

# **Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, and via Teams, on Monday, 11 November 2024 at 19:00**

## **Present:**

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, A Esslemont, D Harrold (via Teams), W Mackay, C Sinclair and M Sutherland.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Park.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press (via Teams).

## **Chair:**

- P McLaughlin.

## **Order of Business**

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## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September were approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by P McLaughlin.

## **2. Matters Arising**

### **A. PA System**

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

Resolved:

1. To note that K Bevan had received quotes for different types of PA systems which ranged in price from £1,000 to £5,000.
2. To note that K Bevan would further investigate the best funding options available and report back to the next meeting.

### **B. Gym Opening Times in Stromness**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Business Manager, Stromness Academy, which was read out by the Chair, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that it had been agreed last Winter to trial the fitness suite at Stromness Academy being opened to the public.
2. To note that an agreement had not been made for this year.
3. To note that Stromness Academy were not in a position to have the fitness suite open currently.
4. That the Clerk would contact the relevant section asking for more detail as to why it had been decided not to open the fitness suite this Winter as it had been well attended last Winter.

### **C. Stromness Cemetery**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Burial Grounds Officer, which was read out by the Chair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that a Council Official was due to meet the contractor on site with a view to removing the tiles on the Old Gravediggers Shed as soon as possible, before any potential gales.
2. To note that an initial survey regarding the issue of rabbits had been instructed a couple of weeks ago but, as yet, the Burial Grounds Officer had not heard back from the contractor.

## **D. Orkney Towns Board**

Following an update from the Chair regarding the recent online meeting of the Orkney Towns Board, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that it was proposed that there were three main funding streams, being:
  - Heritage and Regeneration – for example, improvements to community centres and Town Halls, as well as natural spaces and habitats.
  - Transportation and Connectivity – for example, improvements to disabled access on ferries, as well as improvements to digital connectivity.
  - Safety and Security – for example, prevention of anti-social behaviour.
2. To note that it was planned to have high value projects as well as some smaller projects.

D Harrold joined the meeting at this point.

## **E. Community Council Conference**

Following an update from the Chair regarding the Community Council Conference held on 4 October, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the recent Orkney Matters 2 events had been discussed, where it had been highlighted from a number of parishes that the event had not been well attended.
2. To note that there had been a presentation from Kirsty Talbot regarding the Island Games 2025.
3. To note that there had been a presentation of the new online portal to report faults and concerns via the MyOrkney website.
4. To note that there had been a presentation regarding the function of the community council.

## **3. Bonfire Night 2024 – Review/Wash-up**

Following discussion regarding Bonfire Night which had been held on 5 November 2024, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that the event had been very well attended and included 44 pop entries.
- B. To note that the firework display had been very good.
- C. To give thanks to T Todd and N Chalmers, as well as all volunteers who had helped.

D. To note that over £400 had been collected, with collection buckets now placed in Argos and Flett's Butchers for further donations.

## **4. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2024**

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved to note that the final arrangements for the tree lighting ceremony were now in hand.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Community Advisory Group Invitation - A Safer Route to School (Stromness) Feasibility Study**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Best Project Engagement Coordinator, Co-Design Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, inviting a representative from Stromness Community Council to be involved in the Community Advisory Group, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that P McLaughlin would attend on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

### **B. Memorial Bench Query**

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Thompson, copies of which had been circulated, querying the possibility of purchasing a memorial bench, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That, prior to the next meeting, W Mackay would seek a quote for 4 benches, as well as a replacement picnic table for the stage area.
2. That once the final bench order and cost had been confirmed, L Thompson, as well as M Wilson who had previously contacted Stromness Community Council regarding purchasing a memorial bench on her behalf, would both be informed of the cost of the bench, delivery, installation and plaque.

## **6. Consultations**

Resolved to note that no consultations had been received.

## **7. Publication**

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

## **8. Reports from Community Council Representatives**

### **A. MARS Updates**

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the following had recently been reported:

- Bin at Downies Lane.
- Very poor surface from Franklin Road to former Primary School.
- Various pothole issues.

## **B. Stromness Development Trust**

Following an update from the Stromness Development Trust representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there were no further updates regarding purchasing Stromness Community Centre
2. To note that further funding was being sought for the post of Stromness Development Officer, whose contract was due to end in 2025.
3. To note that an EGM was due be held on Thursday, 21 November 2024.

## **C. Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group**

Resolved that there was nothing to report meantime from this working group.

# **9. Financial Statements**

## **A. Community Council General Fund 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,508.41.

## **B. Donations Account – 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 30 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,675.72 of which £1,050.72 was to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage area.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,218.49.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 30 October 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £6,524.04.

## **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 30 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Seed Corn Fund had been fully allocated.
2. That although all the funding had been fully allocated, there were still monies that had not yet been claimed.

## **10. Requests for Financial Assistance**

### **A. M Kirkpatrick – University of Aberdeen – Autumn Meet 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the University of Aberdeen Autumn Meet on 5 and 6 October 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **B. L Smith – Junior Speechmaking Competition – 9 November 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Smith, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Junior Speechmaking Competition to be held on 9 November 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **C. L Harvey – Highland Floor and Vault Competition – 10 November 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Harvey, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Highland Floor and Vault Competition on 10 November 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. OIC Consultation Reports**

A member raised concern regarding the size of the recent consultations which had been sent to Stromness Community Council, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk should contact the relevant section to raise Stromness Community Council's concerns regarding consultations being issued from the Council which should be made more accessible to members of community councils, and in turn members of the public, for example, by condensing the 170+ pages to a more digestible size.

2. That the Clerk should also request that this matter be added to the next Community Council Conference meeting for discussion.

D Harrold left the meeting at this point.

## **B. Litter Bin**

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section regarding progress of moving the litter bin from Stromness Memorial to outside Stromness Co-op.

## **C. Abandoned Car – Near GMB Gardens**

A member raised concern regarding abandoned vehicles which had been in situ for approximately 5 years, parked near the GMB Gardens, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant section in the first instance.

## **D. Abandoned Boat on Path at Hamnavoe**

A member raised concern regarding an abandoned boat on the path at Hamnavoe, which had been raised previously with the relevant section of the Council but had still not been removed, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section raising Stromness Community Council's concerns.

## **E. Presentation from SSEN**

Councillor G Bevan updated members of a presentation Councillors had received from SSEN regarding the Finstown Sub-Station, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that a drop-in session to ask questions and speak to team members regarding the SSEN Orkney Link Project was due to be held in the Stenness Hall on Thursday, 14 November 2024 from 15:00 to 19:00.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 20 January 2025 at 19:00.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:09.