

# Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 5 October 2020 at 19:00

## Present:

E Knight, K Bevan, G Deans and J Park.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

## Chair:

- E Knight.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Police Matters .....	2
3. Adoption of Minutes .....	2
4. Matters Arising.....	2
5. Correspondence .....	5
6. Consultations .....	5
7. Publication .....	6
8. Reports from Community Council Representatives .....	6
9. Financial Statements .....	7
10. Financial Requests .....	8
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	8
12. Date of Next Meeting .....	10
13. Conclusion of Meeting .....	10

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of K Donald, W Mackay, P McLaughlin and J Mowat.

## **2. Police Matters**

Resolved to note that there was no police representative present at the meeting.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 24 August 2020 was approved, being proposed by G Deans and seconded by J Park.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Jack Renton – Proposed Plaque**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the Jack Renton plaque was due to be delivered in five weeks.

### **B. Gravediggers Hut, Warebeth Cemetery**

Following consideration of an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the Burial Grounds Officer had been investigating whether the sheds were required.
2. That workers who attended the site brought their own equipment, so it appeared there was no actual need for the sheds to be accessible working sheds.
3. That the Burial Grounds Officer concluded that the best course of action would be to make the sheds good, safe and secure by boarding up the newer shed and for the older one, removing the roof and making the door and windows secure.
4. That, in the longer term, demolition of the shed may be possible.

### **C. Stromness Bonfire Night 2020**

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

Resolved:

1. To note that due to the coronavirus pandemic, Stromness Bonfire Night 2020 should be cancelled.
2. To note that it may be possible to hold a firework display at New Year.
3. That J Park should contact G Argo to clarify the position of the fireworks that had been ordered for the 2020 display and see whether it would be possible to:
  - Cancel the order.

- If it was not possible to cancel the order, whether the company would store them until such a time as it was possible to hold a firework display.
4. That members were keen to hold an online “Pop” competition.
  5. That as the Community Council did not have a website or Facebook page, K Bevan would liaise with the Stromness Development Officer and utilise the Development Trust webpage.
  6. That P McLaughlin had indicated that she would order the trophies.
  7. That should a sponsor for the prizes not be found, the Development Trust and Community Council could come together to purchase the prizes.

### **D. Keith Allardyce Hobbs – Proposed Public Memorial**

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

Resolved that the Clerk would liaise with W Mackay to source the cost of a plastic bench for the proposed public memorial for Keith Allardyce Hobbs.

### **E. Town Centre Fund**

Following an update from the Chair and K Bevan regarding a meeting that had taken place the previous week, it was:

Resolved to note that the member of OIC staff who had been tasked with pricing the work of installing a permanent access at the Community Centre, similar to the access that had been erected for the Folk Festival, had been on holiday, therefore there was not much to report at this time.

### **F. Bins**

Following an update received from the Roads and Environmental Services Operations Manager, in response to concerns raised by members regarding bins not being emptied, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that Councillor R Crichton would liaise with the Council's Communications and Waste teams to see whether a press release could be issued on a “Keep Orkney Tidy” theme and to highlight Stromness Community Council's suggestion of signage on all public bins advising who should be contacted if the public bins were full.

### **G. Campsite Sign**

Following an update received from the Sport and Leisure Service Manager, in response to concerns raised by members regarding the campsite sign, it was:

Resolved to note the Sport and Leisure Service Manager's response, as follows:

“The overall branding, of which the signs in question are part of, has been well received across all facilities. The posters, information and signs provide a bright and professional image. The wording on the signs were given a lot of consideration and were seen by senior management prior to being put in place and while in situ”.

## **H. Pickaquoy Centre**

The Chair informed members that he had recently spoken to J Linklater, Manager, Pickaquoy Centre, who had informed him that it was hoped that the Pickaquoy Centre would be open again on 2 November and would have a number of bookable slots available for users for activities such as lane swimming, squash and cardiovascular exercise etc. A member expressed his disappointment that it had not been possible to open as other Scottish leisure centres had managed to open relatively quickly whether they had been run by a Trust or a local authority, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **I. Defibrillator**

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

Resolved to note:

1. That G Deans had been in touch with Orkney Heart Support Group regarding defibrillators and was waiting a response.
2. That a potential site for the defibrillator would be outside Stromness Swimming Pool or the Squash Courts.

## **J. Old Lifeboat Shed, Point of Ness**

Following an update from K Bevan, and following discussion, it was

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the Directors of Stromness Golf Club highlighting concerns raised by Stromness Community Council regarding the safety of the Old Lifeboat Shed, Point of Ness, asking for confirmation of the status of the shed and highlight the need for the shed to be rescued rather than demolished.

## **K. Rabbits, Warebeth Cemetery**

Following an update received from the Chair, regarding concerns raised by members of the number of rabbits in the Warebeth Cemetery, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the Burial Grounds Officer would visit Warebeth Cemetery to investigate the issue.
2. That if any of the gates needed to be made rabbit proof with mesh, this could be added to the list of works to be done.

## **L. Benches**

Following discussion regarding benches around Stromness requiring refurbishment, it was:

Resolved that G Deans would contact S Pagent to enquire whether getting the benches refurbished was still possible.

## 5. Correspondence

### A. Briefing Note – Offshore Wind Project, Caithness

Following consideration of correspondence received from Xodus Group regarding the Offshore Wind Project, Caithness, copies of which had been previously circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that comments or questions on the project was to be received no later than 25 September 2020.

### B. Sea Haven

Following consideration of correspondence received from D Stout, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that in November 2016, Stromness Community Council, following the recommendations made at the Sea Haven Sub-committee, agreed the remaining funds of £13,214 earned from the sale of the Sea Haven book be donated as follows:

- £6,000 to the Town House Stage project.
- £3,607.90 to Stromness Museum.
- £3,607.90 to Stromness Development Trust, to be used towards the purchase of Christmas lights.

2. To note that the £3,607.90 was still to be transferred to Stromness Development Trust and would be done so once the Christmas lights had been purchased.

3. That as per D Stout and B Wilsons recommendation, the Sea Haven slides be donated to the Stromness Museum.

4. That J Park would liaise with the Clerk and the Chair to ensure that all necessary paperwork was completed to enable the slides to be donated.

5. That the account previously known as the “Sea Haven Account” should now be renamed “Donations Account”.

## 6. Consultations

### A. Local Housing Strategy

Following consideration of the consultation on the Local housing Strategy 2017 to 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That Stromness Community Council had completed the online consultation.

2. That G Deans was to attend the online event on the Local Housing Strategy on 6 October 2020.

## **B. Local Government and Communities Committee**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Local Government and Communities Committee regarding the survey on the Communities Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to explore the impact it has had on improving community wellbeing, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that E Knight would complete the consultation on behalf of Stromness Community Council prior to the deadline of 23 October 2020.

## **7. Publication**

Following consideration of the Scottish Water newsletter – Routemap to Net Zero Emissions, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the publication.

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

### **A. MARS**

The MARS representative had previously circulated the following update to members regarding MARS issues:

- The litter bin at the east end of the Academy Sports field had been replaced.
- Roads issues that had previously been reported did not seem to be progressing.
- Garson Road was rapidly deteriorating.
- Surface water issues were in many areas all over Orkney.

And it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

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

Following an update from the Stromness Community Business Forum representative, regarding a meeting that had taken place the previous week, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the Stromness Bonanza was going to be going ahead this year.
2. That rather than charge businesses a fee to take part, all prizes had been sponsored, thereby making it free for all businesses to join.
3. That the Business Forum would co-ordinate the start date of the Bonanza to coincide with the lighting of the Christmas Tree – which was usually the last Wednesday of November.
4. That the Business Forum had ordered the Christmas Tree.

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

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

Resolved to note:

1. That the plans for the Christmas Lights were with the Planning Section for approval.
2. That the new website was being worked on by the Stromness Development Officer.
3. That various funding packages were being looked into to enable the Stromness Development Officer post to continue.

### **D. Playpark Sub-committee**

Following an update from the Playpark Sub-committee representative, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the contractor had been back on site recently and was confident that the majority of the work would be finished shortly.
2. That the works had to be completed by February 2021, but it was hoped that handover of the site would be by December 2020.
3. That it was hoped that the facility would be open to the public by early Spring 2021.

## **9. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 25 September 2020, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,609.19.

### **B. Sea Haven Account**

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 25 September 2020, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the balance was £4,906.62 of which:
  - £82 revenue interest had been earned for the financial year 2019/2020.
  - £3,607.90 would be held to be released once the Christmas lights had been purchased for the town.
  - £100 which had been donated from Stromness Drama Club towards purchasing a new flag but as the money was not ring-fenced if replacing the flag did not go ahead the money would be put towards another worthwhile community project.

- £1,050.72 to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage.
2. That, as agreed at paragraph 5b above, the Sea Haven Account should be renamed “Donations Account”.

### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2019/2020 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 25 September 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,149.25.

### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 25 September 2020, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,399.54.

### **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 25 September 2020, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,673.78.

## **10. Financial Requests**

### **A. Stenness Primary School – Nethybridge School Trip – Proposed Refund**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Primary School, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk contact Stenness Primary School to request a refund of the £39 previously donated towards the Nethybridge School Trip which had been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **B. E Foubister – Scottish Athletics Event – 29-30 August 2020**

Following consideration of correspondence received from G Foubister, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of his son attending a Scottish Athletics Event in East Lothian on 29-30 August 2020, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 be given to a Stromness athlete towards the cost of attending a Scottish Athletics Event in East Lothian on 29-30 August 2020.

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

### **A. Garson Amenity Site**

Following concerns raised by a member regarding Garson Amenity Site including:

- Opening hours.
- Why the site closes for an hour over lunchtimes.
- The issue with skips filling up quickly.

And following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that E Knight would write to the Head of Infrastructure and Strategic Projects highlighting Stromness Community Council's concerns.

## **B. Orkney Fisherman's Society**

A member raised concern of the smell of rotting fish emanating from Orkney Fisherman's Society, caused by waste product that was waiting to be dumped at sea, which was becoming a regular occurrence and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that G Deans would contact Orkney Fisherman's Society on behalf of Stromness Community Council raising concerns, querying what the plans were to rectify the situation and whether there was anything that Stromness Community Council could do to assist.

## **C. Woodland Trust**

A member highlighted that there was grant funding available from the Woodland Trust for community tree planting, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that K Bevan would forward the information to Stromness Development Trust which may tie into a potential project.

## **D. Tea/Coffee at Town Hall, Stromness**

Councillor J Stockan asked members opinions to the idea of volunteer groups serving teas and coffees in the Town Hall. He was concerned that as there were less places open in Stromness providing such as service, this could have a knock-on effect to individuals mental health as they were unable to meet up with others indoors. A member highlighted that the Stromness Legion already served coffees two days a week, as well as it The Café which was under new management; although they were unsure when it would be opening. The Royal Hotel also served coffees/teas. The SCDT representative said this idea was similar to the community days that had been planned by SCDT and it may be worthwhile for SCDT to revisit this, but as the SCD Officer was only funded part time there may not be the resource. Councillor J Stockan informed members that there may be additional funding available for the SCDT Officer and would discuss this with SCDT representative, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. Ferry Walkway**

Councillor M Thomson informed members that it was hoped that the repairs to the walkway would be complete by the end of the year, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Town House Gardens**

E Knight informed members that he would shortly be pruning the bushes at the Town House Gardens, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

That the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 16 November 2020, commencing at 19:00.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

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