

Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the John Rae Room, Warehouse Buildings, Stromness, and via Teams, on Monday, 13 May 2025 at 19:00

Present:

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, W Mackay (via Teams), C Sinclair and M Sutherland.

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Park.
- C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- 1 member of the Press (via Teams).

Chair:

- P McLaughlin.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of A Esslemont and D Harrold.

2. Election of Office Bearers

A. Appointment of Chair

Resolved that P McLaughlin was duly appointed as Chair of Stromness Community Council.

B. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that K Bevan was duly appointed as Vice Chair of Stromness Community Council.

C. Appointment of Planning Representative

Resolved that C Sinclair was duly appointed as Planning Representative of Stromness Community Council.

D. Appointment of Health and Care Representative

Resolved that W Mackay was duly appointed as Health and Care Representative of Stromness Community Council.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the following inaccuracies on page 3 being corrected, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2025 were approved, being proposed by W Mackay and P McLaughlin:

- Item D, section 4 – add “in parts” after “which had collapsed”.
- Item F – add “be removed” after Lions Tap in the last sentence.

4. Matters Arising

A. PA System

Following an update from K Bevan, advising that Stromness Shopping Week were going to make a donation towards the new PA System, and that Stromness Community Development Trust had applied for the remaining amount from the Community Led Local Development grant fund, and after discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that should there be a shortfall in the funding, Stromness Community Development Trust would approach Stromness Community Council.

B. Gym Opening Times in Stromness

It was advised that no response had been received regarding why Stromness Academy, which was a community school, were unable to provide the community

with access to Stromness Academy Gym through the ActiveLife scheme as it did with both Kirkwall Grammar School and Dounby Primary School, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would again contact Democratic Services to ask the relevant section for a response.

C. Potholes, Path Maintenance and Road Defect Issues

Councillor G Bevan advised that he was waiting for a response from OIC Planners regarding whether the track between Warebeth and the kirkyard was included on the Core Paths Plan. He was also still trying to ascertain what was going to happen to the quantities of rock and stone currently being used by SSEN, as there had been mixed messages from officers. It was also advised that the potholes on the track down to Warebeth Beach had been filled, by unknown individuals, making it much more accessible, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To report, via Democratic Services, that there was a section of the stone wall on the track to Warebeth that was in need of repair.

D. ORIC

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that representatives from ORIC were due to attend the June meeting.

E. Orkney 2025

The Chair advised that the fountain had recently been repainted, and all was in hand regarding the floral display for it. The Flower Club were to discuss at their upcoming meeting whether they would do a display at the entrance foyer at Stromness Academy for the Island Games, and it was advised that the bunting which had been purchased by the Islands Games could be used for Stromness Shopping Week. It was also noted that the broken bins at the Lion Tap were due to be removed shortly and, after discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would contact M Ritchie regarding flower hanging baskets which had been used previously to see if they were still suitable for use.
2. That C Sinclair would contact the Garden Club to see if the Garden Club would be keen to plant up the hanging baskets.
3. That should individuals be keen to support the hanging baskets and flowers; they should get in touch with Stromness Community Council.
4. To note that there was no update regarding the Welcome to Stromness sign.

Councillor L Hall joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

F. Signs to Discourage Motorhomes going through the Street

Following an update from the Community Council Liaison Assistant, it was:

Resolved to note the matter was in hand and an update would be issued shortly.

5. Correspondence - Verge Maintenance Plan 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Roads Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding verge maintenance responses to Community Council comments from the verge maintenance plan 2025 consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

6. Consultations

A. Winter Service Plan 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the draft Winter Service Plan for 2025/2026, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation on the draft Winter Service Plan 2025/2026 were required by 30 June 2025.

B. SATE Survey

Following consideration of correspondence received from Democratic Services, regarding the Sustainable Aviation Test Environment (SATE), copies of which had been circulated, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that no responses to the consultation on Sustainable Aviation Test Environment (SATE) had been submitted prior to the deadline of 20 April 2025.

C. Proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence received from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, regarding the Proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that responses to the consultation on the Proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme were required by 30 June 2025.

7. Publications

Resolved to note that no publications had been received.

8. Reports from Community Council Representatives

A. MARS Updates

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That there were no roads issues to report meantime.
2. That the Clerk would contact the relevant section to query why the toilets at the Pier Head had been closing recently at 15:30.

B. Stromness Development Trust

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

Resolved:

1. To note that work was ongoing in the background regarding the Stromness Community Centre.
2. To note that the next Stromness Development Trust Board meeting was scheduled for 29 May 2025.

C. Stromness Local Place Plan Working Group

Following update from K Bevan, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there was some funding available from the Community Led Local Development for Place Plans, which was expected to be heavily oversubscribed.
2. To note that funding may be available from the Towns Board.

9. Financial Statements

A. Community Council General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 April 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £11,383.84.

B. Donations Account

Following consideration of the Donations Account statement as at 30 April 2025, 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

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 April 2025, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the Community Council Grant Scheme 2024/2025 had been fully allocated.

D. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 30 April 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 30 April 2025, 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.

10. Requests for Financial Assistance

A. M Kirkpatrick – Scottish National Age Group – 5-9 April 2025

Following consideration of correspondence received from M Kirkpatrick, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards attending the Scottish National Age Group Championships held in Aberdeen on 5 to 9 April 2025, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £25 be given.

B. Bag the Bruck 2025

Resolved to note that Stromness Amateur Football Club and Stromness Museum had participated in the Bag the Bruck 2025 event and would receive £150 each, subject to the monies being available from the Community Council Grant Scheme 2025/2026.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Fence, Garson Park, Stromness

A member raised that when the recent work on the barrier at Garson Park had taken place, the fence had been removed but had not been replaced, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant section.

B. Old Gravediggers Shed

A member raised concern that, although the matter had been raised as a safety issue previously, the remaining slates on the Old Gravediggers Shed had still not been removed, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise the issue with the relevant section for urgent actioning.

C. Community Council Input into Future Funding Received from the Scottish Government

A member raised that community councils should have more input into the Scottish Government funding being applied for by the Council. He gave the example of the chevrons at bridges which had been funded by Scottish Government money but not necessarily what the Orkney community wanted or needed. He continued that an example of funding that should be applied for by the Council which would be more beneficial to the community would be “Smiley” speed deployment signs that could be issued to each community council area or funding towards a cycle path from Stromness to St Margaret’s Hope. Members agreed citing that community councils received numerous consultations from the Council on various matters but were not given the ability to feedback on what were priority areas for the community that Council officers could then investigate whether there was any Scottish Government funding available, such as those outlined above.

Another member raised that no consultation or warning had taken place with Stromness Community Council regarding the removal of the various streetlights in Stromness. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk invite a representative from the Roads Section to the next meeting to discuss the ideas raised.

D. 30 Minute Parking Spaces

A member raised that he had been approached by a member of the public regarding the vehicles which were parking in the 30-minute parking spaces at the Pier Head but staying considerably longer, which was having a detrimental effect on local businesses. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Police Scotland to highlight the concerns raised.

E. Police Scotland

A member raised that there was a lack of attendance in Stromness by Police Scotland which was concerning. Another member raised that they no longer had their weekly presence in the Warehouse Building. Members agreed that with the recent spate of vandalism, regular patrolling in Stromness may help to deter that, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Police Scotland to highlight the concerns raised.

F. Abandoned Cars near GMB Gardens

A member raised that while the white Nissan had been removed from near the GMB Gardens, the blue Peugeot was still there, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section for actioning.

G. Visit of Museum Ship Hestmanden

The Chair queried whether members thought it would be a good idea to present a Stromness Community plaque to the visiting Norwegian Museum Ship Hestmanden, which was currently berthed in Stromness to mark 80 years since the end of World War 2. All members agreed, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair and Vice Chair would present a Stromness Community plaque to the visiting ship.

H. Homeless Support

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the relevant section to ensure that help and support was being offered by them to the homeless person who had recently arrived in Stromness.

I. Stromness Golf Club

Following discussion regarding the recently circulated Stromness Golf Club development, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write a letter of support.

J. Planning Application in South End, Stromness

A member queried whether anyone had any comments regarding the email she had circulated regarding a planning application in South End, Stromness, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Stromness Community Council would make no comment on the planning application for a proposed dwelling in South End, Stromness.

12. 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 Tuesday, 17 June 2025 at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:15.