

# Minute of the Meeting of Stromness Community Council held in the Town House, Stromness on Monday, 7 October 2019 at 19:00

## Present:

P McLaughlin, K Bevan, G Deans, E Knight and W Mackay.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor R Crichton.
- Councillor M Thomson.
- Sergeant M Arbuckle, Police Scotland (for Items 1 and 2).
- Sergeant H Mooney, Police Scotland (for Items 1 and 2).
- G Burton, Sport and Leisure Services Manager (for Items 4h to 5c).
- S Craigie, Clerk.
- One member of the press.
- One member of the public (for Item 6).

## Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Police Matters .....	2
3. Adoption of Minutes .....	2
4. Matters Arising.....	2
5. Presentation from Sport and Leisure Services Manager .....	4
6. Bonfire Night Arrangements .....	6
7. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 2019 .....	6
8. Heritage Guides Reprint .....	6
9. Intergenerational Opportunities.....	6
10. Stromness: Pride in Our Community .....	7
11. Correspondence .....	7
12. Consultations .....	7
13. Publications .....	7
14. Reports from Community Council Representatives .....	7
15. Financial Statements .....	8
16. Financial Requests .....	9
17. Any Other Competent Business.....	10
18. Date of Next Meeting .....	11
19. Conclusion of Meeting .....	11

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of K Donald, J Mowat, J Park and Councillor J Stockan.

## **2. Police Matters**

The Police Scotland Officer gave a rundown of Stromness related incidents that had been reported since 1 August 2019 to date:

- 3 Child Protection Orders.
- 1 Animal Cruelty.
- 1 Vandalism.
- 3 Disorderly Conduct.
- 3 Thefts.
- 2 Parking Tickets.
- 3 Road Traffic Collisions.
- 2 Fixed Penalty Notices.
- 22 Fixed Penalty Road Traffic Notices.
- 3 Drugs related incidents.

He also confirmed that the new mobile devices were now in operation.

Following a query from a member, the Police Scotland Officer confirmed that he would email comparative figures taken for the same period in 2018.

Regarding a query on the new smacking ban, the Police Scotland Officer confirmed that, in the first instance, any reported incident would be dealt with via Social Work with a view to re-education and additional support rather than by the police, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 26 August 2019 was approved, being proposed by K Bevan and seconded by P McLaughlin.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Jack Renton – Proposed Plaque**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the owners of the property had previously agreed in principle to the request to erect the proposed plaque on their property. However, they had not responded, as yet, to the formal request seeking permission.
2. That once the owners of the property had responded, planning permission would be sought.

3. That a quote of £252.74 excluding VAT with a delivery charge of £40 had been received for the proposed plaque.

4. That the delivery charge would be cheaper if the plaque was delivered by Royal Mail and the company should be asked whether this would be possible.

## **B. Campsite Sign at Foot of Back Road**

Following an update from Councillor R Crichton, who had again contacted the relevant department regarding the signs at the foot of the Back Road, it was:

Resolved to note that the department concerned felt that the two signs already in place was adequate signage.

## **C. Town Map**

Following an update from the Chair, it was:

Resolved to note that the invoice from I Ashman for his work had been received.

## **D. Stromness Town Hall**

Following a response received from Democratic Services regarding the matter of upgrading Stromness Town Hall's heating and toilet facilities, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note:

1. That the relevant department within OIC have been made aware of the heating system issues again and an update was to follow in due course.
2. That the toilets update was on the list for the Capital Projects Appraisal programme and information would be sent this month to be scored/rated.
3. That the item be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **E. Right of Way Access – Warebeth Road/Gaudiesback**

Following an update from Councillor R Crichton who confirmed that the matter was still ongoing, he informed members that he was due to meet the relevant official at the site on 25 October and would give an update at the next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **F. What's Next for Stromness Place Plan Report**

The Chair informed members that K Bevan and herself, along with a small group of other interested parties, were at the meeting to discuss how to take forward the What's Next for Stromness Place Plan report. All present at the meeting agreed that the priority was Stromness Town Hall and Community Centre as a joint project and then discussed who would be the best person to approach at the Council to get the project started.

The Chair went on to say that they had then been informed by the Council representative that this could not happen as the Council did not have anything to do

with it and it was to be a community led project. The Council representative went on to say that the What's Next for Stromness Place Plan would be used to inform decision making and it would sit with the community rather than sitting as a statutory document.

The Chair informed members that the group present were surprised by this response and were then told that it had been agreed that it would be a community led. Following further discussion, it had been agreed with the Council representative that he would see what could be done with taking the Stromness Town Hall and Community Centre project forward via various other channels.

K Bevan informed members that at the end of the discussion, the position was that the group present at the meeting agreed that they wanted the What's Next for Stromness Place Plan be adopted by the Council.

The Chair told members that Councillor J Stockan had informed the group that there was a Town Centre Fund and £100,000 was available. She had also been told that the West Side Cinema had funds available and may be prepared to put money towards the Stromness Town Hall project.

Councillor R Crichton was unsure what the criteria was for the Town Centre Fund and whether plans for Stromness Town Hall, for example, could be drawn up in the timeframe. K Bevan informed members that the funds had to be allocated by March and spent by September 2020. He also thought there were plans for the Community Centre and the Town Hall that had been done previously.

K Bevan informed members they would be informed via email when the What's Next for Stromness Place Plan was approved and online, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **G. Trees/Shrubs – Outertown Road**

Following an update from Councillor R Crichton, it was:

Resolved that Councillor Crichton would consult with the relevant department of the Council regarding this matter.

## **H. Eventide Club Doors**

Following an update from the Chair regarding the poor state of the Eventide Club doors, it was:

Resolved to note that this had now been logged on the Council Helpdesk for actioning.

# **5. Presentation from Sport and Leisure Services Manager**

## **A. Proposed Advertising Boards at Market Green**

The Sport and Leisure Services Manager thanked members for inviting him to the meeting.

Following on from previous discussions regarding replacing and upgrading the fence and posts at the Market Green, which had been costed in the region of £2,000, the Sport and Leisure Manager proposed an idea of selling advertising space to local businesses as a way to generate income which could then be used to repair and upgrade the existing fence.

If agreed, the boards would be erected on the fence around the Market Green. There was a possible 40-50 local business who could be approached to see if they were interested. This would be similar to the advertising boards that were already being sold at the Pickaquooy Centre.

There would be an annual charge which as yet had not been set. The first year would pay for the cost of the board and PVC print. The annual fee would also cover any damage and replacement of the sign.

Following a question from a member, the Sport and Leisure Services Manager stated that the Pickaquooy Centre charged between £200 to £250 annually for the advertising space.

A member felt that the signs would be better placed facing outwards rather than inwards. He then stated that as there would be prime locations perhaps there should be a sliding scale of prices depending on the site. He also voiced concern as to whether this was the first thing visitors wanted to see when coming off the ferry. He felt it was a good idea but it had to give the right image. He also felt that if this was agreed there should be space left for local community events or charity events to advertise.

Another member also agreed that it was a good idea but it would need to be carefully implemented. The size of the boards/signs would need to be looked into, and following further discussion it was:

Resolved to note that the Sport and Leisure Services Manager would attend a future meeting with further information regarding the siting of advertising boards at the Market Green, including the proposed size, costs and draft images.

## **B. Hillside Road – Play Space**

The Sport and Leisure Services Manager informed members that his section received several complaints regarding the recent erection of ropes and buoys as swings in the trees at Hillside Road. Due to the complaints, he had instructed the ropes and buoys to be removed. Unfortunately, the ropes had been cut rather than untied. However, following a conversation with the owner, the ropes had been replaced by the Council but given that they were not responsible for the play space, the ropes had been placed in the garden rather than retied on the trees.

Following further discussion, it was resolved to note that, at this time, whilst not against the area being used as a play area, Stromness Community Council had two provisos:

1. That there was no permanent damage caused to the trees.
2. That parents accept any risks of their children playing in this area and were therefore responsible for the safety of their own children.

## **C. Stromness Gym**

The Sport and Leisure Services Manager advised members that the Stromness Gym had reopened with new state of the art gym equipment and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **6. Bonfire Night Arrangements**

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

- a. To note that the proposed day to erect the bonfire was Saturday, 2 November 2019 at 10:00.
- b. That the Clerk would circulate the list of arrangements of who had undertaken the various roles.

## **7. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 2019**

Following discussion regarding the tree lighting ceremony, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would circulate the list of arrangements of who had undertaken the various roles.

## **8. Heritage Guides Reprint**

Following discussion regarding the reprinting of the Stromness Heritage Guide, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would:

- a. Make the relevant changes and recirculate to members for checking prior to the Guide being republished.
- b. Apply for CDF grant funding to cover the reprint costs.
- c. Seek quotes for reprinting 10,000 or 20,000 copies of the Heritage Guides from:
  1. The Orcadian.
  2. I-Design.
  3. Herald Print Shop.

## **9. Intergenerational Opportunities**

G Deans had nothing to report on this item at this time. He noted that the new Care Home was due to open in January 2020, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **10. Stromness: Pride in Our Community**

E Knight requested that this item be kept on the agenda meantime to enable plans for a Spring event to be organised. He confirmed that there had been no feedback from Stromness Primary School as yet, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **11. Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

## **12. Consultations**

### **A. Local Boundary Commission – Review of Electoral Boundaries**

Following consideration of the consultation documents on the Review of Electoral Boundaries by the Local Boundary Commission, copies of which had been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that comments to the consultation should be received no later than 2 December 2019.

## **13. Publications**

No publications had been received.

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

### **A. MARS**

The MARS representative informed members that he had recently reported a number of pot holes. He also informed members that the recently reported broken dog waste bin at Downie's Lane had now been replaced, and it was:

Resolved that the information be noted.

### **B. Stromness Community Business Forum**

Resolved to note that, as there was no Stromness Community Business Forum representative present, there was nothing to report.

### **C. Stromness Development Trust (SDT)**

The SDT representative informed members that the Development Officer had hoped to have a report regarding the Christmas Lights ready for circulation but it was not ready yet. SDT had been informed that there would be an annual charge by the Council to erect and dismantle the new lights, which would be in the region of £2,500. At present, there is no charge. He went on to inform members that the Trust could not commit to these additional costs. He confirmed that Kirkwall BID covered these costs in Kirkwall. He was unsure whether Finstown and Stenness were charged for the erection of their Christmas lights. It was unlikely that there would be anything in place for this year. Once all the information had been gathered in the report, he would be in a better position to inform members of the situation.

Regarding the Yule Log, the SDT representative confirmed that funding for this year had been secured, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

#### **D. Playpark Sub-committee**

The Playpark Sub-committee representative confirmed that work on the new playpark was progressing. There had been some weather-related delays but it was hoped that it would be ready by Spring 2020, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **15. Financial Statements**

#### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 26 September 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,225.15.

#### **B. Sea Haven Account**

After consideration of the Sea Haven Account statement as at 26 September 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,824.62 of which:

£3,607.90 would be held to be released once the Christmas lights had been purchased for the town.

£5,000 which was ring-fenced for redevelopment of the playpark at Guardhouse Park.

£100 which had been donated from Stromness Drama Club towards purchasing a new flag. But as the money was not ring-fenced and if replacement did not proceed, then the money would be put towards another worthwhile community project.

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

#### **C. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the 2019/2020 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 September 2019, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £720.40.

#### **D. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 26 September 2019, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval was £3,699.54.



## **E. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund Statement as at 26 September 2019, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval was £2,673.78.

## **16. Financial Requests**

### **A. Stromness Academy Swiss Trip – June 2020**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Academy, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of 15 Stromness residents attending a Geography trip to the Swiss Alps in June 2020, it was resolved:

1. That a donation, in principle, be agreed.
2. That as the trip was to take place in June 2020, the request be reconsidered at the March 2020 meeting.

### **B. Orkney Amateur Swimming Club – Thurso Open – 14/15 September 2019**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of five Stromness residents attending the Thurso Open on 14/15 September 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the five Stromness residents, totalling £65, be given towards attending the Thurso Open on 14/15 September 2019.

### **C. Attendance at Two Gymnastic Competitions – 29 September and 3 November 2019**

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending two gymnastic competitions on 29 September and 3 November 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the two events, totalling £26, be given towards the cost of attending two gymnastic competitions on 29 September and 3 November 2019.

### **D. Attendance at Two Gymnastic Competitions – 29 September and 3 November 2019**

Following consideration of correspondence received from a Stromness resident, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of her daughter attending two gymnastic competitions on 29 September and 3 November 2019, it was:

Resolved that a donation of £13 for each of the two events, totalling £26, be given towards the cost of attending two gymnastic competitions on 29 September and 3 November 2019.

## **E. Stromness Youth Football Club – Assistance towards the Purchase of Goalposts**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stromness Youth Football Club, copies of which had been circulated, requesting financial assistance towards costs incurred purchasing and erecting goalposts, it was resolved:

1. To grant £300 to Stromness Youth Football Club for assistance towards costs incurred when purchasing and erecting goalposts, subject to Community Development Fund approval.
2. That should the application for Community Development Fund be unsuccessful, funding should be sought from the Community Council Grant Scheme in the next instance and then the General Fund.

## **17. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Town Centre Fund Allocation**

Further to discussion regarding the Town Centre Fund above, it was:

Resolved that the Chair should write to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure to advise that the Community Council would be keen to use the fund for the Stromness Town Hall and Stromness Community Centre.

### **B. Housing**

A member raised concern with the lack of development in housing and where to go to see the plan for housing – whether it be public, social or private. He stated that there were areas, within the settlement boundary, identified in the town for housing, and also areas outwith the settlement boundary that would be ideal for housing. He was keen to know what could be done now. Members enquired whether there was a map, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillor R Crichton would investigate what there was specifically for Stromness.

### **C. Grass Area at North End Garage and Roundabout**

A member highlighted the curved wall on the grass area at the North End Garage and the roundabout and wondered whether there was anything that could be done to make it a nicer looking space. He wondered whether it would be worthwhile to look at it as a wider community project, perhaps for a sculpture, or whether there would be any funding available for that area, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **D. Mess in Street**

A member raised concerns regarding the unsightly mess the street was in, and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note this had been caused by ongoing maintenance.

## **E. White Lines**

A member raised safety concerns regarding the lack of white lines on the main road, and, following confirmation from Councillor R Crichton, it was:

Resolved to note that this issue would be resolved in the coming weeks.

## **F. New Ferry Contract**

Following discussion of the new ferry contract and members disappointment that no areas of concern appeared to have been taken on board, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would write a letter to the Secretary of Transport expressing the Community Council's disappointment, highlight there was still no sign of RET and to query what plans were in place for when the ferry was on refit.

## **G. Rackwick Pylons**

A member informed the meeting that he had attended a meeting in connection with the replacement hydro cable coming in via Rackwick. The representative from the Hydro appeared keen for community councils to support cables being more underground. There was a fund available for this but could only be accessed with third party input. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that, although the time for consultation had past, W Mackay should draft a letter indicating that Stromness Community Council supported the use of underground cables being used much further up the Rackwick Road, preferably out of the valley.

Members then moved into Committee for the remainder of the meeting.

## **H. Governance – Summarised Minutes**

Following a query from Councillor R Crichton, it was:

Resolved to note that if the Community Council moved to have items heard in private, there would be two minutes. The full minute for members and a summarised minute for the public.

## **18. Date of Next Meeting**

That the next meeting of the Stromness Community Council would be held on Monday, 18 November 2019 in the Town House, Stromness, commencing at 19:00.

## **19. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:40.