

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, and via Teams, on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 19:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor J Park.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

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

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2026 were approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by M Sutherland.

3. Matters Arising

A. Car Parking in Stromness

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

B. Steps from North End Road to Co-op

Following consideration of an update from Roads Support, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Roads Support had indicated that the steps from North End Road to Stromness Co-op were not currently on any cleaning rota and that was unlikely that they would be added.
2. To note that Roads had further indicated that they were not responsible for any maintenance of the steps.
3. To note that although the steps were not adopted, they may come under core path scheme which Councillor G Bevan would seek clarification on.

C. OIC (20 MPH Speed Limit) – Objector Letter

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, copies of which had been circulated, regarding Stromness Community Council's further request for guidance and further detail on what was deemed to be a valid objection, it was:

Resolved to note that the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development advised that there was nothing further that could be added to the previous response and reiterated the following points:

- That any objection must have solid reasoning as to how the proposed Order would have a negative impact on the respondent's day to day life.
- That a dislike of something was not a strong enough argument in this situation.

D. SSEN – Heavy Haulage

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Team Manager (Roads Support), copies of which had been circulated, regarding concerns raised regarding road conditions, as well and a dyke at Binscarth due to SSEN Heavy Haulage, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Roads Section were not aware of the issue with the dyke at Binscarth but had passed it on to SSEN, however, it may be that SSEN had contacted the landowners directly regarding this matter.
2. To note that the Roads Section confirmed that they were in continued dialogue with SSEN regarding any repairs that were required to be undertaken.

E. Stromness Bonfire – Barriers

Following correspondence from W Mackay, copies of which had been circulated, regarding barriers for the Stromness Bonfire, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that following discussions with personnel at Stromness Harbour, Stromness Community Council should give notice in early October to Stromness Pier Staff who would then ensure that 15 crowd barriers from Marine Services would be set aside by 1 November for use at the Stromness Bonfire.

F. New Stromness Bus Shelter

Following consideration of correspondence from the Transport Planner, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the apology from the Transport Planner who had been under the impression that the information regarding the new Stromness Bus Shelter had been passed onto Stromness Community Council.
2. To note that the Cantilever Bus Shelter was being installed at Stromness Terminal Building to the right-hand side of the entrance.
3. To note that works were due to start in the next few weeks.
4. To note that the clock at the Pier Head, which was not working, had also been raised and had been added to list to be repaired.

G. Locked Public Toilets

Following consideration of correspondence from the Service Manager (Building Cleaning), copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that there was no record of the toilets being locked on 19 December 2025.

H. Proposed Motorhome Signs

Following consideration of correspondence from the outgoing Deputy Harbourmaster, copies of which had been circulated, regarding an update on the signs to stop motorhomes going through the street to the camp site, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the signs diverting motorhomes to the campsite via the Back Road rather than through the street had not been ordered yet.
2. That the Clerk would contact the relevant section for a date when the signs were expected to be ordered and then erected.

I. Downies Lane – Potholes

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

Resolved to note that R J McLeod, a sub-contractor for SSEN, had confirmed that BDS were going to fill the potholes in Downies Lane shortly.

D Harrold joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

4. Review of Travel Grants/Financial Policies

After consideration of travel grant totals for May 2024 to March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved, on the motion of D Harrold, seconded by M Sutherland, that from 1 April 2026, Travel Grants be set as follows:

- Travel Grants at £30 per individual per trip.
- Travel Grants be applied for by any organisation with participants aged 18 years or under.
- The participants must reside in the Stromness area.
- Travel must include:
 - Going off the mainland of Orkney; or
 - Organised residential Orkney Outdoor Educational Trips (for example, overnight outdoor educational trips organised by primary schools.
 - For any other grant, each request is taken on a case-by-case basis.

5. Correspondence - Bag the Bruck – Information

Following consideration of correspondence from Greener Orkney, copies of which had been circulated, regarding information which had been issued to participants of Bag the Bruck, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided regarding the Bag the Bruck initiative.

B. That the Clerk would apply for the maximum funding of £300 from the Community Council Grant Scheme 2026/2027 which would be split between however many organisations participate in the Bag the Bruck scheme and apply to Stromness Community Council for funding.

6. Consultations

A. Flood Risk Management Plans

Following consideration of a consultation, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the Flood Risk Management Phase 1 Consultation, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that responses were required by 22 April 2026.

B. Winter Service Policy 2026-2031

Following consideration of a consultation, copies of which had been circulated, regarding with Winter Services Policy 2026-2031, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would respond with the following additions to the Winter Service Policy 2026-2031 prior to the deadline of 9 April 2026:

- Yorston Drive should be added to the plan.
- The link path to Stromness Primary from Yorston Drive via the Millenium Forest should also be added to the plan.

C. Verge Maintenance Plan 2026

Following consideration of a consultation, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Verge Maintenance Plan 2026, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that responses were required by 30 April 2026.

D. Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 – 00011452 – Orkney Islands Council – Capital Dredging and Sea Deposit – Stromness Harbour, Orkney

Following consideration of a consultation, copies of which had been circulated, regarding Capital Dredging and Sea Deposit in Stromness Harbour, Orkney, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that responses were required by 9 April 2026.

7. Publications – Community Payback – Unpaid Work Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

W Mackay informed members that he had reported potholes behind the community centre as well as the lower part of Downies Lane, which was adopted.

D Harrold raised that areas of the path at the West Shore was in a poor state and was dangerous in parts. He also raised the path in front of the Pumphouse to the Pier, particularly in front of Hamnavoe House.

Regarding both paths, Councillors G Bevan and J Park confirmed that they would meet with the officer responsible for Coastal Paths to see whether there was any funding available for the repair/maintenance of them.

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Stromness Development Trust

K Bevan informed members:

- That the Development Trust were continuing to support the Warm Spaces initiative at the Warehouse Buildings.
- That the Stromness Stroll initiative would continue for 2026 and confirmed that bookings had already been received for it.
- That the Development Trust had purchased Stromness Community Centre from the Council on 13 March 2026. The Trust were trying to maintain access for all the current users and were in the process of recruiting someone to take over the operation and refurbishment of the facility.

Following a query from the Chair regarding the Development Officer post, K Bevan confirmed that as funding for Development Officers was currently uncertain, the position was currently combined with the community centre lead position, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group

D Harrold confirmed that the Working Group had met on 9 February 2026 which had resulted in very wide-ranging discussions. He continued that there was nothing specific to report back at this stage but confirmed that there was to be a focus group, which would not be open to the public, to be held on Monday, 30 March which would include developers and planners.

Regarding the survey for the Local Place Plan, K Bevan commented that it was really positive to hear that housing was a key theme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 10 March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,189.61.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 10 March 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 10 March 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 would be used to landscape the footpath at Coplands Dock.
2. To note that D Harrold would liaise with the proposed contractor regarding the landscaping the area.
3. To note that K Bevan had ordered the hanging baskets from Glues and would chase up the invoice for payment prior to the end of the financial year.
4. To note that the businesses who wanted a hanging basket would be asked to contribute £20 towards the cost.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 10 March 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 10 March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

10. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. R Frier – Orkney Netball – Edinburgh – 21 and 22 February 2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from R Frier, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending a netball event in Edinburgh on 21 and 22 February 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

B. K Gray – Orkney Netball – Edinburgh – 21 and 22 February 2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from K Gray, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending a netball event in Edinburgh on 21 and 22 February 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

C. M Kirkpatrick – ND Age Group R2, Aberdeen – 6 and 7 March 2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the ND Age Group Round 2 in Aberdeen on 6 and 7 March 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

D. L Bevan – Fyrish Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition, Inverness – 8 March 2026

K Bevan declared an interest in this part of this item and although did not leave the meeting, took no part in discussions thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Bevan, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Fyrish Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition in Inverness on 8 March 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

E. C Bevan – North District Gymnastics Competition, Inverness – 15 March 2026

K Bevan declared an interest in this part of this item and although did not leave the meeting, took no part in discussions thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence received from C Bevan, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the North District Gymnastics Competition in Inverness on 15 March 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

F. R Frier – Orkney Netball – Dundee – 20 and 21 March 2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from R Frier, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending a netball event in Dundee on 20 and 21 March 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

G. L Harvey – North District Floor and Vault Competition, Inverness – 21 March 2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Harvey, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the North District Floor and Vault Competition in Inverness on 21 March 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

H. K Gray – U15 Orkney Netball, Dundee – 21 March 2026

Following consideration of correspondence received from K Gray, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the U15 Netball in Dundee on 21 March 2026, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

I. Stromness Primary School – Outdoor Residential Learning and Adventure Programme

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Primary School, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards 19 Stromness pupils attending an Outdoor Residential Learning and Adventure Programme in Hoy, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £30 be given to the 19 pupils participating, totalling £570.

W Mackay left the meeting at this point.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Footpath from Coplands Pier to Pumping Station

Resolved to note that this item had previously been discussed at Item 10C.

B. Litter Bin removal from Ferry Road, Stromness

Following a query from a member regarding the removal of a litter bin opposite Harbour Cottage on Ferry Road, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section querying the removal of the bin.

C. Additional Bin at Co-op

D Harrold updated members that the Co-op Manager had ordered the additional bin which would be delivered shortly.

Referring to the lighting at the steps from North End Road to Co-op, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting, Councillor J Park confirmed that the lighting had been installed in that area via Estates and confirmed that the Councillors would follow up where the maintenance fell, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the additional bin would shortly be delivered.
2. To note that Councillors would ascertain who was responsible for maintenance of the steps from North End Road to the Co-op, as the Estates team had installed lighting in that area.

D. Weeds

Councillor G Bevan informed members that initial discussions had recently taken place regarding increased community involvement to look after weeds in urban areas, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that officers were to report back to Councillors on how they saw the initiative of community involvement regarding weeds in urban areas working.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held in the Stromness Town House on Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:20.