

# **Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 27 October 2025 at 19:00**

## **Present:**

Mrs L McQuaid, Mr D Stout, Ms M Bar-Tor (via Teams), Mr S Hourston and Ms S King.

## **In Attendance:**

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor S Clackson.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- One member of the public (filmmaker).

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The Chair had previously emailed members and gave details of a request from a filmmaker for the meeting to be filmed as part of a project on community energy and community democracy, and before the meeting started, members were asked to give their verbal consent and agreement to being filmed. Members agreed to this, except for Ms King and the Clerk. Filming proceeded.

## **1. Update - Stronsay West Pier**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Deputy Harbour Master was unable to attend the meeting and in his absence the Clerk read a prepared statement giving members an update on the west pier, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **2. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Seaton.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 25 August 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mr D Stout and seconded by Mr S Hourston.

The minute from the Special Meeting held on 6 October 2025 was not available for circulation and adoption and would be held over until the next meeting.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Local Place Plan**

Members heard that a request had been made to Stronsay Development Trust for feedback to questions raised on the Local Place Plan but that this had yet to be received, and it was:

Resolved to note information.

### **B. Village Play Park**

Members heard that in response to concerns raised over the newly installed matting a qualified inspector had found nothing untoward, and that members had been previously notified of the Men's Shed being unable to undertake the application of preservative on the Play Park's wood apparatus and fencing, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That the application of preservative to the Play Park's wooden apparatus and fencing would be discussed as an agenda item in the new year.

### **C. Storage of Community Generator**

Members heard that the concrete base had been laid for the standby generator storage container and that the Community Council's 20% contribution towards the overall project cost had been deducted from the Community Council's Community Development Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Welcome to Stronsay Sign**

Members heard that no progress had been made in submitting a planning application to erect a Welcome to Stronsay sign, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would forward Ms Bar-Tor a website link to access the planning application portal.
2. That Ms Bar-Tor would liaise with the Clerk if an application fee were required.

### **E. Stronsay Housing**

Members heard that housing for essential workers had been included on the agenda for the Health and Care meeting and that it was unlikely 4 Whitehall would be ready for occupancy by October 2025, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That a request would be made to the Housing Officer for repairs to 4 Whitehall to be expedited as soon as possible.

### **F. Community Resilience Plan**

Members had met on 6 October 2025 to go through the final draft the Community Resilience Plan and members heard that this was now ready to be implemented, pending the addition of a risk assessment of identified safe places, and Councillor Thomson congratulated the Chair on this, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would forward the Clerk a redacted version of the Stronsay Community Resilience Plan.

### **G. Scrap Car Scheme**

Members heard that all vehicles registered in the Stronsay Community Council Scrap Car Scheme had been removed and that the scheme would, as previously agreed, be reopened for a further five vehicles, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **H. Garage to Rent**

Members heard that there had been no response from Housing to members' request for an islander discount for renting a garage, and the Community Council Liaison Officer advised that it should be taken that the garage rental cost should be as advertised, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the availability of a garage to rent would be refreshed on the Stronsay Community Council Facebook page.

## **I. Sea Wall Damage**

Members heard that the landowner was still to be contacted regarding damage to the sea wall but that the damage had been raised at the Orkney coastal adaptation plan workshop held in Stronsay on 8 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **J. Rothiesholm Interpretation Board**

The Clerk read members a response to their previously raised concern over the safety of the Rothiesholm core path and their request for a laminated notice for the Rothiesholm interpretation board, and it was:

Resolved that a request would be made for a new information board that does not promote the Rothiesholm core path.

## **K. Meikle Mill**

Members heard that safety concerns had been addressed with a gate having been placed in front of the mill's water wheel, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **L. Matpow Sluice**

The Clerk read members a response to their request for a reassessment of the Matpow loch drainage arrangement, and it was:

Resolved that members would wait until drainage of the Matpow loch became a road issue.

## **M. Hearse House**

The Vice Chair had previously consulted members about materials required to repair the hearse house door, and members were given an update on the work to be undertaken, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Vice Chair hoped to complete a repair to the hearse house doors by the end of November 2025.

## **N. Damaged 20mph Sign**

The Clerk reminded members of the response given in August by the Roads Design Officer to the damaged 20mph sign, and members heard that this was still not functioning and awaiting repair, and it was:

Resolved that an update on a replacement sign would be requested along with a request for local control of the 20mph signs.

## **5. Slaughterhouse Report**

Members heard that two hydro invoices had been received since the last meeting, covering the periods 15 August to 13 September 2025 and 14 September to 14 October 2025. Discussion followed on a key safe at the slaughterhouse, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would source and order a key safe for the slaughterhouse and arrange for an additional key to be cut.

Due to the sensitive content of the following item, it was held in committee and had been held over until filming ceased.

## **6. Fish Mart Report**

Members heard that the Fish Mart inventory had been updated after the previous Operators left on 2 September 2025, and that interviews had taken place to appoint a new Operator and an interim Operator was in post until the end of the year. A replacement WiFi router, ordered by an Openreach employee, was awaiting connection, and the arrangements for reporting faults was working well, and fire alarm testing had been undertaken and that the interim operator had requested another wall-mounted blackboard and the replacement of missing items, which the Chair will list and email to members. Details had been given of when the Café would be open over the Christmas period, and the Café kitchen's insect zapper was not working, an external wall-mounted ash tray had suffered storm damage and needed replacing, a stainless steel top is needed as a work surface in the Café kitchen, which the Vice Chair will look into, and rubbish was still waiting to be removed from the building's gable end. The quarterly payment for cleaning the public toilets had been made, and members were asked to consider the amount to be requested on a community grant application to Stronsay Development Trust to help meet the hydro costs. Members considered BT's emails previously raised with members about a full fibre connection, and the Fish Mart Operator post after members had been told the newly appointed Operators had decided not to accept the appointment, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That the Clerk would liaise with BT over the WiFi router connection and an upgrade to full fibre.

C. That the Clerk would source and purchase a new insect zapper and a new external wall-mounted ash tray.

D. That the Vice Chair would remove the rubbish from the building's gable end.

E. That the Clerk would complete and submit a Stronsay Development Trust Community Grant application for financial assistance towards the Fish Mart's annual hydro expenditure.

F. That the interim Operator would be offered an extended Operator period until March 2026 when the position would be reviewed.

G. That a new Operator agreement would be discussed at the next Community Council meeting.

## **7. Reports From Representatives**

### **A. Stronsay Development Trust – Co-opted Representative's Report**

The Stronsay Development Trust Co-opted Representative had emailed members an update on Stronsay Development Trust initiatives, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Health and Care Representative's Report**

Members heard that the Health and Care Representative had attended a Health and Care meeting on 30 July 2025, and members were given information on issues that had been discussed at that meeting, which included confirmation that housing for medical staff had been discussed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Chairs' Meeting Report**

Members heard that the Chair had attended a tourism meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the Chair had attended a tourism meeting.

### **D. Transport Representative's Report**

Members heard that Transport Representatives were being consulted about the Nordic Sea timetable and the third aircraft, that Eday had proposed a change to ferry sailings on the 2026 Sanday show day and members asked for a change to the Nordic Sea timetable for one day a week, and it was:

Resolved to note the report from the Transport Representative.

Filming ceased at this point and the filmmaker was not present for the remainder of the meeting.

## **8. Consultations**

### **A. Enhanced Air Service**

Members had previously been forwarded a consultation on options for the Enhanced Air Service, the deadline for responses being 1 December 2025, and it was:

Resolved that individual responses from members would be forwarded to the Clerk by mid-November so that these could be collated and submitted a response from Stronsay Community Council.

## **B. Survey on Impact of Coastal Change**

Members had previously been forwarded information on a survey on the Impact of Coastal Change, and members heard that this had also been displayed locally, the closing date for comments being 17 October 2025, and it was:

Resolved that members had had no comment to make on the Survey on Impact of Coastal Changes.

## **C. EMEC – Section 36 Variation – Fall of Warness**

Members had previously been forwarded information on European Marine Energy Centre's application for a Section 36 Variation for the Fall of Warness EMEC Consultation, requesting comments by 20 November 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had no comment to make on the consultation on the Section 36 Variation application.

# **9. Correspondence**

## **A. Remembrance Day Wreath**

Members had previously been consulted about a block order by Democratic Services for Remembrance Day Wreaths, and further consultation took place over the ex-service person to be asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the community on Remembrance Sunday, which received no unanimous response, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That members agreed to the purchase of a wreath, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval.
3. That the ex-service person who last laid the wreath at the Stronsay war memorial on Remembrance Sunday in 2012 would be invited to lay the wreath once again, and that if he was not available the ex-service person who last laid the wreath on behalf of the community in 2017 would be invited to lay the wreath.

## **B. Response to Comments on Winter Service Plan 2025-2026**

Members had previously been provided with details of the Roads Support responses to community council comments on the OIC Winter Service Plan Consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the comments from Roads Support.

### **C. Transport Scotland Community Drop-in Sessions**

Members had previously been forwarded information on drop-in sessions on the Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 contract development work, and a poster advertising the sessions had been displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **D. Ferry Replacement Programme Consultation**

Members had previously been forwarded information about a public consultation on the Ferry Replacement Programme Outline Vessel Design and a poster advertising the event had been displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **E. Draft Outer North Isles Summer 2026 Timetable**

Members had previously been forwarded the draft Outer North Isles Summer 2026 timetable, and it was:

Resolved to note the draft Outer North Isles Summer 2026 timetable had been forwarded to members.

### **F. Electrical Safety Fund**

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Electricity Safety Fund, and it was:

Resolved to note members had been forwarded information on the Electricity Safety Fund.

### **G. Isles Special Collections**

Members had previously been forwarded a copy of the Isles Special Collection rota for special collections up to 31 March 2026, and members heard that the rota had been displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **H. Draft Outline Vessel Design**

Members had previously been forwarded information on the Draft Outline Vessel Design for the replacement ferries, and members heard that this had also been displayed locally, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **I. Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan Workshop**

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to attend a workshop to discuss the development of the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note members had been invited to attend a workshop to discuss the development of the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.



## **J. Invitation – Share Your Views on Tourism in Orkney**

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to share views on tourism in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note that members had received an invitation to share views on tourism in Orkney and that the Chair had represented Stronsay Community Council at the event.

## **K. Young Scot**

Members had previously been forwarded an email to Stronsay Fish Mart from the Programme Officer, Young Scot, which had subsequently been forwarded to the Chair, regarding a discount for Young Scot National Entitlement Card Holders, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

## **L. Third Aircraft Timetable**

Members had previously been forwarded details from Transport to the proposed third aircraft timetables, and it was:

Resolved that members would forward comments on the proposed third aircraft timetables to the Clerk by mid-November for a collated response.

## **M. Nordic Sea Timetable**

Members had previously been forwarded a request from Transport for thoughts and feedback on the Nordic Sea timetable, and it was:

Resolved that members had no comment to make on the Nordic Sea timetable.

## **N. Ferry Replacement Programme**

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence emailed to Community Council Chairs, Transport Representatives and Community Development Officers, thanking them for their engagement throughout the Ferry Replacement Programme, which Clerks had been asked to pass on to remaining community council members, and it was:

Resolved to note that thanks had been passed on for engagement in the Ferry Replacement Programme.

## **O. Scapa Deep Water Quay Update**

Members had previously been forwarded an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay Project – October 2025, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

### **P. UHI Archaeology 10 Year Anniversary**

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from UHI Orkney to join in the ten-year anniversary of the UHI Archaeology Institute, and it was:

Resolved to note the invitation from UHI Orkney for members to join in the ten-year anniversary of the UHI Archaeology Institute.

### **Q. Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 Public Consultation Extended**

Members had previously been forwarded information on an extension to the Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 Public Consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note that information had been received on an extension to the Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 Public Consultation.

### **R. Have Your Say on Tourism at Community Workshops**

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Team Manager, Sustainable Tourism, on workshops to help shape the future of tourism across Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note receipt of information on workshops to help shape the future of tourism across Orkney.

## **10. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 14 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £4,987.03.

### **B. Fish Mart Account**

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 14 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £12,168.62.

### **C. Slaughterhouse Account**

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 14 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £10,315.70.

### **D. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Resolved to note that no statement had been sent from Democratic Services so members were unable to note the balances.

### **E. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 14 October 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £13,190.14.

## **11. Request For Financial Assistance**

### **A. Stronsay Community Association**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stronsay Community Association, requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of a Christmas tree for the annual tree lighting ceremony, it was

Resolved that a grant of £286.60 would be given towards the cost of a Christmas tree for the annual tree lighting ceremony, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

### **B. Stronsay Community Association**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Stronsay Community Association, requesting financial assistance towards the purchase of fireworks for the annual bonfire and firework display, it was:

Resolved that a grant of £700.00 would be given towards the cost of fireworks for the annual bonfire and firework display, subject to assistance from the Community Council Grant Scheme being approved.

## **12. Publications**

The following publication had been forwarded to members and was noted:

- Zero Waste Scotland Latest News.

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

### **A. Travel Statistics**

Members commented on not having received the monthly travel statistics from either Orkney Ferries or Loganair, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request monthly Orkney Ferries and Loganair travel statistics.

### **B. Improvement Service for Community Councils**

The Chair referred to an email she had previously sent to members regarding the Improvement Service for Community Councils and the Improvement Service being keen to feature Stronsay at an online webinar, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would represent Stronsay Community Council at an online webinar on 29 October 2025.

### **C. Post Boxes**

Members' attention was drawn to the removal of two post boxes locally, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the Manager, Kirkwall Sorting Office regarding the two removed post boxes.

### **C. Screen Machine Visit**

Members heard that the Screen Machine was planning to visit Stronsay on 25 and 26 November and financial assistance may be requested to accommodate the visit, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Screen Machine was planning to visit Stronsay and that a request may be made for financial assistance to accommodate the visit.

### **D. Burial Grounds**

A briefing note for elected members and community councils titled Grass Cutting in Burial Grounds was distributed to members for consideration, and it was:

Resolved that for inactive burial grounds in Stronsay members would like to continue with the existing arrangement of sheep being used to graze the burial grounds and for a maximum of six cuts, funded from the Revenue Budget, for the active burial ground in Stronsay.

### **E. Resignation Letter**

Members had previously been notified by Mr D Blyth of his resignation from Stronsay Community Council, and the Clerk informed members that a letter of resignation had since been received from Mr D Blyth, and it was:

Resolved to note the resignation and that the Clerk would write to Mr D Blyth acknowledging his resignation from Stronsay Community Council and thanking him for his service as a Community Councillor.

### **F. Resignation**

Ms King informed members of her resignation from Stronsay Community Council, and passed the Clerk her formal letter, and it was:

Resolved to note Ms King's resignation from Stronsay Community Council.

### **G. Community Council Vacancies**

Members acknowledged that there were now two vacancies on Stronsay Community Council, and it was:

Resolved that the vacancies for two new members would be advertised locally, and a public meeting would be held to elect to the vacancies at a future date.

### **H. Whitehall Car Parking Bay**

Members heard that three cars, that were not in use, were occupying parking space in the Whitehall parking bay, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would notify Orkney Islands Council of the three cars occupying parking space in the Whitehall parking bay.

## **I. East Pier**

Members heard that the east pier was a mess and in need of attention, and it was:

Resolved that the mess on the east pier would be brought to Orkney Islands Council attention.

## **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, 1 December 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 21:26.