

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Monday, 27 August 2018 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- P Green, Landscape Architect.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- One member of the Press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that an apology had been intimated on behalf of A Esslemont.

The Chair also advised members that A Esslemont had regretfully tendered her resignation from the Community Council and that a bye-election would be called in due course.

2. Proposed War Memorial Glade

After hearing a presentation from the Landscape Architect regarding plans for the proposed War Memorial Glade to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1, together with sketch proposals and photographs of the proposed site, copies of which had been circulated, and following a question and answer session, it was resolved:

A. To note that funding for this type of project was available from the National Lottery Fund until January 2019.

B. To note that the lead-in time for applications to be with the National Lottery Fund was a minimum of four to five months, thereby making this means of funding no longer viable.

C. That Stromness Community Council supported the proposal, in principle, if funding was available to the applicant by other means, subject to:

- Wider community support for the project being received following public consultation.
- The project being done within a suitable timeframe, given that the project was to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1.

J Park joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

The Landscape Architect left the meeting at this point.

3. Royal British Legion - Proposed Erection of Plaque

The Chair advised members that he had been approached by a member of the Stromness Branch of the Royal British Legion to let the Community Council know that the Royal British Legion would like to erect a small brass plaque on the wall of the War Memorial to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1, and it was:

Resolved to note the Chair would feedback verbal support to the Stromness Branch of the Royal British Legion regarding the erection of a small brass plaque on the wall of the War Memorial to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1.

4. Police Matters

As no police representative was present, the Chair read an update that had been received covering the following matters:

- Police were continuing to issue tickets for parking.
- Applications for Police Scotland Youth Volunteers were now open.
- A Drugs Dog, named Whisky, was now in place and would be visiting the county 10 and 11 September 2018.

Resolved that the information provided be noted.

5. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 19 June 2018 was approved, being proposed by G Deans and seconded by W Mackay.

6. Matters Arising

A. Scottish Water

The Chair updated members that Scottish Water had been in touch to say that they would donate £5,000 towards the redevelopment of the playpark at Guardhouse Park, Stromness. The Chair had emailed to thank Scottish Water for their very generous donation and the Clerk had contacted them with details of how to make the payment into the holding account. To date, the monies had not been transferred and the Clerk would chase this up, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

B. Public Stage – Grass Cutting

The Chair informed members that correspondence had been received from Democratic Services confirming that the area in question at the back of the stage area had been added back into the contract for grass cutting at the Town House, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

C. Proposed Communications Installation

The Chair informed members that following correspondence from Stromness Community Council to Wilkinson-Helsby regarding the proposed communications installation at Back Road/Netherton Road, the proposed mast had been reduced from 12m to 8m.

He also advised that a letter had been sent to the Planning Department raising concerns of Stromness Community Council. A response had been received from the Planning Department stating that as the representation did not specifically indicate an objection to the proposal, it would not trigger a report to the Planning Committee and that the Community Council would be informed of the outcome in due course. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

D. Street Cleaning Following Local Events

The Chair advised that this could only be progressed once feedback had been received from the Orkney Folk Festival, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would contact Orkney Folk Festival again for feedback on this issue.

7. Correspondence

A. Voluntary Action Orkney

After consideration of the Membership Renewal 2018/2019 pack received from Voluntary Action Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, on the motion of W Mackay, seconded by J Mowat, it was:

Resolved to renew membership of Voluntary Action Orkney for 2018/2019.

B. Police Scotland – Community Resilience Planning

After consideration of a letter received from Police Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would collate information for Community Resilience Planning on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

C. Scottish Fire and Rescue – Community Asset Register

After consideration of correspondence received from Scottish Fire and Rescue, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would collate information for the Community Asset Register on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

D. Stromness Tree Lighting Ceremony – Event Management Plan

After consideration of the Event Management Plan for the Stromness Tree Lighting Ceremony, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. That the date set for the Stromness Tree Lighting Ceremony was Wednesday, 28 November 2018.

2. To note that additional lighting was required as it had been noted the previous year that prior to the Christmas Lights being switched on it was very dark.

3. That the Event Management Plan required to be updated and returned to Democratic Services prior to Thursday, 11 October 2018.

E. Bonfire Night – Event Management Plan

After consideration of the Bonfire and Fireworks Display Event Management and Contingency Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note that the bonfire would be on Monday, 5 November 2018.

2. That the Bonfire and Fireworks Display Event Management and Contingency Plan required to be updated and returned to Democratic Services.

F. Consultation Document – Orkney Local Biodiversity Action Plan

After consideration of the Orkney Local Biodiversity Action Plan, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

G. Statement of Alcohol Licensing Policy

After consideration of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005: Review of Statement of Alcohol Policy, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

H. Police Scotland – Focus Group

After consideration of correspondence received from Police Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, it was resolved:

1. To note that Police Scotland proposed that a small focus group be set up comprising members of the local community, together with representatives from Police Scotland.
2. To note that the first meeting of the Focus Group was due to be held on Thursday, 6 September 2018.
3. That on the motion of P McLaughlin, seconded by W Mackay, E Knight should be the representative from Stromness Community Council to attend the Police Scotland Focus Group.

I. Democratic Services – Removal of Redundant Street Lighting

After consideration of a letter from Democratic Services regarding the removal of redundant street lighting, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should write to Democratic Services:

1. To ascertain whether those affected by the removal of the street lighting had been contacted and had no concerns with the proposal.
2. To ask that the plan that had been circulated with the letter be reassessed as Stromness Community Council members felt that the map had been wrongly defined previously regarding the inclusion of houses on the seaward side of Dundas Street.

J. Marine Scotland – Orkney to Mainland Subsea Link

After consideration of correspondence received from Marine Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the marine consultation aspects of the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission development, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

K. Letter of Thanks

After consideration of a letter of thanks from P Breck, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the letter.

L. Headstone Inspections – Update

After consideration of a letter from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, giving an update on headstone inspection progress throughout Orkney cemeteries, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the letter.

8. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that a significant number of street lights on Cairston Road had not been working since July. A member added that almost half the street lights from Garson Loan to the Squash Courts were not working. The MARS representative noted there may be a cable fault as the road was now being dug up. Councillor R Crichton confirmed he would check to see what the situation was.

The MARS representative also informed members that he had reported a pavement in Hillside Road to be repaired under the Micro Asphalt Footway Treatment.

A member raised the issue of a pothole on the connecting road of North End Road to Hillside Road at the War Memorial. The MARS representative confirmed he would report this, and it was:

Resolved that these points be noted.

B. Stromness Business Forum

The Stromness Business Forum representative informed members that following on from the robust meeting with the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, regarding issues such as recycling, that had been held prior to the summer, a further follow-up meeting was yet to be arranged.

The Business Forum were still to hear from Orkney Folk Festival Committee for feedback following on from their washup meeting to see how things could be improved for next year.

The Stromness Business Forum representative confirmed that Stromness Business Forum would be providing the Christmas Tree this year, and it was:

Resolved that this information be noted.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust (SDT) representative informed members that the next SDT meeting would be held later in the week, where events such as the Yule Log would be discussed.

He also informed members that SDT were keen to secure funding for the Development Officer post and had met with LEADER last week. The timescales were tight to get the funding in place.

Regarding the Christmas Lights, as yet there was no update to give but he would report back. A member asked whether an official presentation of the money raised for the Christmas Lights had been arranged. The SDT representative confirmed that he would arrange this, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

The Playpark Sub-committee representative informed members that things were not much further on from the last meeting. They had met the Active Schools Co-ordinator from Orkney Islands Council who had confirmed that the plans for the playpark were suitable. He went on to confirm that the Board had agreed to take on the 15-year lease and that by the end of the week it was hoped that the plans would be on social media for the wider community to view and comment on.

A member asked whether it was the original plans or if they had been modified. The Playpark representative confirmed that based on feedback from comments received from P1-P7 pupils from Stromness Primary School, the plans had not been modified.

A member also queried whether the plans would just be on Facebook as not everyone had access to this. The Playpark representative confirmed that as well as Facebook it would also be on www.stromnessorkney.com website, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

E. Patients Public Reference Group (PPRG)

Resolved that this item be deferred to a future meeting to enable more information to be ascertained.

F. Establishment of Christmas Lights Working Group

Resolved that this item be considered along with Item 8G below.

G. Appointment of Lead Members

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the following members be appointed as the Lead Member and first point of contact for the following Working Groups:

- Bonfire Night – G Deans, assisted by W Mackay.
- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – J Park.

- GMB Gardens – J Mowat.
- Christmas Lights Working Group – K Bevan, W Mackay, Councillors Crichton, Stockan and Thomson.
- Community Resilience Planning/Database – K Bevan.
- Stage Area – G Deans/P McLaughlin. It was further noted that to erect and dismantle the stage needed 12 people, of which two thirds (8 people) were required from the group requesting the stage. This was to be added to the Booking Form for the stage area.

9. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

After consideration of the Community Council's General Finance Statement as at 19 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £4,479.05.

B. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 14 August 2018, copies of which had been circulated, Councillor Stockan indicated that the cost of the stage area had been more than had been anticipated. Following discussion, Councillor Stockan confirmed that he would follow this up internally, and it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £4,662.62, of which £3,607.90 was to be retained for the purchase of the Christmas lights and £1,050.72 remained for the community stage project, to be used solely for upkeep and maintenance of the stage.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme Statement

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme Statement 2018/2019 as at 13 August 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the remaining balance for approval of £618.40.

D. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 13 August 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining for allocation of £4,154.51.

E. Seed Corn

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund as at 14 August 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,263.78 remained for approval.

10. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. YDL Scottish Regional Final – Grangemouth

After consideration of an application received, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards attending the U13 Shotput, YDL Scottish Regional Final as part of the Orkney Athletic Team in Grangemouth on 29 July 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to the person for participating in the U13 Shotput, YDL Scottish Regional Final as part of the Orkney Athletic Team in Grangemouth on 29 July 2018.

B. Girlguiding Orkney – Trip to Blackpool

After consideration of an application received from Girl Guiding Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards two Stromness Girl Guides attending a trip to Blackpool being organised by Girl Guiding Scotland and Girl Guiding South West England in September 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the two Stromness Girl Guides attending a trip to Blackpool in September 2018, totalling £26.

C. Orkney Youth Development Group – U13 Intercounty Football and Stromness U15 v Scalloway – Shetland

After consideration of an application received from Orkney Youth Development Group, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards five Stromness footballers attending the U13 Intercounty Football and seven Stromness footballers attending a U15 v Scalloway football match in Shetland on 23 and 24 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the five Stromness Footballers attending the U13 Intercounty Football and seven of the U15 Stromness Footballers attending the U15 v Scalloway football match totalling £156.

D. U14 Football Trip – August 2018

After consideration of an application received, copies of which had been circulated, for financial assistance towards attending a U14 Football Trip to Shetland on 30 and 31 August 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to the Stromness footballer for attending the U14 Football Trip to Shetland in August 2018.

11. Publications

Resolved to note there were no publications.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Stromness Museum – Keith Allerdyce Collection

J Park and W Mackay declared an interest in this part of this item and were not present during discussion thereof.

The Chair informed members that he had received correspondence from Stromness Museum regarding the Keith Allardyce Collection. The Chair informed members that all photos from the publication Sea Haven by Keith Allardyce had been gifted to the Community Council and were currently on loan to the museum. Following an accreditation review, this loan period was now coming to an end and the Community Council had the following options with the next steps it could take:

- That the photos be returned to Stromness Community Council who would then have to find suitable storage.
- That the Loan Agreement be extended for a further five-year period.
- That the photos be sold with the proceeds being split between the Community Council and Stromness Museum.

On the motion of K Bevan, seconded by J Mowat, it was:

Resolved to note that, in the first instance, the Loan Agreement be entered into for a further five-year period.

B. Stromness Community Council Flag

A member commented on the poor condition of the Stromness Community Council Flag and felt it was time to start looking at costings for a replacement. Councillor Stockan informed members that he had one at his house which he would return to the Community Council. Another member said she had been approached by Stromness Drama Club who, having had a very successful financial year and as they were a registered charity, would be in a position to make a charitable donation of £100 and perhaps their donation could go towards a new flag, and it was resolved:

1. That W Mackay would investigate the costings to replace the flag.
2. That the Chair would write to Stromness Drama Club to thank them for their generous offer of £100 which, if purchasing the new flag were to go ahead, would go towards the flag but as the money was not ringfenced if replacing the flag did not go ahead the money would be put towards another worthwhile community project.

C. Per Mare Books

A member informed the meeting that 35 Per Mare Books were being donated to the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved that these would be held with the Stromness Plaques for future distribution.

D. Benches at the Pierhead

A member noted the poor condition of the benches at the Pier Head which were in need of refurbishment and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ask Democratic Services to contact the relevant department to ascertain whether the benches could be refurbished.

E. Eventide Club Door - Deterioration

A member noted the poor condition of the Eventide Club Door which was in need of repair and a coat of paint, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Democratic Services to ascertain whether this was a Harbours Property and ascertain whether the door could be refurbished by this means.

F. Information Signs – Deterioration

A member noted the poor condition of the Information Signs throughout Stromness which were in need of paint, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Democratic Services to pass this information on to the relevant department for actioning.

G. Opening Times – Bank of Scotland

A member noted that the Bank of Scotland had been closed a few times on one of the days it was supposed to be open in Stromness which she believed was due to staffing issues. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Business Forum representative would bring this to Stromness Business Forums attention.

H. GMB Gardens

Following discussion, it was resolved:

1. To note that the grass in the GMB gardens had not been cut as regularly as it should have been and that this situation would be monitored.
2. To note that W Mackay would arrange to pick up the old picnic bench which would then be disposed of at the community bonfire.
3. That the Clerk would contact Democratic Services to ascertain why grass at the seated area beside the GMB Gardens had not been cut since the works had been carried out by Scottish Water.

Councillor Magnus Thomson left the meeting during discussion of this item.

I. Information Board

A member noted that the information board, although it had been cleaned up, needed to be looked at as the distances were still wrong, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted meantime.

J. Coastal Paths Update

A member asked for an update on the position regarding coastal paths funding. Councillor Stockan advised members that as this was going through the committee process, it would be some time before there were any results, he confirmed that

when there was progress on this he would report back to Stromness Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note this information.

13. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 8 October 2018 at 19:00 in the Town House, Stromness.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 21:25.