

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 28 February 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Mr I Cooper, Mrs S Whiteman, Mr C Fraser, Mr P Riley, Mr J Seaton, Mr D Stout and Mr S Weaver.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor S Clackson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the General Meeting held on 24 November 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr P Riley and seconded by Mr J Seaton.

3. Matters Arising

A. Chemical Toilets

Members heard that work continued on preparing a Briefing Note on the safe disposal of chemical toilet waste and that this would be issued by the end of the week with a draft being sent to members in the first instance, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Village Play Park

Members heard that the Sport and Leisure Team Leader had responded to details of the replacement play equipment and proposed location within the play park and this had evoked further response from members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That whilst waiting for a further response from the Sport and Leisure Team Leader, funding avenues would be sought to purchase the identified replacement play equipment.

C. Haulage of Aggregates

Members heard that applications had been invited for the haulage of aggregates for use in improving private roadways leading to an occupied residence and that these had been received and considered and grants had been awarded and claimed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Scrap Vehicles

Members heard that the Scrap Vehicle Scheme had been reopened and advertised locally and that verification forms had been issued for thirteen vehicles, and that liaison continued between the haulier and Orkney Aggregates, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

4. Grass Cutting Contracts

Members heard that Orkney Islands Council had been undertaking a review regarding the budget for kirkyard maintenance which had included grass cutting, that tender documents had been revised and that the relevant documents for Stronsay Community Council had been previously forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That Orkney Islands Council would be consulted on an alternative to grass cutting in the St. Nicholas and St Peter kirkyards and, if approved, would not be included in the grass cutting contracts for 2022.

C. That the 2022 grass cutting contracts would be advertised locally.

D. That the closing date for tenders would be 1 April 2022.

5. Bag the Bruck

Members were advised that this year's Bag the Bruck collections would take place between 16 and 24 April, and that the activity qualified for Community Council Grant Scheme funding, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That an application would be made for Community Council Grant Scheme funding for this year's Bag the Bruck collection.

C. That sponsorship of £2 per filled bag, subject to a maximum of £300 would be made, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

D. That notices would be prepared and displayed advertising this year's Bag the Bruck collection.

6. Screen Machine

Members had previously been consulted on plans to bring the Screen Machine to Stronsay during April 2022, and had agreed to support the visit and to apply for Community Council Grant Scheme funding, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

7. Road Flooding

Members heard that several roads were subject to flooding after heavy rainfall, that the newly fitted Whitehall Village flood defence barrier prevented water from escaping off the road, that there had been complaints about the standard of recent road resurfacing work and that only one of the local Road Operatives was available for work, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That ditching work was to take place soon and members would provide details of roads affected by flooding after heavy rain, which the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would forward on to the relevant team.

C. That a request would be made for monitoring the Whitehall Village flood defence barrier and for this to be lifted to allow road surface water to drain away.

D. That members would provide details of the roads considered to have been poorly resurfaced which the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would forward on to the relevant team.

E. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would raise the issue of their being only one 0.5FTE Roads Operative currently available for work.

F. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would look at the possibility of putting work out to local tender.

The Chair congratulated the Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure on her confirmed appointment and for her attendance and participation in the meeting.

8. Stronsay Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that there had been little use of the slaughterhouse over the past twelve months, that invoices would be issued at the end of next month, and that money had been deposited for hydro use, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Fish Mart Report

It was reported that members had previously approved the new twelve months Fish Mart Operator agreement and that this had been signed by the Operator. The deep fat fryer filters had been cleaned by an outside contractor and the Operator had been paid for six months cleaning and maintaining the Fish Mart's public toilets. An extractor fan had been fitted in the Café's freezer room, a water softener had been installed and interior decorating had been undertaken, but there were on-going maintenance issues. An outside contractor had carried out a site inspection in preparation for a quote to install air to water heating and PV panels and site visits and quotes were expected from two other contractors. It was also reported that the expression of interest application for possible future funding to carry out the recommendations in the Energy Efficiency Assessment had been unsuccessful. Members had been previously been forwarded a response from the then Interim Head of Services for Property, IT and Facilities on fitting PV panels and members raised the issue of planning consent, and the expected increase in electricity charges, and that a confidential list detailing hostel usage during 2021 had also been distributed to members, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would arrange for a Planning Officer to contact the Chair for an informal discussion on planning issues for the installation of PV panels and an air to water heat pump.

C. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would contact a colleague in Property Estates about the on-going maintenance issues and for the Fish Mart to be added to the list for an inspection each spring.

10. Reports from Representatives

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

Members were given an update on the Stronsay Development Trust’s activities and projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Transport Representative’s Report

Members heard that disruptions to sailings during the recent bad weather had affected the delivery of essential supplies, the haulier being placed on standby for return travel to Stronsay. The draft ferry timetable for winter 2022/23 had been put on public display, and an article in a local publication reported all vehicle and foot passengers would have to pre book once the on-line service became operational. It was also reported that a request had been made for improved internet connections on board the ferries, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That pre booking for all passengers once the on-line service became operational would be raised as a concern and the use of an iPad by the Purser to register foot passengers would be suggested as an alternative to on-line booking.

11. Consultation Documents

A. Fourth National Planning Framework

Members had previously been forwarded a consultation on the Fourth National Planning Framework, a Scottish Parliament Consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for responses was 10 January 2022 and that members had had no comment to make.

B. 2022 Verge Maintenance Plan

Members had previously been forwarded the 2022 Verge Maintenance Plan for consideration ahead of the summer season, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that members had no comment to make.

12. Correspondence

A. Orkney Inter Island Transport Study

Members had previously been forwarded an email from the Transportation Manager, Marine and Transportation Services, on the Orkney Inter Island Transport Study Outline Business Case and associated report to committee, and it was

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Whitehall Flood Defence

Members had previously been forwarded an update, including photographs, of the newly replaced Whitehall Village flood defence barrier, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That a request would be made for the effectiveness of the Whitehall Village flood defence barrier to be monitored and raised when necessary.

C. Eday, Stronsay and Sanday – Orkney Matters Meeting

Members had received an invitation to join the Eday, Stronsay and Sanday Orkney Matters meeting, held via Microsoft Teams, from which feedback was given and concerns raised over the Stronsay piers and the installing of new pontoons, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That a request would be made for an officer to meet with members and local fishermen to discuss the deteriorating condition of the Fishermen's Pier and the installing of pontoons.

D. Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from the Strategic Projects Team giving an update on the work that had been done on a location-specific community benefit scheme for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project, and it was:

Resolved to note that the information.

E. Outer North Isles Summer 2022 Timetable

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Transportation Manager regarding the Outer North Isles Summer timetable, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information and request.
2. That members' preference for an Outer North Isles Summer 2022 timetable without Sunday excursions had been forwarded.

F. Outer North Isles - Ditching

Members had previously been forwarded a communication on the commencement of ditching works in the Outer North Isles and in response to this a request was made for information on where this would take place on Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That works had been identified and that Roads would be in touch with all Community Councils for them to feed into a further programme of ditching works that would be planned over the next year.

G. Thank You Letter – Stronsay Community Association

Members had previously been forwarded a letter from Gaynor Smith, on behalf of Stronsay Community Association, thanking them for their financial assistance and support for new Christmas tree lights, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Community Council April Meeting

Members had previously been forwarded and consulted over a request to change the date of the Community Council meeting originally planned for 25 April 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to change the date of the next Community Council meeting to 18 April 2022.

I. Outline Business Case – Report to Committee

Members had previously been forwarded a copy of the Orkney Inter Island Transport Study Outline Business Case Phase 2, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Isles Special Collection Rota

Members had previously been forwarded a copy of the Isles Special Collection Rotas, copies of which had also been put on public display, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. Thank You Letter – Chairman, Orkney Drugs Dog

Members had previously been forwarded a copy of donation thanks from the Chairman, Orkney Drugs Dog, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

L. Brexit – Impact on Island Communities

Members had previously been forwarded an email from the Development Officer - Scottish Islands Federation, headed Brexit- Impact In Island Communities, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

M. SSEN Resilient Communities Fund

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from the Customer Relationship Manager, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, on the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

13. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to transfer £1,000 from this account to the Stronsay Community Council Cheque Book Account, and after consideration of the General Finance statement as at 8 February 2022, and discussion thereof, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £10,859.05.
2. To note the transfer of £1,000 to the Cheque Book Account.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 8 February 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,443.29.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 8 February 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,275.15.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to request the carrying over of two outstanding Community Council Grant Scheme grants from the 2021/2022

Community Council Grant Scheme allocation, and following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 February 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £940.22.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 8 February 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £8,723.40.

14. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. NHS Orkney

Members had previously been consulted over a request from Doctor Lievesley, NHS Orkney, for a financial contribution towards the cost of lunch for potential GPs visiting Stronsay on 6 March 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to a financial contribution of £50, which had received Community Council Grant Scheme funding.

B. Mrs M Dennison

Following consideration of a request from Mrs M Dennison for financial assistance for ten return air flights for her daughter's attendance at athletic, gymnastic and netball training sessions in Kirkwall, it was:

Resolved to award Mrs M Dennison £47.50 towards the cost of seven return air flights, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

15. Publications

The following publication had been forwarded to members:

- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Command - Newsletter – January 2022.

16. Any Other Competent Business

A. Stronsay Recycling Skip

Members heard that the Stronsay recycling skip had been relocated to the top of the East Pier and that the Environmental Services Facilities Manager apologised for not communicating this change to members immediately, but could advise further if appropriate, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Seaweed Hazard

Members heard that complaints had been received about seaweed on the road in Whitehall Village, and that Roads Support had responded by arranging for this to be removed, for which they were thanked, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Damaged Footpath

Members heard that the footpath outside numbers 13 and 14 Whitehall was still in need of repair, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would carry out the repair and that Orkney Islands Council would be informed of this.

D. Damaged Sign

Members heard that the road sign to St Catherine's Bay had been dislodged, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would fix and relocate the sign to St Catherine's Bay.

E. Pier Waiting Room Toilets

Members heard that the toilets in the pier waiting room had not been cleaned for some time, and it was:

Resolved that a request would be made for the toilets in the pier waiting room to be cleaned.

F. Fly Tipping Incident

Members heard that an incident of fly tipping had been reported to the Environmental Health Officer and that action had been taken to address this but the offending items had not been removed, and it was

Resolved that the Clerk would remove the offending items.

G. New Communication Tower

Members heard that a new 30m lattice telecommunications tower had been installed on land adjoining the Stronsay telephone exchange and that it was hoped this would improve the island's communication signal, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

17. 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, 18 April 2022 at 19:00.

18. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:08.