

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 14 June 2021 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, K Donald, E Knight, W Mackay and J Park.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of K Bevan, G Deans and J Mowat.

2. Police Matters

Resolved to note that there was no police representative present at the meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 4 May 2021 was approved, being proposed by J Park and seconded by K Donald.

4. Matters Arising

A. Point of Ness Campsite – Recycling Containers

Following a query from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the Sport and Leisure Services Manager had confirmed that no application had been submitted for funding in connection with the proposed recycling containers at Point of Ness Campsite.

B. Benches

W Mackay advised that the vandalised Ian Argo Memorial Bench at the Gun Viewpoint had been replaced with one of the new recycled plastic benches with the plaque being transferred to the new bench. He also explained that he had recently reported to the police the bench outside the Commercial Hotel which had been vandalised, and that this bench would be replaced by one of the new recycled plastic benches shortly. Criminal Justice had reported that one of the two benches that had recently been taken in for maintenance from Warebeth was salvageable and had been repaired and painted. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Welcome to Stromness Sign

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had sent photos of the Welcome to Stromness sign to K Bevan who would check the dimensions before contacting the Planning Section to progress the positioning of the sign.

D. Donation from Member of the Public – Defibrillator

The Chair provided an update in that G Deans had received quotes for the defibrillator and would send details of the preferred model to the Clerk to arrange a PO. He would also get a quote from E Fraser for the installation of the defibrillator, and had wondered whether a small plaque should be erected highlighting the generosity of the donor.

It was agreed that Stromness Community Council would take on the cost of the maintenance of the defibrillator, which was approximately every five years, and that the Clerk should contact the relevant section querying whether an exception could be made in this instance to enable carrying over of an amount each year from the CCGS thus avoiding a larger cost every 5 years.

The Chair also reported that she had recently signed the paperwork regarding taking over the phone box at Stromness Museum which was the preferred site for the defibrillator. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Hamnavoe – Proposed Signs

Resolved to note that the Clerk would contact the relevant department again as no response had been received regarding concerns raised regarding the difficulty faced by members of the public who were unfamiliar with the area finding addresses at Hamnavoe and proposed signs.

F. Garson Amenity Site – Proposed Meeting

Following an update from the Chair, advising that a meeting was due to be set up with the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, a member advised that he would like the issue of opening hours not adjusting for summer to be raised at the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Ground at Copland's Dock

Councillor R Crichton advised that the Harbours Section had given the Cycle Club permission to use the area of ground at Copland's Dock, however, the area was not in Harbours remit to grant permission and was marked down as a green space, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Postman Pat Playpark

Following an update from the Sport and Leisure Service Manager, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section regarding the possibility of signs being erected in the area.

5. Correspondence

A. Rollout of the Scottish Islands Passport App

Following consideration of correspondence received from HITRANS, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an update on the progress of the Scottish Island Passport project, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

B. Connecting Scotland – Funding to combat digital exclusion

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

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. Community Asset Transfer – Stromness Squash Court Building

Following consideration of a consultation on a proposed community asset transfer of Stromness Squash Court building, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 17 June 2021.

B. Under 22s free bus travel

Following consideration of a consultation regarding Under 22s free bus travel, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would respond, on behalf Stromness Community Council, to the consultation prior to the deadline of 21 June 2021 expressing the Community Council's response that inter isles ferries should be included in the scheme.

C. Local Place Plan Regulations

Following consideration of a consultation regarding Local Place Plan Regulations, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 25 June 2021.

7. Publication - Statistics for March - Orkney Ferries

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Ferries, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the statistics for March 2021 received from Orkney Ferries.

8. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative reported that progress on issues had been slow but thanked Councillor R Crichton for his input. Councillor J Stockan informed members that it was hoped that maintenance on Garson Road would begin shortly. Councillor R Crichton confirmed that he would chase up the work to be done at the end of the Blockwork Road, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative advised members that following the popularity of the Bags for Life they will be available to buy shortly. She also advised that the Shop Along the Street would go ahead and would be extended this year running from 1 July to the middle of August, which was when Shopping Week was due to take place, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

Resolved to note that the Stromness Development Trust representative was not present.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

Following an update from the Chair from the Playpark Sub-committee representative, it was:

Resolved to note that the Council would hopefully mend the fence shortly.

9. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 1 June 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,991.14.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 1 June 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,694.72 of which:

- £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.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2020/21

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 31 May 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the funds for 2020/21 had been fully allocated.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme 2021/22

Following consideration of the 2021/22 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 31 May 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,196.77.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 31 May 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,524.04.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 31 May 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,673.78.
2. That the Clerk should contact the relevant section querying whether, as this fund appeared difficult to utilise, it would be possible for the remaining balance to be transferred to the General Fund account.

G. Annual Accounts 2020/2021

Following consideration of the Annual Accounts/Income and Expenditure statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2020/2021.

10. Financial Requests

A. Stromness Amateur Football Club – Training Balls

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Amateur Football Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance of £200 towards purchasing new training balls, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £200 be approved to Stromness Amateur Football Club towards the cost of purchasing training balls, and that application should be made to Orkney Islands Council for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme.

B. Stromness Amateur Football Club - Proposed Beach Clean

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Amateur Football Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting a donation of £500 towards a proposed beach clean around Copland's Dock, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a grant of £300 be approved to Stromness Amateur Football Club towards the proposed beach clean around Copland's Dock area, and that application should

be made to Orkney Island Council for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme.

2. That the Clerk should contact the relevant section to ascertain whether there was any additional funding scheme available where the remaining £200 requested could be funded from.

C. Orkney Islands Sea Angling Association

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Islands Sea Angling Association requesting financial assistance, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact Orkney Islands Sea Angling Association to inform the Association that Stromness Community Council looked favourably on the request, however would like to ascertain whether the Association had contacted Orkney Islands Council in the first instance to apply for COVID-19 funding that was available and ascertain whether the application had been refused.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. GMB Garden – Long Term Plans

A member highlighted that, now that the GMB garden had been tidied up, perhaps it was time to have a think about the long-term maintenance plans in order to keep things at a suitable level. He also mentioned that the grass area was getting very difficult to cut and keep down due to the heavy moss, which may need to be levelled and reseeded, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

B. Signage at Warebeth

A member queried whether it would be possible to request “No Overnight Parking” sign to be positioned at Warebeth, as well one at the first gun emplacement area on the West Shore Road just past the old lifeboat shed and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation meantime.

C. Sign for Commercial Wheelie Bin, Warebeth

A member highlighted that since the commercial wheelie bin had been replaced, could a “No Household Waste” sign, similar to that on the previous bin, be erected on it, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant section requesting that a sign be placed on the commercial wheelie bin at Warebeth.

D. Litter Bin Signs

A member queried whether the signs that indicated that dog waste could be placed in any litter bin could be redone, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the relevant section requesting that the signs for dog waste on litter bins around Stromness be redone.

E. Road from Cemetery to Warebeth

A member raised the issue of potholes on the road from the cemetery to Warebeth. Councillor J Stockan informed members that this issue had been raised previously and that the area usually gets some maintenance during the summer months and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that to note the information provided.

F. Request from Member of Public

The Chair informed members that she had been approached by a member of the public regarding assistance regarding a housing issue and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would contact the relevant section.

G. Downie's Lane

Councillor J Stockan informed members that the work on Downie's Lane which had stopped due to COVID-19 would be underway shortly. As this was not an adopted road, once the works had been concluded there would be no further maintenance, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 23 August 2021 commencing at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.