

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness, on Tuesday, 19 June 2018 at 19:00

Present:

G Deans, K Bevan, W Mackay and J Park.

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Sergeant S Hay, Police Scotland.
- One member of the press.
- One member of the public.
- P Breck, Clerk.
- S Craigie, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been intimated on behalf of A Esslemont, E Knight, P McLaughlin and J Mowat.

2. Proposed War Memorial Glade

The Chair advised members that the presentation due to be given by P Green on the proposed War Memorial Glade had been postponed until the next meeting to be held on 27 August 2018. He went on to update members that the Stromness Branch of the British Legion had verbally indicated that they were relatively supportive but had several questions that were not satisfactorily answered such as community consultation and responsibility for maintenance, and it was resolved:

A. That the Clerk should contact Democratic Services to obtain written confirmation of ownership of the piece of land in question; seek whether the proposed development required any formal planning or other consent; and seek written approval that such a proposal could proceed under the supervision and support of the Community Council.

B. That the Stromness Branch of the Royal British Legion be contacted to formally ascertain their views on the proposal prior to the Community Council's next meeting.

3. Police Matters

The Police Scotland officer referred to the Policing Report for March 2018, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on ongoing issues within Orkney, which included the deployment of tasers to specially trained officers. Following discussion, the officer assured members that, in his option, officers being issued with tasers gave an extra level of safety to the officer. Although the percentage of officers being trained seemed high, the reality was, due to the small teams on duty, it would be one officer per shift that carried a taser.

The officer also updated members on parking matters since the introduction of tickets for illegal parking in the county and advised that around 20 tickets had been issued in Stromness and Kirkwall. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the information provided be noted.

The Police Scotland officer left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The Minute of the Meeting held on 8 May 2018 was approved, being proposed by W Mackay and seconded by G Deans.

5. Matters Arising

A. Scottish Water

The Chair informed members that he had contacted Scottish Water again for an update on the situation regarding the legacy bequest. He had received an

acknowledgement of his email but had heard nothing further, and offered to chase this up, and it was:

Resolved that this be noted.

B. Public Stage

The Clerk informed members that the bank account for the Public Stage had now been closed with the remaining fund of £1,050.72 transferred to the Sea Haven Account, as detailed in the Financial Statements.

The Chair informed members that feedback from the Folk Festival regarding the use of the stage area had been very positive.

A member asked that clarification be sought on who was responsible for maintaining what areas in the Town House garden ground. Members were aware that they were responsible for the stage area, however believed that the grass area to the rear of the stage was still the responsibility of the Council, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should seek clarification on whether the grass area to the rear of the stage was still the responsibility of the Council and, if so, ask for an indication of the grass cutting schedule.

C. Serco Northlink

The Chair referred to a letter received from Transport Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, and advised members that he was not satisfied with the reply highlighting the reference made to “passengers who preferred to travel on the Pentland Ferries service” when a more accurate statement would be that as there were only 12 passenger spaces available on the freight vessel, passengers were left with no other choice. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the letter received from Transport Scotland and to monitor the situation.

6. Correspondence

A. Annual Grants

After consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had been previously circulated, indicating the Community Council Annual Grants, it was resolved:

1. To note that the total grant for 2018/2019 for Stromness was £4,649.88.
2. That the Clerk would circulate correspondence previously received from Democratic Services regarding the procedure used for calculating annual grants and allocations to Community Councils.

B. Community Council Accounts

After consideration of the Community Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

C. Camp Site – Entrance

After consideration of correspondence received from the Education, Leisure and Housing section, copies of which had been previously circulated, detailing the area of ground required to be cleared of boats to enable grass cutting to take place, it was:

Resolved that a response should be sent to Education, Leisure and Housing section suggesting the following approach initially:

- That notices should be placed on the boats/equipment asking them to be removed to enable grass cutting to take place.
- That a notice be put on the Council's Facebook page and in the Stromness and Roundabout Section of The Orcadian giving a list of the dates the grass was to be cut and requesting removal of the boats/equipment.

D. Proposed Communications Installation

After consideration of a letter from Wilkinson-Helsby regarding the proposed communications installation at Back Road/Netherton Road, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

1. To note that, as comments had to be received prior to the meeting, the Clerk had contacted Wilkinson-Helsby expressing the following concerns of Stromness Community Council:

- Members were not sure what consultation had been made prior to the communication but it would be useful to know why this location has been identified.
- Was it based on cost or is it geographically the most suitable site?
- The structure seems very tall and out of character in this location would attaching it to a higher commercial building be more appropriate – perhaps the Old Academy, Back Road, Stromness.

2. That a letter should be sent to the Planning Department of the Council highlighting Stromness Community Council's concerns expressed at paragraph 6(d)(1) above.

E. Stromness Micro Asphalt Footway Treatment

After consideration of a letter received from Democratic Services regarding Micro Asphalt Footway Treatment, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the letter.

F. Orkney Islands Council (Stromness) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order

After consideration of a letter received from Democratic Services regarding The Orkney Islands Council (Stromness) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the letter.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative informed members that there was not much to report at this time. Issues had been raised with little acknowledgement.

The Chair raised the issue of grass cutting being reduced and the safety issues caused by this, particularly at the Sandwick Junction. He suggested that if this continued, perhaps the police could be contacted to add additional pressure to get this area cut more frequently.

It was suggested that, going forward, perhaps the Community Council would be able to suggest areas that required more cutting as well as areas that did not require to be cut as often, and it was:

Resolved that these points be noted.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Business Forum representative informed members that the Business Forum had had quite a positive meeting with the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure and Councillors Stockan and Crichton regarding issues such as recycling, cardboard shredding and the replacement of the amenity site, which had opened a lot of possibilities. She advised that further discussion would take place and be reported back to the Community Council.

On a separate matter, the Business Forum were waiting for feedback from Orkney Folk Festival Committee's washup meeting to see how things could be improved for next year. It was hoped that there would be something to report at the August meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Development Trust representative informed members that the Development Trust had had an interesting presentation from Robert Gordon University's Development Officer, recently. He suggested to members that she be invited to a future community council meeting to enable her to introduce herself and to find areas for collaboration where RGU could use their expertise to develop ideas within the community.

Discussions had also taken place surrounding the strategy of the Trust which was currently in draft form. Members heard that the strategy would be sent to the community council at a later date for comment and this would then be used as the basis for what the priorities for Stromness should be.

Resolved that this be noted.

D. Playpark Sub-committee

K Bevan informed members that more detailed plans were to yet to come as well as a more detailed budget, but things were progressing. Conversations had started regarding what funding may be available, and he was to contact the Sport and Leisure Service Manager about what needed to be done regarding insurance and lease arrangements. The plans had been distributed to Stromness Primary School and feedback would be collated and sent to members.

K Bevan felt that they were now at the stage to identify who was responsible for the project and whose name would go on any funding application.

The Chair asked whether it would be courteous to consult the Gunn Committee, who had raised £10,000, to ascertain whether they had seen the plans and were happy with them. K Bevan took this onboard as an action and confirmed that he would seek the Gunn Committee's views.

K Bevan informed members that once feedback had been received from the school and the wider community then that would determine whether they progress with the plans as they stand or whether they would need to be radically overhauled.

The Chair, to enable matters to progress, suggested that the Development Trust should maintain the governance of the project but that the project be progressed by a Working Group comprising members from the Community Council, the Development Trust and other community representatives, and it was resolved:

1. To note that Stromness Development Trust should maintain the governance of the project.
2. That the project should be progressed by a Working Group comprising members from the Community Council, the Development Trust and other community representatives

8. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Account

After consideration of the Community Council's General Finance Statement to 31 March 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balances recorded.

B. 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 £5,295.66.

C. Sea Haven Account

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 19 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, 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 from the community stage project, to be used solely for upkeep and maintenance of the stage.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme Statement

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme Statement as at 19 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the remaining balance for approval.

E. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 19 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the total remaining for allocation of £4,844.51.

F. Seed Corn

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund as at 19 June 2018, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. West Mainland Strathspey and Reel Society Juniors - Banchory

Following consideration of an application received from the West Mainland Strathspey and Reel Society, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards eight junior members participating in the Banchory Music Festival on 12 May 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 each of the eight junior members of the West Mainland Strathspey and Reel Society participating in the Banchory Fiddle Festival.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club - Thurso

Following consideration of an application from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards five Stromness swimmers participating in the Pentland Trophy held in Thurso on 19 May 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the five swimmers that participated in the Pentland Trophy in May 2018.

C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Aberdeen Long Course Time Trials

Following consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance

towards four Stromness swimmers participating in the Aberdeen Long Course Time Trials held in Aberdeen on 26/27 May 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the four swimmers that participated in the Aberdeen Long Course Time Trials in May 2018.

D. Orkney Youth Development Group – Highland Football Festival, Dingwall

Following consideration of an application received from Orkney Youth Development Group, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards four footballers travelling to Dingwall to participate in the Highland Football Festival on 25 and 26 May 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 each of the four footballers that participated in the Highland Football Festival.

E. Stromness Bowling Club

Following consideration of an application received from Stromness Bowling Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards replacing their indoor bowling mats, it was:

Resolved to grant £690 to Stromness Bowling Club for assistance towards replacing the indoor bowling mats, subject to Community Development Fund approval.

F. Zoe Adamson – Glitterball Competition - Gairloch

Following consideration of an application received from Zoe Adamson, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards participating in the Glitterball Competition in Gairloch on 30 June 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to Zoe Adamson for taking part in the Glitterball Competition in Gairloch on 30 June 2018.

G. Orkney Gymnastics Club – Glitterball Competition – Gairloch

Following consideration of an application received from Orkney Gymnastics Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards two gymnasts participating in the Glitterball competition in Gairloch on 30 June 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to each of the two gymnasts participating in the Glitterball Competition in Gairloch on 30 June 2018.

H. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Midsummer Meet – Lerwick

Following consideration of an application received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance towards one Stromness swimmer participating in the Midsummer Meet held in Lerwick on 16 and 17 June 2018, it was:

Resolved to grant £13 to the one swimmer that participated in the Midsummer Meet in Lerwick in June 2018.

10. Publications

Resolved to note there were no publications.

11. Any Other Competent Business - Street Cleaning

A member raised the issue of street cleaning following the recent Folk Festival and asked whether it would be good for the community to understand what the situation was regarding street cleaning during and after events, and it was:

Resolved that once feedback had been received from the Orkney Folk Festival Committee, as detailed at paragraph 7B above, the matter could be progressed.

12. 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, 27 August 2018 at 19:00 in the Town House, Stromness.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 20:05.