Stronsay Development Trust
Board Meeting Minutes
Date: 8th June 2026 **Time:** 7:30pm **Location:** Woods Yard

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Present
Molly May Allen (MA), Louise McQuaid (LM), Kevin Kent (KK), Elsie Dennison (ED), Mike Holland (MH), Marion Miller (MM), Michael McQuaid (MMQ), Viv Erdman (VE), Andrew Fraser (AF), Craig Stout (CS), Vicki Holland (VH)
Apologies: Jim Seaton (JS), Ian Pollard (IP),

Declarations of Interest
- MA declared an interest in the school outdoor area review.
- LM declared an interest in Islanders network and depopulation.
- CS declared an interest in the Craftship.

Approval of Previous Minutes
- MA, Seconded: VE* with requested update to add that VE to speak to Clive Martin about the lifeboat.

Action Points and matters arising

Mill
The owners need a decision as they held off putting the Mill on the open market. If the Mill is bought, then the asking price needs to come from the Stronsay Development Trust funds.

Board members had previously read Davie Campbells report and LM summarised that though housing was a priority, the report highlights that the Mill ground would not be a suitable location for housing due to flood risk, access and coastal erosion. If purchased, the Mill would be a heritage asset and purchasing it would show commitment to heritage as a whole.

A discussion was held on whether the Mill should be purchased or allowed to go on to the open market and if purchased, what the offer should be.
LMQ suggested that if the Mill was purchased it would be wise to find out if the SDT can get the £50k funding required to make the building safe.

Three options were put on the table,
1. Offer below the asking price
2. Offer the full asking price

3. Submit no offer and allow the Mill to go on the open market.

Of the 10 Trustees present, the vote was unanimous in purchasing the Mill.
6 votes in favour of option 2 and 4 votes in favour of option 1.

Next steps: CDO to Look into funding options to make the building safe.
Arrange purchase of the property and arrange insurance cover.

Stronsay visitor's leaflet
MM requested that a new leaflet be produced to replace the out of date discover Stronsay. She was happy to liaise with someone on this but requested that an external graphics designer be sought to prepare the leaflet.

MA suggested that this would be better produced in house and thought Theresa would be a good fit to take this on. ED also volunteered to assist Theresa with the details as required. VE requested that only a small number be produced and a template kept so it could be easily updated in future years. MA also advised that if she wished, MM could apply for funding via the community grants wellbeing pot for money towards promotional material for the island.

The board agreed that this would progress in house.
MM to contact Theresa initially.

Heritage
ED reported that Nick Hewitt was thrilled to work on the project once the letter of agreement had been received and read an extract from the visitor's book of a £5 debt being repaid from many years ago.
LMQ suggested a board discussion on a spending cap on feasibility studies should be held in the future. The letter of agreement needs to be adjusted to confirm Nick's fee and that any spending above the agreed limit would be discussed with the board. Once this adjustment has been made, the letter of instruction can go directly to Nick.

Development Officers Report
- Theresa has taken over the Make & Mend and Tea & Tech projects. Neil McLay is supporting Theresa with the tech sessions if required. MA to check in with Theresa and Neil.
- The depopulation fund has been granted with SDT as the lead and the SDT needs to now decide on staffing levels to proceed with this project. An additional 20hrs per week was budgeted in the framework.

LMQ has requested further details on the full budget before staffing can be agreed. MMA agreed to Speak to Alison Barclay to clarify the details.
- Craftship (CS left the room at this point)) - All of the response from the recent consultation have been sent to Orkney Business Consultants for review. 63% of forms were returned and the vote was around 75% in favour of not pursuing the purchase any further. The 9 remaining trustees voted unanimously to follow the result of the vote and withdraw the SLF application. (CS returned). LMQ suggested when advertising the result that we promote that the SDT listened to the public feedback. SH to share the results with SLF on their meeting on the 9th June
- School outdoor space review – OIC have requested further information, required by the 15th June. LMQ has requested further information on this project including who is the lead, clear project headlines and budget split of what the 20k will be spent on and what discussions have been held with all of the parties involved.
- Community Transport – LMQ has requested clarity on private bookings and what the EV can be used for outside of the community bus run and suggested tasking Theresa to put together a policy outline for discussion and agreement by the board.
- Place plan – LMQ is going to work with Theresa to progress the report.
- The RSE/Food resilience project led by Eday remains under review.
- Hubbub – Jake Croy is due out later in the month to install the floor coverings in unit 5

Any other Business
- Hotel – MA will discuss with Anton and Penny about stopping the WhatsApp group and revert back to Email for board contact.
  Top priority is storage space, a review needs to be made on their storage requirements and if their current fridges and freezers can be used in an outdoor space like a shed.
  The Hotel have requested new bedding, and the hotel committee have costed this up and agreed this can be purchased.
  Richard Seeber will be initially asked to look at the dishwasher issue before the decision is made to purchase a new one.
  Richard Seeber has tried to sort the fire alarm warning issue but E Frasers now need to come out to review the system.
  MA requested that Castlehill construction review the work undertaken by Anton. MH to speak to Craig.
  Regarding the Hotel Contract, there has been no word from Peter Pratt of Kerr Sterling on the progress of this. MA to contact Kerr Sterling to request an update.
  It was agreed the Bothy clearance should be left for now.
  MA will speak to the Hotel about the EPOS system to prevent further costs to the SDT.
- Beechwood - MH will speak to Craig about clearing the Beechwood container.
- AGM – A date of the 6th July was agreed for the AGM. There will be no board meeting in July

HR Update
Changes to the Finance and Admin roles were suggested based on the strategic planning meeting.

Date of Next Meeting
TBC after the AGM

Close of Meeting
22:15