

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in the Stronsay Community Centre on Monday, 31 July 2023 at 19:12

Present:

Mrs S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr S Hourston, Rev D Locke and Mr P Riley.

In Attendance:

- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Stronsay Resilience Plan.....	4
5. Daffodils on Verges Proposal	5
6. Slaughterhouse Report.....	5
7. Fish Mart Report.....	5
8. Reports from Representatives	6
9. Consultations	6
10. Correspondence	8
11. Financial Statements	13
12. Requests for Financial Assistance.....	14
13. Publications	14
14. Any Other Competent Business.....	14
15. Date of Next Meeting	14
16. Conclusion of Meeting	14

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from L Martini-Brown and Mr J Seaton.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Mr P Riley.

3. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that a funding application had been submitted to the Orkney Islands Council Play Area Renewal Fund. This had received support subject to further financial information being submitted which had since been provided, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Scrap Vehicles

Members heard that the scrap car scheme had been reopened for a further ten vehicles and advertised accordingly. Three spaces remained and attempts had been made to secure payment from Orkney Aggregates for vehicles delivered for scrap, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Shapinsay Community Council Letter

Members heard that there had been no response to requests for feedback on contact made with a BBC journalist and presenter in the reply letter sent to Shapinsay Community Council on concerns raised over Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved that a further request would be made for feedback on any contact made with a BBC journalist and presenter regarding concerns raised over Orkney Ferries.

D. Orkney Ferries – Draft Timetables 2023/2024

Members heard that copies of the draft Orkney Ferries timetables for 2023/2024 had been circulated and that any feedback on these would be raised by the Transport Representative at the next Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Orkney Health and Care Update

Members heard that the Chair and Vice Chair had continued to attend online meetings regarding Orkney health and care issues and that Community Councils had been asked to elect a Health and Care representative to represent their area in any relevant discussions with a wider group, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Mrs S Whiteman would be the named representative to represent Stronsay in any relevant discussions with IJB/NHSO.

F. St. Catherine's Bay Core Path

Members had previously been forwarded a response to their request for an inspection and improvements to the core path leading to St. Catherine's Bay and to the kissing gate at the parking area to St. Catherine's beach, and that following this a member had reported all appeared to be well, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That no further action was needed to remedy issues previously raised.

G. Platinum Jubilee Presentation Packs

Members heard that the two remaining platinum jubilee packs had been distributed to the first two children born after the platinum jubilee celebration, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Christmas Light Decorations

Members considered previously circulated information on Christmas light decorations, and it was:

Resolved that no further action would be taken to purchase, install or maintain Christmas light decorations.

I. Coronation

Members heard that Community Council Grant Scheme funding had been approved for the purchase of Coronation First Day Covers, that these had been distributed to every resident child aged sixteen and under, that a parent had written on behalf of his child to thank members for the Coronation First Day Cover. Following consideration on how to distribute the remaining five covers, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That two Coronation First Day Covers would be donated as raffle prizes to the Stronsay Massive Weekend, that one would be given to a child born on Stronsay and was currently visiting the island and the remaining two would be given to the next two babies to be born.

J. Bag the Bruck

Members heard that there had been no expressions of interest received in Community Council sponsorship for this year's Bag the Bruck event, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Members had previously been consulted about two locations for electric vehicle charging points and that these had been forwarded to the Community Council Liaison Officer, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That members' enquiry into the installation of electric vehicle charging points in Stronsay would be pursued.

L. Stronsay Map

Members heard that no further information was available on replacing the maps of Stronsay currently located at various locations throughout the island, and it was:

Resolved that Mr P Riley would enquire into replacement maps for those currently on display at various locations throughout the island.

M. Awards for Local People

Members had previously been emailed information from the Lord-Lieutenant of Orkney on awards for local people which included details of a scheme used in another authority, and heard that that it was believed discussions had taken place with two of the North Isles Councillors about an award scheme for local people, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That a request would be made for an update on discussions that had taken place on recognising those who have made a significant contribution within their communities.

4. Stronsay Resilience Plan

Members had previously been consulted about changes to the Stronsay Resilience Plan and heard that the plan had then been updated and displayed locally, and would be updated in a year's time, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

5. Daffodils on Verges Proposal

Members considered a proposal for the Community Council to purchase daffodil bulbs and issue these free of charge to residents to plant on a verge in front of their property, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That members agreed to the purchase of three, twenty-five kilogram nets of daffodils to be issued free of charge to residents to plant on a verge in front of their property, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

B. That the Clerk would organise the purchase and distribution of daffodil bulbs.

6. Slaughterhouse Report

Members had previously been consulted about the purchase of a new hoist for use in the slaughterhouse as attempts to repair the existing one revealed additional faults that could be uneconomical to repair. A new hoist had been identified and members agreed to contribute towards this from existing funds and to an application being submitted to Community Led Local Development funding by the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer on the Community Council's behalf, with a decision being given in September 2023.

Members heard that a repair was needed to the slaughterhouse door and Mr D Stout offered to undertake this once the Clerk had supplied the necessary fitting.

The Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board had issued a valuation on the property, and this would be forwarded to Orkney Islands Council.

Two invoices had been received from the electricity supplier; these covered the period 18 January 2023 to 6 July 2023. Compensation had also been received from the electricity supplier for a disruption to service, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That enquiries would be made into the possible availability of a hoist from the Kirkwall abattoir and a mainland butcher.

7. Fish Mart Report

Members heard that a fire evacuation plan was still needed for the Fish Mart and that a fault had occurred in the washing machine necessitating a new replacement machine being issued, free of charge, by the manufacturer.

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to the Operators' request for new equipment which they had ordered and were reimbursed for, but the Operators' request for an increase in the hostel bed charges was declined, with members agreeing to this being reviewed in the new year.

A new inventory had been written and further communication was awaited from the telephone and broadband supplier on changes being made to their intention to cease providing a service.

The Operators' quarterly payment for cleaning and maintaining the public toilets had been made and a local contractor had been paid for carrying out an essential repair to an item of equipment used in the Café kitchen, but other repairs, authorised and arranged by officers within Orkney Islands Council, had still to be completed.

A letter had been sent to the Operators reminding them of the Operators' Agreement in force since 1st January 2023, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That Mr D Stout would enquire about a fire evacuation plan for the Fish Mart.

C. That a request would be made for all outstanding issues be attended to as a matter of urgency.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

Members heard that the Transport Representative would raise any issues brought to his attention regarding Orkney Ferries or Loganair at the next Transport Forum meeting due to be held on 13 September 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the commitment from the Transport Representative.

B. Planning Representative

Members had previously been provided with details of two planning applications, one for the erection of a house with detached garage on land near Whitehall Farm and the other for a change of use of land from agricultural to domestic use, neither evoking comment, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Consultations

A. Winter Service Plan

Members had previously been consulted on the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 and although the deadline for comments had passed, the Clerk was asked to request an alteration to the gritting schedule to extend this to include gritting on the unclassified road to Linkness rather than end at Rosebank on the B9062, where turning the gritting vehicle was difficult, and it was:

Resolved that a request would be made to extend the gritting schedule to end at Linkness rather than end at Rosebank on the B9062.

B. Orkney Islands Council (Variable 20mph Speed Limit) (Island Schools) Order 2023

Members had previously been consulted and responded to the Consultation – 20mph Speed Limits Island Schools, this was being taken back to committee and members were being asked to confirm whether or not they were in favour of a part-time 20mph speed limit within the vicinity of the island schools, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That members of Stronsay Community Council supported the introduction of a 20mph part-time speed limit within the vicinity of the island schools.

B. That on Stronsay road signs for the 20mph part-time speed limit should be positioned where the current 40mph speed restriction signs are on the north and south side of the school.

C. Boundaries Scotland – Scottish Parliament Consultation on Provisional Proposals for Constituencies

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Boundaries Scotland – Scottish Parliament Consultation on Provisional Proposals for Constituencies, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the Boundaries Scotland – Scottish Parliament Consultation on Provisional Proposals for Constituencies.

D. Scottish Government Planning Phase 3 of Permitted Development Rights Review

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Scottish Government to Community Councils in Orkney on the Scottish Government: Planning Phase 3 of Permitted Development Rights Review, and it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the Scottish Government: Planning Phase 3 of Permitted development Rights Review.

E. 20mph Speed Limit Extension Finstown

Members had previously been forwarded details of the consultation – 20mph Speed Limit Extension Finstown, and it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the Consultation – 20mph Speed Limit Extension Finstown and that this had been forwarded before the response deadline.

F. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy

Members had previously been forwarded details of a public consultation being carried out by the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board, and it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the Consultation – Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Review of Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy.

G. Draft Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028

Consideration was given to previously circulated information from the Service Manager – Procurement Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, on the Consultation – Draft Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028, and it was:

Resolved that members request that outer isles businesses be included in the procurement process.

10. Correspondence

A. Democratic and Communication Services Manager – Retirement

Members had previously been forwarded a message from the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions regarding the retirement of the Democratic and Communications Service Manager, and it was:

Resolved to note that a response from members had been forwarded for inclusion in the Democratic and Communications Service Manager’s farewell presentation.

B. Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

Members had previously been forwarded details of a presentation given to Development and Infrastructure Committee Members on the new ‘Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish farming Spatial Guidance’, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. North Isles Surgery

Members had previously been forwarded information on an online surgery that Councillors Thomson and Woodbridge planned to hold in May 2023, and that posters advertising the event had been disseminated locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Parish Cup – Stronsay/Westray Amended Timetable

Members had previously been forwarded information outlining changes to Orkney Ferries sailings to accommodate the scheduled Parish Cup football fixtures between Stronsay and Westray, and that this had been disseminated locally, and it was

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Annual Grants

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Community Council Annual Grants, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. White Ribbon Community Council Request

Members had previously been consulted and responded to a letter from the Chair of the White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group, and it was:

Resolved that members agreed to a presentation from the White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group at the Community Council meeting scheduled for 2 October 2023.

G. Verge Maintenance Consultation Responses 2023

Members had previously been forwarded printed feedback from Community Councils during the Verge Maintenance Plan Consultation, and the response these received, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Stronsay 4G Mast

Members had previously been forwarded a letter from the Deputy Director, Digital Connectivity Scottish Government to Liam McArthur MSP regarding the activation of 4G masts in Rackwick and Stronsay, and that at Mr. McArthur's request this had been disseminated locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Rothiesholm Car Park Rubbish

Members had previously been consulted about the removal of rubbish deposited at the Rothiesholm car park and the liaison that had taken place with the Community Development Officer and Orkney Islands Council regarding this, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had re bagged and removed most of the rubbish and arrangements were in hand for this, and heavier items of rubbish left in the car park, to be taken into Kirkwall.

J. Vat o' Kirbuster – Barrier Damage

Members had previously been consulted about damage to a safety barrier on the footpath at the Vat O' Kirbuster, and the repair undertaken by a willing resident and the Clerk, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. Flight Change Request

Members had previously been consulted about an email request from a resident to change the departure time of the flight from Westray to Kirkwall in May when Stronsay would be participating in the Parish Cup football match, that Loganair had been consulted, and it was:

Resolved to note the request and that it had not been possible for Loganair to change the scheduled flight time.

L. Scottish Online Conference for Community Councillors

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to join an online Scottish Conference, open to all community councillors, on whether Community Councils should have more power and responsibility for issues in their area, and it was:

Resolved to note that no one had been available to attend the online Scottish Conference.

M. Pier Mess

Members had previously been consulted about poor state of the weighbridge bollards, rubbish that had been left around the Harbour master's Office and the overflowing recycling container at the head of the pier. These had been brought to officers' attention and the Port Safety Manager was aware of the situation and would talk to his team to have new bollards fitted at the weighbridge and arrange for the rubbish to be moved as soon as possible. Members heard that the recycling container had been emptied but the fly-tipped rubbish remained, and the weighbridge bollards were yet to be replaced, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That an update would be requested again on the action being taken to replace the bollards at the Harbour master's office and the removal of the rubbish from around the Harbour Master's office.

N. Visit Stronsay Group Letter

Consideration was given to a previously circulated letter from representatives from the Visit Stronsay group who were investigating twinning Stronsay with another similar community, and the name of an island community in Norway was suggested, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would provide members' feedback to the Visit Stronsay Group.

O. Varagen Stairlift Issue – Stronsay and Eday

Members had previously been forwarded details of an issue with the stairlift on Orkney Ferries Varagen and the changes made to accommodate passengers with restricted mobility to access toilets/ facilities et cetera on a day return basis on specified dates in June. This information had been disseminated locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

P. Orkney Housing Committee Recruitment Event

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from Orkney Housing to become a committee member, and it was:

Resolved to note the invitation.

Q. Road Inspector Visit

Members had previously been informed of a visit to Stronsay by the Roads Inspector who had asked if members had any items they felt needed checking on whilst he was in Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved that there had been no response from members and that the Roads Inspector had been informed of this.

R. Saturday Sailings Enquiry

Members attention had previously been brought to an enquiry from a resident as to why there was no direct route for Stronsay car passengers on the day of the North Isles Sports, which was being hosted in Stronsay, and a request that this be brought to the attention of the Community Council, and it was.

Resolved to note the enquiry and request had been brought to members attention.

S. SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023

Members had previously been made aware that the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund had been opened for applications with a deadline of 31 July 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

T. 20mph Speed Limit

Members had previously been forwarded a communication from Councillor Clackson on the 20mph speed limit for the isles' schools, and that this had also been circulated throughout Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

U. Christmas/New Year Flights 2023/2024

Members had previously been forwarded details provided by the Transportation Manager on the inter isle flights on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and that this information had also been disseminated locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

V. Ferry Funding Poster

Members heard that assistance had been requested in circulating and displaying a poster inviting comments on Orkney Ferries and how ferry issues were affecting users, and it was:

Resolved to note that posters had been displayed inviting comments on Orkney Ferries' issues.

W. Council Fees for Parking on Stronsay Pier

Members heard that Orkney Islands Council had invoiced the owner of a trailer for having parked on the pier and that this had been brought to the attention of the Transport Representative, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That members object very strongly to the imposition of fines for vehicles parked on the pier.
3. That members request Orkney Islands Council review the situation regarding pier parking especially as Stronsay does not have a pier car park and there are no signs on display warning vehicle owners of the regulations regarding pier parking and the fines involved.

X. Poppy Wreath – Remembrance Sunday

Members had been asked to consider the purchasing of a Remembrance Sunday poppy wreath and were informed this would be eligible for Community Council Grant Scheme assistance, and it was:

Resolved that members agreed a Remembrance Sunday poppy wreath should be purchased.

Y. Scottish Health Council Member Recruitment

Members had previously been forwarded a Scottish Health Council member recruitment information pack and a copy of the Scottish Health Council Member advert, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

Z. Climate Change Online Event

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to attend a Climate Change online event, and it was:

Resolved to note the invitation.

AA. The Community Led Local Development Grant Scheme

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Community Led Local Development grant scheme inviting expressions of interest from community groups with projects aimed to support net zero or create sustainable public services, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

AB. Ear Protection – Inter Isle Flights

Members had previously been forwarded an email from Liam McArthur MSP regarding the availability of ear protectors on Inter-Island flights, and were told that this had also been copied and displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

11. Financial Statements

A. Income and Expenditure Account – Year Ended 31 March 2023

Members had been forwarded the year end accounts for financial year 2022/2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the year end accounts.

B. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 7 July 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £10,388.50.

C. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 7 July 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,310.95.

D. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 7 July 2023, it was:

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

E. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 7 July 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £1,407.33.

F. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 7 July 2023, it was:

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

12. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. Outdoor Education Trip

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to award financial assistance for an outdoor educational trip, which had received Community Council Grant Scheme approval, but members were told that the grant had not yet been claimed, and it was:

Resolved that the grant would be withdrawn if not claimed by 23 August 2023.

B. Course Fee and Accommodation Request

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to award financial assistance to enable a resident to attend the Orkney Traditional Music Project Summer School and were told that this had received Community Council Grant Scheme approval, and it was:

Resolved to note £135.00 had been awarded to a resident enabling attendance at the Orkney Traditional Music Project Summer School.

C. Travel and Accommodation Request

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to award financial assistance towards travel and accommodation to a resident on a self-funded course, attending a two-week practical and assessment placement, and were told that this had received Community Council Grant Scheme approval, and it was:

Resolved to note £565.00 had been awarded towards travel and accommodation to a resident attending a two-week practical and assessment placement.

13. Publications

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

- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command – Community Council Newsletter.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – April, May and June 2023.
- Loganair- Monthly and Annual Passenger Totals.

14. Any Other Competent Business

Resolved to note members had no other competent business to discuss.

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, 2 October 2023 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 21:23.