

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 25 January 2021 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- M Spence, Democratic Services Manager, Orkney Islands Council.
- Temporary Sergeant H Moonie, Police Scotland
- 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 intimated on behalf of E Knight.

2. Police Matters

The Police Scotland Officer updated members that due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, Police Scotland have had to adapt how they work – such as all calls made to the police are now risk assessed. Officers have a non-attendance policy. However, if officers did attend, they wore PPE as it cannot be guaranteed that the recommended two metre distance can be adhered to.

He went on to say that, in general, Orkney residents were very good at following the rules. He also confirmed that the ferry companies also challenge members of the public as to the reasons for travelling. He continued that members of the public had also been good at contacting Police Scotland to report breaches of regulations. All alleged breaches were investigated and, at present, 8 formal warnings, together with 7 fixed penalties had been issued.

All training was currently cancelled, although some taser training had been able to go ahead locally during the previous week.

He reported that there had been an increase of controlled substances arriving in the county through the post. Police Scotland had been working closely with Orkney Drugs Dog and had seized a number of substances with a value of around £60,000.

The Police Scotland Officer went on to highlight that the White Ribbon charity were currently recruiting volunteers. Events would be online with training given.

Regarding Stromness matters – the Police Scotland Officer raised the disabled parking near the John Rae statue where it had been reported that residents were parking in the disabled space. The Police Scotland Officer confirmed that this would result in fixed penalty notices being issued.

Vandalism to a number of vehicle mirrors had also been reported recently and the Police Scotland Officer urged members of the public to get in touch if they had any information which could help the ongoing enquiry.

Following a query from a member, the Police Scotland Officer confirmed that due to current restrictions Police Scotland were unable to hold their Monday afternoon surgeries at the Warehouse Buildings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Police Scotland Officer left the meeting at this point.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 was approved, being proposed by J Park and seconded to P McLaughlin, subject to the following amendment:

- The Date of the Next Meeting should read Monday, 25 January 2021.

4. Matters Arising

A. Keith Allardyce Hobbs – Proposed Public Memorial Bench

Following an update from J Park, it was:

Resolved to note that:

- That a quote had been received for a plastic bench.
- That the wording for the plaque should be simply Name/Dates/Profession.

B. Defibrillator

Resolved to note:

1. That the defibrillator had been purchased and installed at Stromness Swimming Pool.
2. That Stromness Community Council had taken on responsibility for the costs associated with the defibrillator's maintenance, which would be due every 5 years, at a cost in the region of £200-£300.

W Mackay joined the meeting at this point.

C. Old Lifeboat Shed, Point of Ness

Following consideration of correspondence received from C MacLeod, Chair of Stromness Golf Club, regarding concerns raised regarding the safety of the Old Lifeboat Shed, Point of Ness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk contact the Chair of Orkney Golf Club indicating Stromness Community Council's support in terms of moral support for Stromness Golf Club with their endeavours with the Old Lifeboat Shed, Point of Ness.

D. Benches

Following an update from W Mackay, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would contact Community Justice to arrange for several benches identified by W Mackay to be taken in for refurbishment.
2. To note that W Mackay had identified 6 benches that should be taken out of service.
3. That the Clerk would contact the relevant department to ask for clarification on the situation regarding repairing or replacing damaged benches which are in Council ownership.

4. To note that W Mackay had received a quote for plastic benches and would be seeking funding from CCGS when discussed later in the meeting, if members were agreeable.

E. Mars – Electric Car Spaces

Members considered correspondence received from the Roads Support Manager, copies of which had been circulated, advising that the usage of the EV charge points was monitored and that in the previous 10 months, there had been a reduction in the usage. He also advised that the charge points in question had been installed using grant funding from the Scottish Government and that it would not be possible to cover the chargers as these bays should only be available to electric vehicles. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Welcome to Stromness Sign

Following an update from the Chair, and following discussion of possible places for the sign to be moved to, it was:

Resolved that this item be kept on the agenda for further consideration.

G. Christmas Tree Lights

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the lights of the Stromness Christmas Tree being switched on earlier than 16:00 on Saturdays and Sundays, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Roads Service Manager assumed that the controller for the time is within the control pillar.
2. To note that Democratic Services had made a note to check this again at the beginning of the 2021 festive season.

H. Standing Water – Church Road to Sutherland's Chemist

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Roads Support Manager, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the issue of water standing from the bottom of Church Road to outside Sutherland's Chemist, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department highlighting:

1. That there used to be a drain in the area where there is now a problem with the surface water and whether this could be looked into being reinstated.
2. That, in addition to the standing water, there were a number of loose paving slabs along the street.

5. Correspondence

A. Project Updates - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm

Following consideration of correspondence received from Xodus Group, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence, which included:

- Updates with regards to the company information and the naming of the development.
- The submission of the Scoping Report to Marine Scotland.
- Updates to the project scope.

B. Catenary Wires for Festive Lighting Festoons

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Roads Support Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Council's Roads and Environmental Service's maintenance and erection of catenary wires which carry the festive lighting festoons that are erected in Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that due to COVID pressures it had not been possible for the Council to address failed anchor points prior to the festive period.
2. To note that four catenary wires had failed in Stromness.
3. To note that a review would be carried out early in 2021 year with works planned and programmed over the summer in advance of the 2021 festive season.
4. That if an update on the works had not been received by June 2021, a response from the relevant department should be requested.

C. Request for Supporting Letter in connection with Planning Appeal

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident, requesting a supporting letter in connection with a planning appeal, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would respond to the applicant, confirming that the request had been discussed at length and, while sympathetic to the situation, Stromness Community Council would not send a supporting letter in connection with the planning appeal.

D. Connecting Scotland – Extension until 29 January 2021

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the extension, until 29 January 2021 for any organisation in Orkney, of the Connection Scotland programme, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkney Kickstart Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the development of the Kickstart Scheme to support young people into employment and help grow businesses, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Proposed Name for New Road Off Cairston Road

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding a request from the Planning Section for a proposed name for the New Road off Cairston Road, Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that “Yorston Drive” would be put forward to the Planning Section for the proposed name for the new road off Cairston Road, Stromness.

G. Save the Date: R100 Roundtable

Following consideration of correspondence received from L McArthur, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an invitation to the online event “Reaching 100% (R100) Roundtable” organised by Liam McArthur MSP and Alistair Carmichael MP, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would attend the online event to facilitate a discussion on the Scottish Government’s R100 rollout in Orkney now that the R100 North Lot had been signed, to be held on 5 February.

6. Consultations

A. Police Scotland – Equality Outcomes for 2021-2025

Following consideration of a consultation on equality outcomes for 2021-2025 received from Police Scotland, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments were submitted prior to the closing date of 14 January 2021.

B. Highland Wind Limited – Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm – Dounreay, Caithness

Following consideration of the scoping consultation received from Highland Wind Limited regarding the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that any comment on the scoping consultation should be submitted no later than 1 February 2021.

C. Disabled Parking Spaces, Stromness

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

Resolved to note that comments on the proposed disabled parking spaces in Stromness, should be submitted by 29 January 2021.

D. Proposed works at Stromness Millennium Woodland/Cairston Road, Stromness

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Planning Section, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that comments on the proposed works at Stromness Millennium Woodland/Cairston Road, Stromness, should be submitted by 2 February 2021.

7. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

8. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative updated members on various issues that had been reported. He also noted the general state of the paving through the street, as well as surface water lying on the roads throughout the county generally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative updated members on the Stromness Bonanza that had recently taken place. Stromness Businesses had donated the prizes rather than them coming from the Forum funds. Businesses had had a mixed festive season some trading well and other not so good. She went on to say that the AGM was scheduled for February, and it was:

Resolved to note that the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative updated members on the following items:

- Some of the Christmas Lights had been erected in time for the festive season. Unfortunately, the motif-type lights had not arrived in time but would be erected for 2021 festive period.
- The Stromness Living Advent Calendar and fireworks at New Year had taken place and hopefully raised spirits in the town.
- Other projects going forward included finishing the website and a community asset transfer for St Peters House.

- The Stromness Development Officer's post had been extended for an additional four months and a report was being presented to a Council meeting for additional support to fund the post for a further 12 months.
- Local contractors would meet on site at Stromness Community Centre shortly regarding the fire escape and accessibility.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

The Playpark Sub-committee representative advised that the work on the playpark was now complete, and that he had received an invoice for £840 for replacing the rotten fence posts, which had not been included in the original quote, and would be seeking funding from CCGS when discussed later in the meeting, if members were agreeable, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

9. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 18 January 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,161.10.

B. Donations Account

After consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 8 January 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,998.72, of which:

- £82 revenue interest had been earned for the financial year 2019/2020.
- £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.
- £1,050.72 to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage.
- £700 donated from Stromness Surgery towards defibrillator erected at Stromness Swimming Pool.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 6 November 2020, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £3,041.03.

2. That the Clerk should apply for Community Council Grant Scheme of £1,576.60 in respect of purchasing and delivery of five plastic benches to be situated in various locations around Stromness.

3. That the Clerk should apply for Community Council Grant Scheme of £2,651.40 in respect of costs associated with repairing some of the path at the West Shore.

4. That a grant of £840 be granted to Stromness Community Development Trust towards the cost of purchasing replacement fencing posts at the South End Play Park, Stromness, subject to assistance from Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 8 January 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,824.04.

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 8 January 2021, it was:

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

10. Requests for Financial Assistance

Resolved to note that no applications for financial assistance had been received.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. GMB Garden

Following up a query and an update from a member regarding the GMB Garden, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Clerk had sent L Adamson a letter of thanks in December 2020.

2. That J Mowat would email members requesting assistance with various jobs at the GMB Garden, such as cutting back bushes and painting fences, in mid-end February.

J Mowat left the meeting at this point.

B. Nethertown Road – Kirkyard footpath Repairs

Resolved to note that this item had been discussed under CCGS above.

C. Proposed Benches on path from SPS to Copland's Dock

Resolved to note that this item had been discussed under CCGS above.

D. Proposed Addition to Winter Salt/Gritting Schedule – Footpaths

A member proposed that the footpath along the shore from the junction with the Hamnavoe/Scottish Water Pump Station path towards Copland's Road be added to the list to be salted/gritted as this was now a well-used path. Another member added that the pavement on North End Road should also be added and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department with the request to add the two paths referred to above to the salt/gritting schedule.

E. Boat on Hard Standing on Copland's Dock

A member raised concern regarding a boat situated on Copland's Dock and queried the safety of the vessel, the general deterioration of it as well as the smell of fuel in the area. He also queried whether the owners of the vessel were being charged for it being there and, following discussion, it was

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would raise the matter with the relevant department.

F. Traffic on Hillside Road

A member raised concern, which had been raised at SPS Parents Council, regarding speeding traffic on Hillside Road where there had been a few near accidents, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Damaged Railing

A member raised concern regarding damaged railing on the Ferry Road, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would raise the matter with the relevant department.

H. Warebeth Cemetery

A member raised concern that since the deterioration of the roof of the Gravediggers Hut which had been reported in August 2020, no further action by the relevant department had been taken. He went on to say that it had now deteriorated further. There were also ongoing problems with the coping stones on the walls being knocked off and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would raise the matters with the relevant department.

I. Rabbits, Warebeth Cemetery

A member raised concern regarding the number of rabbits in Warebeth Cemetery. This matter had been reported previously in August 2020 and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would raise the matter with the relevant department.

J. Copland's Dock – Footpath

A member raised concern regarding the track down to the beach at Copland's Dock, where there was coastal erosion along a stretch of the path and the fence needed to be moved back and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant department.

K. SCC Meeting Dates on OIC Website

Following a query from a member, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would query why the Stromness Community Council meeting dates were not on the OIC Website.

L. Meeting with Waste Services

Following an update, it was:

Resolved to note that following their attendance at a previous Stromness Community Council meeting, K Bevan was still to arrange a follow up meeting with members of the Waste Section.

M. Dog Mess

A member highlighted the problem of dog mess throughout Stromness which needed to be addressed and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that initially a poster should be placed on the What's on Board and other prominent places highlighting the issue.

N. Possible Donation from Member of the Public

On the motion of P McLaughlin, seconded by G Deans, members took this item in private.

The member of the press left the meeting at this point.

G Deans updated members of a very kind offer of financial assistance towards the purchase of another defibrillator, and it was:

Resolved that G Deans would make enquiries in this regard.

K Bevan left the meeting during discussion of this item.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of possible dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 15 March 2021, commencing at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.