

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, on Tuesday, 19 April 2022 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Public.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that an apology for absence had been received from G Deans.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022 were approved, being proposed by W Mackay, and seconded by P McLaughlin.

3. Matters Arising

A. Welcome to Stromness Sign

Following an update from K Bevan regarding the Welcome to Stromness Sign, it was:

Resolved to note that this item was still progressing.

B. Litter Bin Signs

Following an update from K Donald and W Mackay regarding the litter bin signs, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the Any Bin Will Do stickers had been received and were being put on bins.
2. That K Donald would contact Stromness Primary Schools to arrange for an article with the designer of the sticker to be placed in The Orcadian.

C. Post Box on Hillside Road

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved that, as no response had been received regarding the post box on Hillside Road, the Chair would write again to C Alway, Islands Manager, Royal Mail, requesting an update on the matter.

D. GMB Garden

Following an update from the Chair and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That a provisional date of Saturday, 30 April 2022 had been arranged for members to participate in a tidy/maintenance day at GMB Gardens where work to be done included redistributing the gravel, securing one of the obelisks and maintenance to the fence.
2. That the previous volunteer who had cut the grass at the GMB Garden was not continuing and a new volunteer would need to be sought to cut the grass this year.
3. That the grass was also growing into the gravel making additional work for the volunteers.

E Knight joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

E. What's On Board

Following an update from K Bevan and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that no notice had been added to the board stipulating the use of the steel pins rather than staples and this was being monitored meantime.
2. To note that no business messages should be advertised on the board.
3. That this item could now be removed from the agenda.

F. GMB Legacy Artwork

Following an update from the Chair and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Arts Officer, OIC, had confirmed, following consultation with the legal section, that the public liability insurance for the installation came under the remit of the Council and was currently in the process of getting the insurance in place prior to work commencing.
2. That following concerns raised by J Mowat, the Chair would contact the Arts Officer and G Barnby regarding the proximity of the artwork to the bushes and enquire whether it was possible for them to liaise with J Mowat regarding moving the artwork further away from the bushes.

4. Correspondence

A. iPads

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability), Orkney Islands Council, regarding iPads accessed through the Connecting Scotland Scheme for specific target groups, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Services from Planning Aid Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence received from Planning Aid Scotland regarding services for the planning system, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Grieveship Road Safety Issues

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Grieveship Residence Association, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That K Bevan would contact the Association regarding the Safe Routes to School and the Stromness Housing Master Plan.
2. That the Clerk would contact the relevant section regarding the height of the two smileys currently on the lamp posts as members felt they were too high.
3. That the Chair would write a supportive letter to the Grieveship Residence Association regarding the road safety issues.

5. Consultations

A. Scoping Opinion for Proposed Section 36 and Marine Licence Applications for the West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm

Following consideration of a consultation regarding the proposed Section 36 and Marine Licence Applications for the West of Orkney Offshore Windfarm, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would submit a response of no comment at this stage, but that Stromness Community Council noted the benefits to the community.

B. Winter Service Plan 2021/2022

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan 2021/2022, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section highlighting that although it appeared on the map of the Stromness routes that the lower part of Coplands Road would be included in the salt/grit operation it had been noted by a member earlier in the month when it had been icy that area had not been salted/gritted.

6. Publication – Orkney Area Command Newsletter

Following consideration of the Newsletter for Orkney Community Councils received from Orkney Area Command, Police Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would feedback the following:

- That Stromness Community Council felt that the occasional attendance of a Police Scotland representative would be beneficial.
- That regarding the newsletter, there appeared to be a repeat of some of the information.
- That Stromness Community Council were keen to have more information that was pertinent to the Stromness area rather than the mass media approach of the newsletter.
- That there had been a number of queries from members of the public regarding when Police Scotland were going to return to the weekly/bi-weekly police surgeries at Warehouse Building, Stromness.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative updated members that he had reported routine issues as well as reporting the bottom of Coplands Road which still needed to be tarred, highlighting that the gullies were higher and therefore water lies in this area. He also would report that the car park in this area between the houses had been coned off and as a result 4 or 5 cars were parking on the road. He confirmed that he would contact K Roy to ascertain if the cones could be removed to enable the car park to be used.

As this was the MARS representative's final meeting he stated that he hoped the MARS representative position would be kept going in the new community council as, although reporting matters via Customer Services in either Stromness or Kirkwall was excellent, he felt it had been beneficial to contact the services direct about some matters, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative updated members that the forum had held its Annual General Meeting recently and she would circulate the minutes of the meeting shortly. She confirmed that two new members had joined the forum, with all position now being filled apart from the post of Secretary, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative updated members that the Trust had held its Annual General Meeting on 29 March and would also forward the minutes to members shortly. He continued that the Trust would be meeting representatives from the Council in the coming weeks regarding the Community Centre, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 7 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance was £5,073.65.
2. That Stromness Business Forum and Stromness Development Trust were planning events for the upcoming Jubilee and that the Community Council would

donate up to £500, which had been donated and ringfenced for jubilee events in Stromness, subject to evidence of expenditure.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 7 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,557.72 of which:

- £100 had been donated from Stromness Drama Club towards purchasing a new flag but as the money was not ring-fenced, it would be put towards another worthwhile community project if replacing the flag did not go ahead.
- £1,050.72 was to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2021/2022

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 7 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the grant had been fully allocated.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 7 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

E. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 7 April 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,273.78.

9. Financial Request

A. Stromness Amateur Football Club

Following consideration of correspondence that had previously been circulated from Stromness Amateur Football Club regarding potential funding for the upcoming Bag the Bruck event, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That up to £300 was available for participation in this event.
2. That, at present, Stromness Amateur Football Club, were the only organisation who had applied to Stromness Community Council to take part in the event and subject to confirmation from the Club of the number of bags collected would receive the full amount.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

1. Thurso Mini Meet – 7 May 2022

K Bevan declared an interest in this item and, although did not leave the meeting, took no part in discussion thereof.

Following correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 14 Stromness swimmers attending the Thurso Mini Meet on 7 May 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per swimmer, totalling £182, be given towards the cost of 14 Stromness swimmers attending the Thurso Mini Meet on 7 May 2022.

2. North Atlantic Challenge, Shetland – 22 May 2022

Following correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 4 Stromness swimmers attending the North Atlantic Challenge to be held in Shetland on 22 May 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per swimmer, totalling £52, be given towards the cost of 4 Stromness swimmers attending the North Atlantic Challenge to be held in Shetland on 22 May 2022.

10. Provisional Dates of Meetings

Resolved to note the following dates of meetings had been agreed:

Tuesday, 23 August 2022.

Monday, 3 October 2022.

Monday, 15 November 2022.

Monday, 23 January 2023.

Monday, 13 March 2023.

Monday, 8 May 2023.

Monday, 12 June 2023.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Possible use of Stage Canopy – Availability

The Chair raised the possibility of the stage canopy requiring to be erected during the purdah period, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that E Knight, K Bevan, W Mackay and P McLaughlin may be available to advise the relevant clubs/organisations with the erection of the stage canopy.

B. Town Hall Refurbishment

K Bevan declared an interest in this part of this item and, although he did not leave the meeting, took no part in discussion thereof.

A member raised concern regarding the lack of safety signage on the scaffolding erected at the Town Hall, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section highlighting the issue.

C. GMB Garden – Grass

A member queried the decision made at a previous meeting to keep the grass area in the GMB Garden and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the general feeling of members was that the original concept of grassed fish design should remain as it was.

D. J Mowat

J Mowat informed members that this would be his last meeting as he would not be standing again in the forthcoming elections. The Chair, on behalf of the members, expressed her thanks to J Mowat, for all his work over the years to both the Community Council and the local community, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and thanks to J Mowat.

E. Litter at Co-op

A member had been approached by several members of the public raising concern regarding the amount of litter on the pavement outside the Stromness Co-op, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write to both Stromness Co-op and the Council to ascertain the best way forward.

F. Ness Campsite

A member queried when the Ness Campsite and the footpath would reopen, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that K Donald would check when the campsite was due to reopen.

G. Bank of Scotland – Stromness Branch

A member queried whether it would be worthwhile contacting the Bank of Scotland expressing Stromness Community Council's extreme disappointment regarding the forthcoming closure of the Stromness Branch and raising the possibility with them of the cash machine being continued, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would write to the Bank of Scotland with the Community Council's concerns.
2. To note that Stromness Business Forum were looking into alternatives for a cash machine.

H. Cleaning of Church Road

The Chair had been approached by a member of the public regarding the mess of Church Road which required to be cleaned, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that K Donald would request that the road be cleaned prior to Orkney Folk Festival.

I. Rubbish at Coplands Dock

The Chair raised concern with the amount of rubbish/scrap that was at the laydown area of Coplands Dock, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the scrap had been removed.

J. Bonfire Area

The Chair raised that the area where the bonfire had been held was in need of tidying up and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay, P McLaughlin and G Deans, together with T Todd, would arrange to tidy up the area.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 23 August 2022, commencing at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:27.