

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness on Monday, 15 May 2023 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, V Anderson (via Teams), K Bevan, D Fischler, A Hutchinson and W Mackay.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- H Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- A Rodwell, Head of Improvement and Performance.
- G Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from J Park and C Sinclair.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Appointment of Chair

Resolved that P McLaughlin was duly appointed as Chair of Stromness Community Council.

B. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that K Bevan was duly appointed as Vice Chair of Stromness Community Council.

C. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that C Sinclair was duly appointed as Planning Representative of Stromness Community Council.

D. Appointment of MARS Representative

Resolved to note that the MARS Representative was no longer an official office bearer position and as such, rather than appoint one person to take on the role, as had been done previously, the MARS updates should be kept on the agenda where all members could update rather than one specific representative.

E. Appointment of Health and Care Representative

Resolved that V Anderson was duly appointed as Health and Care Representative of Stromness Community Council.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2023 were approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by D Fischler.

4. Matters Arising

A. ATM in Stromness

Resolved to note that the installation of the ATM in Stromness had been approved at a recent Planning Committee meeting and would be installed in due course.

B. Old Stromness Primary School Playground

Resolved to note that C Sinclair was not present to give an update.

C. Garage at Town House

Following an update from W Mackay regarding replacing the garage door and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that W Mackay would source a second quote prior to the next meeting.
2. That K Bevan had the keys for the garage in the meantime.
3. That the Development Trust were still in correspondence with the Estates Section of the Council and would be looking into the insurance factor of the building in more detail.

D. Public Benches

Following an update from W Mackay regarding public benches in Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that W Mackay had provided the Community Payback Supervisor with an initial list of benches that required attention.
2. To note that W Mackay raised again that if the Community Council were to take over responsibility for the Council benches in Stromness, additional annual funding to cover the costs would be sought.
3. To note that the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) confirmed that:
 - The budget for Council benches sat within the Leisure budget.
 - That discussions were ongoing regarding the challenges of upkeeping benches and as yet there had been no Council decision or policy set.

H. Ness Campsite – Traffic Management

Following an update from the Chair and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that representatives from Stromness Community Council had met with representatives of the Education Service at Ness Campsite to give feedback on the proposed traffic management measures at the entrance to Ness Campsite.
2. That the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) confirmed that following that meeting he had met at the area with the Leader, Convener and Corporate Director of Education, Leisure and Housing for further discussion and was now investigating costs for additional speedbumps and following confirmation of the total cost would explore whether there was funding in place to proceed with speedbumps as the proposed traffic management measure.

Prior to the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) leaving the meeting, the following three items notified for Any Other Business were discussed.

5. Any Other Competent Business

A. Gates and Access Road to Market Green

Following a query regarding gates that were lying on the ground at the Market Green, it was:

Resolved that the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) would investigate what the situation was with the gates and request that the gates were rehinged.

B. Litter Bins removed from Squash Court/Football Changing Room Area

Following a query regarding litter bins that had been removed from the Squash Court/Football Changing Rooms, it was:

Resolved to note that the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) confirmed that the decision to remove the bins from this area had been taken as there was no funds in his budget to cover the cost of emptying the bins.

C. Difficulties with Filling Water Bottles in Football Changing Room, Market Green

A member raised the issue of difficulties filling water bottles in the football changing room due to the size and style of the sinks, which had become an issue following the removal of the outside tap that had previously been used and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) would investigate the situation and query what had happened to the outside tap.

The Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) left the meeting at this point.

6. Matters Arising (continued)

A. Emergency Services – Vehicular Access through Stromness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Police Scotland in response to the issues raised by Stromness Community Council regarding difficulties faced by the emergency services vehicular access through Stromness, it was:

Resolved to note that as a result of the issues raised, 19 tickets had been issued by Police Scotland since 26 March 2023.

B. GMB Memorial Garden – Volunteers to Tidy Garden for 2023

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the following individuals had volunteered to work on the GMB Memorial Garden for 2023:

- J Mowat.
- M Mowat.

- N MacPherson.
- M Sutherland.
- A Anderson.
- G Bevan (grass cutting).

C. Litter Bins/Lighting – Reported but not being Actioned

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the litter bins had been discussed at item 5b above.
2. To note that the issue with the light not being fixed had now been resolved.

D. Old Coplands Dock – Pillar Reinstatement

Resolved to note that no update had been received regarding this item and no work had been undertaken.

Councillor G Bevan joined the meeting at this point.

7. Correspondence

A. EMEC – Fall of Warness Tidal Test Centre

Following consideration of correspondence received from Marine Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Fall of Warness Tidal Test Centre, Variation of Consent under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 – Decision Notice, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Webb, Chair of the White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor L Hall would contact M Webb to invite him to attend the September meeting of Stromness Community Council to give a 10–15-minute presentation on the White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group.

C. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the approved Community Council Annual Grants, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Consultations

A. West of Orkney Windfarm – Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Notice

Following consideration of correspondence received from West of Orkney Windfarm, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the dates and venues for series of pre-application public consultation events, it was:

Resolved that the date and venue for the Stromness consultation was 25 May 2023 in the Robert Rendall Building.

B. Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 received from the Roads Support Officer, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should feedback the following:

1. The Priority 3 area at Grieveship West should be amended to a Priority 2 – concern was raised regarding the ability for ambulances to access this area as in the recent Winter period, while this area could be accessed there were difficulties for vehicles leaving the area without getting stuck.
2. For the same reasons, the Priority 3 area at Hillside Park should be upgraded as this had not been gritted at all during the recent Winter period. Residents in this area also used the services of Carers who had struggled to access/exit the area.
3. The Priority 3 area at Hamnavoe should be upgraded for the above reasons – as this area also housed a lot of elderly residents.
4. Was there a need to have the Car Park at Ferry Road marked as a Priority 1 area?
5. Yorston Drive needed to be added to the map.
6. The pavement from Stromness Swimming Pool along the road marked A965 required to be gritted as it had not been gritted at all during the winter.

9. Publication

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

10. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would investigate concerns raised regarding the potholes in the road to the Market Green from Cairston Road.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

Resolved to note that the Business Forum representative was not present to give an update.

C. Stromness Development Trust

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the Development Trust Annual General Meeting had been held on 27 April 2023.
2. To note that work was ongoing regarding the feasibility study and high-level business case for the community centre and once these were in place Stromness Development Trust would reengage with the Council regarding a takeover, if that were achievable.
3. To note that discussions had taken place with the Council and Sustrans regarding paths and the route from the Back Road via Faravel to the Museum had been identified and were looking for a way for the Council/Sustrans to take forward.
4. To note that 16 sail trainees had been successful in their application to participate in the tall ships event and that the number of tall ships to call into Stromness still needed to be confirmed.

11. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 4 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £6,925.12.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 4 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,562.72 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 2022/2023

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 4 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council Grant Scheme 2022/2023 had been fully allocated.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 4 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,524.04.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 4 May 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

12. Financial Requests - Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

A. Inverness Graded Meet – 1 April 2023

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards six Stromness swimmers attending the Inverness Graded Meet on 1 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 per swimmer, totalling £120, be given.

B. Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships – Aberdeen – 12-16 April 2023

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards one Stromness swimmer attending the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships 2023 in Aberdeen on 12-16 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

C. University of Aberdeen Long Course Meet – Aberdeen – 29-30 April 2023

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards two swimmers attending the University of Aberdeen Long Course Meet in Aberdeen on 29-30 April 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 per swimmer, totalling £40, be given.

D. Thurso Mini Meet

K Bevan declared an interest in this part of this item and, although did not leave the meeting, did not take part in any discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards 12 swimmers attending the Thurso Mini Meet on 6 May 2023, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 per swimmer, totalling £240, be given.

13. Any Other Competent Business (continued)

A. Additional Signage

A member raised concern regarding the number of motorhomes that drive through the street and, in some instances, get stuck and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would raise the issue with the Roads Section regarding the possibility of getting further signage erected so that rather than following SatNav directions, motorhome drivers followed the signs.

B. Kirk Buyout

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a public meeting had recently taken place by the newly formed Stromness Kirk Buy Out Group, whose aim was to try and buy the Kirk to secure its future for the people of Stromness.
2. To note that the cost for the building would be in the region of £65,000.
3. That the Clerk would write a letter of support to the Stromness Kirk Buy Out Group for their venture on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

C. Bank Lane Railings and Lampposts

A member had previously circulated an email raising concern regarding the condition of some of the railings and lampposts on Bank Lane and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section highlighting the concerns.

D. Vandalism

Following concerns raised by members regarding vandalism that had recently taken place at the rear of the Commercial Hotel, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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, 12 June 2023 at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:15.