

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness and via Teams, on Monday, 3 October 2022 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, V Anderson and W Mackay.

Present via Teams:

D Fischler.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- H Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from J Park and C Sinclair.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2022 were approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by W Mackay.

3. Matters Arising

A. Welcome to Stromness Sign

Resolved to note that there was no update at this stage.

B. Post Box on Hillside Road

Following an update from the Chair, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair should write to Michael Hogg, Royal Mail, again asking for a date when the post box would be erected on Hillside Road.

2. That the Chair would contact Liam McArthur and Alistair Carmichael regarding the situation.

C. ATM in Stromness

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the company had been in touch with the planning department regarding the siting of an ATM machine in Stromness, and that the application would be working its way through the process.

D. Stromness Community Centre

Following an update from K Bevan and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that, following a recent meeting of Stromness Community Development Trust, it had been agreed to investigate the possibility of transferring ownership of Stromness Community Centre to SCDT with initial contact having been made with the Council.

2. That K Bevan would update members accordingly.

E. Old Stromness Primary School Playground

Resolved to note that C Sinclair was not present to give an update.

F. Parking on Victoria Street

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the persistent offender parking in Victoria Street raised at the last meeting had been moved on.
2. To note that there was still an issue of the short-term spaces between Wishart's and the Lifeboat Shop being used for all day parking.
3. That a further letter should be sent to Police Scotland regarding the issue of parking in Stromness.

G. Costs Associated with Erecting Bunting

Resolved to note that no response had been received regarding the query raised regarding the costs associated with erecting flags/bunting.

H. Stromness Church

Resolved to note that C Sinclair was not present to give an update.

I. Garage at Town House

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure was happy for the informal arrangement of Stromness Community Council using the garage at the Town House to continue but confirmed that under this arrangement the Council would not be fixing the garage door.
2. That K Bevan would get a quote for the garage door and report back to the next meeting.

J. Scrap Operation at Coplands Dock, Stromness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, confirming that the walls and pillars at Coplands Dock were not listed and that Marine Services had advised that if they were not listed, they would not be allocating any funding towards repairing them but would ask the person who had caused the damage to put them back as they had found them, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor G Bevan would contact Marine Services regarding the walls and pillars at Coplands Dock.

K. Housing and Local Development Plan

Following consideration of a joint briefing note received from the Council and Orkney Housing Association Limited, copies of which had been circulated, the following points were provided:

- As at September 2022, the Council's waiting list data showed 125 housing applications from persons who wished to live in Stromness.
- 67% of those applications were from households already living in Orkney.
- The Council completed eight social rented properties at Copland's Road earlier in this financial year all of which had been allocated accordingly.
- The Council had a further four social rented units were due to be built in Copland's Road area in 2023/24.
- Orkney Housing Association Limited were currently due to complete six units at Yorston Drive by the end of October 2022 which would be for sale under the New Supply Shared Equity scheme.
- Interest in the properties outlined in the paragraph above had been low which may be a reflection of the current economic climate.
- OHAL had commenced preliminary design work for the development at Upper Sunnybank, Wardhill Road which was expected to deliver 16 social rented units by 2026, however, due to issues and the current climate the Association was considering whether it could continue with this development and until that decision was made it was unlikely that any progress would be made with this site.
- OHAL were awaiting the finalising of the Development Brief work currently being undertaken by the Council for a number of adjoining sites in Stromness in relation to OHAL's site at Midgarth, as yet there were no plans in the near future to develop this site.
- OHAL had no plans for the development of the remaining site at Brownstown where the community garden currently has its site.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Stromness Community Council would seek to arrange in the future a joint meeting with the Council and Orkney Housing Association Limited regarding housing in Stromness.

4. Bonfire Night 2022

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 Saturday, 5 November 2022.

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

5. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2022

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Community Council would offer the chance to a community group to take on the role of providing mince pies etc. as a fund raiser for their organisation.

B. That the Clerk would circulate the list of remaining arrangements to be made of who had undertaken the various roles.

6. Correspondence

A. West of Orkney Windfarm – Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

Following consideration of correspondence received from V McCusker, copies of which had been circulated, acknowledging the Chair's comments regarding Suleskerry and Stromness in relation to the distribution of Community Benefits, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Dangerous Memorials – Warebeth Cemetery, Stromness

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Burial Grounds Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding 15 memorials which were considered dangerous and needing actioning, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Old Lifeboat Shed, Point of Ness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Golf Club, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Old Lifeboat Shed and its condition, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), copies of which had been circulated, regarding a list of potential projects, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would respond with the following suggestions:

- West Shore Path (maintain and upgrade existing path).
- Pathway behind Brinkie's Brae - track from the top of Brinkie's at the Trig point down to the road that goes round the Loons. The track is very overgrown and in need of maintenance/upgrading.

- New path from Coplands round the coast to the Brig of Waithe.
- Potentially a path could go from Ness Campsite up to the Gunn Viewpoint.
- A safe path/cycle path on Ferry Road to schools is required as Ferry Road is unsafe due to traffic and car parking.

7. Consultations

A. Pentland Floating Offshore Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence received from Marine Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and the Marine Licences under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to construct and operate Pentland Floating Offshore Windfarm off the coast of Dounreay, Caithness, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been submitted prior to the deadline of 2 October 2022.

B. Pentland Floating Offshore Windfarm – Onshore Pre-Application Consultation and Offshore Consent Application Submission

Following consideration of correspondence received from E Marshall, Consents Coordinator, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been submitted prior to the deadline of 19 October.

8. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

9. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

W Mackay informed members that he had reported the issue of the damage to the drystone dyke between the Scottish Water Station and the Hamnavoe housing scheme several times but, as yet, nothing had been done. He also raised that in the last two or three weeks several large lumps of granite had been removed from the small footpath at the Scottish Water Station, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

Resolved to note that the Business Forum representative was not present to give an update.

C. Stromness Development Trust

As well as the development regarding the Stromness Community Centre that had been mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Stromness Development Trust representative confirmed that it was hoped that the Yule Log Pull would take place

on Hogmanay this year. There was no further funding available from the Scottish Winter Festival. The main outlay for the event was the cost of the fireworks. Following a query from the Chair, he confirmed that the Climate Café event had been a success, 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 21 September 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £13,325.46.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 21 September 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,562.72 of which:

- £100 had been donated from Stromness Drama Club towards purchasing a new flag but as the money was not ring-fenced, it would be put towards another worthwhile community project if replacing the flag did not go ahead.
- £1,050.72 was to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2022/2023

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 September 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £845.45.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 21 September 2022, 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 21 September 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,940.03.

11. Financial Request - Orkney Amateur Swimming Club

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance

towards the cost of two Stromness swimmers attending the Thurso Open Meet on 17/18 September 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each swimmer, totalling £26, be given.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Stromness Museum – Scottish Islands Passport Scheme

W Mackay declared an interest in this part of this item and left the meeting at this point.

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Museum, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the possibility of installing a small plaque which would be a focus to users of the Scottish Islands Passport Scheme, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write to Stromness Museum confirming that Stromness Community Council had no issues about them installing the small plaque inside the phone box beside the museum where the defibrillator was situated.

B. Vandalism in Stromness

Councillor L Hall raised concern regarding the amount of vandalism that he had been hearing about in Stromness and wondered whether there was a social reason for this, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Cutting back of Trees

A member queried whether there was a fast-track process for anyone who wanted to trim/cut back trees especially those that were dropping leaves onto paths, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would investigate and report back.

D. Public Benches

Following discussions regarding the number of public benches under Council ownership that had had no sign of maintenance or upkeep recently, as well as the need to establish a way forward regarding ongoing maintenance, it was:

Resolved that the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would liaise with colleagues to ascertain which benches were in Council ownership and what was the planned maintenance for them.

E. RNLI Benches – Proposed Plastic Replacement Benches

Resolved that this item should be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 14 November 2022, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:41.