements including paint work and improving toilets as well as funding towards the Christmas lights. She also informed him that the Development Trust were already proactive at looking for quotes and he should liaise with K Bevan, which he agreed to do.

K Bevan confirmed that he had contacted a couple of contractors requesting quotes for the work at the community centre and the timescale for which they must be done by. He has received one positive response and the Development Trust were now waiting to see if they were able to take on this project, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Development Fund, via K Bevan and the Development Officer, would keep applying the pressure regarding the Community Centre project.

D. Heritage Guide Reprint

Following an update from the Chair regarding the above and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that reprinting the Stromness Heritage Guide was out to tender.
2. That the Clerk should apply for a Community Development Fund grant towards the reprint of the Stromness Heritage Guide.

E. Rackwick Pylons

Following an update from the Chair regarding the above and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair had emailed Councillor J Stockan to add Stromness Community Council's support to his letter that the use of underground cables should be used as much as possible on the Rackwick Road.
2. To note that Councillor J Stockan had received a response from SSEN confirming that a representative would make a full assessment of the area in February 2020.

F. National Lottery Community Fund

Following an update from the Vice Chair regarding the above, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Vice Chair had submitted an application to the National Lottery Community Fund for funding towards equipment/implementation costs for the Stromness: Pride in Our Community Tidy Up project.
2. To note that the results of the application would be known at the end of January 2020.

G. Hamnavoe Bus Shelter

Following an update from the Chair regarding the above and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, following correspondence received from the Transport Section regarding a complaint from a member of the public concerning the bus shelter at Hamnavoe being unclean and used to smoke in by school children, the Chair had written to the Head Teacher, Stromness Academy.
2. To note that a response had been received from the Head Teacher noting the concerns raised but highlighting that the area was out with the jurisdiction of the school.

3. To note that Councillor R Crichton had not been successful in sourcing a bin to be situated at the bus shelter.

H. Harbour Clock at Pier Head

Following an update from Councillor R Crichton regarding the above, it was:

Resolved to note that the Harbour Clock had been removed and was being worked on.

I. Stone Benches, Well Park

Following an update from Councillor J Stockan regarding the above, it was:

Resolved to note that the Building Inspector was investigating what could be done with the stone benches and would report back to Councillor J Stockan.

J. Bunting

Following an update from the Chair regarding the above, it was:

Resolved to note that the bunting used at Stromness Shopping Week had now been returned.

K. Stromness Shopping Week – Abandoned Raft

Following an update from the Chair regarding the above, it was:

Resolved to note that the abandoned raft, used in the Daft Raft Race during Shopping Week, had still not been removed but assurance had been given that it would be.

6. Intergenerational Opportunities

Following an update from G Deans regarding the above and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that there was an open day at Hamnavoe House on Friday, 24 January between 10:00 to 14:00 and 18:00 to 20:00.

B. To note that Stromness Library were organising a toddlers/befrienders games day to be held in February.

C. To note that this item should no longer be a standing item on the agenda.

7. Stromness: Pride in Our Community

Following an update from E Knight regarding the above and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that a possible date for the proposed community tidy up was the May Bank Holiday weekend, 8-10 May.

B. To note that, as outlined at paragraph 5f1 above, an application had been submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund for funding towards equipment and tools to be used for the proposed weekend.

C. That E Knight should produce a poster encouraging the community to join in with the proposed tidy up.

D. To note that possible areas to be included in the tidy up were:

- Stromness Academy, and surrounding paths and pavements.
- Market Green, squash court, and surrounding paths and pavements.
- Swimming Pool, war memorial, green belt and surrounding pavements.
- Community Centre, Postman Pat play park and surrounding paths and pavements.
- Roundabout at North End Garage, and surrounding paths and pavements.

8. Correspondence

A. The Scottish Civic Trust – My Place Awards 2020: Nominations and Submissions

Following consideration of correspondence received from The Scottish Civic Trust regarding nominations and submissions for the My Place Awards 2020, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that nominations for the My Place Awards 2020 should be received no later than 16 February 2020.

B. Internal Audit – Community Council Questionnaire

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Chief Internal Auditor, Orkney Islands Council, regarding a Community Councils questionnaire, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the questionnaire should be received no later than 31 January 2020.

9. Consultations

A. Marine Scotland

Following consideration of the consultation documents on the draft Sectorial Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy and Sustainability Appraisal, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 25 March 2020.

B. St Peters House – Surplus Property Consultation

Following consideration of the Surplus Property Consultation documents for St Peters House, Stromness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 7 February 2020.

C. Transport Scotland – Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)

Following consideration of the consultation documents received from Transport Scotland regarding the online survey for the second Strategic Transport Projects Review, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments were submitted prior to the deadline of 10 January 2020.

D. Verge Maintenance Plan Consultation

Following consideration of the consultation documents regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 3 April 2020.

10. Publication

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

11. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that he had recently reported water lying on the road at Dale Farm, as well as various potholes on the Outertown and Garson Roads, as well as a bin at the Squash Court.

Members raised the following matters, which the MARS representative confirmed he would report:

- An issue with an overflow at 29 Alfred Street.
- An issue with the path to the north east of the Market Green.
- Tarmac at the War Memorial.
- Ditches at Croval Road.

Resolved that the information be noted.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

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

Resolved to note:

1. That the Bonanza had been a great success.
2. That the Business Forum's AGM would be held on 26 February 2020 at 19:00 in the Royal Hotel.

C. Stromness Development Trust

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the Development Trust were in the process of updating their website.
2. To note that there would be a page available for the Stromness Community Council where, as well as contact details for members, the minutes of meetings could also be uploaded.
3. To note that the date had not yet been confirmed for the proposed Community Day.
4. To note that there were two proposals for Christmas Lights – one a motif-type lights – the other pole wrap-type lights.
5. To note that the Trust were waiting to hear back from the Town Centre Fund regarding the Christmas Lights.
6. To note that the Trust had contacted other authorities regarding their policy for erecting and dismantling lights and had received good feedback.
7. To note that the Trust were waiting to hear back from other Community Councils regarding costs surrounding the erection and dismantling of their Christmas lights.
8. To note that the Development Officer's office was now located in the Commercial Hotel.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the next phase of works in the playpark was due to start in February, weather permitting.
2. To note that funds had been received from the Woodland Trust towards trees to be planted at the playpark.

12. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 January 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,215.55.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 10 January 2020, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ringfenced £5,000 donation which had been received from Scottish Water had been transferred to the Stromness Community Development Trust towards the redevelopment of the playpark at Guardhouse Park, Stromness.

2. To note that the balance was £4,824.62 of which:

- £3,607.90 would be held to be released once the Christmas lights had been purchased for the town.
- £100 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 10 January 2020, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for approval was £576.40 being a total project cost of £960.

2. To note that the Clerk should apply for a Community Council Grant Scheme of £300 in respect of replacing approximately 82 broken fencing stabs at the Market Green.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 10 January 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £3,699.54.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 10 January 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,673.78.

13. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – ND Age Groups, Aberdeen, 1-2 February 2020

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of one Stromness resident attending the ND Age Groups in Aberdeen on 1-2 February 2020, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given towards one Stromness resident attending the ND Age Groups in Aberdeen on 1-2 February 2020.

B. Stenness Primary School – Nethybridge School Trip – April 2020

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Primary School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of three Stromness residents attending the Nethybridge School Trip in April 2020, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 to each of the three Stromness residents, totalling £39, be given towards the cost of attending the Nethybridge School Trip in April 2020.

C. Stromness Academy – Switzerland Trip - June 2020

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Academy, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 15 Stromness residents attending a Geography trip to the Swiss Alps in June 2020, with reference to the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 October 2019, paragraph 16a, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 to each of the 15 Stromness residents, totalling £195, be given towards the cost of attending the geography trip to the Swiss Alps in June 2020.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A. John Street/Ferry Inn Car Park Wall Breach

Following a query from a member regarding the John Street/Ferry Inn Car Park wall breach, it was:

Resolved to note that Councillor R Crichton would contact the relevant department for an update.

B. Ferry Walkway

A member raised that the Ferry Walkway had still not been repaired, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should seek an update from the relevant section.

C. Fireworks in Stromness

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident seeking members views on the number of firework displays per year in Stromness and the distress that the displays caused to animals, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the resident:

- Acknowledging her concerns.
- Stating that the Community Council were keen to ascertain the wider view of the community.
- That for the Bonfire Night Display which was run by Stromness Community Council, purchasing fireworks with less or no noise would be looked into.

D. Garson Amenity Site

Following concern raised by a member regarding Garson Amenity Site closing early again due the skips being full, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant section to highlight capacity issues again at Garson Amenity Site.

E. Holiday Homes in Stromness

Following a query raised by a member regarding the changing dynamics in Stromness with the number of houses that were holiday homes rather than being occupied the whole year round, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant section to enquire of the number of properties in Stromness that were holiday homes.

F. GMB Gardens

Following an update from a member regarding the above, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that L Adamson had volunteered to cut the grass at the GMB gardens for the coming year.
2. To note that volunteers were required to deal with bushes growing through the wall onto the main road.
3. To note that the Friends of St Peters/Hamnavoe House may be interested in the daffodil bulbs.

G. Downies Lane Viewpoint

Following an update from Councillor R Crichton regarding the above, it was:

Resolved to note that work to remove the Downie's Lane Viewpoint was due to commence on 27 January 2020.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 23 March 2020 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 21:25.