

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, on Monday, 14 November 2022 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, V Anderson, D Fischler, J Park and C Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- H Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (for Items 1 to 6).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.
- 3 representatives from Incredible Edible Stromness.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Presentation by Incredible Edible Stromness	2
3. Adoption of Minutes	2
4. Matters Arising	2
5. Reports from Community Council Representatives	5
6. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2022	6
7. Correspondence	6
8. Consultations	7
9. Publications	7
10. Financial Statements	7
11. Financial Requests	8
12. Any Other Competent Business.....	9
13. Date of Next Meeting	10
14. Conclusion of Meeting	10

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that an apology for absence had been received from W Mackay.

2. Presentation by Incredible Edible Stromness

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting held on 23 August 2022, paragraph 11c, when consideration of Incredible Edible Stromness' request for financial assistance towards the cost two planters, plants and medium to be placed in the town centre to demonstrate and raise awareness of the possibility of growing food in small spaces, had been deferred for further information to be provided.

Representatives from Incredible Edible Stromness, who had been invited to the meeting, gave an outline of what the idea behind Incredible Edible Stromness was, examples where similar ventures had been established, as well as examples of the type of planters that they were proposing to purchase, should their application be successful.

Following a question-and-answer session, the representatives of Incredible Edible Stromness left the meeting to enable the Community Council to consider their request, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk should apply for the full amount requested by Incredible Edible Stromness from the Seed Corn Fund, towards purchasing of planters, plants and medium.

B. That should the Seed Corn Funding be successful, Incredible Edible Stromness would be informed that, on this occasion, £800 had been awarded and if the venture is successful that there was the opportunity for the organisation to apply for the remaining £800.

Councillor J Stockan joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2022 were approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by K Bevan.

4. 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 consideration of correspondence from Michael Hogg, Royal Mail, copies of which had been circulated, and an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the post box had been erected on Hillside Road the week commencing 10 October 2022.

C. ATM in Stromness

Following an update from J Park, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the application to install an ATM was still going through the planning process and once the planning application number was available online, members should view the application to ensure that they were happy with it.

D. Stromness Community Centre

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

Resolved:

1. To note that Stromness Community Development Trust were applying for funding which would enable a feasibility study to take place.
2. To note that separate funding was being sought from the Council's CDF Fund.
3. That K Bevan would update members regarding this item under the Stromness Development Trust item at future meetings.

E. Old Stromness Primary School Playground

Following an update from C Sinclair, it was:

Resolved to note that although no organisation had come forward to commit to a project at the Old Stromness Primary School Playground, offers had been received from individuals who were happy to help clean up the area.

F. Parking on Victoria Street

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

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue of the short-term spaces between Wishart's and the Lifeboat Shop being used for all day parking with Police Scotland.

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

Following an update from C Sinclair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that following conversations with M Partridge and S Kemp it was hopeful that a solution for Stromness Church could be found.
2. To note that there was now a reprieve until December 2023.

I. Garage at Town House

Following consideration of the draft licence for the garage at the Town House, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would ascertain if the garage could be licenced to Stromness Development Trust rather than Stromness Community Council.
2. That the Clerk would check the status and wording of previous leases/licences that were in the name of Stromness Community Council and inform members.
3. That K Bevan had received a quote for a replacement “up and over” door which was in the region of £3,000.
4. That should the quote be accepted, funding for the new door should be sourced, with the Council’s CDF funding being cited as a possibility.

J. Scrap Operation at Coplands’ Dock, Stromness

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that although there was still debris on the foreshore area, the majority of scrap in the laydown area had been removed.

K. Cutting Back of Trees

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Service Manager (Development Management), copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that all trees in the conservation area, and some outside the conservation area, were protected and that the notification/consent process applied which was a 6-week process.
2. To note that Autumn was the wrong time of year to prune trees, but consent could be applied for now so that, if approved, pruning could then be done at the right time.
3. To note that concern was raised regarding slippery paths.

L. Public Benches

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk should ask the Education section, via the business letter, for an updated list of benches in the Council’s ownership and what the plan were for bench maintenance/replacement.

M. RNLI Benches – Proposed Plastic Replacement Benches

Resolved to note there was no update.

5. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would pass the request on to the relevant section regarding the footpath between Hamnavoe House and Copland Road housing to be added to the annual grass cutting and Winter gritting schedule.
2. That the Clerk would seek clarification from the relevant section regarding the piece of land at the South End near the GMB garden which was overgrown and appeared not to be on the maintenance plan.

B. Stromness Development Trust

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

Resolved:

1. To note that there was an appeal for people to come forward to organise the Yule Log.
2. That SDT had been working with the Council regarding funding to recruit an Event Co-ordinator for the Tall Ships 2023.
3. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure would liaise with the Development Trust, Community Council, OHAL and the Council regarding the issue of housing in Stromness and the Stromness Housing plan to enable round-the-table discussions to take place.

C. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative updated members of the following matters which had been raised at the Business Forum Meeting held on 24 October 2022, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Shop along the Street event had been a great success and that the 2023 event would run for 3 weeks starting 1 July.
2. To note that, following concern raised regarding passengers from cruise ships who were being dropped off in Stromness early mornings when no businesses were open, it had been agreed by the Business Forum to contact the relevant section to try to co-ordinate the visits to enable businesses to open.
3. To note the initiative run by the Social Enterprise Academy where a possible £500 was available to bring forward ideas.
4. To note that the Bonanza started on Saturday, 12 November.

4. To note that concern had been raised regarding workers parking all day in spaces on and immediately adjacent to the street.

5. To note that encouragement should be given to people to get them into business and perhaps this was something that SCBF and SDT could work together on.

6. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2022

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.

7. Correspondence

A. West of Orkney Windfarm – PAC Notice

Following consideration of correspondence received from J Farnham, Development Manager, copies of which had been circulated, formally notifying members that of Offshore Wind Power Limited's intention to submit applications for marine licence from Marine Scotland for the construction of the offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkney Harbours – Offshore Wind Newsletter

Following consideration of correspondence received from Marine Services, copies of which had been circulated, giving an update and background to the projects at both Scapa Deep Water Quay and Hatston, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Heritage Gate Pillars at Coplands' Dock

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Historic Boat Society, copies of which had been circulated, together with Marine Services response, regarding the damage that had occurred to the Heritage Gate Pillars at Coplands' Dock, it was:

Resolved to note that Marine Services were aware of the issue and after giving the responsible individual the opportunity to repair the damage, Marine Services were now going to proceed to rectify the situation.

D. Avian Influenza

Following consideration of a briefing note regarding avian influenza, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. ORIC2

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Managing Director, Aquatera, regarding the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus Phase 2 design and development project, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Stromness Hotel

Following consideration of correspondence received from S Flett, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Stromness Hotel, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, would respond to S Flett.

8. Consultations

A. Application to Vary Section 36 Consent

Following consideration of correspondence received from Marine Scotland, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an application to vary consent under section 36c of the Electricity Act 1989 for the European Marine Energy Centre Limited, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were requested by 15 December 2022.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2023

Following consideration of correspondence received from Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan 2023, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were requested by 19 December 2022.

C. Boundary Commission Review

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Boundary Commission, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation were requested by 5 December 2022.

9. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

10. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 2 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £9,202.98.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 2 November 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 2 November 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 2 November 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 2 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

11. Financial Requests

A. 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 six Stromness swimmers attending the Inverness Autumn Meet on 10/11 September 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each swimmer, totalling £78, be given.

B. M Inkster – U15 Netball – Dundee – 5 November 2022

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Inkster, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of M Inkster attending an Under 15 Netball event in Dundee on 5 November 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given.

C. Stromness Golf Club Juniors – Royal Dornoch Golf Club Links Academy

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Golf Club Juniors, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of four junior members attending six trips to the Links Golf Academy at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per junior member per trip, totalling £312, be given towards the cost of four junior members of Stromness Golf Club attending the six events at the Links Golf Academy at Royal Dornoch Golf Club.

D. 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 North District Age Group Meet on 26/27 November 2022, it was:

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

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Emergency Plan for Stromness/Orkney

A member queried whether there was an emergency plan in place should there be blackouts/power cuts – such as a building identified that members of the public could be directed to. The Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure advised that if there were power cuts/blackouts such as those that had been mooted then the power would be out right across the county and, as far as she was aware, there was no such building with a generator. However, she went on to confirm that there were databases, which were also in paper form, that highlighted known vulnerable members of the community and there would be contingency plans in place for those individuals, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Bin Tethering Issue

Regarding the issues surrounding what could and could not be used to tether bins, a member queried whether it would have been possible to let individual households know by letter in advance that there were going to be changes, rather than relying on the public hearing it on Radio Orkney or seeing it in the media/on social media. The Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure acknowledged that it had been a difficult few weeks, mistakes on getting the message across had been made and going forward it was important to think about how best to get the communication out, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Bonfire Night 2022 – Feedback

The Chair updated that she had placed a letter in The Orcadian regarding Bonfire Night. There had been a good turnout, with 37 pops entered for the pop competition.

The bucket collection had been well supported and she had placed some buckets in local shops and would collect them in a few weeks. She highlighted that again there had been a lot of illegal dumping at the bonfire and for next year's bonfire it should be highlighted again that there should be no illegal dumping, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Dog Poo Bins

A member raised the issue of not replacing dog poo bins with dog poo bins and they were now replaced with normal litter bins. Regarding the dog poo bin that had been removed from Wardhill Road when the sign had been removed, the member had been informed that there was not enough litter on Wardhill Road to warrant a litter bin, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Clerk would contact the relevant section to highlight the issue.

E. Pier Head Toilets

A member raised concern regarding the appalling state of the Pier Head toilets, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section to highlight the issue.

F. Island Games 2023

The Chair informed members that the triathlon, the first event of the Islands Games 2025, would take place in Stromness on 3 July 2025 and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Water and Sewerage

A member raised concern regarding water and sewerage that had appeared recently and queried whether there was an issue with the sewage works. Councillor J Stockan informed members that a combination of wind direction, together with the substantial rainfall that had been recently, this issue only happened occasionally, 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 via Teams on Monday, 23 January 2022, commencing at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:25.