

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness on Monday, 22 January 2024 at 19:15

Present:

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, V Anderson (via Teams), D Fischler, J Park and W Mackay.

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall (via Teams).
- H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- J Richards, White Ribbon.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. New Member

At the Public Meeting held prior to the ordinary meeting, D Harrold had been elected as a member of Stromness Community Council. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, D Harrold had to pass on his apologies for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from D Harrold and C Sinclair.

3. White Ribbon

The Chair welcomed J Richards, the White Ribbon representative.

He informed members the White Ribbon movement began in Christchurch in 1991, following the murder of 14 women and injury to 10. White Ribbon Scotland is a charity which began in 2010 and seeks to engage men to help end violence against women by raising awareness and what men and boys can do to help end it. White Ribbon Orkney Steering Group was formed in Orkney in 2020 by a small group of volunteers.

He then gave a short presentation which highlighted that Police Scotland had released the figure of 91 incidents of violence against women which had been reported to Police Scotland in Orkney in 2022/2023. It was thought that only 1 in 8 instances were actually reported to the police.

By attending organisations such as community councils and giving presentations it was hoped to raise awareness that such incidents of violence against women were taking place in Orkney and to encourage volunteers to sign up and join White Ribbon Orkney.

The representative confirmed that he would leave sign up sheets and White Ribbon leaflets for those wishing to sign up. The Chair thanked the representative for his attendance, and it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the presentation.

J Richards left the meeting at this point.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023 were approved, being proposed by J Park and seconded by K Bevan, subject to the following corrections:

- Item 10 – add a full stop after “various locations”.
- Item 12d – the figure should read £1,524.04.
- Item 12e – the figure should read £340.03.

5. Matters Arising

A. Kirk Buyout

Following an update from Stromness Kirk Buyout Group, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. GMB Garden Issues and Volunteers

Following an update from W Mackay, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay had purchased a weatherproof digital code lock for the tool store and planned to install it shortly.

C. Lack of Cover for MV Hamnavoe

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

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Government, copies of which had been circulated, in response to Stromness Community Council's letter regarding the lack of cover for the MV Hamnavoe, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Christmas Tree Lighting – Feedback

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the event had been a great success.
2. To note that the Chair had an extra hi-viz vest that did not belong to Stromness Community Council if anyone had lost one.
3. To note the Clerk should contact the relevant departments regarding:
 - The light at the bottom of the steps of the Town House that did not work.
 - The slippery steps at the Town House.
 - The very overgrown bushes at the Town House that required to be cut back.

6. Correspondence

A. R100 and SBVS

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Graduate Trainee (Digital Engagement and Enterprise), copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Scottish Government's Reaching 100% (R100) programme that ensured all

premises in Scotland could access superfast broadband and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should contact the Graduate Trainee (Digital Engagement and Enterprise) requesting that, if the information was not already displayed publicly, that he send information to the Warehouse Building asking them to display it in a public area.

B. Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund – Round 3

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding grant funding aimed at supporting community-based initiatives, it was:

Resolved to note that this fund had now closed for applications.

C. Community Development Fund (CDF) Allocation

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

Resolved:

1. To note that it had been agreed that each Community Council would be allocated the sum of £5,000 from the Community Development Fund.

2. That any unallocated funds from the previous allocations would not be withdrawn.

D. R100 and SBVS – Briefing Note

Following consideration of a Briefing Note, received from the Graduate Trainee (Digital Engagement and Enterprise), copies of which had been circulated, which provided a summary of the current broadband investment programme in Orkney including maps detailing premises that have fibre connections available, premises due to be upgraded and properties eligible for a voucher under the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Consultations

A. Local Transport Strategy Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding the Draft Local Transport Strategy, it was:

Resolved to note that W Mackay had responded as an individual by the closing date of 12 January 2024.

B. Orkney Local Development Plan – Development Plan Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Team Manager (Development Planning), copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Orkney Local Development Plan, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were required by 7 March 2024.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were required by 29 March 2024.

D. Winter Service Plan 2024

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Winter Service Plan 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were required by 29 March 2024.

8. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

9. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

Resolved to note that a few pothole issues had been reported recently.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

Following an update from the Stromness Community Business Forum representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Annual General Meeting was due to be held on 21 March and all were welcome to attend.
2. To note that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2023 had been circulated to community council members for their information.

C. Stromness Development Trust

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the representative would share the minutes of the meeting held in November with community council members in due course.
2. To note that the Log Pull held on Hogmanay had been a successful event.
3. To note that dialogue was continuing with the Council regarding the Community Centre.

10. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 12 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £16,029.07.

B. Donations Account – 2023/2024

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 12 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance was £1,589.72 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 area.

C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 12 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for approval was £2072.21, giving a total cost of £3,317.89 for a project.
2. That the replacement garage door for the storage at the Town House should come out of the Community Council Grant Scheme 2023/2024.
3. That K Bevan would, after seeking a new quote for the garage door, order it as soon as possible so it was installed and invoiced prior the end of the financial year.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 12 January 2024, 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 12 January 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £340.03.

11. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that no requests for financial assistance had been received.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Warbeth Kirkyard Gates

A member had previously raised concern, and circulated photographs, regarding the gates at Warbeth Kirkyard which had recently been vandalised as well as the dangerous rood at the Old Gravediggers shed and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Councillor L Hall would raise the concerns with the Community Service team and ascertain whether there was someone with the necessary skills to repair the gate.
2. That should the Community Service team be unable to repair, the work would be taken back "in house".
3. That the Clerk would raise both matters with the relevant section.

B. Stromness Co-op – Litter

A member raised concerns regarding the amount of litter outside the co-op, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that, in the first instance, the Chair would write to Stromness Academy raising Stromness Community Council's concerns.

C. Additional Bins needed for Events

A member raised that during events, such as the recent Log Pull or Shopping Week, with the additional footfall in the town bins quickly became overflowing, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that when planning such events, the organisers should contact the Council at the earliest opportunity to arrange additional bins to be put in place.

D. General State of Orkney Public Toilets

A member raised concern about the general state of the public toilets in Orkney and would be very keen to see the money raised by Harbours from income generated by the likes of cruise liners be put towards improving this infrastructure. Issues with

rusty light switches in the Ferry Road toilets were also raised, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk raise the matter with the relevant sections.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, left the meeting at this point.

E. 9% Increase in Ferry Fares

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

A member raised concerns regarding the recent 9% increase in Northlink Ferry fares and noted that Orkney were being treated much worse than other Scottish islands, and it was:

Resolved to note the concerns raised.

F. End of Financial Year – Proposed Recycle Bench Purchase

Resolved to note that this pre-notified item was superseded due to decisions taken at Item 12c above.

G. Amendments to the X1 Bus Timetable

A member raised that responses to the consultation of the proposed X1 timetable were required by 31 January and although Stromness Community Council had not been contacted direct regarding the consultation, the community council should respond. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should respond to the consultation on the X1 bus timetable on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

H. Stromness Lorry Park

A member queried whether the lorry park gates were unlocked, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the gates were unlocked although the gates were closed.

I. Disabled Parking

A member queried whether it was possible to get a designated disabled parking place outside the Royal Hotel, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that having a blue badge enabled parking anywhere.

J. Defibrillator

D Fischler advised members that when she had been carrying out checks, the defibrillator situated outside Stromness Swimming Pool had not been returned, so currently the only operational defibrillator was at Stromness Museum. She also

raised that she now needed to purchase new pads for the defibrillator, which she would purchase and claim back, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Stromness Accessibility Improvements

Following consideration of a Briefing Note, copies of which had been circulated, regarding proposed accessibility improvements to be made in Stromness, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that while Stromness Community Council were in agreement with the majority of proposed improvements, the Chair would respond raising concerns regarding the proposed island to be placed at the bottom of the Back Road.

The member of the press left the meeting at this point.

L. Stromness Lorry Park

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was taken in private.

Following an update from the Community Council Liaison Officer regarding the status of the lorry park, it was:

Resolved to resume consideration of this matter at the next meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, on Monday, 18 March 2023 at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:02.