

Stronsay Development Trust
Board Meeting on 13 June 2007 in the Community Centre at 7:30 pm
Minutes

Present:	Ian Cooper	Mike Erdman (Chair)	William Caithness (LDO)
	Julia Crocker	Leo Martini-Brown	Cora Goodram
	Brian Crowe	Colin McAlpine	Damian Stout
	Juliet Durrant	Eoin Stevenson	
Apologies:	Ruth Kirkpatrick	Sue Fairbrother	Malcolm Addison
	Morag Robertson	Jennifer George	
In Attendance:	Nigel Durrant (Minutes), John Steenton		

Action

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

Welcome by Chair

ME welcomed everyone to the meeting including John Steenton, who was there to shadow ND.

Minutes of previous meeting

ME asked whether the minutes of the meeting of the previous meeting were a true reflection of events.

JD proposed that they were

JC seconded the proposal

There being no counter-proposal, the minutes were duly signed by ME.

Matters arising

JD had approached Yvonne Weaver and Heather Fazakerley regarding the inclusion of a letters page in the Limpet but had had no response as yet. ME was concerned that people might use this in personal attacks: JD suggested that a set of guidelines should be drawn up for the editors. She will pursue this with YW and HF.

JD

WC reported that the final £7500 had been approved by Awards for All but that this was not due until 26 July. He had also received a cheque for £75 from Clark Thomson.

Correspondence

ME had sent a letter to Michelle Collinson suggesting a further meeting with the Council house tenants' group regarding their continuing concerns about the recreation area. She had responded that since this was to go ahead anyway, there was no need to talk further.

Chair's Report

ME had nothing to report.

Secretary's Report

JD's input would be following agenda items, but she clarified that the draft minutes should be sent to ME before he went away, and reminded him that the closing date for the clerk's position was 15 June.

Treasurer's Report (accounts circulated)

LM-B reported that the Community Council had appointed him their representative on the Board, and that he would therefore need to withdraw from discussions or not vote if there was conflict. JD suggested that ME should write a letter to the Community Council formally accepting LM-B as their representative and thanking them for their co-operation.

ME

LM-B proposed that SDT places £25,000 on 30 day MoneyFund with RBS, which attracts 4.91% gross. JD clarified that this would not jeopardise our regular monthly outgoings, and that we would be liable for tax on the interest.

LM-B reiterated that he was not happy with paying corporation tax. After some discussion, he agreed that he should meet with Neil Price regarding this issue.

LM-B

Amenities Sub-group Proposals (paper circulated)

JC summed up the group's proposals under the following headings:

Marketing Opportunities

There was considerable discussion regarding the possibility of initiating a new Stronsay website, possibly linked through Orkney Communities at the beginning. This would be at a cost of £70 p.a. for a link. LM-B was of the opinion that this must be a non-commercial site, and had ideas of how it might work. It was agreed that we should have a stronger web presence: JD suggested that a small working group/steering group should be formed (JC, SF and LM-B) and that we should advertise for any interested and competent help from others (Vicky Simpson and Bruce Fletcher could be possibilities).

LM-B proposed that the group be formed

IC seconded the proposal

There being no counter-proposal, this was carried.

JC/SF

A discussion followed regarding the design and maintenance of the site, and it was agreed that this could provide paid employment. WC suggested that Comic Relief might fund such a post for 3-5 years, and that this funding might include costs for brochures. He added that it would be a good idea to liaise with the Community Council on these issues. WC would investigate funding.

WC

Action

Revision of the leaflet “Stronsay – Where the Magic Never Ends”

ES queried whether we needed a leaflet when the information would be available on the website. It was agreed that both would be preferable. JC would put a form in the Limpet this month asking for any providers who wished to be included to give details. Rose Seagrief had suggested some funding routes.

JD proposed that we should pursue production of a leaflet

BC seconded the proposal

There being no counter-proposal, this was carried.

As above, WC will investigate funding.

**JC/SF/
WC**

Webcam

JC had continued to look at the possibility of a webcam, and where it could be placed. CM asked whether this would provide any income but it was suggested that the main benefit would be attracting visitors to the island. BC thought it was a good idea and it was agreed that we should continue to look at possibilities.

JC/SF

Development Plan (paper circulated)

JD stressed that final approval needed to be given to the draft plan in view of the urgency of our application for charitable status. She underlined that the key players were the community, the Trust and its partners, OSCR and potential funders. She thanked those who had fed comments and suggestions back to the working group.

There was discussion on the title and it was agreed that we should use “Towards a Sustainable Future”. WC thought that this would be attractive to funders.

JD reported on the three estimates she had for printing, adding that her recommendation was to have it done professionally. In view of the potential shelf life of the plan, we should print 250-300. Rose had recommended Nevisprint and had given us a contact for possible funding, which WC will investigate.

WC/JD

JD suggested that we do not need a further consultation exercise, since the plan is based on the survey results and on “Harvesting the Wind”. This was agreed.

After some minor amendments were agreed, the plan was formally approved.

JD

The meeting broke at 9.01 p.m. and resumed at 9.07 p.m.

Noticeboard – Orkney Ferries

WC reported that there was a company in the South which would provide a free board in return for advertising. There was a discussion about what might be displayed, but a lack of clarity on this. BC will take a photo of the existing board and circulate it. WC will discuss with Rose and Kate what their views are.

**BC
WC**

Action

Island Ranger (paper circulated)

WC suggested that we need someone to review the post of Island Ranger, based on the Eday documents. There was general agreement that this post would be valuable. ME expressed interest in looking at the detail but needed help – Jennifer had already expressed an interest, and ME would approach her.

ME/JG

Inter-isles Boat (paper circulated)

ME had received a report from Kate (Eday) on progress by the working group. He acknowledged that the last time this issue was raised, the response from the Board had been cautious but that he recommended that Stronsay should be represented in the lead-up to a feasibility study. It was also important to decide whether SDT should take the lead on this, or if it should be passed to the Community Council, or we should work in tandem with the CC.

JD expressed concern that this exercise might be duplicating the recently announced STAG consultation on transport throughout the isles.

After some discussion, although some directors remained cautious, it was agreed that CM and ME would form a liaison point and would also liaise with the CC. They would report back to the Board.

CM/ME

“Sus it Out” (paper circulated)

ME reported that this was a useful exercise, and outlined the purpose. JD briefly took the Board through the process and outcomes. The consensus was that, with two minor adjustments, SDT was on the right track. VAO would be returning in a year to check on progress.

LDO's Report

Recreation Area: as reported previously, funding was now in place but there had been increases in the cost of one piece of equipment by £2000. There had also been a misquote on carriage. WC had talked to the supplier who had agreed to supply SDT without the increase, as a one-off cost. WC had also asked them to look at other options for carriage. He would continue to pursue this.

WC

Lifeboat: he had been in touch with Ian Richardson regarding the estimate for renovation and transport costs, but had not yet received a response.

Community Turbine: John Holloway had finished the bird survey. He had received a quote for a grid connection at £265,000 plus a tele-link.

WC

Broadband: he was continuing to investigate Stronsay's eligibility for broadband and, after Sanday's installation, Stronsay and Eday were close to the top of the list.

HIE Workshop: he had attended a workshop on rural areas becoming more sustainable, where he had stressed that there was no single action which would achieve this. It was about a whole series of initiatives.

Action

Housing Survey: WC had circulated information to the Board. Funding is available for someone to take on a job for 600 hours at £6.50 per hour. The Board felt that this should be a potential job for a resident.

JD stressed that our electronic copy of addresses is data-protected. She agreed that she could supply house names only since these are already in the public domain.

JD

WC suggested that we needed to advertise the job. JD proposed that he approach VAO for a job and person specification but WC said that he would do this through HIE Orkney, as the funding comes through them.

WC

Sinclair Scott: WC stated that the Community Council was presenting Sinclair with a gift on Gala Day, as thanks for his commitment. It was agreed that we should donate a bottle of whisky. IC will organise this.

IC

Plastic bags: WC is keen to progress the issue of plastic bags supplied through the shops and would like to investigate an alternative. Renewables and Recycling would take this on.

WC

Councillor information and representation: it was felt that all three councillors should be kept informed about SDT activities. JD would approach them to ask if this would be helpful, and if there was a positive response she would circulate email addresses for inclusion on the Board contact list. She would take forward an agenda item on how there could be a permanent Council representative on the Board.

JD

Sub-group Reports

None

Any Other Business

None

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 18 July 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed: 10.27 p.m.