

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Tuesday, 9 October 2018 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Stockan.
- One member of the press.
- S Craigie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies were intimated on behalf of E Knight.

2. Police Matters

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report at this time.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 12 March 2018 was approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by J Park, subject to the following amendments at paragraph 12A:

- That the surname “Allerdyce” be replaced with “Allardyce”.
- That the word “photos” be replaced with “original slides”.
- That the final bullet point should read “That the digital images taken from the original slides be sold with the proceeds being split between the Community Council and Stromness Museum”.

4. Matters Arising

A. Scottish Water Legacy

The Chair informed members that the £5,000 donation that was to go towards the new playpark at Guardhouse Park had been received and was being held in the Sea Haven account meantime, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

B. Street Cleaning following Local Events

The Chair advised members there was no update to report meantime as he had had no contact from Orkney Folk Festival. The Stromness Community Business Forum representative advised members that the Forum were to have a meeting with representatives from Orkney Islands Council’s Waste Section, together with Orkney Folk Festival members and hotel representatives, where street cleaning following local events would be discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Stromness Community Business Forum representative would update members following the Business Forum meeting.

C. Bonfire Night – Arrangements

Resolved that this item be deferred until later in the meeting.

D. Tree Lighting Ceremony

Resolved that this item be deferred until later in the meeting.

E. Removal of Redundant Street Lighting

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, which was read to members by the Chair, in regard to issues raised by SCC, it was:

Resolved to note the following:

- That the Council would be writing to those affected in advance of the works to inform them of the proposals.
- That the removal of the lights was not imminent and the correspondence the Community Council had received was to inform them of the long-term plans.
- That it was the responsibility of the owners of the lands or properties to light private areas.
- That the Council would leave the infrastructure in place if the residents so wished where it would then be up to the resident to arrange for the power supply, maintenance or upgrade as required.

F. Stromness Community Council Flag

Resolved to note that Councillor Stockan had returned the Stromness Community Council flag, therefore, there were now two Stromness Community Council flags, one of which was serviceable.

G. Eventide Club Door – Deterioration

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, which was read by the Chair, in regard to the poor condition of the Eventide Club Door and who was responsible for it, it was:

Resolved to note that it was believed that Harbours were responsible for the Eventide Club and the repair would be reported to the helpdesk for action by the appropriate section.

H. GMB Gardens

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, which was read to members by the Chair, in regard to grass cutting at the seated area beside the GMB garden, it was resolved:

1. To note that grass cutting at the seated area beside the GMB garden had not been carried out as the area could not be accessed while the Scottish Water work was being carried out.
2. To note that the grass cutting in this area would be done as normal again next year.

I. Information Signs – Deterioration

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, which was read to members by the Chair, regarding the poor condition of the Information Signs throughout Stromness, it was:

Resolved to note that Democratic Services were to contact Development and Marine Planning who were responsible for maintenance.

5. Benches at Pierhead

The Chair advised members that two of the four benches at the pier head had been repainted and one replaced by the Criminal Justice team. The order had gone through for the additional paint to enable the fourth bench to be painted. It was hoped that there would be enough paint left over to enable another couple of benches to be painted in the future. As the broken bench had now been replaced by Criminal Justice, the requirement to look into purchasing recycled plastic benches was not as urgent. However, it was felt that this was a good aspiration to have.

A member raised whether the new bench that had been placed where the Scottish Water work had been done should be moved temporarily prior to Halloween as the bench was not yet bolted in place, to avoid any temptation for it to be moved. The Chair and J Mackay stated that they would arrange for this to be done, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Correspondence

A. Democratic Services – Community Conversations Report

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding feedback sourced at the last Community Council Conference, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the feedback.

B. Democratic Services – Parking at Town House, Stromness

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services regarding parking at the Town House, Stromness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that while it was felt by members that there was ample room for additional spaces between those marked on the plan, it was good to see the two extra parking spaces at the Town House, Stromness.

C. Consultation Document – Verge Maintenance Plan 2018

After consideration of a consultation document on the Verge Maintenance Plan 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses for comment should be returned by 15 March 2019 via the Clerk.

D. Update on Headstone Inspection Process

After consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services giving an update on the headstone inspection progress at Orkney Cemeteries, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members the following issues had been reported recently:

- Loose flagstones at North exit Pier Arts Centre and outside Moar Hair Care.
- Lights at the pedestrian crossing at Co-op.
- Footpath along South side of School Playing fields the last Lamp Post at Garson Road end.
- Garson Way Lamp Post at Orkney Fishermen's Society intermittently off/on.
- Ditch blocked resulting in flooding on the road at the southwest side of Brownstown to Wardhill Road at the 30 miles per hour signs.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative informed members that a follow up meeting was still to be arranged with the Council's Waste Section where a range of topics will be discussed including:

- Street cleaning following festivals.
- Garson Recycling Centre.
- Recycling in general for businesses.

A meeting was also to be arranged regarding Cruise ships and how this had impacted on local business throughout the season especially those situated at the Pier Head.

An ICIT student discount scheme would be trialled for the 35 students based in Stromness as they were not eligible for the UHI student discount scheme.

She confirmed that the Christmas tree had been ordered and also informed members that the Bonanza would start on 17 November. Mulled Wine Sunday was yet to be confirmed but would either be 18 or 25 November. Super Saturday would be on 1 December, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members that had been a successful drop in session where good feedback had been gained in support of the Development Officer. The Trust is in the process of putting together LEADER funding for this position.

Other issues that had been raised at the drop-in session were:

- Taking Empty or under used Council property into community ownership.
- Opening times of Stromness Swimming Pool and Health and Fitness Suite.
- Regeneration and development of the Marwicks and the Market Green.

The Trust representative agreed to share with SCC the full report from the drop-in session once this was available.

The representative went on to highlight the huge success of the Skyran Moon which had been an extremely popular event bringing the community together in support. He confirmed that SDT would send a letter of thanks to Joanna Buick.

Funding for the Stromness Yule Log had been secured again from EventScotland's Winter Festival Funding and a press release would be released shortly giving details.

Regarding Christmas Lights, the representative confirmed that he had been in contact with Colin Begley, of HUS Architecture and Design, who was willing to draw up an outline proposal which would look at the constraints, the possibilities, and planning for what might be possible for the new Christmas lights. The Trust were willing to fund this to get the ball rolling. Once they had received the outline proposal this would then go out for public consultation.

The Chair suggested that the Trust should let the public know prior to the Christmas Lighting Ceremony that it was unlikely that the new Christmas lights would be ready for this year. The representative confirmed that there was another SDT meeting at the end of the month and he would bring this suggestion up, and it was:

Resolved to that this be noted.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

The Playpark Sub-committee representative informed members that there had been a meeting on 13 September where, following consultation and feedback received, the Sub-committee had agreed to go ahead with the proposals.

Work was ongoing for funding applications to LEADER and the Community Development Trust. There was an Agreement in Principle from Orkney Islands Council for the lease required to progress the application. With the funding from the Gunn Viewpoint and if successful with the funding applications from LEADER and CDF, there would still be a £3,000 shortfall. Other funding avenues were being explored to bridge the shortfall, and it was:

Resolved to note that this be noted.

8. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Account

After consideration of the Community Council's General Finance Statement as at 26 September 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £4,259.06.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 26 September 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 2018-2019 as at 26 September 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 26 September 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 26 September 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Orkney Gymnastics Club – Banff – September 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 Banff on 21 and 23 September 2018, on the motion of K Bevan, seconded by G Deans, 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 Banff on 21 and 23 September 2018, totalling £52.

B. Police Scotland Youth Volunteers Orkney

After consideration of an application received from Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, copies of which had been circulated, for financial support towards an Emergency Services Fund Day to be held on 7 October 2018 as part of fundraising towards PSYV's pledge to raise £10,000 for the Orkney Drugs Dog Charity, on the motion of G Deans, seconded by J Mowat, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £100 be awarded to Police Scotland Youth Volunteers fundraising event to be held on 7 October 2018.

C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Thurso Open – September 2018

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards eight swimmers attending the Thurso Open on 15 and 16 September 2018, on the motion of K Bevan, seconded by G Deans, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the eight swimmers residing in the Stromness area from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the Thurso Open in September 2018, totalling £104.

D. P4 Football Trip – Ellon – September 2018

After consideration of an application received from P4 Footballers, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards six footballers attending an event in Ellon on 1 and 2 September 2018, on the motion of K Bevan, seconded by G Deans, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the six footballers residing in the Stromness area from P4 Footballers attending an event in Ellon in September 2018, totalling £78.

E. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Scottish National Bronze Squad Training Aberdeen – September 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 Scottish National Bronze Squad Training held in Aberdeen in September 2018, on the motion of K Bevan, seconded by G Deans, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to one swimmer, residing in the Stromness area, attending the Scottish National Bronze Squad Training held in Aberdeen in September 2018.

F. Scotland Regional Competition – Cabin Equestrian Centre, Inverurie - October 2018

After consideration of an application received from Liz Foubister on behalf of her daughter, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards her daughter attending the Scotland Regional Competition to be held in Inverurie on 27 and 28 October 2018, on the motion of K Bevan, seconded by G Deans, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to the one Stromness resident attending the Scotland Regional Competition to be held in Inverurie in October 2018.

10. Publications

Resolved to note there were no publications.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Bonfire Night – Arrangements

Following discussion regarding arrangements that were required for Bonfire Night, it was resolved:

1. To note that the proposed day to erect the bonfire was Saturday, 3 November 2018 at 10:00.
2. That the Clerk would circulate the list of arrangements and who had undertaken the various roles.
3. That 20 new collection buckets and lids should be purchased by Stromness Community Council which, as well as for SCC use, could be used by the community if needed.

B. Tree Lighting Ceremony

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was resolved:

1. To note that the date will be Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 18:00.
2. That the Clerk would circulate the list of arrangements and who had undertaken the various roles, together with a copy of last year's programme of events for information.
3. That the Clerk should make enquiries about getting eight tall orange cones to be used during the lighting ceremony.

C. Minutes of Meetings

A member advised that she had checked and the last copy of minutes available for public inspection at the Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, was dated 30 October 2017, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would:

1. Arrange for copies of the minutes from 30 October 2017 onwards to be forwarded to Warehouse Buildings.
2. Contact Democratic Services highlighting that the last Stromness Community Council minute available on Orkney Islands Council's website was dated 8 May 2017 and request that this be updated.

D. Community Resilience Planning and Asset Register

Following on from the email circulated on 20 September 2018, the Community Resilience Planning representative advised members that they were now looking for dates for a workshop and he would report back further, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

E. GMB Garden

A member advised that that there was a substantial amount of daffodil bulbs left over and following discussion, it was resolved:

1. To note that suggested areas for the additional bulbs to be planted were:

- Bottom of Downie's Lane.
- New Old Folks Home.
- Back of the Stage Area.
- Guardhouse Park Playpark.

2. That the GMB Lead Member would contact Stromness Primary School and the Junior Youth Club to see if they would be interested in taking this on as a project.

F. Orkney Housing Association Limited – Annual General Meeting

A member reported that he had attended the 33rd Annual General Meeting of Orkney Housing Association Limited on 19 September 2018, which was then followed by a talk by Mike Cooper, Orkney Care and Repair, on Celebrating 30 years of Improving Homes and Improving Lives in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

G. Stromness Fountain

A member informed the meeting that she had recently been approached by a member of the public regarding the poor state of the flower bed of the fountain, and it was:

Resolved to note that the maintenance and upkeep of the flower bed at the fountain had recently been undertaken by two Stromness residents.

H. Adopted Roads

After hearing a report from Councillor J Stockan regarding adopted roads and the challenges faced by, for example, refuse collections, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Clerk should contact Democratic Services, in the first instance, to ascertain what roads are adopted in the Stromness area and what are not.

I. New Stromness Old Folks Home

Councillor Stockan informed members that now that the new Stromness Old Folk's Home was wind and watertight, Stromness Community Council members had been invited to view the property, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Orkney Builders to ascertain possible dates for the site visit to take place.

J. Ferry Services Contract

The Chair suggested to members that now the ferry services contract was up for tender, it would be a good time to write to Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, highlighting, the following concerns:

- That the lifeline service remained in Stromness.
- That there were three sailings per day.
- That it was written into the contract that a suitable/similar vessel was available for the route during the refit period.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Stromness Community Council, together with Stromness Community Business Forum and Stromness Development Trust, would write to Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport and Connectivity, together with Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, highlighting the above concerns.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 November 2018 at 19:00 in the Town House, Stromness.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 20:45.