

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in the Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 25 March 2024 at 19:22

Present:

Mrs S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr D Blyth, Mr S Hourston, Rev D Locke and L Martini-Brown (via Teams).

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Mr C Alpine. Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.

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1. Apologies

The meeting commenced immediately after a public meeting to elect a new Community Council member, and the Chair congratulated Mr D Blyth on his appointment, and it was:

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 20 November 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Rev D Locke.

3. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that grants had been awarded for the purchase and installation of new play park equipment and assistance had been requested in having the equipment delivered and installed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Scrap Vehicles

Members heard that the Stronsay Community Council Scrap Car Scheme had been reopened for a further five vehicles, that all five places had been allocated, removed and accounted for, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That £50 would be added to the Community Council Grant Scheme fund allocated to the Scrap Car Scheme.
3. That the Stronsay Community Council Scrap Car Scheme would be reopened for a further five vehicles.

C. Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Members heard that further enquiries had been made into the installation of electric vehicle charging points and that the initial capital cost and the ongoing revenue costs and necessary maintenance would probably make it unviable for the Community Council to proceed, and that Orkney Islands Council had submitted a planning application for improvements to Stronsay airfield, which included the provision of two electric vehicle charging points, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That installing electric vehicle charging points would be revisited if Stronsay Community Association were unable to have these installed.

3. That Mr S Hourston would keep members informed of Stronsay Community Association's decision on installing electric vehicle charging points.

D. Haulage of Aggregates

Members heard that consultation had previously taken place on five applications received for financial assistance towards the cost for the haulage of aggregates to be used on improving roadways leading to occupied homes, that Community Council Grant Scheme approval had been given towards the haulage costs and that payment had been forwarded to the applicants, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Grass Cutting Tenders

Members heard that consultation had previously taken place on the awarding of the 2024 grass cutting contracts, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.

2. That an application had been submitted for Community Council Grant Scheme funding for the relevant grass cutting contracts.

F. Parcel Deliveries

Members heard that letters had been sent, and responses received, from the Orkney and Shetland Member of Parliament and the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Orkney regarding parcel deliveries by couriers to Orkney, and that the Orkney and Shetland Member of Parliament was provided with additional information which would be pursued on behalf of the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Stronsay Taxi Service

Members heard that a Stronsay taxi service was now available, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Road Blockage

Members heard that in response to an issue raised over unauthorised road closures, Roads Support had spoken to the contractor involved and made them aware of the issue and that they should make every effort in avoiding the need to block the public road, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Saturday Mail

Members heard that the Manager, Kirkwall Sorting Office, had responded to a follow-up letter sent regarding no mail being sent to Stronsay on a Saturday and had advised that staff had incorporated the task of connecting the mail to Stronsay onto a regular duty in Kirkwall to rectify this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

4. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that the new hoist had been fitted, that details of the slaughterhouse usage for 2023/2024 had been previously forwarded to members and that invoices had been received for electricity usage between 21 October 2023 and 20 January 2024, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That a request would be made for the hoist payment to be returned to the Stronsay General Account and for the deduction to be taken from the Stronsay Slaughterhouse Account.

5. Fish Mart Report

Members heard that the Operators' quarterly payment for maintaining the public toilets between October and December 2023 had been made and a payment request had been made for the period January to March 2024.

All the outstanding maintenance and repair work had been completed and the kitchen filters had been cleaned by an outside contractor, with members having previously been consulted and agreement given to payment from Community Council funds.

Members and the Operators had previously been consulted and agreed to a new Operators' Agreement, effective from 1 January to 31 December 2024.

A television licence, valid until 30 November 2024, had been issued, and members and the Operators had previously been consulted and agreed to a new electricity contract, effective from 1 February 2024.

The Communications Ombudsman had been involved in resolving the issue over the new supplier's failure to provide a live and working broadband, for which financial recompense was received.

Damage to a radiator had been reported for repair and the Operators had expressed concern over the condition of the Café chairs and the failure of an outside contractor to carry out fire alarm and emergency light testing, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information.

B. That Mr D Blyth would inspect the café chairs and advise members on their condition and whether they were repairable or in need of replacement.

6. Reports from Representatives

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

Members were given an update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Transport Representative’s Report

Members were given feedback from the Ferry and Air Services Consultative Forum meetings held on 31 January 2024. These had been advertised locally, including copies of the draft ferry and air timetables for 2024-2025 which residents had been invited to comment on, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Planning Representative’s Report

Members had previously been notified of three planning applications, ref 23/342/PP, 23/455/PP and 24/094/PN, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

7. Consultations

A. Local Development Plan

Members had previously been consulted on Orkney’s Local Development Plan Scheme, the consultation ending on 7 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved that members had had no comment to make on Orkney’s Local Development Plan Scheme.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2024

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Verge Maintenance Plan 2024, with 29 March 2024 as a deadline for comments, and having considered this, it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the Verge Maintenance Plan 2024.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Winter Service Plan 2024, with 29 March 2024 as a deadline for feedback, and having considered this, it was:

Resolved:

1. That a request would be made for the Stronsay surgery road to be upgraded from category 2 to category 1 to enable gritting during cold weather.
2. That a request would be made for a change from category 3 to category 2S to allow gritting on the Kirbuster and Lower Leaquoy roads.
3. That members would consider the need for salt bins and forward suggestions to the Clerk.

8. Correspondence

A. Children and Young People's Centre for Justice Stakeholder Survey

Members had previously been forwarded details from the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice 2023 Stakeholder Survey, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Celebrating Placemaking Efforts in Scotland

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. 100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme

Members had previously been forwarded information regarding the R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Members had previously been made aware of a grant fund aimed at supporting community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing within the adult population, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Ferry and Air Services Consultative Forum Meetings – 31 January 2024

Members had previously been forwarded details of the Ferry and Air Services Consultative Forum Meetings arranged for 31 January 2024, and copies of the draft timetables, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. SCOP-0036 Orbital Marine Power

Members had previously been forwarded information of the SCOP-0036 – Orbital Marine Power – Westray Tidal Array request for scoping opinion, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Community Councils Webinar with Open University Scotland

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Improvement Service on a webinar with Open University Scotland, and heard the Chair had registered to attend but circumstances prevented this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Orkney Ferries Additional Foot Passenger Service

Members had previously been forwarded information from Orkney Ferries regarding an additional foot passenger service to operate on Friday afternoons between 12 January and 23 February 2024, and that this had been advertised locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. Stronsay Community Council Briefing – R100 and SBVS

Members had previously been forwarded a briefing note to provide an update in delivery of the R100 programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Revised Timings of Nordic Sea Trial

Members had previously been forwarded details of revised timings of the Nordic Sea during the outer north isles refit programme to which comments had been invited and which were subsequently forwarded, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. BSc Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest

Members had previously been forwarded a request from a BSc (Hons) student of Environmental Management to complete a questionnaire on whether the Scottish population's understanding and perception of the Scottish rainforest impacts the conservation of this special habitat, and it was:

Resolved to note the request.

L. NHS Orkney Listening Event

Members had previously been forwarded details of a listening event regarding what matters most to patients and the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

M. Voluntary Action Orkney – Small Grants Scheme

Members had previously been consulted and agreed an application should be submitted to the Voluntary Action Orkney Small Grants Scheme 2024/25 requesting a grant for plants for the Stronsay War Memorial Garden, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That an application had been submitted to the Voluntary Action Orkney Small Grants Scheme 2024/2025 for plants for the Stronsay War Memorial Garden.

N. Community Council Vacancy

Members had previously been consulted and forwarded information on the procedure for election to fill the Stronsay Community Council vacancy and that the vacancy had been advertised locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

O. King's Portrait Scheme

Members had previously been forwarded information about the King's Portrait Scheme and that consultation had taken place with Stronsay Community Association regarding a venue to hang a portrait of the King, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That members agreed a free portrait should be ordered before the 28 March 2024 deadline.

P. Island Enterprise Roadshow

Members had previously been forwarded details of a Business Gateway workshop event for people who were thinking about starting a new business, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

Q. Isles Special Collection Rota

Members had previously been provided with dates for isles special collections up to 30 September 2024 and that these had been advertised locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

R. Free Webinar for Community Councils: Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

Members had previously been made aware of a free webinar for community councils with the Empty Homes Advice Service that had been held on 20 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

S. Volunteering for Island Games 2025

Members had previously been forwarded a request for volunteers for the Island Games 2025, and that posters advertising Volunteer Sign Up Sessions had been displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 March 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £1,218.15.
2. That members had previously been consulted and agreed to transfer £1,500 from the General Finance Account to the Stronsay Community Council Account.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 14 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,754.79.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 14 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,452.19.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 14 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit had been fully allocated.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 14 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,723.40.

11. Request for Financial Assistance

A. Stronsay Resident - Travel Grant Request

Members were asked to consider a request from a Stronsay resident for financial assistance for sixteen return flights for a young person to attend athletics and dance

training in Kirkwall on specified dates between 26 March and 31 May 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award a Stronsay resident £119.25 towards the cost of sixteen return flights, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

B. Stronsay Resident - Travel Grant Request

Members were asked to consider a request from a Stronsay resident for financial assistance for return travel to Kirkwall for a young person to attend and take part in Fun 5Z netball competitions on specified dates between 20 January and 18 May 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award a Stronsay resident £20.50 towards the cost of return travel to Kirkwall, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

C. Stronsay Junior High School – Outdoor Education Trip

Consideration was given to a request from Stronsay Junior High School for Community Council financial assistance to fund travel to the Hoy Outdoor Centre for the school's P7 pupils, and it was:

Resolved to award Stronsay Junior High School £100.00 towards travel to the Hoy Outdoor Centre, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

D. Stronsay Resident - Travel Grant Request

The Chair declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion that followed.

In the Chair's absence the Vice Chair conducted proceedings.

Members were asked to consider a request from a Stronsay resident for financial assistance for travel in order to attend a work-related study event in London in June 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award a Stronsay resident £95.42 towards the cost of return travel to London, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

The Chair returned to the room and continued to conduct proceedings.

11. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- Loganair passenger Statistics for Year to Date.

12. Any other Competent Business.

A. Parking Issue

Members heard that farm machinery was being parked on the Leaquoy cemetery car park, and it was:

Resolved that a letter would be sent to the farm machinery owner regarding the inappropriate use of the Leaquoy cemetery car park for farm machinery.

B. Leaquoy Cemetery

Members heard that the new and unused cemetery ground had become saturated after the recent wet weather, and if repeated would make access and grave digging difficult, and it was:

Resolved that the condition of the ground in the Leaquoy cemetery would be brought to Orkney Islands Council attention and a request would be made for gravel or concrete pathways to be installed.

C. Matpow Sluice

Members heard that the Matpow sluice had “burst” and was in need of repair, and it was:

Resolved that the condition of the Matpow sluice would be brought to Orkney Islands Council attention.

D. North Isles Dance Academy Funding

Consideration was given to a member’s request for Community Council funding in support of the North Isles Dance Academy, which conducted dance classes on Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved that the North Isles Dance Academy teacher would be asked to contact the Clerk for a Community Council financial assistance application form.

E. Vat O Kirbuster Footpath Gates

Members heard that the gates on the Vat O Kirbuster footpath were in need of attention and repair, and it was:

Resolved that the condition of the gates on the Vat O Kirbuster footpath would be brought to Orkney Islands Council attention.

F. Obstruction in Mill Bay

Members had previously been consulted about an obstruction in Mill Bay preventing the flow of water from the Mill burn, and that this had been addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Rothiesholm Beach Car Park Road

Members heard that potholes had re-appeared in the Rothiesholm beach car park road, and it was:

Resolved that Orkney Islands Council would be asked to fill in the potholes in the Rothiesholm beach car park road and that Stronsay Community Council could supply the aggregate for this.

H. Bag the Bruck

Members heard that details of this year's bag The Bruck event had not been released to Community Council but that funding for beach cleans was available and eligible for Community Council Grant Scheme funding, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would be forwarded details of any arrangements made for the collection of bruck from beach cleans.

I. Lifeboat Slipway

Due to the sensitive content of the following item it was held in committee.

Members heard that a hole had appeared in the disused lifeboat slipway, presenting a possible danger to walkers, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the landowner about the damaged slipway.

13. 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, 19 August 2024 commencing at 19:00 in the Stronsay Community Centre.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

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