

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 18 March 2025 at 16:15

Present:

Mrs R Biddle, Mrs K Bradley, Mr N Cheeseman, Mrs P Gee, Mrs A Newby-Tucker, Mrs I Smith and Mrs J Ward.

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
 - Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
 - Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
 - Miss C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant.
 - Mrs A Holland, Clerk.
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- 18 members of the public.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

It was noted that a public meeting had been held prior to the general meeting and that three new members had been elected, being Mrs K Bradley, Mr N Cheeseman and Mrs A Newby-Tucker. The new members were welcomed, and it was:

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G Bevan and J Park.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Flotta Community Council held on 28 January 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs I Smith and seconded by Mrs R Biddle, and it was noted that the previous minutes were amended to include that Flotta Community Association would notify the public when an event was to take place involving a firework display.

3. Matters Arising

A. Triangular Area of Land at Burnside

Following a meeting of the sub-committee, the following proposals were discussed and agreed upon to be put forward for the use of the land:

- Two polycrubs to be erected once planning permission had been received.
- Initially two allotments and raised beds.
- Wooden shed for the storage of tools.

Looking ahead once drainage had been sorted, fencing, paths, trees and an area for parking could be developed. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the proposals be forwarded to Democratic Services so that the proposals could be worked into the draft plans.

B. 13 and 14 Burnside

The Clerk informed members that, following agreement of members, a new fridge had been purchased for one of the properties after the original one failed. It was also noted that one of the main radiators in the family home was still awaiting repair. Members also discussed bookings for the properties, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the purchase of a new fridge and that CCGS had been applied for on the cost of £159.99.
2. That the Clerk would chase the repair to the radiator.
3. That the Clerk would take over the responsibility of bookings for the holiday homes and this would be organised in the near future.

C. Play Park

The Clerk informed members that if no tenders were received to cut and maintain the grass at the play park, Mr A Rosie had said that he was happy to cut the grass, however, he would not be able to do any strimming.

It was agreed that Democratic Services would look into the possibility of OIC inspecting the equipment. Members agreed that repairs should be undertaken where possible and that the Clerk should acquire brochures from Scotplay to see what new equipment was available and at what price, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask Orkney Islands Council if an officer could inspect the equipment at the playpark, for which costs would be met.
2. That brochures should be sourced for playpark equipment which would be circulated to members for their consideration.

D. Scrap Car Scheme

The Clerk advised members that all but two of the scrap cars had been removed from the island with the two outstanding being due to be taken on the next shipment, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

E. Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Paths

Members agreed that once a map of the areas to be cut had been obtained, a professional garden maintenance company could be contacted for a quote to carry out the work on an annual basis. Volunteers would then look after areas between professional cuts, and it was:

Resolved to await a map of the areas so that this could be discussed again at the next meeting.

F. Kirkyard Equipment

The Chair informed members that it had been arranged for one of the mowers and the strimmer to be taken to MLM to be repaired and serviced, and it was:

Resolved that CCGS would be applied for on the cost of the maintenance work to the mower and strimmer.

G. Transport for Medical and Off Island Appointments

The Clerk advised that a reply to an enquiry that she had sent on behalf of Flotta CC concerning this matter had now been received from NHSO and that a copy had been put on the public noticeboard, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

4. Correspondence

A. Local Place Plans Update

Following consideration of correspondence regarding Local Place Plans update, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the Local Place Plan update.
2. To note that OIC had put three new replacement grit boxes on the island.
3. To request, via the business letter, that one of the grit boxes near Stanger Head be moved to a more suitable location.
4. To ask, via the business letter, if assistance could be provided with regards to the grit box at Burnside which had a broken lid, although noting that it was not originally put there by OIC.

B. Our Budget Challenge – Survey Results

Following consideration of correspondence received from OIC regarding “Our Budget Challenge - Survey Results,” it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Letter from Mr I McConnell – Various Queries

Members had previously been sent a copy of correspondence from a Flotta resident in relation to various issues, and it was:

Resolved that all matters contained in the letter had already been dealt with at previous meetings and that members had no further comments to make.

D. Orkney Ferries Smartcards

Correspondence from OIC Transportation in relation to new smartcards had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk had displayed the information in public areas on the island.

E. Ferries Meeting with Graemsay, Hoy and Walls CC

Members had previously been sent an invitation to a meeting with representatives of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council to be held on 29 March 2025 to discuss the ferry timetable, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair (Mrs R Biddle) and (Vice-Chair) Mrs I Smith would be attending the meeting on behalf of Flotta Community Council.

5. Consultations

A. Traffic Order – Disabled Spaces

Following consideration of correspondence relating to an additional disabled parking space at Burnside, Flotta, it was:

Resolved to note there had been no objections and the deadline had now passed.

B. Trees and Woodland Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence relating to the Trees and Woodland Strategy consultation, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 24 March 2025.

C. SCDC – Offshore and Onshore Renewable Energy Development Webinar

Following consideration of correspondence from SCDC regarding webinars on 19 and 20 February 2025 in relation to good practice principles for community benefit, it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the webinars had taken place.

D. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Fire and Rescue Service Strategy Plan, copies of which had previously been sent to members, it was:

Resolved that members could, if interested, put their views forward via the website with the deadline being 2 April 2025.

E. SEPA – Community Council Note on Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding proposed changes to the Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Guidance on Public Participation and Fit and Proper Person Test, it was:

Noted that the consultation deadline was 30 March 2025.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance 2024/2025

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 5 March 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £53,928.59.

B. Wind Power Fund

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 5 March 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £16,493.77.

C. Burnside Account

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 5 March 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £6,592.53.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 5 March 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £915.81 remaining for allocation.
2. To note the Additional Capping Limit had £765 remaining for allocation.
3. To note the OIC Island Capping Limit had £740 remaining for allocation.

E. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 5 March 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £10,980.51 remained available for allocation.

F. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 5 March 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the sum of £3,161.00 remained available for allocation.

7. Financial Request - Bag the Bruck

An application has been received from the Flotta Day Club asking the Community Council if they would sponsor them with the annual clean-up of the shorelines on Flotta. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that Flotta Community Council would provide £300 towards Bag the Bruck applications.
- B. That a Community Council Grant Scheme application for £300 should be submitted.
- C. That the £300 should be divided equally between any groups that apply for Bag the Bruck funding.

8. Publications

Resolved to note the following publications had been made available to members:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – December 2024.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics - January 2025.
- VAO Newsletter – January 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – January and February 2025.
- Scottish Islands Federation Events.
- Scottish Islands Federation – February 2025 Newsletter.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Mrs R Biddle advised that she would be attending a joint meeting with members of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council to discuss the summer timetable ahead of the Transport Forum in August. She explained that they would not be able to change the timetables for this coming summer, but the community council would need to ensure they spoke up for a change at the next Transport Forum, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion and that this would be followed up ahead of the August 2025 Transport Forum.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that the Planning Representative reported that there were no new items for Flotta.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representative had not been able to attend the meeting.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Drop Kerbs

A member of the public enquired about previous requests for drop kerbs on Flotta for the disabled. They were informed, by a community council member that this was the responsibility of OIC whom they should contact, and it was:

Resolved to note that the member of the public had been advised to contact OIC direct.

B. Tenders - Kirkyard, Putting Green and Play Park

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was agreed to hold this item in Committee. The members of the public left the meeting at this point.

The Clerk declared an interest and left the room during discussion of this item.

Following consideration of tenders for grass cutting in the kirkyard, putting green and play park, it was:

Resolved:

1. To accept the tender from Mr G Goddard in respect of the cutting of the kirkyard.
2. To accept the tender from Mr A Holland in respect of the cutting of the putting green, and that this would be confirmed in writing by Democratic Services.
3. That a CCGS application should be submitted on the cost for the putting green.
4. To note that no tenders had been received for the cutting of the play park.

C. Road Scheme Grants

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was held in private.

Mrs K Bradley declared an interest in this item and was not present during discussion thereof.

Members considered two applications for assistance with the cost of purchasing aggregate, and it was:

Resolved to award £500 each of Mrs K Bradley and Mr D Hourston and that a CCGS application should be submitted for £1,000.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Following consideration of dates for the next meeting of Flotta Community Council, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 16:15.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:00.