

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness and via Teams on Monday, 18 May 2024 at 19:15

Present:

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, C Sinclair (via Teams) and W Mackay (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Park.
- H Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that an apology for absence had been received from D Harrold.

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 Health and Care Representative

Resolved that W Mackay was duly appointed as Health and Care Representative of Stromness Community Council.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2024 were approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by K Bevan.

4. Matters Arising

A. Garage Door

Following an update from K Bevan, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the contractor was behind schedule due to illness, but it was hopeful that the work would commence shortly.

B. Defibrillator

Resolved to note that D Fischler was not present to give an update.

C. Stromness Accessibility Improvements

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that following concerns raised by Stromness Community Council, the Council had, on this occasion, decided not to progress with the proposed island due to be placed at the bottom of the Back Road.

D. Stromness Harbour Group

Following an update from Councillor G Bevan, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That a meeting of the Stromness Harbour Group had been arranged for Wednesday, 23 May 2024.
2. That W Mackay would tender his apologies on this occasion but would be on the Group as the Stromness Community Council representative.

E. Kirkyard – Stones being removed from Dyke

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that no response had been received to concerns previously raised by the Community Council.
2. That the Clerk would also raise that further to the stones being removed, it had been observed that the wall beside the Old Gravediggers shed had been hit by something.

F. Road to Warebeth

Resolved to note that no response had been received to concerns previously raised and that information was awaited.

G. Sign to Warebeth Cemetery

Resolved to note that the relevant section was going to check the situation regarding signage and report back to the community council.

H. Safety Barrier Posts at Garson Burn

Resolved:

1. To note that no response had been received to concerns previously raised by the community council.
2. To note that a Council Official had been observed recently in the area taking photographs.

I. Field Formerly used by Pony Club

Resolved to note that, as no response had been received, the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would contact the relevant section for an update.

J. Road over Brinkies Brae

After consideration of correspondence received from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, read by the Clerk, regarding concerns previously raised about the amount

of rubbish on the road over Brinkies Brae, as well as the volume of cars using the road, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Head of Neighbourhood Services had responded that as Downie's Lane was not an adopted road no litter bins would be put in that area.
2. To note that while other Community Councils were able to provide assistance to individuals who had issues with potholes on unadopted roads, Stromness Community Council did not receive additional funding to utilise for that purpose.
3. To note that the Clerk would ascertain whether funds from the Community Council Grant Scheme could be used to assist with the issue of potholes on Downie's Lane.

K. Bins Update

After consideration of correspondence received from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, read by the Clerk, it was:

Resolved to note that the section was taking action to ensure that litter bins in Stromness were, as far as possible, where they needed to be.

L. Private Matter Raised at Previous Meeting

Resolved to note that as no response had been received, the Clerk would contact the relevant section for an update.

5. Correspondence

A. Invitation to Create Local Place Plans

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Team Manager (Development Planning), copies of which had been circulated, regarding an invitation issued to communities to create a Local Place Plan for their area, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that based on timescales for preparing the Local Development Plan, Local Place Plans should be submitted no later than 31 March 2025.
2. To note that in 2019, the 10-year Local Place Plan, What's Next for Stromness, was developed by the Community Council, Stromness Development Trust and the Council.
3. That this item would be added to the agenda for the September meeting for further discussion.

B. Application for Variance of Licence for Licensed Premise

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Licensing Board, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an application for variance of premises licence for the Ferry Inn, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that Stromness Community Council were fully in favour of the proposal and anything that brought more trade into Stromness was welcome.

C. VAO Membership 2024/2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from VAO, copies of which had been circulated, regarding renewing membership for 2024/2025, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to renew the membership subscription of VAO for 2024/2025 at a cost of £15.

D. Cross Park Group on Islands and NIP Review Consultation Analysis

Following consideration of correspondence received from Scottish Islands Federation, copies of which had been circulated, regarding a Cross-Party Group online meeting due to be held on Wednesday, 22 May 2024, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that K Bevan would attend on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

E. Invitation to Attend Focus Discussion Group – SFRS National Consultation

Following consideration of an invitation to attend an online meeting regarding the SFRS National Consultation Focussed Discussion Group to be held on 15 May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that no Community Council members were available to attend.

F. Grieveship Residents Association AGM – 29 May 2024

Following consideration of correspondence received from Grieveship Residents Association, copies of which had been circulated, regarding attendance of a Stromness Community Council representative at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 29 May 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that none of the four members attending the meeting were able to attend on that date.
2. That the Clerk would contact the two remaining members to see if either of them could attend.

6. Consultations

A. SEPA – Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVA) Consultation

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

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation on Potential Vulnerable Areas were required by 24 June 2024.

B. OIC Housing Survey

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

Resolved:

1. To note that responses to the consultation seeking local views on a strategy for housing in Orkney were required by 29 April 2024.
2. That, although the date for views had past, the Vice Chair would email issues raised by Stromness Community Council.

C. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say

Following consideration of correspondence received from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that responses to the consultation seeking views on Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say were required by 30 June 2024.
2. That this item would be added to the agenda for the June for further discussion.

D. Review of Orkney Local Development Plan

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Team Manager (Development Planning), copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that questionnaires were available seeking views on the Local Development Plan from members of the public and stakeholders which were required by 30 September 2024.
2. That the Clerk should invite representatives from the Housing and Planning services to a meeting of Stromness Community Council in October/November 2024 to further discuss housing concerns in Stromness.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, left the meeting at this point.

7. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

8. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

Resolved to note that no MARS issues had been logged with the Council.

B. Stromness Development Trust

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the Trust were still waiting feedback from the Council regarding the Community Centre.
2. To note that funding for the Development Officer was being sought, as the funding for the position ends next year.
3. To note that a Stromness Business Forum EGM was due to be held on 21 May 2024 to appoint new officer bearers and to discuss how the Forum could continue, where one of the proposals was to join forces with Stromness Development Trust.

9. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £14,074.74.

B. Donations Account 2023/2024

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 30 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,589.72 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 2023/2024

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024 had been fully allocated.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 30 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £6,524.04.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 30 April 2024, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that at the meeting held on 21 August 2023, it had been agreed to apply for funding for A Stromness Stroll on behalf of Stromness Development Trust for the remaining Seed Corn Funding sum of £340.03, which had subsequently been agreed by the Council in November 2023.
2. That the Clerk would contact Stromness Development Trust to see if they were in receipt of an invoice for the project.

10. Financial Requests

A. M Kirkpatrick – Scottish National Age Group Championships – 11 to 14 April 2024

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending SNAGs in April 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

B. M Kirkpatrick – University of Aberdeen Age Group Championships – 26 to 28 April 2024

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the University of Aberdeen Age Group Championships on 26 to 28 April 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

C. Stromness Shopping Week – Firework Display

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Shopping Week, requesting financial assistance towards the Stromness Shopping Week 2024 Firework Display, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £1,500 should be awarded from the Community Council Grant Scheme towards the Stromness Shopping Week Firework Display 2024.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. PA System

The Chair raised issues that had been experienced with the PA system at the recent RNLI event, and queried the possibility of purchasing a new community PA System, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that K Bevan would seek guidance and get quotes for a new PA system.

B. Canopy - RNLI

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that following the success of the RNLI volunteers erecting and dismantling the canopy and staging at the recent RNLI event, they had agreed that, for a donation towards the RNLI, they could be called upon to assist other groups with the stage area.

2. To note that whether it should be the Community Council or the relevant organisation that was responsible for the RNLI donation would be agreed by Stromness Community Council members on a case-by-case basis.

C. Stromness Community Council Election

Resolved:

1. To note that the election to fill the vacant seats on Stromness Community Council could be held in September 2024.

2. That the vacancies should be advertised in August prior to the elections taking place.

D. ORIC Planning Proposal

The Planning Representative raised the recent ORIC Planning Application that had been on the planning lists, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair would write a letter highlighting concerns raised.

2. That the Clerk should invite J McGlynn (Executive Director, ORIC), to the next meeting to be held on 17 June 2024.

E. OIC Planning Lists

A member raised issues that had occurred when accessing the online weekly planning lists, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department requesting the section revert back to issuing the PDF document.

F. OIC Planning Website

A member raised issues regarding some planning applications online that had no documents or plans attached to the application, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section and highlight the concerns raised.

G. Stromness Leaflet

The Chair gave thanks to those involved with the new Stromness Town Map leaflet, which was available in paper form and online, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. What's On Board

The Chair raised issues with organisations/individuals not removing their advertisement from the What's On Board once the date had past, or adverts that were over a long period of time, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That it should be encouraged for individuals to remove their advert once the event had taken place.
2. That posters could be placed on top of long-term adverts and then removed again once the event had taken place.

12. 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, 17 June 2024 at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:35.