

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness and via Teams on Tuesday, 11 November 2025 at 19:15

Present:

P McLaughlin, D Harrold, W Mackay (via Teams), C Sinclair and E Sinclair.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Park.
- J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- S Craigie, Clerk.

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

Order of Business

1. New Member	2
2. Apologies	2
3. Adoption of Minutes	2
4. Matters Arising	2
5. Bonfire Night 2025 – Review	4
6. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2025	4
7. Correspondence	4
8. Consultations	5
9. Publication – PSTN Switch Off Information	6
10. Reports from Community Council Representatives	6
11. Financial Statements	6
12. Requests for Financial Assistance	7
13. Any Other Competent Business	8
14. Date of Next Meeting	10
15. Conclusion of Meeting	10

1. New Member

Resolved to note that the Chair welcomed E Sinclair to the meeting who had been elected as a member of Stromness Community Council at the Public Meeting held prior to the ordinary meeting.

2. Apologies

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

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2025 were approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by C Sinclair.

4. Matters Arising

A. Gym Opening Times in Stromness

Councillor G Bevan updated members that this matter was being discussed by the Council as part of a review of sport and leisure activities, so was still ongoing, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Signs – Motorhomes

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

Resolved:

1. To note that following discussions between the Harbours section and Roads Support, a space had now been identified where the sign would be placed.
2. To note that officers would construct a design and feedback to Stromness Community Council on it for their approval prior to placing the sign.
3. To note that members hoped that the sign would be erected prior to the start of the tourist season.

C. Quanterness Community Benefit

Councillors had no update to give on this item meantime, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that that the Chair would send a letter to the Council requesting that the matter of Community Benefit be revisited.
2. That this item would be taken off the agenda meantime until there were updates to give.

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, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Service Manager (Building Cleaning) had stated in her correspondence that the toilets had been closed for some renovation works, which she had not been aware of previously, but were now reopened.
2. To note that the toilets had also been closed on Halloween but were then reopened the following day.

E. Stromness Town House

The Chair updated members that she now had the dimensions of the Lord Lyon Coat of Arms and should members agree that they wanted it moved from Stromness Town House, she would investigate a suitable place in the Warehouse Building, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Lord Lyon Coat of Arms should remain in the Chamber Room at Stromness Town House meantime.
2. To note that Stromness Community Council would occasionally use Stromness Town House for meetings.
3. To note that the light was still not working at the bottom of the steps and that the steps up to the building were very slippery.
4. To note that it had been confirmed that there were works orders currently on the system for minor repairs to the building.

F. Car Parking in Stromness

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

G. Attendance at Various Meetings

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that W Mackay had attended the Post in the Isles Workshop.
2. To note that D Harrold had been unable to attend the Share Your Views on Tourism in Orkney.
3. To note that M Sutherland had attended the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop.

4. To note that P McLaughlin had attended the Planning Workshop where much of the workshop had been discussing information that, at this stage, was confidential but confirmed that there were good prospects for areas in Stromness.

5. Bonfire Night 2025 – Review

Following discussion regarding Bonfire Night which had been held on 5 November 2025, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that the event had been very well attended.

B. To note that for next year thought should be given about the time that volunteers should arrive, as there had been a queue for car parking. However other parking places such as the Academy and the Primary School had also been utilised.

C. To note that the Rotary Club's Glow Sticks had been a great success.

D. To note that the firework display had been very good.

E. To give thanks to J Robertson who had made stands for the barriers.

F. To note that £320 had been collected.

6. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2025

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved to note that the final arrangements for the tree lighting ceremony were now in hand.

7. Correspondence

A. Update on Scapa Deep Water Quay Project – October 2025

Following consideration of an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay Project sent on behalf of the project team, copies of which had been previously circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Proposed RNLI Christmas Creel Tree

Following consideration of correspondence received from A Robertson, copies of which had been circulated previously, regarding a proposal to erect a Christmas Creel Tree on behalf of RNLI Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would continue to liaise with A Robertson and would pass on the suggestions raised by members at the meeting.

2. That should none of the areas suggested be suitable, RNLI Stromness could use the stage area to erect their proposed RNLI Christmas Creel Tree.

C. Steps from North End Road to Co-op

After consideration of correspondence received from S Crichton, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the possibility of putting a waste bin at the bottom of the steps from North End Road to the Co-op, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that, in the first instance, D Harrold would approach the manager at Stromness Co-op to see if Stromness Co-op would be able to provide, and empty weekly, a waste bin.

D. Grass Cutting in Burial Grounds

Following consideration of a Briefing Note received from the Infrastructure and Organisational Development Section, copies of which had been circulated, regarding feedback and comments on the options given for grass cutting for Inactive and Active Burial Grounds, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would respond on behalf of Stromness Community Council who were opposed to the options given in the briefing note for the proposed reduction in grass cutting in cemeteries.
2. That the response would be circulated to members for comments prior to it being forward to Infrastructure and Organisation Development by the deadline of 28 November 2025.

E. Have Your Say on Tourism Workshops

Following consideration of correspondence regarding Tourism Workshops that had previously been circulated on 13 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the Tourism Workshops took place on 5, 6 and 11 November 2025.

F. Free Bunting

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding free bunting, which was available from the Council, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would confirm with the Community Council Liaison Officer that Stromness Community Council would be interested in one box of the free bunting.

8. Consultations

A. European Marine Energy Centre – Section 36 Variation – Fall of Warness

Following consideration of correspondence received from A Shenton, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government, regarding EMEC Section 36 Variation, Fall of Warness, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments were required by 20 November 2025.

B. New Street Name Suggestion

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Community Council Section regarding a request from the Planning Section for a name suggestion for a new street off Cairston Road, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that to note that members had suggested Craigmillar Park as a potential name for the new street.

9. Publication – PSTN Switch Off Information

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Digital and Connectivity Officer, regarding the switch to digital phone services, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

10. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the following issues had been reported:

- Steps at Stromness Town House.
- Lights at Stromness Town House.

B. Stromness Development Trust

Following an update from Councillor J Park regarding the Stromness Christmas Bonanza, it was:

Resolved to note the Stromness Christmas Bonanza would start on 15 November 2025

C. Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group

Following an update from D Harrold, it was:

Resolved to note that D Harrold had not been available for the last meeting of Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group but that there was a meeting arranged for week commencing 17 November 2025.

11. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 29 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,287.17.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 29 October 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 29 October 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 £1,013.27.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 29 October 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 29 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

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

12. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. C Bevan – Highland Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition – Inverness – 2 November 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from C Bevan, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attendance at the Highland Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition, Inverness, on 2 November 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

B. L Harvey – Highland Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition – Inverness – 2 November 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from L Harvey, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attendance at the Highland Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition, Inverness, on 2 November 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

C. 1st Dounby Guides – Girlguiding Educational Framework – Glasgow – 21-23 November 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from 1st Dounby Guides, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards one Stromness resident attending a Girlguiding Educational Framework to be held in Glasgow on 21-23 November 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

D. R Frier – Orkney Netball – Glasgow – 23 November 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from R Frier, 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.

E. K Gray – Orkney Netball – Wick, 8 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 Wick on 8 November 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

F. Harray Young Farmers – North Area Junior Speechmaking – 9 November 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 competition held on 9 November 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Solar Powered Lights

A member commented that for attending a recent workshop on behalf of Stromness Community Council, Stromness Community Council had received £130, which he thought could go towards purchasing solar lights for the lanes which had recently been removed by the Council and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would investigate this idea further, including costs and any potential planning issues, and report back to the next meeting.

B. Stromness Town Hall Sign

The Chair raised that the Stromness Town Hall sign had not been replaced following recent work on the building, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section requesting that the Stromness Town Hall sign be put back in place.

C. Local Retirement

The Chair informed members that J Hill, who worked at Stromness Amenity Site, was planning to retire in December, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that to note that as J Hill had been so helpful to so many members of the public at the amenity site, the Chair would purchase a card and send it to him on behalf of Stromness Community Council.

D. Waterworks and Brownstown Road

Following concerns raised by a member regarding the state of the Waterworks and Brownstown Roads, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor G Bevan would contact SSEN highlighting the concerns raised regarding the state of the Waterworks and Brownstown Road.

E. Stromness Primary School – Damaged Fence

Following a query from a member regarding the fence at Stromness Primary School which had been damaged earlier in the Summer, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the fence had recently been repaired.

F. Sauna at Ness

Following a query from the Chair, which had been raised by a member of the public, regarding fencing and lights surrounding the Sauna at Ness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the Sauna was on private property.

G. Defibrillator – Stromness Musuem

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was discussed in private.

Following an update from the Chair regarding a recent incident that had occurred, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that D Harrold was in discussion with The Circuit regarding this matter.

H. Potholes – Road over Brinkie's Brae

A member raised concern regarding the number of potholes on the road over Brinkie's, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that this road, which was used by members of the public, was an unadopted road and therefore was not maintained by the Council.

2. That C Sinclair would purchase bags of cold tar macadam to enable the potholes to be patched.

3. That, on this occasion, Stromness Community Council would reimburse C Sinclair for the bags of cold tar macadam detailed above.

I. Remembrance Parade

Councillor J Park informed members that at the recent Remembrance Parade, an SSEN digger had gone up Hillside Road. Following a message to the SSEN Liaison Officer about the incident, SSEN apologised to Stromness Legion. A member raised that during the recent two-minute silence, a further SSEN digger had gone up the Hillside Road, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Broken Bench – Outertown Road

Councillor J Park informed members that the broken bench opposite Oglaby had been accidentally broken in a car incident and that following discussions with G and K Crichton, it was confirmed that the handyman that was in their employment would repair the bench, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Lane to North End Road

Following a query from a member regarding the lane from Ferry Road to North End Road situated behind the toilet block on Ferry Road, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the lane to North End Road, situated behind the toilet block on Ferry Road, was a private lane.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held via Teams on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

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