

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 24 February 2025 at 19:05

Present:

Ms S Whiteman, Mr D Stout, Mr D Blyth, Mr S Hourston, Mrs L McQuaid and Mr J Seaton.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- 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 Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the Special Meeting held on 20 November 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr J Seaton and seconded by Mr S Hourston.

The minute of the meeting held on 25 November 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr D Blyth and seconded by Ms S Whiteman.

The minute of the Special Meeting held on 4 December 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Mr D Stout.

3. Matters Arising

A. Village Play Park

Members heard that the new play equipment had been installed and was in use, having been inspected and approved by the Play Park Inspector. Members raised concern over the matting and groundwork, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would follow up members' concerns with the Play Park Inspector and ascertain the guarantee period for the equipment.
2. To carry forward to the next meeting the annual amount to be set aside for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

B. Local Place Plan

Members heard that the Chair and Vice Chair had attended a meeting with Directors from Stronsay Development Trust to discuss the Local Place Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that work on the Local Place Plan was ongoing.

C. Winter Service Plan 2024-2025

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to escalate their request for a reassessment of the priority grading of Geramount Road and that this would be raised at the next Health and Care meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That a salt bin had been provided and was waiting to be located on Geramount Road.

D. Grass Cutting Tenders 2025

After opening and considering sealed tenders received for grass cutting, each receiving one tender, it was:

Resolved:

1. To award the grass cutting contracts, as advertised, to two interested parties.
2. That the Island Link Officer would write to both tenderers advising them accordingly.
3. That the Island Link Officer would complete the necessary paperwork to apply for Community Council Grant Scheme funding for the relevant grass cutting contracts.

E. Squat and Bench Press Rack

Members heard that Sport and Leisure had provided an update on a resident's request for a squat and bench press rack, which the Community Council had agreed to fund, and that a further update would be provided in due course, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Lower Whitehall Slipway

Members had previously been forwarded a response from Orkney Island Council officers to concerns raised over safety issues at the Lower Whitehall slipway, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

4. Community Council Issues

Members heard that most of the issues brought to a member's attention on Community Council matters, which had been previously emailed to members, had either been resolved or addressed, and for those that were not, it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the role of the Link Officer would be updated and made known once again.
- B. That the Vice Chair would create a Stronsay Community Council facebook page, solely for the dissemination of Community Council business, with all members being a named administrator.
- C. That two addition General Meetings would be added to the diary of events for 2025, these would be on the 19 May and 27 October.
- D. That a notice would be displayed advertising the Community Council member vacancy, subject to approval from Democratic Services and Communications.

5. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that three hydro invoices had been received, covering the period 1 November 2024 to 14 January 2025, and that compensation had been received for a disruption to the hydro supply, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Fish Mart Report

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

Members heard that a new Operators' Agreement had been signed, effective from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2027, and that a new cleaner had been appointed to clean the Fish Mart's public toilets and that toiletry supplies would be sourced from Orkney Islands Council. A new microwave had been purchased for use in the hostel kitchen and the café kitchen filters had been cleaned by an outside contractor. The Operators had provided hostel occupancy figures for the final quarter of 2024 and the outstanding maintenance issues had been raised again with Orkney Islands Council. The Safety and Resilience Officer had undertaken a site visit following which a template for a fire evacuation plan had been forwarded to the Operators for amendment and a report was awaited on the visit. Members had been consulted about a disruption to the broadband connection and a further problem with the hydro supplier and agreement to involve the Energy Ombudsman who had investigated the matter and given a decision in favour of Stronsay Community Council, which members agreed to accept. Compensation had also been received for a disruption to the hydro supply. Consideration was given to the role and responsibilities of the Fish Mart Subgroup, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That arrangements would be made to hold a quarterly meeting with the Operators.

C. That the Fish Mart Subgroup have authority to decide on purchases up to the value of £200, without consulting members.

7. 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 heard that the Transport Representative had attended November's Transport Forum meetings, and gave a resume of issues raised, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Planning Representative's Report

Members had previously been informed of planning application reference 24/244/APN, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Health and Care Representative's Report

Members heard that the Health and Care Representative had attended a Health and Care meeting on 9 December 2024 when various issues were discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Consultations

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2025

Members had previously been forwarded information on Consultation – Verge Maintenance Plan 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had had no comment to make on the Consultation – verge Maintenance Plan 2025.

B. Trees and Woodland Strategy

Members had previously been forwarded information on Consultation – Trees and Woodland Strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had had no comment to make on the Consultation – Trees and Woodland Strategy.

C. Visitor Levy – Full Islands Act ICIA

Members had previously been forwarded information on Visitor Levy – Full Islands Act ICIA Required, and it was:

Resolved that members of Stronsay Community Council supported a visitor levy for cruise liner visitors only but that this should in no way be applied to visitors to the outer isles or to residents visiting mainland Orkney.

9. Correspondence

A. Heritage

Members had previously been emailed a request for comments from a Community Council member on a proposal from the Stronsay Heritage Society to open a café-type facility as part of a new build housing a Heritage Centre, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that members had no comment to make on a proposal to open a café-type facility as part of a new build Stronsay Heritage Centre.

2. That a sign should be displayed on the Fish Mart entrance door advising visitors that when the Fish Mart café is closed refreshments are available at the Heritage Centre, located in Wood's Yard.

B. Community Council Vacancy

Members heard that the vacancy for a Community Council member could be advertised but the earliest a public meeting could be held to elect a new member was 7 April 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. AbilityNet Event

Members had previously been provided with information regarding a digital roadshow on AbilityNet, which members had been unable to attend this, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Webinar for Community Councils in Rural Areas and Island Areas

Members had previously been forwarded information on a webinar for Community Councils in rural and island areas on rural and islands poverty, and members heard that the Chair and Mrs McQuaid had participated in the webinar, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Neven Point Wind Farm Landing Point

Members had previously been forwarded information on a Proposal of Application Notice for a proposed new landing point on Eday, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Storage of Community Generator

Members considered correspondence from the Chairperson, Stronsay Community Association, asking if Stronsay Community Council had access to funding to purchase a container to house the community generator, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would investigate funding opportunities for a container to house the community generator.

G. Loganair – Refit Update

Members had previously been forwarded information on an extension of the 'refit' timetable in operation by Loganair due to the extended period outlined by Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved to note the information

H. Welcome to Stronsay Sign

Members had previously been forwarded a request from the Stronsay Heritage Society to place a weatherproof 'Welcome to Stronsay' sign on the exterior wall of the Fish Mart, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would follow the request from Stronsay Heritage Society to place a 'Welcome to Stronsay' sign on the exterior wall of the Fish Mart.
2. That the Clerk would notify Stronsay Heritage Society that their request to place a 'Welcome to Stronsay' sign on an exterior wall of the Fish Mart was being looked into.

I. Community Benefits from Offshore Renewable Energy Developments

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Development Manager, Scottish Community Development Centre on two online webinars to allow members to find out more about community benefits from offshore and onshore renewable energy developments, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Stronsay Housing

Members had previously been forwarded a response from the Team Manager, Housing and Homelessness, regarding the vacant Orkney Islands properties in Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

K. Nordic Sea Eday Trial and Timetable

Members had previously been forwarded information provided by Orkney Ferries on the Nordic Sea Eday trial and timetable, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

L. National Speed Management Review

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from the Scottish Government Roads Operations Directorate on an online engagement on the National Speed Management Review, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mr D Blyth would attend the online National Speed Management Review.

M. Our Budget Challenge – Survey Results

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Orkney Islands Council Our Budget Challenge – Survey Results, and it was:

Resolved to note that members agreed the Orkney Islands Council Our Budget Challenge was weighted against Isles residents.

10. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 11 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £2,623.13.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 11 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £12,750.71.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 11 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,474.15.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2023/2024 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 11 February 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £779.39.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 11 February 2025, it was:

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

11. Requests For Financial Assistance

A. Travel Cost Request – Stronsay Resident

Mrs L McQuaid declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion that followed.

Members had previously been consulted about a request for Community Council financial assistance for travel costs for a young person and an adult chaperone to attend an army work experience on mainland Scotland, and that as there had been no majority decision on this it was being carried over for further discussion, and it was:

Resolved that £157.25 would be awarded for travel and overnight accommodation for a young person and an adult chaperone to attend an army work experience on mainland Scotland, and that this would be subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval for travel within Orkney and the rest would be as a donation from the Stronsay Community Council General Fund, all subject to receipts as proof or expenditure.

Mrs L McQuaid rejoined the meeting at this stage.

B. Costs Associated with Conference Attendance

Members had previously been consulted and agreed to award £104.58 towards travel costs for a resident to attend an annual foot health care conference in England, and it was:

Resolved to note that £104.58 had been donated towards travel expenses to allow a resident to attend an annual foot health care conference in England, the donation being taken from the Stronsay Community Council General Fund.

C. Island Games School Banner Legacy Project

Members had previously been consulted about correspondence from the Island Games Ceremonies Lead requesting support to enable Stronsay Junior High School to take part in an Island Games legacy banner project, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to award £200 towards the Island Games legacy banner project and that this had been approved for Community Council Grant Scheme funding.

12. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – October 2024.
- Loganair Monthly and Annual Passenger Totals.
- Transportation Infographic.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. 20mph Speed Limit Lights

Members heard that the flashing lights on the newly installed 20mph signs located in the vicinity of Stronsay Junior High School were not working on the approach from the islands south end or on Geramount Road, and that the lights were flashing during school holiday periods, and it was:

Resolved that the fault with the flashing lights on the 20mph signs would be brought to the attention of Orkney Islands Council.

B. Fish Mart Expenses

Concern was expressed over the amount of money Stronsay Community Council contributed to the running of Stronsay Fish Mart, particularly on hydro costs, and it was

Resolved that the Clerk would forward members a report from the Works and Inspection Manager to members in May 2021 on concerns that had been raised previously about heat loss and insulation in the Fish Mart, and that this would be raised again with Orkney Islands Council.

C. Orkney Ferries Booking System

Members heard that the newly installed Orkney Ferries on-line booking system was not working as efficiently as intended, and it was:

Resolved to note that Orkney Ferries were still working on the efficiency of the on-line booking system.

D. Stronsay Council Houses

Concern was expressed over the neglect and mess at some of Council owned housing properties in Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved that the neglect and mess at some of the Council owned housing properties in Stronsay would be brought to the attention of Orkney Islands Council.

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, 19 May 2025, commencing at 19:00 in Stronsay Community Centre.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:35.