

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 25 August 2025 at 19:00

Present:

Mrs L McQuaid, Mr D Stout, Ms M Bar-Tor, Mr D Blyth, Mr S Hourston, Ms S King and Mr J Seaton.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs A Byers, Arch Henderson Consultants.
- Mrs N Bremner, Arch Henderson Consultants.
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Presentation – Orkney Harbours Master Plan

A presentation on the Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 2 was given to members, which included information on plans for the forthcoming year, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Chair thanked the Arch Henderson representatives for the presentation, and they left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 23 June 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Ms M Bar-Tor.

The Minute of the Emergency Extended Fish Mart Subgroup meeting held on 25 July 2025 was approved, proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Ms S King.

4. Matters Arising

A. Local Place Plan

Members heard that questions had been submitted to Stronsay Development Trust on the Local Place Plan but that there had been no response to these, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to Stronsay Development Trust to request feedback to questions raised on the Local Place Plan and to request for Community Council involvement before the Local Place Plan was submitted to Orkney Islands Council.

B. Village Play Park

Members heard that matting remained exposed and in places had split under the recently installed play equipment and that the Stronsay Men's Shed Group had agreed to apply wood preservative to the play park's wooden apparatus and perimeter fence, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would take photographs of the exposed split matting and forward these to Orkney Islands Council.

C. Storage of Community Generator

Members heard that in response to email correspondence between the Clerk and members, an alternative source of funding for a container for the community generator had been found and that a grant application had been submitted and

approved, and that members had agreed to contribute 20% of the overall quoted project cost, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That a CDF grant application would be made for 20% of the overall project cost, with payment going to Stronsay Community Association, instigators of the generator container project.

D. Welcome to Stronsay Sign

In response to members having previously been consulted about an application to erect a Welcome to Stronsay sign and the planning process for doing this, further discussion took place, and it was:

Resolved that Ms M Bar-Tor would submit a planning application to erect a Welcome to Stronsay sign.

E. Stronsay Housing

Members had previously been informed of the unavailability of a representative from Housing to attend the meeting in person, that there had been no questions received in response to a public notice inviting questions on housing, but that replies to questions from members on housing concerns had been submitted and received responses, and after considering these, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the responses from the Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation) to questions raised by members.
2. That the Clerk would request the need for housing for essential workers to be included on the agenda of the next Health and Care meeting.
3. That Councillor H Woodbridge would talk to Housing about 4 Whitehall being ready for occupancy by October 2025.

F. Community Resilience Plan

Members heard that a meeting had taken place on 21 August 2025 to discuss the Community Resilience Plan, at which the Chair and Vice Chair met with representatives from other groups, that an Emergency Group had been formed, and members would meet to discuss the final version of the Community Resilience Plan on 6 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Scrap Car Scheme

Members heard that there was on-going liaison with the haulier to remove vehicles registered under the Community Council Scrap Car Scheme and that

members had previously agreed the Scheme could not be reopened until all the vehicles had been removed, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That the Clerk would continue to liaise with the haulier to have all the vehicles awaiting removal removed.

C. That one of the vehicle's owners would be given two weeks to produce the vehicle's documents for collection and disposal, failing which the vehicle would be removed from the Scrap Car Scheme.

D. That an additional £250 would be transferred from the Community Council General Fund to the Community Council Grant Scheme Scrap Car Scheme fund.

H. Garage To Rent

Members heard that a response had yet to be received to members' request for an islander discount for renting a garage, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Sea Wall Damage

Members heard that the landowner had not been contacted about the damaged sea wall and that this would be followed up, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Rothiesholm Interpretation Board

Members heard that in response to a request for advice on the Rothiesholm core path being removed from the Rothiesholm interpretation board, the Roads Safety Officer had walked the path and his comments on this were read to members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That Orkney Islands Council would be asked to provide a laminated sign for the Rothiesholm interpretation board advising the sign had been temporarily removed to be updated.

K. Heavy Vehicle Parking

Members heard that heavy goods vehicles had not been parked in Whitehall Village since a letter had been sent to the haulier regarding this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

L. Meikle Mill

Members heard that the current owner of Meikle Mill had cleared accumulated debris from the building, and it was

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That Ms Bar-Tor would speak to the Meikle Mill owner about safety concerns at the mill water wheel.

M. Emergency Extended Fish Mart Subgroup Meeting

It was noted that an emergency meeting of the Fish Mart Subgroup had been held on 26 July 2025.

Members also noted that a letter had been sent to the Fish Mart Operators confirming arrangements following their resignation, that the café would remain open and that the Chair had been given hostel booking dates for after 31 August. Discussion followed on managing the hostel and receiving payment for hostel bookings, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That R Bliss Davis would keep the café open during September, with the possibility of this being extended into October.
3. That Ms Bar-Tor would be the temporary contact for hostel related matters.
4. That Democratic Services would be asked to issue invoices for hostel usage, when necessary.

5. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that two hydro invoices had been received, since the last Community Council meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Fish Mart Report

Due to the sensitive nature of the following item, it was held in committee.

Members heard that five expressions of interest had been received for the Fish Mart Operator vacancy and, following discussion, members agreed these should be considered after the close of the meeting.

No further discussion followed on Fish Mart issues.

7. Reports From Representatives

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

The Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative circulated a report on the recent activities of Stronsay Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Transport Representative’s Report

The Stronsay Community Council Transport Representative provided members with an update on issues discussed at the Ferry and Air Transport Forum meetings held on 19 August 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Planning Representative’s Report

Members had previously been forwarded notification of planning application 22/340/NMV/01, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

8. Consultations

A. OIC (20mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads on Orkney Mainland and Isles) Order 2025

Members had previously been forwarded information on a proposed new Traffic Regulation Order which would create a twenty miles per hour speed limit on various sections of roads in Orkney, and it was: OIC (20mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads on Orkney Mainland and Isles) Order 2025

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the Consultation - OIC (20mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads on Orkney Mainland and Isles) Order 2025

B. ‘Our Orkney, Our Future’

Members had previously been forwarded a consultation named ‘Our Orkney – Our Future’, a project launched to gather tourism views, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on consultation – ‘Our Orkney - Our Future’.

9. Correspondence

A. Update – Ferry Replacement Programme

Members had previously been forwarded an update on the ferry replacement programme issued by the Service Manager – Transportation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Reminder – Winter Service Plan 2025

Members had previously been forwarded a reminder for comments on the Winter Service Plan 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make to the consultation on the Winter Service Plan 2025 and that this response had been previously forwarded.

C. Annual Grants 2025/2026

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Community Council Annual Grants allocated for all Community Councils for the financial year 2025/2026, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Annual Grant provided to Stronsay Community Council was £4,079.85.

D. SATE Project Briefing Note

Members had previously been forwarded a briefing note on the Outer North Isles Airfields giving an update on aviation related projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Email from Alistair Carmichael MP re Constituent's Letter

Members had previously been forwarded an email the Clerk had received from Alistair Carmichael MP, which included a letter from a constituent, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Visit Stronsay Group

Members heard that the Secretary/Treasurer of the Visit Stronsay Group had emailed the Clerk to formally advise that the Visit Stronsay Group was in the process of closing and its role and assets were being transferred to Stronsay Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. TWP Small Donations Funds for Communities Launch

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Thistle Wind Partners, on the launch of their small donations fund for local communities, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Neven Point

Members had previously been forwarded a copy of correspondence regarding the Neven Point project, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Request from The Orcadian

Members had previously been forwarded an email request from a local newspaper reporter regarding the announcement of Orkney Ferries industrial action and the third plane and landing craft announced by Orkney Islands Council. This elicited a response from the Chair, which was shared with members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm

Members had previously been forwarded follow up information on the Ayre Offshore Windfarm, and it was

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Nordic Sea Timetable

Members considered a request from the Team Manager (Ferry Operations) to change the order of the Nordic Sea sailings on Friday, 26 September 2025, and it was:

Resolved that members had no objection to the change of order of the Nordic Sea sailings on Friday, 26 September 2025 but that the change should be well advertised.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £5,175.70.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £11,438.42.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,315.70.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £2,638.65, £714.90 in the additional capping limit and £755.00 the island capping limit.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 5 June 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £14,292.54.

F. Stronsay Community Council Treasurer's Account

Members heard that action was still required to remove two signatories and to add those of the Chair and Vice Chair to the Stronsay Community Council Treasurer's Account, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

11. Publications

The following publication had been forwarded to members and was noted:

- Childminder Training.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Haulier Response

Members heard that there were "severe problems" in getting a response from the local haulier, and advice was given on how to contact the Managing Director of the haulage company, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Change of Name

Ms S Whiteman wanted it known that her name had been changed by deed poll to S King, and it was:

Resolved to note that S Whiteman should be known as S King hereafter.

C. Matpow Sluice

Members heard that concern had been raised over a drainage problem at Matpow loch, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request Orkney Islands Council reassess the Matpow loch drainage arrangement.

D. Hearse House

Members heard that the hearse house doors required attention, and it was:

Resolved that the Vice Chair would visit the hearse house and report back to members.

E. Community Council Improvement Service

Members heard that the Chair and a representative from the Improvement Service were asking for members' opinions on what could be done to engage young people, and it was:

Resolved that the request.

F. Damaged 20mph Sign

Members heard that the Roads Design Officer had provided an update on the damaged twenty mile per hour sign at the south end approach to Stronsay Junior High School, and it was

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Pavement Parking

Members heard that advice had been requested and received on how to address the obstruction caused by vehicles parking on the pavement in Whitehall Village, and that this was a police matter, and it was:

Resolved to note the information received on how to address the obstruction caused by vehicles parking on the pavement in Whitehall Village.

13. 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, 27 October 2025, commencing at 19:00 in Stronsay Community Centre.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:18.

This was followed by an impromptu meeting to discuss expressions of interest in the Fish Mart Operator vacancy.