

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 25 November 2024 at 19:00

Present:

Ms S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr D Blyth, Mr S Hourston, L Martini-Brown (via Teams), Mrs L McQuaid and Mr J Seaton.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Ms L Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 7 October 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr D Stout and seconded by Mrs S Whiteman.

3. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that the Chair and Clerk had attended a Teams link meeting with officers from Orkney Islands Council on 8 November 2024 at which arrangements to finalise the ordering and installation of the new play equipment was given. Members had then been consulted about these, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members had agreed to Stronsay Community Council obtaining a lease for the play area for a minimum of the development period of three months minimum, and that this would be arranged by Orkney Islands Council.
2. That Democratic Services would arrange for Stronsay Community Council to have appropriate insurance in place during the time of the development period until handover.
3. That if the play area after development and installation was handed back to Orkney Islands Council, members had agreed to set aside an agreed amount per year for ongoing repairs and maintenance.
4. That members were aware they had full responsibility for the play area development and installation project and that should anything arise during that period Orkney Islands Council could offer advice and support.

B. Local Place Plan

Members heard that the Chair had been invited to attend a meeting with other interested parties, on a date to be decided, to discuss a local place plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Footpath Obstruction

Members had previously been forwarded a response from Housing offering Stronsay Community Council a donation to clear the footpath obstruction, and members heard that this, and additional clearance work, had been undertaken, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That a note of thanks had been received for the work undertaken.

D. Haulage Meeting

Members had previously been invited to submit questions and attend a Teams meeting with the Managing Director of the haulage company, chaired by the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, and members heard that responses to issues raised had been aired at the meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Recycling of Electrical Items

Members heard that small electrical items were not usually collected from the Isles but that this was being looked into by both Orkney Islands Council and Stronsay Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Haulage of Aggregates

Mr D Blyth declared an interest in the following item and withdrew from the meeting.

Members considered applications received for financial assistance for the haulage of aggregates to be used on improving roadways leading to occupied homes, and it was:

Resolved that the successful applicants would be notified of the grants to be awarded for the haulage of aggregates and how to claim these.

Mr D Blyth rejoined the meeting at this stage.

G. Winter Service Plan 2024-2025

Members heard that a response to a request for a reassessment of a road grading had been provided in the Winter Service plan 2024-2025, and there that was leeway to look at individual roads, and it was:

Resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services would look into members' request for a reassessment of the road leading to Geramount Surgery.

H. Ward Hill Community Play Park

Members heard that discussion would take place between Orkney Island Council and Stronsay Development Trust prior to any further works taking place to play equipment and that there were no repairs or maintenance budget to do this, and it was:

Resolved to note the above information.

4. Grass Cutting Tenders 2025

Members considered arrangements for advertising the 2025 grass cutting contracts, which would be for one year, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the 2025 grass cutting contracts would be advertised locally.

B. That the closing date for tenders would be 24 January 2025, after which date the tenders would be circulated to members for approval.

5. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that a new three-year electricity contract had been opened and that the previous supplier had submitted a final payment invoice, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Fish Mart Report

Due to the sensitive content of the following item, it was held in committee.

Members discussed electricity supplier, the cleaning of the public toilets, outstanding and additional maintenance issues, and the purchase of a replacement microwave.

Members also considered changes to the Fish Mart Operators' Agreement, to come into effect on 1 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk would forward details of a replacement microwave to members for approval and if given it would be purchased from the Stronsay Fish Mart account.

B. That the Clerk would forward a further request for the outstanding, and the newly identified maintenance issues to be addressed.

C. That a draft Fish Mart Operators' Agreement 2025-26 would be circulated to Democratic Services, and members, for comment and approval and once any amendments made would be posted to the Fish Mart Operators in time for a review meeting arranged for 4 December 2024.

7. Reports From Representatives

A. Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative's Report

Members were given an update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Transport Representative's Report

Members heard that the Transport Representative had attended a training session, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Planning Representative's Report

Members had previously been invited to participate in an on-line training session on planning issues, which the representative attended, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Consultation - Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies

Members had previously been forwarded information on Consultation – Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies, open until 15 November 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had had no comment to make on the Consultation – Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies.

9. Correspondence

A. Screen Machine Visit

Members had previously been consulted on a planned Screen Machine visit to Stronsay and a request for financial support, and it was:

Resolved to note members had agreed to the Screen Machine's request for financial support and that this had received Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

B. Orkney Matters 2 Meetings Online

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Orkney Matters 2 meetings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Stronsay Place Plan

Members heard that Stronsay Development Trust had provided the Chair with information on engaging the community to develop a Place Plan for Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

Members had previously been provided with information on a review Orkney Islands Council was undertaking of polling districts and polling places within the Orkney Islands Area of the Orkney and Shetland Parliamentary Constituency, and that the Clerk had been given permission to display this locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Stronsay Road Update

Members had previously been forwarded information on road surface treatments in the Stronsay area the Communications Team Leader, Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions had posted on Facebook, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Stronsay Waste Collections

Members had previously been forwarded details from the Waste and Recycling Officer, Neighbourhood Services, of a request to move the waste collection day on Stronsay from Tuesday to Thursday, commencing 9 January 2025, and members heard that the Clerk had arranged for the change to displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. West Pier Update

Members had previously been forwarded information provided by the Deputy Harbour Master on issues affecting the West Pier on Stronsay and its part closure, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 11 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £6,042.65.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 11 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £13,274.53.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 11 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,474.15.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 11 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £899.74.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 11 November 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,723.40.

11. Requests For Financial Assistance

A. Stronsay Community Association – Toilet Cleaning

Members were asked to consider a request from Stronsay Community Association for financial assistance towards cleaning the public toilets at the Community Centre, and it was:

Resolved that the total amount remaining for approval under the Community Council Grant Scheme B1 Additional Capping Limit, £812.76, would be awarded to Stronsay Community association for the cleaning of the public toilets at the Community Centre.

B. Squat and Bench Press Rack

Mrs L McQuaid declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion that followed.

Members had previously been provided with details of a request for financial support to purchase a squat and bench press rack for use in the Stronsay Healthy Living Centre. Members considered this, and it was:

Resolved that, pending approval from Sports and Leisure, funding of £1,060 towards a squat and bench press rack for use in the Stronsay Healthy Living Centre would be awarded from the Stronsay Community Development Fund.

12. Publications

The following publications had been forwarded to members and were noted:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – September 2024.
- Loganair Passenger Statistics for the year to date.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Lower Whitehall Slipway

Members heard that concerns remained over the safety of the Lower Whitehall slipway, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications would enquire into the safety issues at the Lower Whitehall slipway.

2. That the Clerk would forward previously received responses from officers at Orkney Islands Council to the Service Manager, Democratic Services, and Communications.

B. Collection

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to a public collection for Nurse Maxine who had left Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would forward Nurse Maxine a gift voucher to the value of £180, collected in appreciation of her time as a resident nurse on Stronsay.

C. Member Retirement

Members heard that L Martini-Brown had informed the Chair and the Clerk that on 31 December 2024 he would retire as a member of Stronsay Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of future meeting dates, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Stronsay Community Council would be held on Monday, 24 February 2025 commencing at 19:00 in the Stronsay Community Centre and that the remaining meetings during 2025 would be held on 23 June, 25 August and 1 December.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00.