

# **Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 15 March 2021 at 19:00**

## **Present:**

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

## **In Attendance:**

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

## **Chair:**

- P McLaughlin.

## **Order of Business**

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## **1. Police Matters**

The Police Scotland Officer updated members of incidents that had occurred since the last meeting of the Community Council. Four incidents had been reported, including the discovery of opiates by the Drug Dog at Stromness Post Office and the theft of a motor vehicle, which had been left on the pier with the keys in it. The Police Scotland representative queried whether members were aware of the plans for Stromness Shopping Week. The Chair informed the Police Scotland Officer that, as far as she was aware, the event would take place along the same lines as last year. A member confirmed that he had emailed Inspector Hall the contact details of the Chair of Shopping Week, as requested, and it was:

Resolved to note the update provided.

W Mackay joined the meeting during discussion of this item and the Police Scotland Officer left the meeting at this point.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 was approved, being proposed by J Park and seconded by G Deans.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Benches**

Following an update from the Chair and W Mackay, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a member of the public had donated a sum of money to purchase a bench in memory of her late husband.
2. To note that the four plastic benches purchased under the CCGS scheme by the Community Council, together with the one plastic bench referred to a paragraph 1 above, had been delivered to the Northwards Depot, Hatston.
3. To note that, as yet, no invoice had been received from Northwards for payment to enable the benches to be delivered to Stromness.
4. That the Chair would contact the member of the public to discuss possible locations for the donated bench.
5. That the bench previously situated at Brinkie's Brae, currently stored in G Deans' shed, should replace the Council-owned bench at Oglaby, which was in a poor state of repair.

K Donald joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **B. Welcome to Stromness Sign**

Following discussion regarding possible sites for the Welcome to Stromness Sign, it was:

Resolved:

1. That K Bevan would make enquires regarding siting the sign in the vicinity of the terminal building.
2. That the Chair would contact K Holland to make enquires regarding siting the sign at the marina.

## **C. Standing Water – Church Road to Sutherland’s Chemist**

Members considered correspondence received from the Roads Support Manager, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been circulated, advising that there were no plans to reinstate a gully in this location and that the standing water after rain was no more than 5mm deep or, following a heavy shower, it may be 10mm which dissipated quickly. He also advised that this area had been looked at again following a shower of rain as part of the monthly inspection with no identified risk and no action was required, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **D. Paving Slabs**

Members considered correspondence received from the Roads Support Manager, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been circulated, thanking the Community Council for bringing the loose paving slabs throughout the street to his attention and advising that the main street was inspected on a monthly basis when any flagstone deemed defective were identified and added to the programme of works according to the category of defect. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. Boat on Hard Standing, Coplands Dock**

Councillor R Crichton advised that a notice regarding removal of the boat had been advertised in The Orcadian for 28 days and that the owner of the boat had not, as yet, come forward. It was also reported that the relevant department was arranging for the removal of the boat, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Damaged Railing**

Following an update from Councillor R Crichton, it was:

Resolved to note that the damaged railing on Ferry Road had been fixed.

## **G. Warebeth Cemetery**

Members considered correspondence received from the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, advising that until there was a

replacement in post of Burial Grounds Officer, no officer was available to undertake a site visit to Warebeth Cemetery. She noted the issues highlighted by Stromness Community Council of the rabbit infestation and the state of the sheds, which had previously been raised. She also reported that, regarding the sheds, it was understood that the plan was to board up the “new” shed to make it safe and to fence off the “old” shed to secure access which had been passed to the relevant department. The Strategic Policy and Projects Manager further advised that she would monitor the situation until there was a permanent member of staff in place. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would raise the following additional issues at Warebeth Cemetery with the relevant department:
  - The pedestrian gate was worn and sticks when opening.
  - The door in the disabled toilet at Warebeth Cemetery needed to be replaced.

## **H. Coplands Dock – Footpath**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Asset Management and Countryside Access Officer, together with the Rural Planner, dated 17 February 2021, in response to concerns raised by the Community Council regarding erosion along a stretch of the footpath, the Community Council’s response dated 28 February 2021, correspondence received from Democratic Services dated 2 March 2021, enclosing two plans of the core path from the Rural Planner and the Community Council’s response dated 8 March 2021 returning the plans, as requested, indicating where the path was dangerously narrow, together with details of an incident that had occurred in the area in the Summer, copies of which had all been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department seeking a response to the email dated 8 March 2021.

## **I. Possible Donation from Member of the Public**

Following an update from G Deans, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that G Deans would contact Stromness Surgery regarding possible sites for an additional defibrillator.

## **4. Correspondence - Stromness Waterworks Action Group**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Waterworks Action Group regarding concerns about the future of Stromness (Yelda) Reservoir/Waterworks and surrounding areas, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the Group stating that Stromness Community Council supports the efforts of Stromness Waterworks Action Group and that the

Group should get back in touch with the Community Council should they need assistance.

## **5. Consultations**

### **A. Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation**

Following consideration of a consultation on Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation received from Defra and the Scottish Government, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that W Mackay had responded on behalf of Stromness Community Council prior to the deadline of 25 February 2021.

### **B. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Following consideration of a consultation on the Verge Maintenance Plan, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would respond to the consultation, prior to the deadline date of 31 March 2021, requesting that a cut on one side of Kirbister Road earlier in the season be added.

## **6. Publications**

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

## **7. Reports from Community Council Representatives**

### **A. MARS**

The MARS representative raised concern regarding the number of potholes on Garson Road. He went on to say that potholes were a problem not just in and around Stromness but throughout Orkney. Councillor J Stockan informed members that following a recent meeting there was now an additional sum of money available to go towards roads maintenance. A member queried how the road maintenance work would be prioritised as, for example, the work which was currently taking place on the road just outside Finstown on the Kirkwall to Stromness road was a stretch of road that appeared to be in a good condition. Councillor J Stockan was unsure why that road work was being done but stressed that the best thing to do was to identify areas in need of repair and report them via the MARS representative to assist with a plan of work to be drawn up, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Stromness Community Business Forum**

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative provided an update, advising that the minutes of the meeting of the AGM held on 9 March 2021 would be circulated to members when they were available, and that the Business Forum had been working closely with the Development Trust on a few projects, such as the Stromness Business Survey 2021, and that once responses had been collated, these would be passed to the Community Council. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Stromness Development Trust**

Members heard from the Stromness Development Trust representative that the request to the Council for additional support to fund the post of Stromness Development Officer had been successful and the post was now full time for the 12 months. It was also reported that the new Stromness Website was now live, and that other projects being worked on, or investigated, included installing a ramp at the Community Centre, replacing information and display boards and a community asset transfer of St Peters House, the latter of which was waiting for confirmation of funding. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Playpark Sub-committee**

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

Resolved to note that the project was now complete, and it was hoped that the Playpark would be opened for the beginning of the Easter Holidays.

## **8. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance was £5,168.58.
2. That the shortfall of £15.90, which was not covered by donations for the defibrillator, should be funded from the General Fund.

### **B. Donations Account**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 5 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,298.72 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**

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 3 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 3 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,824.04.

## **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 3 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,673.78.

## **9. Financial Requests**

### **A. Stromness Museum – Assistance towards Publication of Scapa 100 Conference Proceedings**

W Mackay and J Park declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussions thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Museum, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved, on the motion of K Bevan, seconded by G Deans, that a donation of £500, to be allocated from the General Fund, be given to Stromness Museum, towards the publication of Scapa 100 Conference Proceedings.

### **B. OASC – Assistance towards purchasing Starting Blocks**

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

Resolved that a donation of £300, to be allocated from the Community Development Fund, be given to OASC towards purchasing starting blocks.

### **C. Insurance 2021/2022**

Following consideration of the Insurance Schedule 2021/2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the cost should be funded through the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme.

## **10. Dates of Meetings**

Resolved to note that the dates of future meetings would be as follows:

- Monday, 14 June 2021.
- Monday, 23 August 2021.
- Monday, 4 October 2021.
- Monday, 15 November 2021.

- Monday, 24 January 2022.
- Monday, 14 March 2022.
- Monday, 9 May 2022.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Yorston Drive**

Following discussion of the name put forward for a new Stromness development, it was:

Resolved to note that the Planning Section had confirmed that Stromness Community Council's suggestion of Yorston Drive for the new Stromness development had been accepted and was now on the Royal Mail's "Not Yet Built" register.

### **B. Hamnavoe – Proposed Signs**

A member highlighted the difficulties faced by members of the public who were unfamiliar with the area finding addresses at Hamnavoe, and queried the possibility of having signage erected, similar to that which was installed at Grieveship, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department to highlight the issue.

### **C. Orkney Weightlifting Club**

G Deans updated members that he had been approached by a member of Orkney Weightlifting Club who were looking for a new accommodation for the Club and were seeking the Community Council's views. The Club were querying the possibility of taking over Stromness Squash Court and had requested usage details of the Squash Court since 2016 by means of an FOI. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that G Deans would feedback to Orkney Weightlifting Club the positive comments, as well as the concerns that had been expressed, by members as well as stressing that the Club should seek community feedback.

### **D. Overgrown Hedge – Stromness Swimming Pool**

A member highlighted the overgrown hedge at the car park of Stromness Swimming Pool which was growing across the pavement, as well as overgrowing on the other side which was encroaching on the Swimming Pool oil tank and, following discussion, it was:

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

### **E. Trees on Hillside Road**

A member raised concern regarding recent damage to trees at the bottom of Hillside Road resulting in a number of broken branches and, following discussion, it was:

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

## **F. Crows**

A member queried whether there was something that could be done regarding the number of crows nesting in Stromness and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that crows were protected and that Councillor J Stockan had a leaflet about what can and cannot be done regarding crows.

## **G. Market Green**

A member queried whether there would be money in the 2021/2022 budget to replace stiles at the Market Green which were in a poor state of repair, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department to highlight the issue.

## **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, 3 May 2021, commencing at 19:00.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

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