

# Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held via Teams on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 at 19:00

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor J Park.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

## Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies .....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes .....	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2025 – Review.....	4
5. Review of Travel Grants/Financial Policies.....	4
6. Correspondence .....	5
7. Consultations .....	5
8. Publication – Near Me Appointments.....	5
9. Reports from Community Council Representatives .....	6
10. Financial Statements .....	6
11. Requests for Financial Assistance.....	7
12 . Any Other Competent Business.....	8
13. Date of Next Meeting .....	9
14. Conclusion of Meeting .....	9

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of E Sinclair and Councillor L Hall.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025 were approved, being proposed by D Harrold and seconded by P McLaughlin.

## **3. Matters Arising**

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

Resolved:

1. To note that there was no update on this matter.
2. That this item would be taken off the agenda meantime until there were updates to give.

C Sinclair joined the meeting at this point.

### **B. Quanterness Community Benefit**

The Chair updated members that following the last meeting, correspondence had been drafted to the Council requesting that the Community Benefit Fund be reconsidered. The draft correspondence had been circulated to members for comment. D Harrold had done further research into the Fund, and it had been agreed that the matter be put on hold for further discussion at this meeting.

D Harrold commented that when the Fund had initially been set up it related to the three windfarms going ahead. He then asked the Councillors present for any updates and what their views were on how the community council should progress.

Councillor G Bevan wondered if the request to revisit the Fund was a bit premature as the final decision regarding all three windfarms had not yet been decided. He continued once the number of windfarms was confirmed, then the right model for community benefit should be considered. He concluded that if Stromness Community Council wanted to pursue the question, then they should do so.

Councillor J Park agreed with Councillor Bevan's comments and agreed that there was no harm in making the thoughts of the community council known to the Council.

K Bevan commented that he didn't think there was anything wrong, in principle, of wanting the Council to look at the level of funding at the right time. His view was it should be impressed upon all developers the importance of meaningful community benefits.

The Chair agreed that it was perhaps too soon to contact the Council requesting the Fund to be revisited, but perhaps a marker should be made.

D Harrold commented that perhaps the decision on the windfarms should go through the Council processes. The local Councillors were aware of the views of Stromness Community Council on the Community Benefit Fund.

The Chair concluded that a letter asking that the Community Benefit Fund be revisited at such a time as decisions on the windfarms were made. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the discussion and information provided.

### **C. Car Park in Stromness**

Resolved to note that no update had been received from Police Scotland.

### **D. Steps from North End Road to Co-op**

D Harrold updated members that he had had positive discussions with the Manager at Stromness Co-op who had agreed to source another bin which was planned to be situated near the lamppost closest to the gate in the co-op carpark. It was hoped this would alleviate some of the issues with litter in this area.

W Mackay commented that the community council should find out whether the steps were on any street cleaning rota and, if so, to get details of what cleaning could be expected. This could also help with keeping the area tidy.

The Chair commented that the steps had been very dangerous in the recent snowy weather, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information regarding the additional bin to be provided and maintained by Stromness Co-op.
2. That the Clerk would contact the relevant section to ascertain whether the steps were on a street cleaning rota, as well as raising how dangerous the steps had been during the recent snowy weather.

### **E. Concerns regarding the Waterworks and Brownstown Road**

Councillor G Bevan confirmed that he had recently spoken to the SSEN Liaison Officer regarding the impact on the roads due to SSEN traffic, who confirmed that the roads were to be repaired. Councillor Bevan also raised that there had been flooding in fields which SSEN were aware of and confirmed that he had seen a digger in the area working on the issue recently. He confirmed that he had also raised Brinkies Brae, Downies Lane and Ward Hill, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **F. Defibrillator**

D Harrold updated members that the defibrillators at Stromness Pool and at Stromness Museum were two different types. Production of the type of pads needed had been paused by manufacturers and, as a result, they had not been available for some time. However, he had received and installed the replacement pads on

16 December 2025. Both units were now operational again. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **G. OIC (20 MPH Speed Limit) – Objector Letter**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Infrastructure and Organisational Development section on 8 December 2025, and further correspondence received from the section on 12 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, regarding Stromness Community Council's query about what was the key criteria to enable consultations to be deemed a valid objection, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would contact the relevant section requesting guidance and further detail on what was deemed to be a valid objection.

### **H. Bunting**

Resolved to note that the Clerk had received the box of free bunting from the Council, which she would pass to the Chair.

## **4. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2025 – Review**

Following discussion regarding the Tree Lighting Ceremony, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that the event had gone well.
- B. To acknowledge the support of everyone who had given up their time to make the event such a success – the Baptist Church, Stromness Primary School pupils and staff, and Santa.
- C. That Stromness RNLI should also be acknowledged for their spectacular creel Christmas Tree, which had been a great success and had helped bring a lot of footfall into Stromness.
- D. That to enable early discussions with Stromness RNLI, Stromness Development Trust and Stromness Community Council, Christmas Trees be put on the August agenda.

## **5. Review of Travel Grants/Financial Policies**

Following discussions regarding whether the Travel Grant should be increased from £25 or stay the same, it was:

Resolved that this item be deferred to the next meeting to enable the Clerk to bring back figures on how much had been spent in the last two years on travel grants.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **A. Community Transport Small Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Transportation Planner, copies of which had previously been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the closing date for applications to the scheme was 25 January 2026.

### **B. Conservation Area Appraisals for Kirkwall and Stromness**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Planning and Regulatory Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an update on the review of Kirkwall and Stromness Conservation Areas in Stromness, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **7. Consultations**

### **A. Marine Renewables – Section 36 Consent – European Marine Energy Centre Limited – Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site**

Following consideration of correspondence received from A Nicol, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government, regarding EMEC Section 36 Consent Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses were required by 31 January 2026.

### **B. Historic Environment Scotland – Properties and Collections Strategy**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Historic Environment Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a consultation of Historic Environment Scotland's new Properties and Collections Strategy, it was:

Resolved to note that responses were required by 23 January 2026.

### **C. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Thistle Wind Partners, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses were required by 8 February 2026.

## **8. Publication – Near Me Appointments**

Following consideration of correspondence received from the NHS Orkney, regarding Near Me Appointments, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

### **A. MARS Updates**

W Mackay informed members that he had reported various issues. However, not much had progressed due to the weather.

He further raised that there were various issues on roads due to SSEN heavy haulage and although it was out of Stromness' remit, highlighted that the dyke at Binscarth, Finstown, had sustained substantial damage. He further suggested that areas such as these should be targeted by the Roads Department and raised with SSEN.

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

K Bevan informed members that it had been a turbulent time following the loss of the Development Officer at the end of October. He continued that as funding for the Development Officer position ran out in March 2026, filling the post had proved challenging. In the meantime, the Trust had engaged an external consultancy so work could continue.

He continued that it had been a very busy time for the Trust and gave thanks to those members of the Trust who had worked on the Stromness Bonanza, Christmas Tree, Yule Log Pull and the Support Warm Spaces initiative.

Regarding the Local Place Review, there was a meeting scheduled for 9 February 2026. He also confirmed that there was a survey out to gather the views of the community.

Regarding Stromness Community Centre, he confirmed that the funding was confirmed from the Scottish Land Fund which required to be spent by 31 March 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

D Harrold confirmed, as K Bevan had indicated, that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on 9 February 2026, which he was planning to attend, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **10. Financial Statements**

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

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 7 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,246.69.

## **B. Donations Account**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 7 January 2026, 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 7 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussions regarding what the remainder of the Community Council Grant Scheme could be used for, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for the Community Council Grant Scheme 2025/2026 was £1,013.27.

2. To note that W Mackay would contact the Harbours Section to see whether their crowd barriers would be suitable for use at the Stromness Bonfire Display and if so, whether Stromness Community Council could borrow them.

3. To note that K Bevan would contact Glues seeking a cost for 20 hanging baskets which, if agreed, would be offered to Stromness Businesses on a similar basis as last year, where the businesses had agreed to pay £15 towards the cost.

4. To note that as the next community council meeting was not scheduled until 24 March 2026, the decision on what the remainder of the Community Council Grant Scheme funds be spent on would be agreed by members via email.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 7 January 2026, 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 7 January 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,160.24.

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

### **A. K Gray – Orkney Netball – Glasgow, 23 November 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from K Gray, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending a netball event in Glasgow on 23 November 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

## **B. Harray Young Farmers – North Area Junior Speechmaking Final – Edinburgh – 6 December 2025**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Harray Young Farmers, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards one Stromness resident attending the North Area Junior Speechmaking Final on 6 December 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

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

### **A. New Stromness Bus Shelter**

Following a query from the Chair, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk would contact the relevant section for confirmation as to where the new bus shelter was going to be situated.

### **B. Bike Hub**

Following a query from a member and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Warehouse Building had the code which members of the public could get to enable them to use the Bike Hub.
2. To note that as not many people were aware of the Bike Hub, Stromness Community Council were keen to see its uses publicised.

### **C. Locked Public Toilets**

It had been brought to a member's attention by a member of the public that the toilets beside the Eventide Club had been locked during the day on Friday, 19 December, with no warning nor explanation, which he found unacceptable, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the matter with the relevant section.

### **D. Planning Application**

The Planning Representative raised a planning application that she had recently circulated to members regarding a planning permission for pergolas at the Ferry Inn, Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Proposed Housing in Stromness**

Following a query by a member regarding a proposed housing development at Coplands, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a request had already been made to officers from the housing and/or planning section to update Stromness Community Council members on the proposed housing development.

## **F. Signs – Motorhomes**

A member queried whether there was an update on the signs to stop motorhomes going through the street to the camp site, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section and ask for an update.

## **G. ORIC**

A member reported that members of the public had approached him with concerns that their issues relating to the ORIC planning application had not been addressed. Although Stromness Community Council had submitted a letter of support following its meeting with ORIC representatives, subsequent discussions with neighbouring residents suggested that their objections — particularly regarding potential loss of light to their properties — remained unresolved.

K Bevan stated that he was satisfied the revised proposal represented a significant improvement and that the matters previously raised had been adequately addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **H. Craigmillar Park**

A member asked whether a sign was needed to explain why the name Craigmillar had been chosen for the new street. The Chair advised that, as with previous examples such as Yorston Drive, the practice had been for the community council's reasoning to be published in the local media, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **I. Disabled Parking Spaces – Stromness Co-op**

A member raised that SEN workers had on several occasions been observed parking in the disabled spaces at Stromness Co-op. The Chair further noted that there was also an ongoing issue with people parking in the children-and-family bays when they did not have children in the car and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **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, 24 March 2026 at 19:00.

## **14. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:53.