

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 14 March 2022 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, G Deans, K Bevan, K Donald and W Mackay.

In Attendance:

- K MacPherson, Interim Head of Service for Property, IT and Facilities.
- J Montgomery, Interim Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies had been received from E Knight, J Mowat and J Park.

2. Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 was approved, being proposed by G Deans and seconded by K Bevan.

3. Matters Arising

A. Parking in Short Stay Parking

The Chair advised that the police had been monitoring the parking at the short stay parking area beside Wishart's and that parking tickets had been issued, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

B. Welcome to Stromness Sign

Following an update from K Bevan regarding the Welcome to Stromness sign, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that quotes for the work was awaited.
2. That when all costs were secured the details would be emailed around members.

C. Defibrillator – Stromness Museum

An update was provided by G Deans, advising that a letter of thanks had been sent to the donor and R S Merriman's and that the defibrillator had been registered with Scottish Ambulance Services. He also advised that paint had been purchased for the phone box that housed the defibrillator, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That arrangement would be made to paint the phone box.

D. Litter Bin Signs

Following an update from W Mackay regarding the proposed sticker and advising that iDesign had provided a cost and he had subsequently ordered the sticker, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would contact iDesign regarding the delivery of the stickers and the invoice to allow payment within the present financial year.

E. Post Box on Hillside Road

The Chair advised member that further communication had been sent regarding the proposed new site for the replacement post box at Hillside Road, but no response had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Bench at Brinkie's Brae

Following an update from W Mackay advising that he had contacted the contractor who had advised that he would be able to undertake the work but not until later in the year, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the update.

G. GMB Garden

Members discussed the work required at the GMB Garden and agreed that a provisional date should be set, and further agreement made by email, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that picnic bench had arrived, and that W Mackay would arrange for it to be situated at the GMB Garden.
2. That a provisional date of 9 April 2022 should be arranged to organise a works party and to get as many volunteers as possible to assist with the work needing to be done.
3. That the grass should be left as it was.

H. Ness Campsite

Following consideration of correspondence from the Team Leader, Sports and Leisure, advising that the development works had commenced, after some delays, at Ness Campsite, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

I. What's On Board

After hearing an update from K Bevan advising that the new What's On Board had been put up and that he had received comments regarding the use of steel pins, which had been supplied, rather than staples for displaying posters, and it was:

Resolved that K Bevan would monitor the What's On Board meantime.

J. Road to Warebeth

Members heard correspondence from Democratic Services advising that the track repair had already been instructed and that the work would be carried out by a contractor within the next four weeks. W Mackay advised that the work had been completed and that the Council should be commended as the track was in the best condition that it had ever been, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence and verbal report.
2. That a letter of thanks should be sent regarding the repairs and good condition of the track.

K. GMB Legacy Artwork

Following consideration of correspondence received from G Barnby, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the siting of proposed legacy artwork to mark the centenary of George Mackay Brown, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Stromness Community Council was in support of the artwork being situated in the GMB Garden area.
2. That the gabions should be made with a strong durable material suitable for Orkney weather.
3. That details of the proposed project plan should be made available for community comment.
4. That there should be no cost or ongoing costs for Stromness Community Council.
5. That clarification was awaited on the Community Council's insurance for public liability.

4. Correspondence - West of Orkney Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence received from Green Investment Group regarding the West of Orkney Windfarm, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the dates of the arranged webinars.

5. Consultations

Resolved to note that there were no consultations for discussion.

6. Publication – Orkney Area Command Newsletter

The following publication had been received and made available to members:

- OIC Marine Planning Update: Spring 2022.

7. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS

The MARS representative advised that he was pleased to see work had commenced on the North End Road roundabout. He raised concerns regarding gate repairs required at the Market Green before the football season started and that the downpipe drains at the Squash Courts appeared to be damaged along with grass

growing in the guttering, which could be having an impact on the building. He also advised that there were other properties in OIC ownership that required the guttering to be cleared. He suggested that OIC departments should work together when arrangements for property maintenance was being arranged. He also reported that there had been vandalism at the Postman Pat Playpark where a gate had been damaged, which he had subsequently repaired, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To note that members thanked W Mackay for repairing the gate at the Postman Pat playpark.
3. That the Interim Head of Service for Property, IT and Facilities would ascertain the situation regarding repairs of the properties mentioned.

B. Stromness Community Business Forum

The Stromness Community Business Forum representative had provided information regarding the upcoming AGM to be held on 21 March 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Development Trust

The Stromness Development Trust representative advised that funding had been secured for the employment of a Community Development Officer for three years, and that the needs of the Community Centre such as a provision of a permanent ramp required to be looked at, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 23 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,157.50.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 23 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,557.72 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 2021/2022

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £106.77.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 22 February 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 22 February 2022, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,273.78.

9. Financial Requests

A. Orkney Folk Festival

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Folk Festival Committee, requesting financial assistance towards internal transport costs for the Folk Festival 2022, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £750 be given towards the internal transport costs for the Folk Festival 2022, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme being agreed.

B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Pentland Pentaqua, Wick

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of twelve swimmers attending the Pentland Pentaqua in Wick on 20 March 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per swimmer, totalling £156 be given towards the cost of twelve Stromness residents from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the Pentland Pentaqua in Wick.

C. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – ND Age Group Championships, Aberdeen

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of three swimmers attending the North District Age Group Championships, Aberdeen on 26/27 March 2022, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 per swimmer, totalling £39 be given towards the cost of three Stromness residents from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club attending the North District Age Group Championships, Aberdeen on 26/27 March 2022.

D. Defibrillator Phone Box

Following a decision by members out with the meeting regarding the purchase of paint for the phone box housing the defibrillator, it was:

Resolved to note that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance had been applied for on the cost of £100 and had subsequently been approved.

E. GMB Garden – Materials and Equipment

Following a decision by members out with the meeting regarding the purchase of material and equipment for the GMB Garden, it was:

Resolved to note that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance had been applied for on the cost of £350.00 and had subsequently been approved.

F. Benches and Picnic Tables

Following a decision by members out with the meeting regarding the purchase of benches and picnic tables, it was:

Resolved to note that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance had been applied for on the cost of £2,400 and had subsequently been approved.

G. Orkney Historic Boat Society

Following a decision by members out with the meeting regarding a financial request from Orkney Historic Boat Society requesting assistance towards the cost of a secure metal cabinet for storage, it was:

Resolved to note that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance had been applied for on the cost of £400 and had subsequently been approved.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Back Road, Stromness

Following consideration and discussion of correspondence from Grieveship Resident's Association which had been sent to Orkney Islands Council regarding the consultation on road safety concerns in Finstown and the previous concerns raised regarding the Back Road, Stromness, it was:

Resolved to support Grieveship Resident's Association with their wish to readdress the Back Road traffic problem.

B. OIC Website

Members discussed the OIC website and how unwieldy it was to navigate and find anything and asked if it could be upgraded to the 21st century, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Head of Service for Property, IT and Facilities would take the comments back to the Communications Team.

C. Ukrainian Flag

G Deans asked members if it would be appropriate to fly the Ukrainian flag as a means of support. Following discussion, members agreed that this would be a good idea, and it was:

Resolved that G Deans would arrange for the Ukrainian flag to be flown in Stromness.

D. Vote of Thanks

Resolved to note that G Deans and P McLaughlin gave a vote of thank to W Mackay for all his work over the years to both the Community Council and the local community.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held in the Warehouse Building and Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 19 April 2022, commencing at 19:00.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:10.