

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 19 August 2024 at 19:00

Present:

Mrs S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr D Blyth, Mr S Hourston, Rev D Locke (via Teams) and L Martini-Brown (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Seaton.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 25 March 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Mr D Blyth.

3. Election of Office Bearers

Resolved that this be deferred to the next meeting of Stronsay Community Council.

4. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that a Teams meeting with officers from Orkney Islands Council and the Clerk had taken place and requests had been received from the Assistant Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council Crown Estates Community Led Development Fund, for progress updates on the Play Park Project, and that communication was on-going between the Team Manager – Sport and Leisure and officers following which a further meeting would be reconvened, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Scrap Vehicles

Members heard that since the last Stronsay Community Council meeting all five places for disposal of vehicles under the Scrap Car Scheme had been allocated and removed and following consideration members agreed to reopen the scheme for a further six vehicles. Members also considered using an alternative disposal provider, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That if delays continued in disposing of the vehicles alternative arrangements would be reconsidered.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024

Members heard that following further consultation, no suggestions had been forwarded for additional salt bins and that Orkney Islands Council had been made aware of this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Voluntary Action Orkney – Small Grants Scheme

Members heard that the application submitted to Voluntary Action Orkney Small Grants Scheme had been unsuccessful due to the “overwhelming number of submissions”, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. King's Portrait Scheme

Members heard that a framed portrait of King Charles 111 had been ordered and received and given to Stronsay Community Association for display in the Community Centre, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Leaquoy Cemetery

Members heard that their concern over the condition of the ground in the Leaquoy cemetery and a request for the installation of gravel or concrete pathways had been forwarded to the Burial Grounds Officer who would assess the condition of the ground nearer the time the cemetery was due to come into use, and that there were no plans to install paths, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Matpow Sluice

Members heard that Roads had confirmed they were aware of the damage to the Matpow sluice and were looking at the best option to proceed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Vat O Kirbuster Footpath Gates

Members heard that in response to a request from the officer who deals with Core Paths and outdoor access, tenders had been invited to repair and apply wood preservative to the Vat O Kirbuster gates and that work had subsequently been completed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Rothiesholm Beach Car Park Road

Members heard that aggregates had been provided by Stronsay Community Council and that the Access Officer, Roads had arranged for the Isles Operative to fill in the potholes on the Rothiesholm beach road, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Lifeboat Slipway

Members heard that following email liaison between officers and Stronsay Community Council, an officer from Building Standards visited the lifeboat slipway and concluded no further action was necessary at the present time by them but that members could probably engage with the slipway owners to discuss their concern, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. Daffodils on Verges Proposal

Members considered a proposal to once again offer residents free daffodil bulbs for planting in verges, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members agreed to the purchase of three, twenty-five-kilogram nets of daffodils to be issued free of charge to residents to plant in a verge in front of their property, subject to Community Council Grant funding approval.
2. That the Clerk would organise the purchase and distribution of daffodil bulbs.

L. TRI-CE Meeting

Members heard that the Community Learning, Development and Employability Service Manager had offered TRI-CE meetings to get the Community Association, Community Council and the Development Trust working better together and coordinate their work, and it was:

Resolved members felt there was no need to participate in TRI-CE meetings as the Community Council was already represented on the Development Trust and Community Association.

5. Community Resilience Plan

Members had previously been consulted about updating information held on the Stronsay Community Resilience Plan, and with additions given at the meeting, the Stronsay Community Resilience Plan will be updated, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Armistice Day

Members heard that it was tradition for an ex-service person to be invited to lay a wreath, on behalf of the community, at the Stronsay war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and it was

Resolved that the ex-service person who laid the wreath at the Stronsay war memorial on Remembrance Sunday in 2012 would be invited to lay the wreath once again.

7. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that an invoice had been received for the removal of the old hoist, that invoices had been received for electricity usage between 21 January and 21 July 2024, and the electricity supplier had offered to fit a smart meter, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. That payment for the removal of the old hoist would be from the Stronsay slaughterhouse account.

B. That a smart meter had been declined as it would not be possible to include a coin operated facility currently used by slaughterhouse users.

8. Fish Mart Report

Due to the sensitive content of the following item, it was held in committee.

Members heard that the Fish Mart Subgroup had met with the operators to discuss maintenance issues and requests for new items, including a wheelie bin. Occupancy figures for the last two quarters had been received and forwarded to members.

The terms of the lease had been discussed, along with responsibility regarding planned closures. Broadband, telephone and hydro contracts were discussed and a transfer of £2,000 from the general fund to the Stronsay Community Council account had been agreed to meet future direct debit payments.

Members had also been previously consulted and had agreed to purchase a new fridge for use in the Hostel kitchen and to dispose of the old one in August's special collection. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That the operators would be asked for a schedule of the 2024 Café and Hostel opening and closing dates and of income for the year.

C. That the Clerk would request a wheelie bin for use at the Fish Mart.

D. That the Clerk would request advice on insurance cover.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative's Report

A report on the activities of Stronsay Development Trust Members had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That information on the late submission of the Trust's accounts to OSCR and the selection process for finding a tenant for Beechwood would be requested from the Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative

B. Transport Representative's Report

Members heard that the Transport Representative would be attending the Transport Forum meetings scheduled for the following day, and news from Councillor Thompson was that the Orkney Ferries new booking system was up and running and would be on their new system in October.

Members also heard construction of the new airfield buildings would commence that week, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Planning Representative's Report

Members had previously been notified of three planning applications, ref 24/130/APN, 24/061/PP and 24/136/PP, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Chair's Report

Members heard that the Chair, representing Stronsay Community Council, had attended a Fire and Rescue meeting where wildfires and flooding were discussed, a NHS Orkney meeting to discuss changes to the Health Board and Aberdeen hospital appointments, and a Community Council Chairs meeting where developing plans for isles communities and fuel poverty issues were discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

10. Consultations

A. SEPA - Potential Vulnerable Areas

Members had previously been forwarded information on Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVA) Consultation, and it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the information on Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVA) Consultation.

B. Orkney Islands Council Housing Survey

Members had previously been forwarded, and responded to Consultation – Orkney Island Council Housing Survey, with responses requested before 29 April 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had forwarded members' responses on 28 April 2024.

C. Transport Scotland – Islands Connectivity Plan

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Consultation on Transport Scotland's Islands Connectivity Plan giving dates and venues of session in Orkney, and in response to a forwarded comment from members, an additional session was arranged to accommodate members from the North Isles, which one member attended and subsequently gave email feedback to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service National Public Consultation

Members had previously been forwarded information on a consultation being run by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which ended on 30 June 2024, and members heard that the Chair had attended and had given feedback, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Review of the Orkney Local Development Plan

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence regarding Consultations-Review of the Orkney Local Development Plan, open until 30 September 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note members had no comment to make on the Consultation – Review of the Orkney Local Development Plan.

F. Review of Gambling Policy – Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

Members had previously been forwarded information on Consultation – Review of Gambling Policy – Orkney Islands Area Licensing, closing on 28 June 2024, and it was:

Resolved that members had had no comment to make on the Review of Gambling Policy consultation.

G. Stronsay – OM2 Event

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Stronsay Orkney Matters 2 Event, held in the Stronsay Community Centre on 2 July which members heard the Chair and seven other residents attended and at which suggestions were made on Orkney matters, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. 20mph Engagement with Community Councils

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding new 20mph extents, with comments requested by 19 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note members' comments had been forwarded for submission on 11 July 2024.

I. Water Safety Questionnaire

Members had previously been forwarded the Consultation – Water Safety Questionnaire with a closing date of 11 August 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guide

Members had previously been forwarded the consultation information on the Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance, running from 1 August to 25 October 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. National Care Service

Members had previously been forwarded information on Consultation – National Care Service, with responses requested by the 30 September 2024 deadline, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

11. Correspondence

A. Obstruction in Mill Bay

Members had previously been consulted over an obstruction in Mill Bay and the action taken to remove this and a named contact to address any future concern, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. SEPA – Disrupting Criminal Dumpers

Members had previously been forwarded information on SEPA's campaign against waste criminals, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. SEPA – Scottish Waste From All Sources

Members had previously been forwarded information on how recycling is progressing across Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Local Place Plan

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Team Manager – Development Planning, inviting communities the opportunity to create a local place plan, and it was:

Resolved to carry the Local Place Plan to the next agenda where it could be considered in more detail.

E. The Orkney Traditional Music Project

Members had previously been forwarded a request to fund refreshments at an Orkney Traditional Music Project held on 9 June 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to fund refreshments for the Orkney Traditional Music Project event held in Stronsay on 9 June 2024.

F. Special Sailing Request

Members had previously been asked to request a special sailing from Kirkwall to Stronsay on 21 April 2024 to accommodate a charity fundraising event, and it was:

Resolved that members had agreed the Clerk should request a special sailing from Kirkwall to Stronsay on 21 April 2024.

G. Do You have Your Parish Ready For D-Day 80?

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from Royal British Legion Industries regarding their new D-Day 80th Anniversary decorative collection, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Community Council – Invite to Attend a Focused Discussion Group

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to attend the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service public pre-consultation exercise titled 'Shaping Our Future: Your Say', and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. New Orkney Ferries Booking System

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from the Service Manager (Ferry Operations) regarding the Orkney ferries new booking system, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Annual Grant 2024/2025

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence regarding the Annual Grants for 2024/2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Digital Voice Roadshow – July 2024

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from a Graduate Trainee (Digital Engagement and Enterprise) to two drop-in sessions hosted by BT relating to the change from analogue to digital phone services scheduled for completion in January 2027, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

L. Permission for Plaques as Part of the New Stronsay Heritage Trail

Members had previously been consulted on a request from the Stronsay Heritage Society for permission and support to erect a plaque on the Fish Mart and slaughterhouse as part of a new Heritage Trail in Whitehall Village, and that this had been forwarded to the owners of the Fish Mart for comment, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members had no objection to a plaque being placed on the slaughterhouse and Fish Mart.
2. That the comments from the Fish Mart owners were forwarded to the Stronsay Heritage Society.

M. Loganair – Inter Island Boarding Cards

Members had previously been forwarded information from Loganair regarding the issuing of boarding cards, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

N. Footpath Obstruction

Members had previously been consulted about an obstruction to the public footpath in front of 4 Whitehall and that following liaison with Housing, members were asked to volunteer to remove the obstruction and request a donation from Housing for the clearance work, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To note that Housing were happy to approve a contribution to Stronsay Community Council for removing the footpath obstruction, but that this had yet to be received.

O. Expressions of Thanks

Members heard that a letter of thanks had been sent to the Clerk for removing the footpath obstruction in front of 4 Whitehall and a resident who had benefited from travel grants had emailed thanks, both of which had been forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

P. St Peter and St Nicholas Burial Grounds

Members had previously been consulted about inviting local farmers to graze sheep in the St Peter and St Nicholas Kirkyards, both of which were overgrown and do not get included in the grass cutting tenders, and that there had been no objection to this from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That members had agreed to local farmers being invited to graze sheep and letters had been sent to two farmers inviting them to graze sheep in the St. Peter and St. Nicholas Kirkyards.

Q. Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Attendance at Community Council Meetings

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, regarding attendance at Community Council meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

R. Safety of Lithium Batteries on e-Bikes and e-Scooters

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from a researcher and parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, regarding a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence on the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters.

S. SSEN - £3m Community Fund

Members had previously been forwarded information from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks inviting applications to its new Powering Communities to Net Zero fund, and that at the request of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks this had been publicised locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

T. Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum Meetings – 20 August 2024

Members had previously been included in correspondence sent to Community Council Transport Representatives regarding the Air and Ferry Consultative Forum Meetings scheduled for 20 August 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

U. Ferry Replacement Programme Update

Members had previously been forwarded an update on the ferry replacement programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

V. Island Transport Services

Members heard the Chair had received correspondence from the Managing Director and Co-Founder, Bayview Transport Limited, and a précis of its contents was shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the Managing Director and Co-Founder, Bayview Transport Limited, had written to the Chair and a response would be forwarded in due course.

W. Orkney Towns Fund Workshop

Members had previously been emailed an invite to a workshop to discuss and contribute to the allocation of the £20 million Orkney Towns Fund, and members heard the allocated money was for Kirkwall and surrounding areas for projects that were going to benefit most in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the event had taken place on 18 July.

12. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 July 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £10,500.14.
2. That members had previously been consulted and agreed to transfer £2,000 from the General Finance Account to the Stronsay Community Council Account.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 22 July 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £13,720.65.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 22 July 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,554.15.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 July 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £2,509.76.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 22 July 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,723.40.

F. Annual Accounts – Year Ended 31 March 2024

Members had been forwarded the year end accounts for financial year 2023/2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the year end accounts.

13. Publications

The following publications had been forwarded to members and were noted:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – February, March, April, May and June 2024.
- Farm Diversification Drop in Event – 2 May 2024.
- Loganair passenger Statistics for April 2024.
- Loganair Inter Island Flight Statistics for Year.

14. Any other Competent Business

A. Ferry Service – A Clash of Interest

Members heard that Orkney Ferries had been unable to provide a return service to Stronsay on Sunday 4 August 2024, after the Orkney Vintage Show, as the ferry had been assigned to North Ronaldsay, and it was

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. The Transport Representative would request an avoidance of a similar occurrence in future years.

B. Haulage Meeting

Members heard that numerous attempts had been made to meet with a representative from the haulage company serving Stronsay, to discuss issues that had been brought to members' attention, and that the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications had agreed to chair this, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk would pursue a convenient date for a meeting to discuss haulage issues pertinent to Stronsay.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Stronsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 7 October 2024 commencing at 19:00 in the Stronsay Community Centre.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:56.