

# Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Wednesday, 4 March 2026 at 19:05

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

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

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 1 December 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mr D Stout and seconded by Ms M Bar-Tor.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Local Place Plan**

Members heard that the Chair was now the Secretary of Stronsay Development Trust and had an insight into the Local Place Plan and that the three constituted groups, Stronsay Development Trust, Stronsay Community Association and Stronsay Community Council were able to work on and review data and put a final draft of the Local Place Plan out for consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **B. Welcome to Stronsay Sign**

Members heard that an application for the erection of a Welcome to Stronsay sign was being addressed by the Community Council Liaison Officer and that work was progressing slowly, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **C. Scrap Car Scheme**

Members heard there was on-going liaison with the Stronsay haulier to remove one remaining vehicle, which the haulier was unable to collect, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the haulier would be asked to make alternative arrangements to collect the vehicle awaiting uplift.
3. That once the vehicle had been removed the Scrap Car Scheme would be re-opened, and a request made to transfer £500 from the Stronsay Community Council General Fund into the Stronsay Community Council Grant Scheme Fund.
4. That as there was an increase in haulage costs, the haulier would be asked if a discount could be applied for vehicles registered in the Stronsay Community Council Scrap Car Scheme.

### **D. Rothiesholm Interpretation Board**

Members heard that two Stronsay residents had been approached, who would work together to create the layout for a new Rothiesholm interpretation board, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That Stronsay Community Council would proceed with replacing the Rothiesholm interpretation board.
3. That Ms M Bar-Tor would approach Stronsay Development Trust, outlining the rationale behind replacing the Rothiesholm interpretation board, and request funding for a replacement board.

## **E. Hearse House**

Members heard that new plywood sheets had been fitted to the hearse house door but that these needed to be painted and tidied up, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Vice Chair would forward receipts for materials used to carry out the repair.

## **F. Damaged 20mph Sign**

Members heard that the flashing 20mph road signs outside Stronsay Junior High School had been removed and that the Roads Team were engaging with the supplier to return the flashing signs and pursue alternative options, and that potentially permanent 20mph limits could apply outside the isles schools, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **G. Haulage of Aggregates**

Members heard that permission had not been sought to store aggregate for use on the Rothiesholm beach access road in the North Quarry, as previously agreed by members, and that this would best be stored on site, in the Rothiesholm beach car park, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Clerk would order 16 tonnes of type 1 aggregate and liaise with the haulier for delivery to the Rothiesholm beach car park.
3. That Community Council Grant Scheme funding would be applied for to cover the cost of the haulage and aggregate.

## **H. Amendment to the Community Council Constitution**

Members received a detailed, printed response to their request to amend the Stronsay Community Council Constitution and the Community Council Scheme, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That no further action would be taken to amend the current Stronsay Community Council Constitution or the existing Scheme for Orkney Community Councils.

### **I. Disability Parking**

Members heard that an inquiry into a parking space being allocated for disabled access near the Stronsay Fish Mart and the Stronsay Hotel was on-going, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **J. On Road Parking**

Members heard that there had been no response to advice sought on whether it would be appropriate, and acceptable, for the Community Council to comment on the on-road parking in Whitehall Village, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **K. Stronsay War Memorial**

Members heard that advice and a price had been received on restoring the lettering on the Stronsay war memorial, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would enquire into possible grant availability to clean and paint the lettering on the Stronsay war memorial.

## **4. Grass Cutting Tenders**

Members considered arrangements for advertising the 2026 grass cutting contracts, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the 2026 grass cutting contracts would be advertised locally.
- B. That the closing date for tenders would be two weeks after the Clerk had prepared the necessary notices and tender documents.
- C. That the Vice Chair and the Clerk were delegated to open and award the 2026 grass cutting contracts.

## **5. Slaughterhouse Report**

Members heard that a new external key holder had been fitted to slaughterhouse, that money for hydro usage had been banked, and that the Orkney and Shetland

Valuation Joint Board had issued a Non-Domestic Rating – Revaluation 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **6. Fish Mart Report**

Members heard that a new Fish Mart Operator agreement had been agreed and signed, effective from 1 January to 31 August 2026, and that the Fish Mart Subgroup had met with the Fish Mart Operator who had submitted hostel occupancy and expense details, none of which were available to share with members. The new WiFi digital line connection was still waiting to be installed, and the Operator had reported being unable to regulate the Fish Mart's heating time switch. The Fish Mart's television licence had been renewed for the year, and the hot water heating element had been replaced on 5 January 2026, at a time when the Fish Mart would have been needed and used in Stronsay's Emergency Resilience Plan. The Fish Mart Operator had requested a copy of the Fish Mart's Safety and Resilience Audit and new duvets and pillows for use in the hostel. A QR code had been received, and this would be printed and displayed allowing patrons the opportunity to donate directly to the running of the Fish Mart. The Food Registration form issued by Orkney Islands Council had been returned to the Fish Mart Operator for completion and fire alarm testing that was to have taken place on 14 January 2026 was cancelled because of ferry cancellations. Members also heard three hydro invoices had been received, one covering the period 8 December 2025 to 5 January 2026, the second from 5 January to 4 February 2026 and the third from 4 February to 4 March 2026 and that the Fish Mart Operator would be asked to pay the agreed percentage of the third hydro invoice. It was also reported that new items for the Fish Mart café had been sourced and handed over to the Fish Mart Operator and a grant to help meet the hydro invoicing had been received from Stronsay Development Trust. Public toilet sanitary and floor cleaning supplies had been requested and received, and the café filters had been cleaned and returned. Consideration was given to payment for Hostel cleaning between September and December 2025, the details of which had previously been given to members, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That if the sixth appointment to install the digital line connection was not honoured, the Clerk would contact Liam McArthur MSP and seek his help in having the cable installed.

C. That the Fish Mart Operator would be asked to report being unable to regulate the heating time switch and seek help in having this addressed.

D. That the on-going need to replace the hot water heating element be referred to Orkney Islands Council for attention and possible redress.

E. That the Clerk would forward a copy of the Fish Mart's Safety and Resilience Audit to the Fish Mart Subgroup.

F. That the Clerk would source and order new duvets and pillows for use in the Fish Mart hostel, and request payment from the Stronsay Community Development Fund and the Stronsay Seed Corn Fund.

G. That the Fish Mart Subgroup would check with the Fish Mart Operator that the Food Registration form had been completed and returned to Orkney Islands Council.

H. That Orkney Islands Council would be asked to arrange a new date for fire alarm testing.

I. That the Clerk would arrange for the Fish Mart Operator to be paid for cleaning the Fish Mart hostel between September and December 2025, payment being taken from the Stronsay Fish Mart Account.

## **7. Reports From Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

Members heard that ferry and air transport forums had met in January and that new ferries were to replace the existing outer isles fleet, and it was:

Resolved to note the report from the Transport Representative.

### **B. Health and Care**

The Chair informed members interviews had taken place to appoint a new Stronsay GP, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **C. Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative’s Report**

The Chair read members an emailed report from the Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative, which gave an update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **8. Consultations**

### **A. SEPA - Safeguarding Scotland's Water Environment**

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency’s public consultation, Safeguarding Scotland’s Water Environment, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the public consultation Safeguarding Scotland’s Water Environment.

### **B. Draft Winter 2026-2027 Ferry Timetables**

Members had previously been forwarded a consultation on the draft winter 2026-2027 Ferry timetables, the deadline by which comments were invited being 14 January 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the draft winter 2026-2027 Ferry Timetables.

### **C. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm Limited - EIA 36 Consent and Marine Licence Applications**

Details on the Ayre Offshore Wind Farm Limited – EIA 36 Consent and Marine Licence Applications had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the applications.

### **D. SEPA - Flood Risk Management Plan**

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Flood Risk Management Plan Consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the Flood Risk Management Plan Consultation.

### **E. Nordic Sea Summer Timetable 2026**

Members had previously been forwarded the draft Nordic Sea summer timetable for 2026 for comment, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the Nordic Sea summer timetable 2026.

### **F. Winter Service Policy 2026 – 2031**

Members had previously been forwarded the Winter Service Policy 2026 – 2031 consultation, the deadline for which comments could be made being 9 April 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk would forward a request from members for a review of the classification of roads leading to health centres and medical practices on the isles, changing this from priority 2 to priority 1.

## **9. Correspondence**

### **A. Northern Isles Ferry Services User Surveys**

Members had previously been forwarded a request from the Ferries Policy Officer, Transport Scotland for support in promoting the Northern Isles Ferry Services user surveys, and it was:

Resolved to note that a poster regarding the Northern Isles ferry services user surveys had been displayed throughout Stronsay.

### **B. OIJB - Service User Representative**

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Orkney Integration Joint Board, which included a request for a service user to join the board as a representative, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

Members had previously been forwarded details from OIC Transport on the Community Transport Small Grant Scheme for the next financial year, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. EASE App - For Disabled People in Work**

Members had previously been forwarded information from a Glasgow Community Councillor on the development of an App to support disabled people when in work, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm**

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Community Engagement Manager, Thistle Wind Partners, on the proposed Ayre offshore wind farm, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **F. Nordic Sea Winter Timetable Outer North Isles 29 December - 31 January**

Members had previously been forwarded the Nordic Sea winter timetable 29 December – 31 January 2025 for information, and it was:

Resolved to note the timetable.

### **G. SEPA - National Flood Risk Assessment Report**

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on the National Flood Risk Assessment 2025 report, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **H. Stronsay GP Interviews**

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from the Isles Network of Care Operational Manager, NHS Orkney, for a representative from Stronsay Community Council to be part of the interview process for a Stronsay GP, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Chair had represented Stronsay Community Council in the Stronsay GP interview process.

### **I. Ferry Replacement Programme - Briefing Note to Elected Members**

Members had previously been forwarded a briefing note to elected members on the ferry replacement programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **J. Letters of Thanks**

Members had previously been forwarded two letters of thanks from the Chairperson, Stronsay Community Association, and it was:

Resolved to note letters of thanks had been received from the Chairperson, Stronsay Community Association for financial assistance provided.

## **K. Bag the Bruck Enquiry**

Members heard the Clerk had received an enquiry asking if Bag the Bruck was going ahead this year, and that no correspondence had been received regarding this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **L. Flood Risk Management Plans - Community Council Update**

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on the Flood Management Plans, giving a Community Council update, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **M. Electrical Fire Safety Week 2026**

Members had previously been forwarded details from the Marketing and Communications Manager, Electrical Safety First, on the Electrical Fire Safety Week 2026, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **N. Briefing Note - Grass Cutting in Burial Grounds**

Members had previously been forwarded a Briefing Note for Elected Members and Community Councils on the responses from Community Councils on grass cutting in inactive and active burial grounds and the proposed number of cuts for 2026/2027 onwards, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **O. Prepaid Paper Tickets and Bookings**

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Team Manager (Ferry Operations) on pre-paid books of tickets and prepayment for bookings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **P. Meet the Buyer Event**

Members had previously been forwarded details of a 'Meet the Buyer' Event which was due to take place at Orkney A – 9 March – Planned and Reactive Roads Maintenance Activities, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **Q. Orkney Marine Planning Stakeholder Update**

Members had previously been forwarded an update from the Orkney Islands Council Marine Planning Team on the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, which had recently been adopted, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **R. Isles Part Time 20mph Update**

Members had previously been forwarded a briefing note giving an update on the part-time 20mph signage, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **10. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 9 February 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £3,955.27.

### **B. Fish Mart Account**

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 9 February 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £8,338.62.

### **C. Slaughterhouse Account**

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 9 February 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,298.82.

### **D. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 February 2026, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £1,229.95, £780.00 in the additional capping limit and £755.00 in the island capping limit.

### **E. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 9 February 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,190.14.

## **11. Requests For Financial Assistance**

### **A. Stronsay Junior High School**

Ms M Bar-Tor declared an interest in the following item, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion that followed.

Members had previously been forwarded a request for financial assistance from the Head Teacher, Stronsay Junior High, for an A3 laminator to help create resources that are long lasting and sustainable, and it was:

Resolved that members agreed to award £298.80 for the cost of an A3 laminator, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

### **B. Stronsay Heritage Society**

Mrs L McQuaid declared an interest in the following item, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion that followed.

Members had previously been forwarded a request for financial assistance from Stronsay Heritage Society for a beach clean to raise money for a new Stronsay Heritage Centre, and it was:

Resolved that members agreed to award £300.00 to Stronsay Heritage Society for a beach clean, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

## **12. Publications**

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

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics - November and December 2025, January and February 2026.
- NHS Orkney - Near Me Appointments.
- Scottish Community Drama Association Festival Details.

## **13. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Financial Request - Delay in Claiming**

Ms M Bar-Tor informed members there would be a delay in claiming a previously agreed financial award for a class/school and community project to record the voices of Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved to note the information given by Ms M Bar-Tor.

### **B. Community Council Vacancies**

Mr S Hourston informed members a Stronsay resident had expressed an interest in becoming a Community Council member, and members then heard there was sufficient interest to fill the two Community Council vacancies and that a public meeting could now be held to elect two new members, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would request a public meeting on 18 May 2026 to elect two new members to Stronsay Community Council.

### **C. Financial Request - On Going Consultation**

The Chair informed members there had been an increase in the cost of new equipment for the Stronsay Healthy Living Centre, which members had previously agreed to award, and that consultation continued regarding the equipment to be purchased, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the financial assistance members had previously agreed to award could still be claimed.

### **D. Emergency Resilience Plan**

Members heard that Emergency Resilience Plan was activated on 5 February 2026 and that this received a positive response. The Orkney Islands Council Service Resilience Manager's name has now been added to the Stronsay Emergency Resilience Plan, but has not been included in the public edition, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **E. Huip Road**

The Vice Chair commented on the state of the Huip Road leading to the Stronsay airfield, following which other members commented on other roads requiring attention, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would forward members' comments on roads requiring attention to Orkney Islands Council.

### **F. Postal and Delivery Delays**

The Vice Chair informed members no post was delivered on Stronsay on a Monday as none was sent out from the Kirkwall sorting office and that there were often delays in goods being brought to Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would contact the Stronsay haulier and request a meeting with members, and possibly a representative from the farming community, to discuss haulage issues.

## **G. Dog Fouling**

Members heard that dog fouling in public places continued to be an issue, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would prepare and circulate a notice on dog fouling and the availability of dog waste bags.

## **H. Bay Kirkyard**

Members heard that there were several sunken graves in the Bay burial ground, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would report the sunken graves in the Bay burial ground to Orkney Islands Council.

## **I. Stronsay Hearse**

Members heard that a Stronsay First Responder had enquired about the Stronsay hearse and had asked if this could be used to transport the deceased as the ambulance was no longer available to do this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk would forward details of the request to use the Stronsay hearse to Democratic Services so that these could be passed on to Councillor H Woodbridge who would then contact the Scottish Ambulance Service.
3. That members were opposed to the Stronsay hearse being used instead of the ambulance to transport the deceased.

## **J. Sea Wall Damage**

Members heard that a resident had forwarded the Clerk new photographs of further damage to the sea wall on the approach to St Peter's burial ground, but it remained the responsibility of the landowner to maintain and carry out any repairs, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **14. 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, 18 May 2026, commencing immediately after a 19:00 public meeting to elect two new Community Council members, in Stronsay Community Centre.

## **15. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:05.