

# Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 15 November 2021 at 19:00

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- H Green, Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services.
- 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 intimated on behalf of K Donald and J Park.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021 were approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by G Deans.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Welcome to Stromness Sign**

Following an update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that K Bevan had emailed the Roads Section on 30 September 2021 and had received no response as yet.
2. To note that the Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services would look into the delay.

### **B. Defibrillator – Stromness Museum**

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

Resolved to note that the defibrillator would be fitted by R S Merriman, free of charge, when they were able to schedule the works.

### **C. Garson Amenity Site – Proposed Meeting**

Following an update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved to note that Monday, 22 November 2021 had been arranged for a meeting with the Strategic Policy and Projects Manager, Orkney Islands Council, to discuss Garson Amenity Site.

### **D. Garson Depot**

Members considered correspondence received from J Mundell, Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been circulated, regarding concerns raised regarding Garson Depot. The letter advised that the future of the facility was discussed in February 2020 at the Council's Budget Setting meeting for 2020/2021 where a proposal was put forward by the Development and Infrastructure Service to close the depot, which was subsequently agreed by Elected Members. Work should have started in early 2020/2021 towards closure of the site, however, due to the pandemic from late March 2020, this was put on hold with no further work being done to start the consultation process with staff regarding the change to their work location. Given the length of time that had since passed and operational changes that had been required due to the pandemic, the Interim Executive Director for the service had put on hold any further actions to implement the decision to close the site, pending a review.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Interim Executive Director would contact Stromness Community Council when the review would begin, which was likely to be early 2022.

## **F. Litter Bin Signs**

Following an update from W Mackay, it was:

Resolved to note that W Mackay had contacted iDesign regarding the cost of creating the stickers but, due to email issues, had not received it as yet.

## **G. Weeds**

Following an update from G Deans, it was:

Resolved that, following the recent publication of the letter regarding weeds in The Orcadian where the public could draw their own conclusions, he was minded to leave it rather than respond further.

## **H. New Bus Fleet**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been received.

## **I. Orkney Fishermen's Society**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been received.

## **J. Post Box at Hillside Road**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that no response had been received from the Post Office Manager.
2. To note that the owners of the property were very supportive of the post box being put back in the wall and had also contacted the Post Office Manager.

## **K. Bus Route – Fares**

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

Resolved to note that issue had been investigated and was found to be a fault in the system, which had now been rectified.

## **L. New Union Jack**

Following an update from W Mackay, it was:

Resolved to note that W Mackay had purchased the new union jack.

## **M. Ness Campsite**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Leisure and Culture Service Manager, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Point of Ness Campsite had closed at the end of September to ensure there was enough time to remove everything from the facilities block ready for the development works due to take place over Winter.
2. To note that following completion of the site upgrade, it was planned that the site would stay open longer than September, as there would be significantly more hard standings and improved facilities.

## **N. Sign of Wheelie Bin at Warebeth Cemetery**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services on behalf of the Waste team, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Team Leader (Operations) would source a sticker for the bin.
2. To note the suggestion to involve Environmental Health who would go through the domestic waste to see if there was a way to identify the culprit and, if so, the section would then contact them.

## **O. Bench at Brinkies Brae**

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

Resolved:

1. To note that G Deans would contact the police prior to the next meeting to determine whether it was appropriate for the Community Council to take further action.
2. To note that W Mackay would approach G Louttit to determine whether he was interested in taking on the repair work and, if he was, to receive a quote for the proposed works.

## **P. Bonfire Feedback**

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

Resolved

1. To note that the Bonfire had been a great success and that Chair had put a letter of thanks to all involved to The Orcadian.

2. To note that in future:

- A briefing meeting should be arranged for the volunteers helping with parking.
- Due to concerns regarding large items being added once the bonfire had been built, members of the public should contact community council members if they had any further items to add rather than doing it themselves.

#### **4. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2021**

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved to note that due to an increase in COVID-19 cases in Orkney, the Tree Lighting Ceremony would go ahead, however, it would be a pared back ceremony, with no PA system, involvement from Stromness Primary School pupils or refreshments.

#### **5. Correspondence - STID Plan for Orkney**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Volume Tourism Development and Management Officer, requesting input towards a Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would respond on behalf of Stromness Community Council with the following points:

- The reinstatement of Stromness Tourist Information Office.
- Shore walks and core paths development.
- That it was vital that there were enough public conveniences and litter bins.

#### **6. Consultation - Introduction of a Memorial Permit**

Following consideration of a consultation regarding the proposed introduction of memorial permits, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would respond to the consultation on behalf of the community council.

#### **7. Publication – Orkney Area Command Newsletter**

Following consideration of the Newsletter for Orkney Community Councils received from Orkney Area Command, Police Scotland, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Orkney Area Command Newsletter.

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

### **A. MARS**

The MARS representative raised concern regarding the recent patching work on Garson Road where the joints had not been sealed, and explained that this was not the usual practice. The Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services confirmed that she would look into this matter and respond.

The Chair raised a further issue regarding the steps, situated on the path off Cairston Road down towards the Academy, which appeared to have no drainage. This area was often muddy and with the amount of water that was running down the steps was treacherous when it was icy.

She raised a further issue of a fallen bollard on the path from the Academy towards the shore. This area was badly lit, and the bollard was difficult to see. Members cited incidents of when members of the public had fallen over the bollard, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Stromness Community Business Forum**

Resolved to note that the Stromness Community Business Forum was not present.

### **C. Stromness Development Trust**

The Stromness Development Trust representative updated members as follows:

- That the log pull event had been cancelled. However, the fireworks display at Hogmanay would still be take place.
- That the Trust had written to Councillors and Officials regarding capital investment for the community centre and, as yet, no response had been received.
- That the Trust were awaiting the outcome of the sale of St Peters.
- That funding was being sought for the continuation of the Development Officer post.
- That the Winter Wanderland window displays were going ahead this year.

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **9. Financial Statements**

### **A. Community Council General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 1 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £8,347.58.

### **B. Donations Account**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 8 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 1 November 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 1 November 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 1 November 2021, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

## **10. Financial Request - OASC – ND Age Group Championships 2021 – Part 2**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of three swimmers attending the North District Age Group Championships, Part 2, in Inverness on 13 and 14 November 2021, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per swimmer, totalling £39, be given towards the cost of three Stromness residents from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the North District Age Group Championships 2021: Part 2, to be funded from the Community Council General Account.

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

### **A. External Ferry Fares**

K Bevan declared an interest in this part of this item and, although he did not leave the meeting, took no part in discussions thereof.

A member raised concerns regarding RET for Orkney and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair and W Mackay would write to the Scottish Government regarding RET for Orkney.

## **B. Proposed Centralisation of Social Care Services**

A member raised that while it had been touched on at the previous meeting, he felt that, as well as the Council objecting to the proposal, it was important to send the Scottish Government a strong message from the community, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would send a response to the Scottish Government regarding the proposed centralisation of social care services.

## **C. Paper Copies for Meeting**

A member queried whether there was still a need for paper copies of the agenda to be circulated and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that if members did not need paper copies of the agenda they should let the Clerk know.

## **D. GMB Garden**

A member confirmed that two members of the public were drawing up plans for the grass area and he would have the plans, together with some sort of maintenance plan, for the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. Downie's Lane**

Councillor J Stockan informed members that he had been approached again by a member of the public regarding the possible adoption of Downie's Lane, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that, as there were clearly two different opinions, Councillor J Stockan would contact all parties concerned and would bring back the results to a future meeting.

## **F. Possible Construction of a new Lifeboat Building**

Councillor J Stockan informed members of a proposal to construct a new lifeboat building near the end of the South Pier and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. National Award**

Councillor J Stockan informed members of the recent National Award and thanked the Chair and members of the Community Council for their contribution that enabled the award, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **H. Support for Learning Provision**

A member raised a recent report that had been to the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee regarding support for learning provision in Orkney and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would send a letter of support to the members of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

## **I. Gates**

A member raised that the gate at the Market Green near the Squash Court was lying on the ground and had been all summer. He also commented that there was a metal gate at the Academy that had a broken hinge, and it was:

Resolved to report the issues via the business letter.

## **J. Recycling**

A member made a comment that he had watched the recent programme about renewables in Orkney and yet Orkney had lower rates than the rest of Scotland when it came to recycling. The Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services took on board the point and hoped that if the integrated waste facility went ahead this situation would improve, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

Following discussion regarding rising cases of COVID-19 in the county, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 24 January 2021, via Teams, commencing at 19:00.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50.