

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 18 May 2026 at 19:05

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor S Clackson.
- Mrs L Richardson, Director, Infrastructure and Operational Development (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- Two representatives from the Scottish Government Islands Team.
- One member of the public.

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1. Presentation – Scottish Government Islands Team

The presentation by the Islands Team, Scottish Government was held over, pending their arrival.

2. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Seaton.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 4 March 2026 was approved, being proposed by Ms M Bar-Tor and seconded by Mr S Hourston.

4. Matters Arising

A. Local Place Plan

The Chair informed members that the Local Place Plan had been reviewed and was now with the board of Stronsay Development Trust and that it would be released soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Welcome to Stronsay Sign

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the Welcome to Stronsay sign had been forwarded to Planning for consideration but there was no time scale for a decision on this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Clerk would update the applicant on the current situation.

C. Scrap Car Scheme

The Clerk informed members that the haulier had not responded to an email request to make alternative arrangements to collect the vehicle awaiting uplift or to a discount in the haulage cost, that there were now other vehicles waiting to be scrapped, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Vice Chair would chase up the haulier for a response.
3. That the Scrap Car Scheme would be reopened for a further five vehicles, limiting this to one vehicle per applicant.

4. That the Clerk would make a request to transfer £500 from the Stronsay Community Council General Fund into the Stronsay Community Council Grant Scheme Fund.

D. Rothiesholm Interpretation Board

Ms M Bar-Tor informed members a draft of a new Rothiesholm interpretation board was ready and that quotes for a new board would be requested and submitted and she would then approach Stronsay Development Trust for funding, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Hearse House

The Vice Chair informed members that the repaired hearse house doors still needed to be painted, and that receipts for materials used to carry out the repair would be forwarded to the Clerk, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Haulage of Aggregates

The Clerk informed members that 16 tonnes of type 1 aggregate had been ordered, delivered and spread on the Rothiesholm beach car park and access road, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Disability Parking

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the Service Manager, Roads and Grounds, had advised the Community Council could apply for on street disabled parking, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would forward the Clerk the response from the Service Manager, Roads and Grounds.

H. On Road Parking

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the police should be informed of any double-parking issues, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. War Memorial

The Clerk informed members that advice had been given from the War Memorials Trust on grant availability for restoring the lettering on the Stronsay war memorial, that a quote for undertaking the work had been received and a grant pre application would be submitted, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Grass Cutting Tenders

The Clerk informed members that two sealed tenders had been received for the grass cutting contracts 2026, that these had been opened by the Vice Chair and the Clerk and awarded accordingly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Stronsay Heritage Society

Members heard that Community Council Grant Scheme funding had been approved for the Stronsay Heritage Society's beach clean, that members had been forwarded photographic evidence of the fifty-eight bags of rubbish collected from Mill Bay, Bu Sands and Grice Ness, which had been removed and taken to Kirkwall, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That a quorum of four members agreed to provide the CCGS funding of £300.

L. Huip Road

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the Huip Road, and other roads requiring attention, would be assessed in the coming months, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

M. Postal and Delivery Delays

The Clerk informed members that there had been no response to emails sent to the haulier requesting a meeting to discuss haulage issues. Councillor H Woodbridge informed members that this was unacceptable and that she hoped to break the deadlock and include haulage and post issues in a meeting involving three Community Councils. Members agreed Liam McArthur MSP should be approached about the lack of service from Royal Mail, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would write to Liam McArthur MSP about members' concern over the lack of service on Stronsay from Royal Mail

N. Bay Kirkyard

Members heard that the response from the Burial Grounds Officer to members' concerns over sunken graves in the Bay Kirkyard had been previously forwarded to members and that two members had responded to this, to which the Service Manager wanted to reassure members that further work would be undertaken in the future, as and when required, to rectify any sunken lairs, but that this would be dependent on resources, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That members were happy with the response from the Service Manager.

Agenda Item 1 – Carried Over

Two representatives from the Islands Team, Scottish Government arrived at this point and were welcomed by the Chair. Members were presented with a slide show giving an overview on perceptions of island life and the National Island Plan for Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The Chair thanked the representatives for the presentation.

5. Slaughterhouse Report

The Clerk informed members that since the last meeting five invoices had been received, all on the same day, from the hydro supplier, covering the period 15 November 2025 to 30 March 2026, that invoices had been issued to two users for slaughterhouse usage during the 2025/2026 financial year, that a Valuation Notice had been received and forwarded to Orkney Islands Council and the last user of the slaughterhouse had reported the mincer not working, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the information provided.
- B. That the Vice Chair would look at the slaughterhouse mincer.

6. Fish Mart Report

Members heard that the Fish Mart Subgroup had met with the Fish Mart Operator who had confirmed receipt of the new duvet and pillows sourced and ordered by the Clerk following consultation with and approval from members, and the Operator had asked what to do with the old pillows and duvets. The Clerk had requested payment to the Operator for cleaning the public toilets for the first quarter of the year, and the Operator had provided the Fish Mart Subgroup with figures and a budget sheet which the Chair had distributed to members. Members also heard that the Operator had requested additional items, some of which were on the Fish Mart inventory and needed to be replaced, and that the current Operator agreement ends on 31 August 2026 with a review to be held ninety days before then. Members' attention was drawn to the long-term sustainability of the Fish Mart which the Chair said would be discussed at a separate meeting to be arranged later. The Clerk reminded members of a request forwarded to members by the Chair for 14/15-year-olds to stay at the Fish Mart, a request from the Operator for a new tall freezer unit which was waiting for a majority response from members. He also reported that fire alarm testing had been undertaken on 19 February 2026, and emergency light testing and fire alarm testing had been arranged for 1 June 2026 and confirmation given by Ms Bar-Tor that access would be arranged. Members also heard that a Revaluation Notice had

been received which the Clerk forwarded to Orkney Islands Council, that broadband fibre connection had been installed at the Fish Mart and the broadband and telephone provider had requested the return of their old equipment. The Clerk had negotiated £120 as compensation for missed appointments, to be given as credit to the Fish Mart's telephone and broadband account, and that two hydro invoices had been received covering the periods 4 March to 4 April 2026 and 3 April to 5 May 2026, the details of which had previously been given to members, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the information provided.
- B. That the Operator could dispose of the old pillows and duvets.
- C. That the Chair would forward the Clerk a copy of items to be replaced on the Fish Mart inventory so these could be sourced and ordered.
- D. That the Operator's request for replacement chairs would be deferred to the next Fish Mart meeting.
- E. That members were opposed to 14/15-year-olds staying in the Fish Mart and that the Clerk would try and locate a previously made decision on this.
- F. That members agreed to purchase a new tall freezer unit, the details of which the Clerk had previously circulated to members, and that payment would be from the Stronsay Community Council Fish Mart Account.
- G. That the Chair would notify members of a date before 31 May 2026 to review the Fish Mart Operator agreement.
- H. That the Chair would arrange for the old equipment to be returned to the broadband and telephone provider.

7. Dog Waste Bins

Deviating from the agenda and before leaving the meeting, the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development was asked about dog waste bins. Members heard that there were three litter bins on the island owned by Orkney Islands Council, which were emptied by a contractor. Members felt this was not enough and members were asked to encourage people to use litter bins for bagged dog waste as Orkney Islands Council preferred not to issue bins just for dog waste, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note the information provided.
- B. That the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development would ask someone to look into the Stronsay public waste bin situation, including involvement from anyone in Orkney Islands Council with the waste bin in the Village play park, and report back to members.

C. That Ms M Bar-Tor would prepare and share with members a response to dog waste disposal and that this would be included on the Stronsay Community Council Facebook page.

The Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development left the meeting at this point.

8. Reports From Representatives

A. Health and Care

Members heard that a Joint Isles Health and Care meeting had been held on 31 March 2026 where broadband and resilience, recruitment and priority routes were discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

The Chair read out a report submitted on behalf of the Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative, which gave an update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair would email a copy of the report to members.

9. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2026 Updates

Members heard that they had previously been forwarded a copy of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2026 Updates for comment, the closing date for responses being 30 April 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site

Members had previously been forwarded information provided by the Licensing Operations Team, Marine Directorate, on the application made by the European Marine Energy Centre Ltd on the Fall of Warness tidal test site, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Shaping the Future of Scotland’s Forests

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Forest Policy Group on a survey to gather views on how forestry is experienced and valued across the country, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had displayed details on local notice boards on how to take part in the survey on shaping the future of Scotland’s forests.

10. Correspondence

A. Best Kept War Memorial Competition

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from the Branch Secretary of the Kirkwall Royal British Legion to enter the Royal British Legion Best Kept War Memorial competition to which only two members had responded, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Annual Grants 2026/2027

Members had previously been forwarded a letter from the Community Council Liaison Officer giving details of the annual grant for 2026/2027, and it was:

Resolved to note that Stronsay Community Council would receive an annual grant of £4,122.77.

C. SEPA - Flood Risk Management Plans

Members had previously been forwarded an email and letter from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency regarding Flood Management Plans, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Isles Flight Departure – Update

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Service Manager, Transportation Marine Services and Transportation Enterprise and Resources, regarding the Isles Flight Departures and check in times, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Annual Appointment of Office Bearers

Members had previously been forwarded a suggestion from the Community Council Liaison Assistant to delay the election and appointment of Community Council office bearers to the next Community Council meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that the election of Community Council office bearers had been delayed to the Community Council meeting to be held on 22 June 2026.

F. Retirement Collection

The Clerk read members an email received from a Stronsay resident asking if there were and plans to have a collection for the Scottish Water Operator who was retiring after forty years of service, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would organise collection boxes, to be placed in the two local shops, for the retirement of the Stronsay Water Operative.

G. SAS – Patient Representatives – Clinical Care and Governance Committee

Members had previously been forwarded an email sent to Health and Care Representatives, to which Clerks had been copied in for information, seeking Patient Representatives to join the SAS Clinical Governance Committee, and it was:

Resolved to note that details on the vacancies for a Patient Representative on the Clinical Care and Governance Committee had been included on the Stronsay Community Council Facebook page.

H. Invite – Equality Delivery Group Meeting

Members had been forwarded an update on the Orkney Local Development Plan from the Development and Marine Planning Team, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £3,680.70.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 5 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,093.29.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 5 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,378.82.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

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

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £700.27, £780.00 in the additional capping limit and £511.93 in the island capping limit.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 5 May 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,011.44.

12. Request For Financial Assistance

A. Stronsay Community Association – North Isles Sports Teas

Members were asked to consider a request from Stronsay Community Association for financial assistance for the provision of refreshments at this year's North Isles Sports, to be held on Stronsay in June this year, and it was:

Resolved to award Stronsay Community Association £1,000 towards the cost of providing refreshments at this year's North Isles Sports, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

B. Stronsay Community Association – Public Toilets

Members were asked to consider a request from Stronsay Community Association for financial assistance towards the cleaning of the public toilets at the Stronsay Community Centre, and it was:

Resolved to award Stronsay Community Association £501.26 towards the cost of cleaning the public toilets at Stronsay Community Centre, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

C. North Isles Sports Costs

Members were asked to consider a request from M Dennison on behalf of North Isles Sports 2026 to fund 222 medals, ribbons and engraving costs for the North Isles Sports 2026, and it was:

Resolved to award M Dennison, on behalf of North Isles Sports 2026, £689.86 towards the cost of 222 medals, ribbons and engraving, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

13. Publications

The following publications had been forwarded to members and were noted:

- Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme.
- North Isles Special Collections Rota up to 30 September 2026.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics for March and April 2026.
- New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A. Black Bin Bags

The Clerk was asked if a notice could be prepared for public display regarding the collection of free bin bags supplied by Orkney Islands Council. Members heard that notices were on display regarding this, but this would be updated, including being added to the Stronsay Facebook page, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Broken Stabs at St John's Viewpoint

The Vice Chair informed members that there were broken stabs in need of replacement on the path leading to St. John's viewpoint, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would order fifteen wooden stabs to replace the broken stabs on the footpath leading to St John's viewpoint, and that these, and the haulage cost would be subject to Community council Grant Scheme approval.

C. Emergency Resilience Plan Communications – Emergency Notification

The Chair informed members that a protocol issue had arisen involving the Emergency Resilience Plan when recently the first person to be contacted and given emergency notification of a crash alert was a First Responder, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That in response to a request from Councillor Woodbridge, the Chair would provide written details of the incident to Councillor Woodbridge and Councillor Thomson who would raise this at a Forum meeting due to be held the following day.

D. Stronsay Healthy Living Centre Equipment

The Chair informed members that a previous request by a user of the Stronsay Healthy Living Centre for additional equipment was on-going and that Stronsay Development Trust had taken on an advocacy role in this matter, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

15. 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, 22 June 2026, commencing at 19:00 in Stronsay Community Centre.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:17.