

# Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Teams on Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 19:30

## Present:

P McLaughlin, D Harrold, W Mackay, C Sinclair and M Sutherland.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- S Craigie, Clerk.

## Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of K Bevan.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2025 were approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by W Mackay.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Gym Opening Times in Stromness**

Councillor G Bevan updated members that there was a Sport and Leisure Member/Officer Working Group arranged for the coming week, where he was going to raise the issue of gym opening times in Stromness, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Signs – Motorhomes**

The Chair informed members that, as yet, no information had been received from the relevant section regarding the erection of signs to stop motorhomes going through the street to the camp site, which the Clerk would chase up, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Quanterness Community Benefit**

Following a query from a member, Councillor L Hall stated that there was no further update to give and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that this item be kept on the agenda meantime.

### **D. Male Public Toilets – Ferry Road**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Service Manager (Building Cleaning), copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Community Council's query regarding the male public toilets on Ferry Road, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Service Manager (Building Cleaning) had stated in her correspondence that the toilets were opened for the Island Games and had not been closed overnight since and that the only time the toilets would be closed would be for blocked toilets or vandalism due to the extent that they could not be kept open.

2. That, as the male toilets on Ferry Road were still closed, the Clerk should contact the relevant department querying whether there had been a mix up regarding what facilities the Community Council were referring to.

## **E. Stromness Town House**

The Chair updated members that the Lord Lyon Coat of Arms could be moved from Stromness Town House if a suitable place could be found in the Warehouse Building, if that was what the Community Council wished to do. She further commented that herself and the Clerk would investigate where the Coat of Arms could be placed.

A member raised concern regarding the future usability of Stromness Town House and commented that it would be a shame if it were lost if the building was not being utilised.

Councillor G Bevan commented that Stromness Town House was still being used by Council workers but stated “if you don’t use it, you lose it”. He further commented that if buildings were surplus to requirement, then they were generally put on the market and that a keen eye should be kept on the situation.

The members supported Councillor G Bevan’s comments and wondered, if there was a demand for office space, as had been stated by ORIC at a previous meeting, whether Stromness Town House should be promoted. He further commented that Stromness Community Council should use it.

Regarding the condition of Stromness Town House, a member commented that he was keen to meet with a Building Inspector on site to itemise the maintenance that was required on the building – particularly the light at the bottom of the steps which had not been operational for some considerable time.

Councillor G Bevan confirmed he would find out about the light. He further commented that he was meeting with the Chief Executive in Stromness in the near future and would have the opportunity to introduce him to a number of buildings, which would include Stromness Town House, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. Trees at Hillside Road**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Roads Section, copies of which had been circulated, regarding overhanging trees on Hillside Road, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Roads Section would investigate the branches obscuring the streetlight from a Roads point of view.

## **G. Chevrons at Bridges**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Community Council Liaison Officer, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that it had been confirmed that all costs regarding the chevrons were covered by the grant funding, including the cost of manufacture and installation.

2. To note that the Roads Support team also confirmed that the work was carried out whilst the teams were engaged in other activities in the area, it did not detract from any other work and was fitted in according to the standard prioritisation processes.

3. That the Chair would write a response noting the disappointment of the Community Council, which she would circulate to members prior to sending it.

## **H. Car Parking in Stromness**

Following an update from the Clerk regarding the issue of cars parking in the short-term parking spaces, it was:

Resolved to note that Police Scotland had contacted the Clerk and confirmed that they were going to monitor the parking situation in Stromness and would respond to the Community Council in due course.

## **I. Warebeth Kirkyard**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Burial Grounds Officer, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Burial Grounds Officer had received a price from the contractor to make the Gravediggers Shed safe but was waiting for a start date for the work to commence.

2. To note that the Burial Grounds Officer was in the process of getting quotes to install rabbit defences on all the gates, and should the quotes be approved and the defences installed, the pest control contractor would then visit.

## **J. Bunting**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the bunting would be removed when the Festive Lights connections were being checked.

## **4. Bonfire Night 2025 – 5 November 2025**

Following discussion regarding arrangements which were required for Bonfire Night, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the Stromness Firework Display would take place on Wednesday, 5 November 2025.

B. That £1,450 be used for the firework display, which would be booked with Fireworx Scotland Limited, and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance would be applied for.

C. That the proposed day to erect the bonfire would be the morning of Saturday, 1 November 2025, but this would be confirmed.

D. To note that the Chair would respond to the Rotary Club to let them know that Stromness Community Council was happy for them to sell their remaining stock of glowsticks at the upcoming firework display.

## **5. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2025**

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Tree Lighting Ceremony would take place on Wednesday, 26 November.

B. That the Community Council would again offer Orkney Amateur Swimming Club the opportunity to take on the role of providing mince pies etc. as a fund raiser for their organisation.

C. That this item would be added to the agenda for the November meeting to enable the final arrangements to be confirmed.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Planning Workshop – 6 November 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Community Council Liaison Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding nominating two representatives from Stromness Community Council to attend the Planning Workshop to be held on 6 November 2025, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that P McLaughlin and M Sutherland would attend the Planning Workshop to be held on 6 November 2025.

Councillor L Hall left the meeting at this point.

### **B. Rubbish in Water**

Following consideration of correspondence received from C Merriott, copies of which had been circulated, regarding rubbish in Stromness Harbour, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the Harbours Department and raise the issue with them for actioning.

### **C. Post in the Isles – Workshop – 7 October 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from ThinksInsight, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an in-person workshop to be held in Kirkwall on 7 October 2025, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would attend the Post in the Isles Workshop on 7 October 2025.

## **D. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan – 9 October 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Flood Risk Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding a workshop on the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP), it was:

Resolved that M Sutherland would attend the workshop to be held on 9 October 2025 in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Building.

## **E. Share Your Views on Tourism in Orkney – 8 and 16 October 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Team Manager (Sustainable Tourism), copies of which had been circulated, regarding a representative from each community council taking part in a one-hour online stakeholder interview as part of the Our Story, Our Project initiative, it was:

Resolved that D Harrold would attend on 16 October 2025.

## **F. Customer Vulnerability Strategy Webinar**

Following consideration of correspondence received from SSEN, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that no representative had attended the Webinar on Customer Vulnerability Strategy Webinar held on 25 September 2025.

## **7. Consultations**

Resolved to note that no consultations had been received.

## **8. Publications**

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

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

### **A. MARS Updates**

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the following issues had been reported:

- Various maintenance issues relating to Stromness Town House.
- Leaves lying on pavements in various areas of Stromness.

### **B. Stromness Development Trust**

As the Stromness Development Trust representative was not present, there was no update. However, it was:

Resolved to note that Stromness Development Trust had been successful in securing funding from the Orkney Towns Fund.

## **C. Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group**

Resolved to note that there was no update at this time.

## **10. Financial Statements**

### **A. Community Council General Fund**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 18 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,404.94.

### **B. Donations Account**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 23 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,756.72 of which £1,050.72 was to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage area.

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

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 18 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for the Community Council Grant Scheme 2025/26 was £1,883.27.

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

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 18 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £6,524.04.

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

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 18 September 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that as the unused funds from the Incredible Edible project had been paid back into the fund, the Seed Corn Fund remaining for approval was now £1,160.24.

## **11. Requests for Financial Assistance**

### **A. Stenness Primary School – Trip to Hoy – 23-25 September 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stenness Primary School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards a Stromness resident pupil participating in a trip to Hoy on 23-25 September 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

## **B. M Kirkpatrick – University of Aberdeen – Autumn Meet 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the University of Aberdeen Autumn Meet on 4 and 5 October 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Heritage Litter Bins**

A member raised the condition of the Heritage Litter Bins which needed some maintenance and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant department to raise that the issue of the Heritage Litter Bins which required some maintenance.

### **B. Public Meeting – November 2025**

Regarding the two remaining seats on the Community Council, the Chair raised that she had spoken to a member of the public who was interested in joining and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a Public Meeting would take place prior to the next Stromness Community Council meeting to be held on 11 November 2025 at 19:00.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, on Tuesday, 11 November 2025, immediately following the Public Meeting detailed at paragraph 12B above.

## **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15.