

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 23 June 2025 at 19:00

Present:

Mrs L McQuaid, Mr D Stout, Ms M Bar-Tor, Mr D Blyth, Mr S Hourston and Ms S Whiteman.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mr B Drummond, Deputy Harbour Master (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Presentation - Deputy Harbour Master

The Deputy Harbour Master responded to questions submitted in advance of the meeting and thanked everyone for their patience in the time it was taking to identify and rectify faults with the west pier. On conclusion the Chair thanked the Deputy Harbour Master for his participation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Deputy Harbour Master left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Seaton, and Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 19 May 2025 was approved, being proposed by Ms M Bar-Tor and seconded by Mr S Hourston.

4. Matters Arising

A. Local Place Plan

Members heard that the Chair had forwarded members a copy of the draft local place plan prepared by Stronsay Development Trust and a request was made for comment and feedback, to the Chair, by 30 June 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note information.

B. Village Play Park

Members heard that by chance a member had met the Play Park Inspector at the Village Play Park and that work was to be undertaken to lower the circular swing and that suggestions had been offered on levelling the matting surface and preserving the wooden play apparatus and perimeter fencing, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That the Clerk would ask the Stronsay Men's Shed Group if they would apply wood preservative, supplied by the Play Park Inspector, to the wooden apparatus and perimeter fence for a donation of £50 from Stronsay Community Council.

C. Storage of Community Generator

Members heard that a possible funding source for a container to house the standby generator had been identified and that liaison continued between the Clerk, the Economic Development Officer and the Chair, Stronsay Community Association, on information required for a funding application. It was also suggested that Scottish

Southern Energy Network be approached for a donation towards the overall cost, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would contact Scottish Southern Energy Network and enquire about possible funding assistance.

D. Welcome to Stronsay Sign

Members heard that the Service Manager, Development Management, had advised that an application for advertisement consent to erect a Welcome to Stronsay sign was required rather than planning permission, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Stronsay Housing

Members heard that a deferment to invite a representative from Housing to attend a Community Council meeting had been made at the meeting held on 19 May 2025 and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a representative from Housing would be invited to attend the 25 August 2025 Community Council meeting.
2. That the Clerk would prepare and distribute a notice inviting questions on Stronsay housing issues to be presented to a representative from Housing in advance of the 25 August 2025 Community Council meeting.

5. Community Resilience Plan

Members heard that the Chair had prepared a detailed draft containing amendments to the Stronsay Community Resilience Plan, that the Emergency Group should meet with representatives from Scottish Fire and Rescue to look at the Stronsay Resilience Plan and work alongside representatives from Stronsay Community Association and Stronsay Development Trust and then meet with members to discuss the plan, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the information.
- B. That the Chair would coordinate meetings to discuss the Stronsay Resilience Plan.

6. Scrap Car Scheme

Members heard that the five allocated places on the scrap car scheme had been filled and that the vehicles were awaiting removal and invoicing, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That a decision to reopen the scrap car scheme would be put on hold until all the vehicles currently awaiting disposal had been removed.

7. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that a hydro invoice had been received, covering the period 15 April 2025 to 14 May 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

8. Fish Mart Report

Members heard that the Fish Mart Subgroup had met with the Fish Mart Operators that day and that a list of actions would be sent through within seven days. The Chair had written and given the Operators details of the role of the Subgroup and information on how to submit data. The Operators have a contingency plan in place to keep the Cafe open should they be unable to cook meals, and the summer opening times will continue but will then be cut back. The subgroup will look at requests made by the Operators for replacement equipment and will forward details to members. The hydro bill covering the period 14 May to 14 June 2025 had been received and Scottish power have appointed a new case handler to look into the outstanding service issues, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Reports From Representatives

A. Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative’s Report

The Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative had emailed the Chair and the Clerk an update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, prepared by the Trust’s Community Development Officer, and these were shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Health and Care Representative’s Report

Members heard that the Health and Care Representative had attended a Health and Care meeting on 3 June 2025, and members were given information on issues that had been discussed at that meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Chairs’ Meeting Report

Members heard that the Chair had attended the Chairs’ meeting and were given details of items that were raised at that meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Planning Representative's Report

Members had previously been forwarded notification of the withdrawal of planning application 08/250/PPF, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

10. Consultation - Orkney Islands Payphone Removal Proposals

Members had previously been forwarded details of a proposal regarding the removal of payphones in the Orkney area, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That members had no objection to the proposed removal of the payphone outside the Harbour Master's Office.

B. That the Clerk would notify Stronsay Development Trust of the proposed removal of the payphone outside the Harbour Master's office and the option for the community to adopt a phone box.

11. Correspondence

A. Nordic Sea Timetable - Outer North Isles Summer 2025

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding the Nordic Sea Outer North Isles Summer 2025 timetable and the ensuing correspondence on this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Garage to Rent

Members had previously been provided with information from the Team Leader, Housing and Homelessness, regarding the garage door at Whitehall houses and a request for the Community Council to gauge if there was any interest in the garage being repaired and made available for rent, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there had been no interest in the garage being available for rent despite being advertised locally.

2. That the Clerk would request an islander discount for renting a garage.

C. Pier Waiting Room

Members had previously been informed of a problem, brought to the Clerk's attention, with the ferry waiting room door and its subsequent repair, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Sea Wall Damage

Members had previously been informed of a concern raised by a resident on damage to the sea wall leading to St. Peter's cemetery, and the response from Roads when this was previously raised in May 2024, and it was:

Resolved that the Vice Chair would talk with the landowner about the damaged sea wall.

E. Are You Ready for VJ Day 80?

Members were notified of correspondence from the Head of Retail, Royal British Legion Industries, on products available for the VJ Day 80 celebrations, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. NHS Orkney – Help Spread the Word About Phio

Members had previously been forwarded details announced by NHS Orkney on the launch of Phio, making it quicker and easier for residents of Orkney to receive help for muscle and joint pain, and it was:

Resolved to that the Clerk had circulated notices providing access to Phio.

G. Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance

Members had previously been forwarded information from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance Community Fundraising Officer regarding his role to raise awareness of the essential work Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance does throughout the region, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Rothiesholm Interpretation Board

Members had previously been informed and consulted over the unauthorised removal of the Rothiesholm interpretation board and information had then been received on why it had been removed. Orkney Islands Council had been made aware of the interpretation board's removal and the reason why it had been removed, and advice had been sought on how to proceed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Ayre Offshore Windfarm

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Community Engagement Manager, Thistle Wind Partners, on the intended submission of marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure off the east coast of Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note that information and details of the Ayre Offshore Windfarm had been displayed locally.

J. The Orkney Fund

Members had previously been forwarded information on the launch of the first round of the Orkney fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Fish Mart Public Toilets

Members had previously been consulted over the resignation of the Fish Mart public toilet cleaner, effective from 30 June 2025, and in response to the vacancy being advertised, members heard three applications had been received, which members then considered, and it was:

Resolved that the post of Fish Mart public toilet cleaner should be offered to members' preferred candidate.

L. Stronsay Social Media

Members had previously been forwarded a response from the Community Council Liaison Officer to Stronsay Community Council setting up a Facebook to keep the community informed of what was going on in terms of community business and to share information. In response to this, the Chair had emailed a reply which included social media guidelines which was also distributed to members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair and Vice Chair would be responsible for distributing communication and that all members would be moderators of the Stronsay Community Council Facebook.
2. That communication the Clerk forwarded from Orkney Islands Council to members would, where appropriate, be shared on the Stronsay Community Council Facebook by the Chair or Vice Chair.

M. Change of Boat Request

Members heard that the Transport Representative had requested a change to the Nordic Sea sailing on Sunday, 22 June 2025 to allow people to attend the North Isles Sports dance in Sanday, and that this had been considered and agreed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information

N. Orkney Islands – Assistance Required to Communicate RTS Switch- off Information

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Team requesting assistance to communicate the Radio Teleswitch Service switch off, scheduled for 30 June 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that a notice from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland regarding the forthcoming Radio Teleswitch Service switch off had been displayed locally.

O. Invite – Community Wealth Building Action Plan Outline Meeting

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from the Orkney Community Planning Partnership to attend a special online feedback session giving an opportunity for members to have a say on how to grow Orkney's economy, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

P. Pothole

Members heard that a resident had brought the Clerk's attention to the recurrence of a pothole on the B9061, and that this had been forwarded to the Community Council Liaison Officer for attention, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

12. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £1,603.88.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 5 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £11,525.86.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 5 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,315.70.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 May 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £3,726.00, £743.00 in the additional capping limit and £919.00 in the island capping limit.
2. That the balance remaining in application number 192413 had not been spent in full and should be cancelled.
3. That the balance remaining in application number 192414 had not been claimed and should be cancelled.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 5 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £14,292.54.

F. Stronsay Community Council Treasurer's Account

Members heard that the Stronsay Community Council Treasurer's Account required updating, and it was:

Resolved that the names of two previous members be removed as signatories and that the current Chair and Vice Chair be added as signatories to the account.

13. Request For Financial Assistance - North Isles Sports School Girls' Cup

Members were asked to consider a request for financial assistance to purchase and engrave a replacement North Isles Sports School Girls' Cup, and it was:

Resolved that a grant of £108.50 would be given towards the cost of a replacement engraved cup, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

14. Publications

The following publications had been forwarded to members and were noted:

- Free Family Fun Day 15 June.
- Zero Waste Scotland Latest News.
- Orkney Digital Voice Event.

15. Any Other Competent Business

A. Heavy Vehicle Parking

Members heard that heavy goods vehicles were being parked in Whitehall Village, creating a safety issue, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the haulier regarding the parking of heavy goods vehicles in Whitehall Village.

B. Transport Forum

The Transport Representative invited members to submit questions for the August Transport Forum meeting, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would prepare and distribute a notice inviting residents to submit questions for the August Transport Forum meeting.

C. Meikle Mill Safety

Members heard that safety concerns had been raised over the current state of the meikle mill, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would share members' concerns over the current state a meikle mill with Orkney Islands Council.

D. Mail Delivery

Members heard that concerns had been raised over delays in postal deliveries, and it was:

Resolved that a response to delays over postal deliveries be deferred to see if more complaints are received.

E. Letter from Stronsay Junior High School

The Chair read members a letter received from primary aged children at Stronsay Junior High School regarding bins, beaches and plastic recycling, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would send a written response to the primary aged children at Stronsay Junior High School.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Stronsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 25 August 2025, commencing at 19:00 in Stronsay Community Centre.

17. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.