

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in the Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 20 November 2023 at 19:30

Present:

Mrs S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr S Hourston, Rev D Locke and L Martini-Brown (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities (via Teams).
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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All in attendance were saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of community council member Paul Riley and, as a mark of respect, a minute's silence was observed before proceedings commenced. Condolences had also been forwarded from Sanday Community Council.

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Seaton.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Rev D Locke.

3. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that applications for additional funding for new play park equipment had been submitted to Cooke Aquaculture and the Orkney Islands Council Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Scrap Vehicles

Members heard that the new haulier had made operational and cost changes to the Scrap Car Scheme, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Scrap Car Scheme would be opened for a further five vehicles after which the Scheme would be reviewed.

C. Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Members heard that Stronsay Community Association would be interested in having an electric vehicle charging point at Stronsay Community Centre and in working with members regarding this, and that the Head of Neighbourhood Services had forwarded information identifying key points for consideration and useful contact details, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Clerk would investigate further the possibility of installing electric vehicle charging points and report back to members at the next meeting.

D. Haulier's Retirement

Members heard that the retiring haulier and his partner had been presented with money raised and gifts from a public collection, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that notices would be displayed regarding the amount raised from the public collection.

E. Request for Signage

Members heard that details of signs requiring attention or installation had been forwarded to Orkney Islands Council and Roads had advised a works instruction had been issued to address these, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

4. Haulage of Aggregates

Members considered allocating funds towards the haulage of aggregate for use in improving private roadways leading to an occupied residence, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That posters would be displayed locally inviting applications for financial assistance towards the haulage of aggregate for use in improving roadways leading to an occupied residence.

B. That any grant awarded for the haulage of aggregate would be subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

5. Grass Cutting Tenders

Members considered arrangements for advertising the 2024 grass cutting contracts, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the 2024 grass cutting contracts would be advertised locally.

B. That the closing date for tenders would be 26 January 2024, after which date the tenders would be circulated to members for approval.

6. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that the new hoist had been ordered and would be fitted once received and that an invoice had been received from the electricity supplier for electricity used between 7 July and 20 October 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Fish Mart Report

Members heard that, at the Operators' request, a set of new chopping boards and a new under counter freezer had been supplied, and that the replaced freezer unit and

a previously replaced microwave had been advertised for sale, the freezer unit being sold to the highest offer, but the microwave remained unsold. A new door had been fitted to the gable end entrance and a damaged radiator had been repaired, but previously identified faults, approved for repair, remained outstanding.

It was further advised that problems continued with a new service provider supplying a live and working broadband.

Rev D Locke agreed to join the Fish Mart Subgroup which will meet to discuss a new Operators' Agreement, the current one ending on 31 December 2023, and will look at changing the Operators' holiday dates and the cleaning routine. The TV license was due for renewal and issues were raised over the Fish Mart being closed at the same time as the newly opened Stronsay Hotel, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities would follow up the outstanding repairs.

C. That the Chair would contact the Community Council Stronsay Development Trust Representative regarding the Fish Mart and the Hotel closing times.

8. Reports from Representatives

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

Consideration was given to a written update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, submitted by the Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative and previously forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning Representative's Report

Members had previously been notified of a planning application, ref 23/223/PP, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Transport Representative's Report

Consideration was given to appointing a new Transport Representative, and it was:

Resolved that Mr S Hourston would take over the position as Transport Representative.

9. Correspondence

A. Air and Ferry Forum 13 September 2023 Draft Notes

Members had previously been forwarded draft notes of the Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings held on 13 September 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

Members had previously been forwarded a copy of the Winter Service Plan for 2023/2024 issued by the Roads Support officers, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. New Financial Assistance Request and Indent Form

Members heard that a new financial assistance application form had been devised so that the required information could be gathered at the point of application, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. National Island Plan Consultation Events

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding National Islands Plan consultation workshops, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Draft Outer North Isles Summer 2024 Timetable

Members had previously been forwarded and consulted on information on a proposed change to the Outer North Isles summer ferry 2024 timetable, and it was:

Resolved to note members objected to a change to the Outer North Isles summer ferry 2024 timetable and that their response had been forwarded to Orkney Islands Council.

F. My Place Awards 2024

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Scottish Civic Trust raising awareness of their national My Place Awards, which celebrated placemaking efforts in Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Recruitment to Head of Primary Care Services Post

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation circulated to Community Council Chairs and Vice Chairs inviting them to sit on a panel to recruit an Orkney Health and Care, Head of Primary Care Services, and for another volunteer to be part of the stakeholder session, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had responded to the invitation.

H. PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan

Members had previously been forwarded a request from a PhD Researcher for members to take part in a survey on the national Islands Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £9,225.39.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 10 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,512.47.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 10 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,554.15.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 10 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit had been fully allocated.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 10 November 202, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £8,723.40.

11. Request for Financial Assistance - Stronsay Community Association

Mr D Stout and Mr S Hourston declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion that followed.

Members were asked to consider a request from Stronsay Community Association for financial assistance towards cleaning the public toilets at the Community Centre, and with only three members being available to discuss the request, the decision to award financial assistance would be deferred until Mr J Seaton had been consulted, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr J Seaton would be consulted on the request for financial assistance from Stronsay Community Association.
2. That if a fourth member agreed financial assistance, £250 would be awarded, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

12. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – September and October 2023.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Outer North Isles Community Council Meeting

Members were asked to consider a request for a meeting involving all the outer north isles Community Councils, giving them an opportunity to share common issues, and it was:

Resolved that plans were in hand to develop a meeting involving all the outer north isles Community Councils.

B. Parcel Delivery

Members were asked to consider the procedures for parcel deliveries by couriers, and it was:

Resolved that letters would be sent to the Orkney and Shetland Member of Parliament and the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Orkney regarding parcel deliveries by couriers.

C. Stronsay Taxi Service

Members heard that there was currently no taxi service on Stronsay but that plans might be afoot to provide a dial and ride facility, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would enquire into the Stronsay Development Trust's plans to support community transport.

D. Road Blockage

Members heard that construction work was taking place to erect a new electricity substation and that the road had been blocked on several occasions without prior notice, causing inconvenience and delays to road users, and it was:

Resolved that the unauthorised road closures would be raised with officials within Orkney Islands Council.

E. Saturday Mail

Members heard that mail was not being sent out from the Kirkwall sorting office on a Saturday and subsequently there was no mail delivery to residents on a Monday, and it was:

Resolved that a letter would be sent to the Manager, Kirkwall Sorting Office, regarding there being no mail sent to Stronsay on a Saturday.

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, 25 March 2024 commencing at 19:00 in the Stronsay Community Centre and that the remaining meetings during 2024 would be held on 19 August, 7 October and 25 November.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:35.