

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

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- T Hadley, Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Update

After consideration of a presentation from the Community Liaison Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project, giving members an update on the project, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note:

- That the Orkney Native Wildlife Project was a four-stage project.
- That a total of 2,130 stoats had been removed, of which 136 from the Stromness area.
- That there were currently 6,047 active traps in the County, of which 329 active traps were in the Stromness area.
- That the native wildlife being monitored included the Orkney vole, meadow pipits, skylarks, curlews, lapwings, redshank, snipe, oystercatchers, hen harriers and seabirds.
- That the first stoat detection dogs had arrived in Orkney.
- That workshops had been held and plans agreed for high risk islands.
- That communications and community engagements, such as training and support workshops and events, had taken place.
- That the total number of volunteer hours was 2,640.
- That further information could be obtained from:
 - <http://www.orkneynativewildlife.org.uk>.
 - <http://www.facebook.com/OrkneyNativeWildlifeProject>
 - Email: info@onwp.org or phone 01856 881451.

The Community Liaison Officer left the meeting at this point.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 23 August 2021 was approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by J Park.

3. Matters Arising

A. Welcome to Stromness Sign

Following an update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that K Bevan had contacted the Planning Section regarding the position of the sign, who agreed with the site in principle, and was waiting to hear back from the Roads Section.

2. To note that K Bevan had ascertained that the cost of the planning application for the proposed sign was £202.

B. Defibrillator – Stromness Museum

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the defibrillator and cabinet, to be sited in the phone box outside Stromness Museum, had been received.
2. To note that Merriman's had agreed to install the cabinet free of charge, other than the cost of any additional equipment that may be necessary for the installation.
3. To note that the phone box had been cleaned but was still in need of a coat of paint.
4. To note that G Deans was sourcing suitable signage to be used.
5. To note that G Deans would also source a suitable plaque to be installed inside the phone box acknowledging the donor of both the Stromness Museum defibrillator, as well as the one that had been sited at Stromness Swimming Pool.
6. To note that while the details and location of the defibrillator would be logged with a not-for-profit organisation that maintained defibrillator information across the UK, it may be an idea to add the location of both defibrillators to the local map in the future.

C. Hamnavoe – Proposed Signs

Following an update from the Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation) regarding proposed signage at Hamnavoe, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the relevant department was waiting on costs from a local firm in order to consider whether the proposal was something that could be taken forward.
2. That Hamnavoe was made up of owner-occupiers, Council and OHAL tenants with the numbering ranging from 1-66.
3. That the total number of Council properties in the area was six.
4. That the Service Manager had concerns regarding the associated costs given the limited number of Council tenants.
5. That if the proposal were to go ahead, which was dependent on costs, permission would need to be sought to erect signage on properties not under Council ownership.
6. That, at this time, it was unlikely that the Housing Service would take the proposal forward.

D. Garson Amenity Site – Proposed Meeting

Following an update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved to note that K Bevan was still to finalise dates for a meeting with the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council.

E. Garson Depot

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been received from the Chief Executive, the Climate Change Officer or the Executive Director regarding concerns raised by Stromness Community Council regarding the Garson Depot.

F. Litter Bin Signs

Following an update from K Donald and W Mackay, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Stromness Primary School were happy to do an art project involving pupils from P1-P4 to create new images that could be made into stickers for the bins.
2. That W Mackay would continue to consult with iDesign regarding the cost of creating the stickers.

G. GMB Garden – Long Term Maintenance Plans

Following discussions regarding the long-term maintenance plans for GMB Garden, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the issue with the grass spreading over the gravel area should be looked at again in the Spring.
2. That a letter of thanks should go to the Flower Club and L Adamson.
3. That, as yet, no volunteers had come forward to help with the maintenance of the garden.
4. That it may be possible to have a small donation box in the garden where the donations could go towards the maintenance of the garden/good causes and towards the playpark.

H. Overflowing Litter Bins

Following consideration of an update from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the issue of overflowing litter bins, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that since July, weekend emptying of bins across the county had commenced and ran until the end of September.

I. Overgrown Ferns inside Logans Well

Following an update from W Mackay, it was:

Resolved to note that the individual who had previously been cutting back the ferns was happy to continue.

J. Weeds

Following an update from the Roads and Environmental Services Manager, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the number of weeds growing in public areas and pavement edges, as well as untreated ragwort on Council land around Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that G Deans would draft a response to the Roads and Environmental Services Manager correcting inaccuracies contained within the response from the Roads and Environmental Services Manager, the tone of which members felt was disappointing and disrespectful.

K. Stromness Reservoir

Following an update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved to note that K Bevan had emailed SWAG regarding G Deans becoming a member of SWAG as the Stromness Community Council representative.

4. Bonfire Night 2021

Following discussion regarding arrangements that were required for Bonfire Night, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the proposed day to erect the bonfire was 10:00 on Saturday, 30 October, or if the weather was bad it would take place on Sunday, 31 October.

B. That the Clerk would circulate the list of arrangements of who had undertaken the various roles.

5. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2021

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would circulate the list of arrangements of who had undertaken the various roles.

6. Online Meetings

Following consideration of the guidance in relation to COVID19 implications on the attendance at Community Council meetings, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the next meeting of Stromness Community Council scheduled to be held on Monday, 15 November 2021, would continue to be online.

B. That the Stromness Community Council meeting scheduled to be held on Monday, 24 January 2022 should be held in person.

7. Correspondence

A. New Bus Fleet for Orkney

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stagecoach Bluebird and the Highlands, copies of which had been circulated, confirming that the first five vehicles from the new fleet for Orkney would arrive in October 2021, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided from Stagecoach.
2. That the Chair should write to Stagecoach stating how pleased Stromness Community Council were to see the new buses, as well as query what the breakdown recovery policy was for the new fleet.

B. Publishing Grant for Scapa 100 Book

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Museum, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the usage of the Community Council grant it had previously been granted, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

C. Rural Spaces – Grants

Following consideration of correspondence regarding funding which was available from Transport Scotland via Sustrans for small-scale projects, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the timescale for the funding was that the projects should be delivered by the end of February 2022.

D. Connecting Scotland Round 3 – Phase 2

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability), copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Connecting Scotland Scheme which was open for applications, it was:

Resolved to note that the second round of the scheme focused on organisations working to remove barriers relating to digital exclusion for unemployed young people and adults.

E. Stromness Marina Expansion Project

G Deans and W Mackay declared an interest in this item and although did not leave the meeting took no part in discussions.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Marinas, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write a letter to Orkney Marinas in support of their application for funding from The Crown Estate Scotland Boat Based Tourism Fund to expand the Stromness Marina.

F. Orkney Fishermen's Society

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Fishermen's Society, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that G Deans would respond to Orkney Fishermen's Society.

8. Consultations

A. EMEC Billia Croo Section 36 – Additional Information

Following consideration of a consultation regarding an application for Consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a Wave Tidal Test Site at the existing Billia Croo Wave Test Site, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 9 October 2021.

B. NHS Orkney Clinical Strategy

Following consideration of a consultation regarding the NHS Orkney Clinical Strategy, copies of which had been circulated, regarding a short community survey which was being carried out as part of the work revising NHSO's clinical strategy for the next five years, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 11 October 2021.

C. OIC (30mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads in Orkney) Order 2021

Following consideration of a consultation regarding a proposed new Traffic Regulation Order which would create a 30 miles per hour speed limit on various sections of roads in Orkney, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that Stromness Community Council had expressed no comments prior to the deadline of 4 October.

D. Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm Pre-Application Consultation Event

Following consideration of a consultation regarding a virtual online public consultation event for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 31 October 2021.

9. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative updated members that work was ongoing with patching of Garson Road potholes. He also confirmed that he had reported a couple of choked gullies.

Councillor R Crichton informed members that it had been brought to his attention that an area of lighting at Hamnavoe had been missed during the recent LED replacement programme. However, he confirmed that this had been noted and the relevant department had confirmed that this would take place in due course, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative updated members as follows:

- That the minutes of the meeting of the Business Forum held on 22 September 2021 had been circulated to members for information.
- That the Christmas Bonanza 2021 would be going ahead.
- That the impact of cruise ships on local businesses would be investigated in the coming months, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative updated members as follows:

- That Phase 2 of the Christmas Festive Lights was underway.
- That SDT had been named as consultees regarding a consultation on Christmas by the Council.
- That work was ongoing with the Community Learning and Development team on the "Connecting Scotland" programme.
- That at a recent meeting, it had been agreed to write to the Council regarding capital investment for the Community Centre.
- That, as part of the Winter Festival, fireworks at Hogmanay would go ahead and a decision was still to be reached regarding the log pull event.
- That they were still waiting the delivery of the new What's On board, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

10. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £8,508.59.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 14 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £2,822.72 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 2021/2022

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 14 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £2,056.77.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 14 September 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 13 September 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,273.78.

11. Financial Requests

A. OASC – North District Age Group Championships 2021 – Part 1

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of five swimmers attending the North District Age Group Championships, Part 1, in Inverness on 9 and 10 October 2021, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per swimmer, totalling £52, be given towards the cost of four Stromness residents from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the

North District Age Group Championships 2021: Part 1, to be funded from the Community Council General Account.

B. Orkney Yole Association – Request for Additional Funding

P McLaughlin, seconded by W Mackay, moved that this part of this item be taken in private.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Yole Association, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Yole Association of members decision.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Overgrown Culvert beside Garson Dental Surgery

A member raised concerns regarding a potential flooding risk at the culvert beside Garson Dental Surgery which was overgrown, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that, although the Council did monitor this area, members would also monitor the area.

B. Burn North of Market Green

A member raised concerns regarding a potential flooding risk with the burn north of the Market Green which was very overgrown but following a recent heavy rain fall the area was perhaps not as bad as it looked, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that, although the Council did monitor this area, members would also monitor the area.

C. Post-box at Hillside Road

A member raised concerns regarding the recent removal of the post-box at Hillside Road, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write to C Alway, Kirkwall Post Office, requesting that the post-box be reinstated in the wall.

D. Bus Route – Fares

Following a query raised by a member regarding the cost of a fare for a member of the public from Stromness to the Balfour Hospital, and following discussion, it was;

Resolved that G Deans would write to Stagecoach seeking clarification of the fare structure.

E. Gateway Project – Consultation

A member queried why the consultation for the Gateway Project was not on the agenda for members information and highlighted that the deadline for consultations was shortly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. National Care Service – Consultation

Councillor J Stockan highlighted the National Care Service consultation and encouraged everyone to respond to that consultation if they had not already done so, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Downie's Lane

Councillor J Stockan raised the ongoing issue with Downie's Lane which was not an adopted road and whether Stromness Community Council would be minded to support Downie's Lane becoming an adopted road up to the first junction, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair should write a letter, on behalf of Stromness Community Council, supporting Downie's Lane becoming an adopted road up to the first junction.

H. Northlink Replacement for Hamnavoe

K Bevan declared an interest in this part of this item and took no part in discussion thereof.

A member raised concerns regarding a replacement vessel for the Hamnavoe when it goes on refit. He also highlighted that if plans were progressed with the proposed new vessels, these would not be feasible to use in Stromness and stressed that one of the existing passenger ships had to be used. Councillor J Stockan confirmed that he had raised these concerns with the Transport Minister, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Queen's Jubilee

Following discussion regarding purchasing a new Union Jack in time for the Queen's Jubilee next year, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would progress purchasing a new Union Jack.

J. Ness Campsite

Following a query from a member regarding Ness Campsite, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department querying why Ness Campsite had closed promptly on 30 September rather than remaining open to at least the end of the October break.

K. Wheelie Bin – Warebeth

A member raised concern regarding black bags being present in the new wheelie bin at Warebeth, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would again contact the relevant department asking for a "No Domestic Waste" sign to be put on the wheelie bin.

P McLaughlin, seconded by W Mackay moved that the rest of the meeting be taken in private.

L. Grieveship Residents Association

Following consideration of correspondence received from Grieveship Residents Association, copies of which had been circulated, regarding issues arising from the road traffic survey, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the various issues raised.

M. Bench at Brinkies Brae

Following an update from W Mackay regarding the stone bench at Brinkies Brae that had been vandalised, it was:

Resolved to note that G Deans, in consultation with W Mackay, would contact the relevant authorities.

N. Properties in Stromness

Councillor J Stockan informed members that some Stromness properties would be subject of a report going to a meeting of the Council to be discussed under a Community Asset Transfer, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 15 November 2021, via Teams, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:46.