

# **Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, and via Teams, on Monday, 30 September 2024 at 19:15**

## **Present:**

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, A Esslemont, D Harrold and W Mackay (via Teams).

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor L Hall.
- J McGrath, Community Liaison Officer.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Public.
- 1 member of the Press.

## **Chair:**

- P McLaughlin.

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## **1. New Members**

At the Public Meeting held prior to the ordinary meeting, A Esslemont and M Sutherland had been elected as members of Stromness Community Council. Unfortunately, M Sutherland had to pass on her apologies for this meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

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

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2024 were approved, being proposed by P McLaughlin and seconded by D Harrold.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. PA System**

Following an update from K Bevan, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that following guidance, K Bevan had identified a PA system which he planned to view next time he was south and, if it was confirmed to be suitable, would provide more detail regarding costs.
2. To note that, as the PA system was a specialist system, it was unlikely that it would be available locally, but K Bevan would investigate.

### **B. Consultation – Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan**

Following the recirculation of correspondence received from Marine Planning, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been circulated, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would give the following general response on behalf of Stromness Community Council, prior to the closing date of 25 October 2024:

1. That it must be ensured that the marine environment be looked after.
2. That any community benefits which may arise should be shared equally among local communities – unlike the benefits arising from cruise liners where the community has seen no benefit.
3. That, in future, any consultation issued from the Council should be made more accessible to community councils and members of the public, for example by condensing the 170+ pages to a more digestible size – which in turn would give more meaningful responses to any consultation, rather than them merely being a tick box exercise.

## **C. Consultation – Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance**

Following the recirculation of correspondence received from Marine Planning, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had been circulated, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would give the following general response on behalf of Stromness Community Council, prior to the closing date of 25 October 2024:

1. That the situation should be monitored carefully, as any potential finfish farming expansion would have a further knock-on detrimental effect to the external transport system, making the already limited space on ferries even more of a premium.

## **D. Consultation – National Care Service**

Following the recirculation of correspondence received from the Scottish Government, copies of which had been circulated, and following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would give the following general response on behalf of Stromness Community Council, prior to the closing date of 30 September 2024:

Stromness Community Council give strong representation against any centralisation for the health and care system. Orkney, by its very nature, is completely different to authorities in the central belt. Should the proposal go ahead, being run centrally by people who have no idea of where or who they are dealing with, Orkney and other island and remote areas will be much worse off. The One Size Fits All approach most certainly does not work for this situation.

## **E. Stromness Academy – Gym Opening Times**

Following an update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved to note that no response had been received to his email enquiring about when the gym at Stromness Academy was open.

## **F. Metal Posts**

Following an update from the Community Council Liaison Officer, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that the posts were collecting data of all traffic and pedestrian use in particular areas for the proposed Quiet Routes project.

## **G. Islands Games**

Following consideration of the correspondence received from the Chair, Islands Games Association, copies of which had been circulated, regarding concerns which had been raised by the Community Council following the trial Triathlon, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the detailed response received regarding all the concerns raised; and
2. That representatives of the Islands Games Association should be invited to the March 2025 meeting to discuss matters such as the potential requirement of additional benches at the Pierhead, floral displays in Stromness, as well as the way forward to ensure the maximum benefit for Stromness.

## **H. Stromness Cemetery**

Resolved to note that as no response had been received to concerns previously raised by the Community Council regarding the ongoing issue of rabbits at Stromness Cemetery and the dangerous state of the roof of the Old Gravediggers shed, the Clerk would contact the relevant section again.

## **5. Bonfire Night – 5 November 2024**

Following discussion regarding arrangements that were required for Bonfire Night, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that the Stromness Firework Display would take place on Tuesday, 5 November 2024.
- B. To note that the proposed day to erect the bonfire was the morning of Saturday, 2 November 2024 at 10:00.

## **6. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2024**

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the Tree Lighting Ceremony would take place on Wednesday, 27 November.
- B. That the Community Council would again offer Orkney Amateur Swimming Club the opportunity to take on the role of providing mince pies etc. as a fund raiser for their organisation.
- C. That the Clerk would ensure that the Harbours Section would receive a copy of the Event Plan and Risk Assessment.
- D. That this item would be added to the agenda for the November meeting to enable the final arrangements to be confirmed.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **A. Memorial Bench Query**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Wilson, copies of which had been circulated, querying the possibility of purchasing a memorial bench, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that W Mackay had sought a quote for 4 recycled plastic benches.
2. To note that due to the cost of delivery, W Mackay would go back to the company to see if ordering a larger quantity of benches would reduce the cost of delivery.
3. To note that if it was agreed that should the cost of the delivery be reduced if the order was larger, W Mackay would liaise with Kirkwall Community Council to see if they would be interested combining an order for benches.
4. To note that once the final bench order and cost had been confirmed, M Wilson, who had raised the query regarding a memorial bench, would be informed of the cost of the bench, delivery, installation and plaque.
5. That potential sites for the memorial bench for M Wilson was near Stromness Campsite, at Warbeth or down below Stromness Battery.
6. That D Harrold would look at the site below the Battery and take photos of the area and view.

## **B. Letter of Support – SCDT**

A Esslemont declared an interest in this part of this item in that she worked for one of the companies that had been raised as potential funders, and although she did not leave the meeting, took no part in discussion thereof.

Following consideration of correspondence from Stromness Community Development Trust, copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should send a letter of support on behalf of Stromness Community Council regarding Stromness Development Trust's Development Officer.

## **8. Consultation – Boundary Scotland Consultations**

Following consideration of further proposals for constituencies and provisional proposals for regions received from the Boundary Commission, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that Orkney was not affected by the proposed changes.
- B. That the consultation period was open until 26 October 2024.

## **9. Publication**

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

## **10. Reports from Community Council Representatives**

### **A. MARS Updates**

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the bench situated at the War Memorial had been removed for repair.
2. That the Clerk should contact the relevant section again to request that the bin situated at the War Memorial be moved to the pavement outside the Stromness Co-op to help to alleviate the amount of waste gathering in that area due to a lack of bins.

### **B. Stromness Development Trust**

Following an update from the Stromness Development Trust representative, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the funding application from the Scottish Land Fund Stage 2 to purchase Stromness Community Centre had been submitted on 12 August.
2. To note that there would be a meeting in the near future to discuss the proposed purchase of Stromness Community Centre.
3. To note that arrangements were being made for the Yule Log 2024 to take place.

### **C. Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group**

Resolved that there was nothing to report meantime from this working group.

## **11. Financial Statements**

### **A. Community Council General Fund 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 16 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £13,972.24.

### **B. Donations Account – 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 16 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £1,675.72 of which:

- £1,050.72 was to be solely used for the upkeep and maintenance of the stage area.

## **C. Community Council Grant Scheme 2024/2025**

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 16 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £1,218.49.

## **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 13 August 2024, 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 16 September 2024, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Seed Corn Fund had been fully allocated.
2. That although all the funding had been fully allocated, there were still monies that had not yet been claimed.

## **12. Requests for Financial Assistance**

### **A. M Kirkpatrick – ND Sprint Championships – 7 September 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the ND Sprint Championships in Aberdeen on 7 September 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

### **B. M Kirkpatrick – Thurso Open – 14 and 15 September 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Thurso Open on 14 and 15 September 2024, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £20 be given.

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

### **A. War Memorial Railings**

A member raised concern regarding the condition of the War Memorial Railings, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that W Mackay would approach J Pirie to see if members of his team would be able to paint the War Memorial Railings, with Stromness Community Council providing the materials.

## **B. Orkney Towns Board**

Resolved to note that P McLaughlin planned to attend the upcoming Orkney Towns Board meeting.

## **C. Community Council Conference**

Resolved to note that P McLaughlin planned to attend the upcoming Community Council Conference meeting and would provide an update at the next meeting.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved that the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, on Monday, 11 November 2024 at 19:00.

## **15. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:23.