

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 4 May 2021 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Sergeant H Moonie, Police Scotland.
- G Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that an apology for absence had been intimated on behalf of E Knight.

2. Election of Officer Bearers

A. Appointment of Chair

Resolved that P McLaughlin was duly appointed as Chair of Stromness Community Council.

B. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that G Deans was duly appointed as Vice Chair of Stromness Community Council.

C. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that K Donald was duly appointed as Planning Representative of Stromness Community Council.

3. Area near Point of Ness Campsite

The Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) raised an issue regarding the area of land opposite the boatyard at the Point of Ness. As well as boats in the area which was making it difficult to get the grass cut, there was now what appeared to be an abandoned vehicle in the area. The Police Scotland Officer advised members that if the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) passed the vehicle registration details to him, he would look into the matter. Councillor R Crichton queried whether it may be better if the area in question was laid to concrete rather than grass, thereby eliminating the need every year to try to find out who owned the boats to be moved to enable the grass to be cut. The Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) confirmed that the first course of action that he would take would be to put notices on the boats to try to establish the owners and pass the registration details of the vehicle to the Police Scotland Officer.

He also raised another matter regarding the Point of Ness. As there was possible funding available, the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) was seeking members views on the possibility of siting a larger recycling container in the area. The containers would be approximately 2.2 metres high by 6.1 metres. The proposed site would enable the refuse lorry to reverse in to be able to pick up the containers.

A member raised concern regarding the proposed site for the containers and queried whether they would be better placed closer to the amenity block or on the grass area at the boatyard. Another member queried why they could not be sited where the bins are currently situated. Members also raised concern regarding the colour of the containers, as well as highlighting that there were now recycling containers that were predominately underground and thereby have less visual impact.

The Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) confirmed that the proposed site had been chosen following a site visit with Environmental Services Officers with safety for pedestrians as well as access for the refuse lorry being considered. He went on to

say that if the containers were moved nearer the amenity block more pitches would be lost.

The Service Manager queried whether members would be more minded to support the idea of the recycling containers if they were situated outside the campsite, to which members agreed. The Service Manager confirmed that the deadline for the funding was 14 May 2021 and he would keep members up to date with progress, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

W Mackay joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

4. Police Matters

The Police Scotland Officer updated members of the latest COVID-19 changes which allowed alcohol to be served outside and, from 17 May, licensed premises would be allowed to serve alcohol indoors. He confirmed that there would be a noticeable police presence in licensed premises to begin with to ensure that the COVID-19 restrictions were being followed.

He continued that car parking in Stromness was still an issue and that the police had received complaints regarding parking in the bay near the John Rae statue as well as parking along Victoria Street which was causing access issues. The Police Scotland Officer advised that members of the public should park within parking bays and that if that was not adhered to parking tickets would be issued. He also informed members that Chief Inspector Matthew Webb would be retiring shortly and Chief Inspector Alistair Garrow would be taking up the position in June, and it was:

Resolved to note the update provided.

The Police Scotland Officer left the meeting at this point.

5. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 was approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by J Park.

The Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) left the meeting at this point.

6. Matters Arising

A. Benches

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the memorial bench that was previously situated at Brinkie's Brae had now replaced the Council-owned broken bench at Oglaby.
2. To note that the two new plastic memorial benches would be in place at Logan's Well shortly.

3. To note that W Mackay would approach the family regarding replacing the damaged Ian Argo bench with a more durable one.
4. To note that the Criminal Justice section were aware of the benches that required maintenance, and this would be looked at when there were larger number of individuals who were serving a community service order.
5. That siting benches at Copland's Dock and the Point of Ness should be looked into.

B. Welcome to Stromness Sign

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

Resolved:

1. To note that K Holland had informed the Chair that a sign was already at the marina.
2. To note that two possible sites for the sign had been identified – one where traffic drives off from the MV Hamnavoe under the tower light sign, the other on the opposite side of the road beneath the road signs, with the preferred site being the one under the road signs.
3. That K Bevan would investigate this option further.

C. Warebeth Cemetery - Pedestrian Gate and Disabled Toilet Door

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the pedestrian gate which was worn and sticks when opening had been reported and added to the works system.
2. To note that the door in the disabled toilet at Warebeth Cemetery had been reported and would be replaced in this financial year.

D. Coplands Dock – Footpath

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Head of IT and Finance, copies of which had been circulated, regarding concerns raised by the Community Council regarding erosion along a stretch of the footpath, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, on the advice of the Rural Planner and the Roads Services Technician (Asset Management and Countryside Access), it was not proposed to widen the path at this stage.
2. To note that the Head of IT and Finance would be updated at the next review so a decision could be taken if there were any significant changes.

E. Possible Donation from Member of the Public

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

Resolved:

1. To note that a possible site for the defibrillator was at Stromness Museum.
2. That G Deans would contact BT regarding the possibility of purchasing the phone box beside the museum for the defibrillator, at a nominal fee.
3. That G Deans would write to the Chair of the Museum Trustees, prior to their next meeting in June, regarding the possibility of siting the defibrillator at Stromness Museum.

F. Hamnavoe – Proposed Signs

No update had been provided regarding concerns raised on the difficulty faced by members of the public who were unfamiliar with the area finding addresses at Hamnavoe, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department regarding the possibility of erecting signs.

G. Overgrown Hedge – Stromness Swimming Pool

Following an update from the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) regarding concerns raised about the overgrown hedges at Stromness Swimming Pool, the Service Manager confirmed that the Council's contractor had been informed and the bushes along the building had been trimmed. The contractor had also looked at the hedge at the back of the building and had stressed that if it was cut right back off the path it would look over bare for a period and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would contact the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) to confirm that the contractors should cut back the hedge at the path.

H. Trees on Hillside Road

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture), in connection with concerns raised regarding recent damage to trees at the bottom of Hillside Road, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ropes and steps had been removed from the trees.
2. To note that the Chair had removed the broken branches and tidied up the path.

I. Market Green

Following consideration of correspondence received from Service Manager (Leisure and Culture), copies of which had been circulated, in response to a query regarding replacing the stiles at the Market Green which were in a poor state of repair, it was:

Resolved that the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) had advised that the department would monitor the state of the stiles until later in the year before a decision would be made unless the stiles posed a health and safety risk.

7. Correspondence

A. HITRANS - E-cargo bikes

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Transportation Manager, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding funding for E-Cargo bikes, it was:

Resolved that had no notice of interest had been submitted by Stromness Community Council prior to the deadline of 22 April 2021.

B. Application for Premises Licence

Following consideration of correspondence received from Corporate Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an application for a premises licence, it was:

Resolved to note that comments regarding the application for premises licence should be submitted prior to the deadline of 7 May 2021.

C. Briefing Note - Community Renewal Fund

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Development and Infrastructure Section, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been circulated, advising members that invitations to bid to the UK Community Renewal Fund were now invited from community organisations across Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

D. Islands Communities Impact Assessment

Following consideration of correspondence received from Dr S Turnbull, Marine Planner, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an Islands Communities Impact Assessment, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. Annual Grants

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the allocation of annual grants for 2021/22 to community councils, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. Adoption of Planning Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding three planning guidance documents that had recently been approved by Council, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

8. Consultations

A. Easing Covid-19 restrictions - Islands Consultation

Following consideration of a consultation on the Easing of Covid-19 restrictions – Island Consultation, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair, on behalf of Stromness Community Council, had responded to the consultation prior to the deadline of 26 March 2021.

B. Orkney Partnership - Views on Community Priorities

Following consideration of a consultation from the Orkney Partnership, copies of which had been previously circulated, seeking views on what priorities should be concentrated on in the year ahead, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 30 April 2021.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021

Following consideration of a consultation received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the amended Scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments to the consultation was 16 July 2021.

D. Winter Service Delivery 2021

Following consideration of a consultation received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated regarding the Winter Service Delivery 2021, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That members had recently requested that the following areas be added to the schedule for salting/gritting:

- The path along the shore from the junction with the Hamnavoe/Pumping Station footpath towards Coplands Road.
- The pavement on North End Road.

2. That comments to the consultation should be received by 7 June 2021.

9. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

10. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative had nothing to report but stated that he hoped that the repairs to roads would start very soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative advised members that she would circulate the minutes of the meeting of the AGM held on 9 March 2021 shortly. She also advised that the Bags for Life launch, a joint initiative between the Forum and Stromness Development Trust, had been a great success. While some shops had run out of their supply there were still a few shops where the bags were still available. There had been queries as to whether the bags were available to buy and this was being looked into, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative informed members that the festive lights on Ferry Road had now been switched off for the Summer and would be turned back on again in September. Regarding the additional motifs for lamp posts, it was hoped that they would be in place for Christmas 2021.

He confirmed that the website was now up and running with a space for Stromness Community Council where Community Council minutes, for example, could be uploaded.

Regarding the new What's on Board, he confirmed that he would share the proposed design with members shortly.

Regarding Community Asset Transfers, talks were ongoing regarding St Peter's. Following a query from the Chair, the Development Trust representative confirmed that the proposed access ramp at the Community Centre had been put on hold meantime due to cashflow issues, which highlighted an issued that needed to be addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the Play Inspector had confirmed that the chain link fence needed to be repaired by the Council before the playpark would be opened.

2. That a small plaque would be erected to acknowledge all donations, where it was hoped a small gathering at the site could take place.

3. That the Chair would write to the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture) stressing the importance of completing the work on the fence as soon as possible to enable the playpark to be opened.

11. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 21 April 2021, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £4,634.22.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 21 April 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 30 April 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the funds for 2020/2021 had been fully allocated.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 20 April 2021, 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 20 April 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

12. Financial Request - 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 requesting further information regarding their application.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Garson Amenity Site

A member raised concern regarding the possibility of the centralisation of amenity sites and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that K Bevan, together with G Deans and E Knight, would arrange a meeting with the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager regarding the concerns raised.

B. Signage – West Shore

A member highlighted the need for additional “no vehicular access” signage being erected along the West Shore, particularly at the bottom of the Netherton Road, and it was:

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

C. Potholes – Golf Course Road/Ness Battery Car Park

A member raised concern regarding potholes on the Golf Course Road/Ness Battery car park, and it was:

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

D. Speeding and Parking at Guardhouse Park

A member raised concern regarding speeding and parking issues in the Guardhouse Park area, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor R Crichton would contact the relevant department requesting a “smiley” to be erected in the area.
2. That the Clerk would contact the relevant department highlighting the concerns raised regarding parking in the Guardhouse Park area.

E. Grass Area adjacent to GMB Gardens

A member queried whether the grassed area adjacent to the GMB Gardens could be made into a parking area for Guardhouse Park residents, and it was:

Resolved that to note the information provided.

F. OIC Management Restructure

A member queried whether information on the proposed OIC management restructure would be available to community council members, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department.

G. GMB Garden

Following discussions regarding the GMB Garden, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that further help would be needed shortly regarding the removal of bushes.
2. That the Chair would contact the GMB Fellowship to offer the use of the GMB Garden if the Fellowship required it during GMBs centenary year.

H. Letter of Thanks

Following a request from a member, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would write a letter to Mrs M Mowat thanking her for her continued work in the GMB Garden.

I. Community Council Elections

Following a query from a member, who had been approached by a member of the public, regarding when the elections for community councils would be held, it was:

Resolved to note that the elections for community councils would take place in 2022.

J. Ground at Coplands Dock

The Chair raised concern regarding the creation of a cycle track on the waste ground at Copland's Dock which now was encroaching on the pedestrian walkway. A wall appeared to have been taken down and a ramp made of earth created. A member confirmed that he had contacted Orkney Cycle Club who informed him that they do have permission to use the waste land and were keen to extend the track. They also confirmed that they had not taken down the wall but it was already collapsed. However, they had apologised and had now removed the ramp and reinstated the area to what it was. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would contact the relevant department to confirm whether the club did have permission to use the area to create a cycle track.

K. Postman Pat Playpark

A member raised concern regarding graffiti at the Postman Pat Playpark, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would contact the relevant department highlighting the issue.

14. 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, 14 June 2021 commencing at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

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