

Minute of the Meeting of Stronsay Community Council held in Stronsay Community Centre and via Teams on Monday, 1 December 2025 at 19:05

Present:

Mrs L McQuaid, Mr D Stout, Ms M Bar-Tor, Mr S Hourston and Mr J Seaton.

In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant (via Teams).
- Mr C McAlpine, Island Link Officer (ILO)/Clerk.
- Two members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 27 October 2025 was approved, being proposed by Ms Bar-Tor and seconded by Mr S Hourston.

The minute from the Special Meeting held on 6 October 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Hourston and seconded by Ms Bar-Tor.

3. Matters Arising from the General Meeting of 27 October 2025

A. Local Place Plan

Members heard that a draft of the Local Place Plan was not yet ready to be forwarded by Stronsay Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

B. Welcome to Stronsay Sign

Members heard that an application for the erection of a Welcome to Stronsay sign on the exterior wall of the fish Mart was on-going, and that the sign had not yet been made, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

C. Stronsay Housing

In response to a question raised by the Chair, members heard that it was unusual for Community Councils to offer support for housing and that this was usually undertaken by Development Trusts, and that in response to members' request for repairs to 4 Whitehall to be expedited as soon as possible, the Housing section was aware of issues which were outwith their control at present, but were in direct contact with the Stronsay resident who had been offered the tenancy, and continued to offer support, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Scrap Car Scheme

Members heard that the Scrap Car Scheme had been reopened for a further five vehicles, that five applications for inclusion on the scheme had been received, and that four vehicles had since been removed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Sea Wall Damage

Members heard that the landowner, on whose land sea wall damage had occurred, had been contacted and was willing for repairs to be carried out, and that the Vice Chair would keep in touch with the landowner, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

F. Rothiesholm Interpretation Board

Members heard that the Rural Planner had advised there was no budget for replacing or creating new interpretation boards and that if there were, there would be an obligation to promote core paths under their statutory duties. If members wished to amend or replace the interpretation board, they would be able to decide on the content of the board, and a funding package would be required, which Democratic Services offered to assist with. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Clerk would ask if it was known when core paths would next be reviewed.
3. That Ms M Bar-Tor would have an informal conversation with two identified residents on ideas for an interpretation board.

G. Hearse House

Members heard that a repair had not yet been carried on the hearse house door, but that this would be done as soon as possible, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

H. Damaged 20mph Sign

Members heard that a large number of faulty signs had been returned to the manufacturer for repair and that there were no spare signs to deploy for the damaged sign on Stronsay. Discussion followed on the signs' erratic operating times, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Clerk would forward members concerns over the signs' erratic operating times and ask if these could be controlled locally rather than from a central control point.

I. Enhanced Air Service and Third Aircraft Timetable

The Transport Representative informed members that he had received and forwarded comments from residents on the enhanced air service and the third aircraft timetable, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. Post Boxes

The Clerk read members a response from the Manager, Kirkwall Sorting Office, regarding the two removed post boxes, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Manager, Kirkwall Sorting Office, had reported and requested replacement post boxes to Royal Mail's maintenance partner.

K. Screen Machine Visit

Members heard that the Clerk had received a request for financial support for the Screen Machine's visit and that members had previously been consulted about this, and it was:

Resolved to note that following previous consultation with members, a request from the Screen Machine for financial support had been agreed by members and that this had received Community Council Grant Scheme approval.

L. Whitehall Car Parking Bay

Members heard that two of the unused cars occupying parking spaces in the Whitehall parking bay had been removed and Environmental Health would get in touch with the registered keeper of the third vehicle to see if it could be removed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

M. East Pier

Members heard that there had been no response to the concerns raised over the mess on the east pier, and it was:

Resolved to note there had been no response to concerns raised over the mess on the east pier.

N. Community Resilience Plan

Members heard that the Community Resilience Plan had been implemented and was now subject to community engagement with Stronsay Development Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

4. Matters Arising from the Special Meeting of 6 October 2025

Resolved to note that matters arising from the special meeting held on 6 October 2025 would be discussed in the Fish Mart Report.

5. Haulage of Aggregates

Members considered how best to utilise the annual allocation of funds available for transporting aggregate from Mainland Orkney to the Isles, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That funds available for transporting aggregate from Mainland Orkney to the Isles, would be used by Stronsay Community Council.

B. That the Vice Chair would request permission to store aggregate in the North Quarry and would then notify the Clerk of the decision.

C. That if permission were given to store aggregate in the North Quarry the Clerk would order and arrange delivery of 20 tonnes of type 1 aggregate.

6. Amendment to the Community Council Constitution

The Chair informed members that in response to having been contacted about the two Community Council member vacancies, a briefing note on a draft, proposed amendment to the Stronsay Community Council Constitution and a request to initiate a review of Section 4.5 of the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils (2022) had been prepared and forwarded to members for consideration and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. That members supported the draft, proposed amendment to the Stronsay Community Council Constitution and a request for a review of Section 4.5 of the Scheme for Orkney Community Councils (2022).

B. That the Chair would forward Councillor H Woodbridge a copy of the briefing note.

7. Slaughterhouse Report

Members heard that the hydro supplier had amended previous issued bills and that one new hydro invoice had since been received, covering the period 15 October to 14 November 2025. Members had been previously been consulted about the purchase and supply of an external key holder and this was waiting to be fitted, and it was:

Resolved :

A. To note the information.

B. That Mr Seaton would fit the new external key holder to the slaughterhouse.

8. Fish Mart Report

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

Members heard that the Fish Mart Interim Operator had accepted the offer to continue until March 2026, when the position would be reviewed. New items for the Café and Hostel were required and there had been two additional Hostel bookings. The broadband fault was on going and the provider was taking action to try and address this. Members had been consulted about a new insect zapper and external wall mounted ashtray, and these were waiting to be installed, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That the Clerk would liaise with the Community Council Liaison Assistant over the sourcing and purchase of new items for the Café and Hostel.

C. That the Chair would forward the Clerk details of the two additional Hostel bookings so invoices could be issued.

D. That Mr J Seaton would install the new insect zapper and external wall mounted ashtray.

E. That the Vice Chair would remove the rubbish from the gable end of the Fish Mart.

9. 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. Health and Care Representative’s Report

Members heard that Stronsay Community Council no longer had a Health and Care Representative, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs L McQuaid would be the Stronsay Community Council Health and Care Representative.

10. Consultation – HES – Properties and Collections Strategy

Members had previously been forwarded access details to a consultation on Historic Environment Scotland’s new Properties and Collections Strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Correspondence

A. PSTN Switch Off Information

Members had previously been forwarded information on the switch to Digital phone services, and it was:

Resolved that information on the switch to Digital phone services would be included on the Stronsay Community Council Facebook page.

B. OCCA Plan - Online Introduction Event

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 that no one had been able to attend the workshop to discuss the development of the Orkney Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.

C. Free Bunting

Members had previously been consulted about the offer of free bunting from the Procurement and Warehousing Officer, and it was:

Resolved to note that one box of free bunting had been requested and that the Clerk would collect this when next in Kirkwall.

D. Briefing Note – Ferry Replacement Programme Update

Members had previously been forwarded a briefing note giving an update on the Ferry Replacement Programme, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Free Training Sessions

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation to attend free training sessions for rural islands community councils on Local Place Plans, Community Engagement and Foundations of a community council, and it was:

Resolved to note the invitation.

F. Northern Isles Ferry Services User Surveys - Transport

Members heard that the Ferries Directorate in Transport Scotland had asked for support in promoting route specific Northern Isles Ferry Services user surveys and that the Clerk had displayed posters advertising the survey, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

G. Contract Notice – Ro Pax Vessels

Members had previously been forwarded information from the Transportation Service Manager on the next stage of the Ferry Replacement Programme (Phase 1), and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. SSEN Distribution/Freedom Community Drop-in Session

Members had previously been forwarded an invitation from the Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Social Value, Scotland to a Community Drop-in Session to learn more about the Southern Electricity Networks Distribution in Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

12. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 19 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £4,239.91.

B. Fish Mart Account

After consideration of the Fish Mart account statement as at 19 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £12,306.92.

C. Slaughterhouse Account

After consideration of the Slaughterhouse account statement as at 19 November 2025, it was:

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

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2025/2026 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 19 November 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit of £1,234.27, £780.00 in the additional capping limit and £755.00 in the island capping limit.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund Statement as at 19 November 2025, it was:

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

13. Request For Financial Assistance - Stronsay Junior High School

Ms M Bar-Tor declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion that followed.

Members had previously been forwarded a request for financial assistance from S1 and 2 students at Stronsay Junior High School for as class/school and community project to record the voices of Stronsay, and it was:

Resolved that members agreed to award £160 towards the cost of a class/school and community project to record the voices of Stronsay, subject to Community Council Grant Scheme approval. If not approved then a £160 donation from Community Council funds would be made.

Ms M Bar-Tor rejoined the meeting at this stage.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A. Disability Parking

Members were asked to consider having a parking space for disabled access near the Stronsay Fish Mart and the Stronsay Hotel, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would inquire into a parking space being allocated for disabled access near the Stronsay Fish Mart and the Stronsay Hotel.

B. On-Road Parking

Members heard that complaints had been received about on-road parking in Whitehall Village, causing an obstruction and danger to other road users, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would seek advice on whether it would be appropriate, and acceptable, for the Community Council to comment on the on-road parking in Whitehall Village.

C. GCU Road Crossings

Members heard that several road crossings made to accommodate the new broadband fibre cable needed refilling, and that this was now being addressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. War Memorial

Members heard that lettering on the war memorial had begun to fade, and following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Ms M Bar-Tor would forward the Clerk photographs of the faded lettering.

2. That the Clerk would seek advice on how best to address the faded lettering on the war memorial.

15. 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, 23 February 2026, and that other dates for Community Council General Meetings during 2026 would be 18 May, 22 June, 24 August, 26 October and 7 December, all starting at 19:00 in the Stronsay Community Centre.

The two members of the public left the meeting at this stage and item 8 was then held in committee.

16. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:55.