

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 5 December 2022 at 19:00

Present:

Mrs S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr S Hourtson, Rev D Locke, L Martini-Brown (via Teams) and Mr P Riley.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mr S Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Care (via Teams).
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities (via Teams).
- Mrs S Johnston, Sport and Leisure Service Manager (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Care

The Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care elaborated on his written response to correspondence, previously addressed and circulated to members, informing them that he was working with Community Councils and clinicians across the ferry linked isles to address issues raised by members, and by Community Council Chairs in a joint letter regarding the proposed use of NHS24, and that he was committed to try and improve communication, make some improvements and move forward, and following an invitation for members to ask questions, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided by the Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care.

B. That the Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care would enquire into the dentistry service and registration of children with a dentist.

C. That the Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care would keep people informed of information awaited from NHS Scotland on the Strep A infection affecting the UK.

D. That the Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care would arrange to reinstate the rota providing details of the GP and Nurse on duty at the Stronsay medical practice.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care for his participation, following which the Chief Executive, Orkney Health and Care left the meeting.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Seaton and Councillor S Clackson.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 17 October 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mr P Riley and seconded by Rev D Locke.

4. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

The Sport and Leisure Service Manager informed members that Orkney Islands Council no longer replaced equipment in children's play areas but that from January 2023 a fund would be available, providing up to 50%, to a maximum of £25,000, for play equipment, that the Community Council would have to raise funds to meet the shortfall, and that there were personnel available to repair equipment, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That the Sport and Leisure Service Manager would forward guidance notes on funding availability.

The Chair thanked the Sport and Leisure Service Manager for her participation.

The Sport and Leisure Service Manager left the meeting at this point.

B. Scrap Vehicles

Members heard that a further ten vehicles had been registered under the scrap car scheme since it reopened in October and that the haulier had removed seven of these, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the scrap car scheme would remain closed for the time being.

C. Nolan Principles Adoption Proposal

Members heard that Orkney Island Council had provided advice and guidance on the adoption of the Nolan Principles as a code of conduct. L Martini-Brown, who had proposed the adoption of the Nolan Principles, provided members with reasons for this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That L Martini-Brown would reflect on the discussion that had taken place and give consideration on whether a vote should be taken on members adopting the Nolan Principles.

D. Yachtsman's Letter

Members heard that the letter from a visiting yachtsman had been forwarded to various officers within Orkney Islands Council, and to the department leading the Harbour Master Plan work, and that it would be discussed with Harbours at a future meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Armistice Day

Members heard that Mr J Steenton had laid the wreath on behalf of the community at this year's Armistice Day commemoration and that the volunteer maintaining the garden area within the war memorial had spoken to a representative from the school about maintaining the war memorial garden, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Stronsay Massive Weekend 2023 – Additional Ferry Sailings Request

Members heard that the request to alter the ferry timetable to accommodate the Stronsay Massive Weekend 2023 had been forwarded to Transport and Orkney

Ferries who had responded to say that it would be looked at and appropriate arrangements made, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Haulage of Aggregates

Members considered allocating funds towards the haulage of aggregate for use in improving private roadways leading to an occupied residence, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That posters would be displayed locally inviting applications for financial assistance towards the haulage of aggregate for use in improving roadways leading to an occupied residence.
2. That any grant awarded for the haulage of aggregate would be subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

5. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that an invoice from the electricity supplier covering the period 14 July to 6 October 2022 had been received, that a recent user had commented on the condition of the chopping boards and a broken hinge on one of the gate posts, and that members had previously been consulted and agreed to a repair to the hot water system, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the information.
- B. That Mr P Riley and the Clerk would power wash the chopping boards.

6. Fish Mart Report

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was held in committee.

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer joined the meeting part way through this item and left at the end.

The Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities provided members with an update on work that had been undertaken to maintain and improve the facilities and décor within the premises and consideration was given to renewing the Operator Agreement for a further twelve months, updating the Café and Hostel inventory, identified works to be carried out by the Community Council, the purchase of a replacement urn, previously considered by members, a request for Community Council funding to purchase items for the Fish Mart, submitted by the Operators this evening, and the formation of a Fish Mart Sub Group, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the information provided.

B. That the Clerk would forward information on wall mounted ashtrays, which if approved would be purchased by the Community Council from the Fish Mart Account.

C. That time would be given to see if there is an improvement to the heating system following the changes that had been made.

D. That the snags that had arisen, and the continued closure of the public shower room, would be looked at by the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.

E. That the Operator's Agreement, effective for twelve months from 1 January 2023 would be rewritten to include changes suggested by members.

F. That a new inventory would be written once new items had been purchased, these being discussed and agreed with the Operators.

G. That the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities would enquire into the ordering of salt for the water softener and see if this could be delivered when the school receives its supply.

H. That the Operator would be asked to purchase a new urn up to the value of £100, to be paid from the Community Council Fish Mart Account

I. That the Operators would be asked to provide a breakdown of items the Community Council was being asked to purchase, and that the Seed Corn Fund would be used to purchase these.

J. That Mrs S Whiteman and Mr P Riley would be members of the Fish Mart Subgroup, providing information to the Clerk, which he would then disseminate to members.

K. That the Operators would be asked to clarify details of the coffee machine Cooke Aquaculture was being asked to fund and that of other items the Operator had installed in the Café or Hostel.

7. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Members heard that the Transport Representative had attended a Teams meeting where the renewal of ferries was discussed and a request to reroute the Stronsay to Sanday inter isles air service on specified days was being taken forward and would probably be adopted, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

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

The Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative informed members that he would be unavailable to attend all the Trust meetings after December, and it was:

Resolved that a new Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative would not be appointed, and that Mr J Seaton would continue in this role.

C. Planning Representative

Members had previously been notified of two planning applications, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Consultation Documents

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2023

Consideration was given to the Verge Maintenance Plan 2023 previously circulated to members and to road flooding arising from blocked offlets, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities would follow up a request from members for offlets to be dug to alleviate road flooding.

B. Boundary Commission – Revised Proposals of UK Parliament Constituencies

Members had no comment to make on the Boundary Commission - Revised Proposals of UK Parliament Constituencies, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the Boundary Commission – Revised Proposals of UK Parliament Constituencies.

C. EIA - Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub Proposed Projects

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to attend a consultation on the Scapa Deep Water Quay and the Orkney Logistics Hub proposed projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. 20mph Speed Limits – Island Schools

Consideration was given to previously forwarded correspondence from the Teams Manage, Roads Support regarding speed limits around schools, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That members were in agreement with the introduction and installation of a part time 20 mph speed limit around island schools.

E. Scottish 4G Infill Programme Evaluation – Benefits Survey

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Scottish 4G Programme Evaluation – Benefits Survey, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

9. Correspondence

A. Link Footpath – Bollard Lights

Members had previously been consulted for a request to support the replacement of broken bollards lighting the footpath between the school and the community centre, and it was:

Resolved to note the request to support the replacement of broken bollards lighting the footpath between the school and the community centre which had since been replaced.

B. Avian Flu – Briefing and Information

Members had previously been forwarded briefing and information relating to the Avian Flu outbreak, which had also been displayed on local notice boards, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Letter of Support Request for Housing Project

Members had previously been forwarded, and considered, a request for a letter of support for Stronsay Development Trust's housing project, which members had agreed to, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Appointment of Orkney Islands Council Chief Executive

Members had previously been forwarded information on the appointment of a new Chief Executive to lead Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Shapinsay Community Council Letter to Isles Community Council

Members had previously been forwarded a letter from Shapinsay Community Council requesting a combined voice to raise the issue of Orkney Ferries and the need for new boats, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a letter would be sent in support of new ferries, with a copy to Councillor M Thomson.
2. That residents would be asked to provide details of their experiences of specific problems when using Orkney Ferries.

F. SSEN – Powering on Together this winter

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to attend an SSEN distribution stakeholder surgery, and heard that Mr P Riley had attended a Community

Resilience Group meeting and gave details of possible power failures during the winter, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. HITRANS - Scottish Islands - Windracers

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership on behalf of Windracers who were looking to gather data on how best to support those living in the Scottish islands with new drone technology, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Meeting with the Convener of the NZET Committee

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to a meeting with the Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee and that members' response had been forwarded, with the organisers responding accordingly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Loan Request

Members had previously considered a request for the Stronsay field map housed in the Fish Mart Café to be borrowed and copied, and it was:

Resolved that members had had no objection to the Stronsay field map being borrowed and copied.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 21 November 2022, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £11,927.38.
2. That members had previously been consulted and agreed to transfer £1,000 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 21 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,745.42.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 21 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,323.15.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £777.03.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 4 October, it was:

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

11. Request for Financial Assistance – Stitchy Witchy Group

Mrs S Whiteman and Mr P Riley declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion that followed.

Consideration was given to a request for financial assistance from the Stitchy Witchy Group to help with the cost of materials to make a Stronsay tapestry, and it was:

Resolved that the Stitchy Witchy Group would be awarded £200, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval, to help with the cost of materials to make a Stronsay tapestry.

12. Publications

The following publications had been forwarded to members:

- Orkney Harbours – Offshore Wind Newsletters for September and October 2022.
- Visit Stronsay Group Committee Minutes - 3 October 2022.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Pier Lane Markings

Members heard that the recently painted lane markings on the east pier were inappropriate, making it difficult for ferry users to use, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That ferry traffic compliance with the newly painted road markings would be kept under review.

B. Grass Cutting Tenders

Members considered arrangements for advertising the 2023 grass cutting contracts, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the 2023 grass cutting contracts would be advertised locally.
2. That the closing date for tenders would be 27 January 2023.

C. Ferry Cancellations

Members' attention was drawn to recent ferry cancellations during inclement weather, with some sailings being unaffected, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor M Thomson would ask if statistics were kept on ferry cancellations and inform members of the response.

D. New Telecom Tower

Members heard that a new telecom tower had been erected but no news was available on when it would be operational, and it was:

Resolved that Mr D Stout would make enquiries about the new telecom tower.

14. 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, 30 January 2023 commencing at 19:00 in the Stronsay Community Centre and that the remaining meetings during 2023 would be held on 20 March, 21 August, 2 October and 20 November.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:09.