# Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 13 May 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.
* Councillor G Bevan (via Teams).
* Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
* Mrs A Holland, Clerk.
* 8 members of the public.

Order of Business**.**

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Park.

## 2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 18 March 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs J Ward and seconded by Mrs R Biddle.

## 3. Matters Arising

### A. Triangular Area of Land at Burnside

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that Democratic Services had contacted the architect to chase up the quotation being prepared. Mrs R Biddle confirmed that all the trees had been received from the Woodland Trust and that it would be a requirement of any planning application that planting be done. Members discussed ways in which the trees could be planted in conjunction with expert knowledge about where and how. Clarification was made that it was proposed that the land would have raised beds and not allotments and would be a structured base for the whole community, not just one particular group or individuals. It was also agreed that any fresh food grown would be available for all residents of Flotta, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion.

2. That Mrs R Biddle would plant the trees, leaving space for access.

3. That Democratic Services would chase the architect for a quote.

### B. 13 and 14 Burnside

Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the lawns at 13 and 14 Burnside in that the grass was full of moss and this was making it difficult to cut. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact local gardening businesses to seek their advice and ask if they could give a quotation for treating the lawns. Payment for the work could be put through the grant scheme as proposed by Mr N Cheeseman and seconded by Mrs R Biddle. It was also agreed that the kirkyard had the same issue so this work could also be included in the quote, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would contact local gardening businesses for a quote to treat the lawns at Burnside Houses and also in the kirkyard.

2. That £1,000 would initially be set aside for this work, subject to CCGS approval.

3. That the Clerk would put out a tender notice for the grass cutting at 13 and 14 Burnside.

### C. Play Park

It was advised that the individual who had been cutting the grass in the play park previously had been approached to see if he would continue to cut the grass, but a response was awaited. It was queried whether a sit on lawnmower could be used.

The Clerk distributed brochures to members received from a provider of play area equipment. A member of the public stated that it would be good to see some new equipment which could be used by older children, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would put out a tender notice for the grass cutting at Flotta play park.

2. That members would consider options for play equipment at Flotta play park.

### D. Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Paths

Members again discussed the state of the core paths and SFLP Paths and it was suggested that there was an agreement between the Council and the landowner in relation to upkeep which was due to end later this year. Mrs P Gee offered to look out the agreement to see which department was named. The Chair advised that suitable equipment would be needed and suggested that the work to cut these areas should be put out to tender. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mrs P Gee would highlight the stretches of the core paths that needed cut, which would then be sent to a contractor to receive a quote.

### E. Bike Shelter and External Bin

Further to the appearance of a bike shelter outside the waiting room at the pier of which the members hadn’t being informed of, it was noted that a new external bin was also now in place outside the waiting room, which was welcomed by members, and it was:

Resolved that Marine Services would be contacted via the business letter to request that, in future, they let the Community Council know prior to any work being carried out.

### F. Grit Box - Burnside and Stanger Head

The Community Council Liaison Officer suggested to members that the grit box at Stanger Head could be fully removed and perhaps be used to replace the one at Burnside. Members agreed, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would contact the appropriate department within the Council for this to be actioned and that this would be detailed on the business letter accordingly.

## 4. Correspondence

### A. Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland

Following consideration of correspondence received from Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland, in relation to free support and advice on environmental and related planning law, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### B. Changing Places - Scottish Funding Update

Following consideration of correspondence received from Rise Adaptations in relation to the announcement of £10 million being made available by the Scottish Government for funding towards Changing Places, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### C. VMP 2025 - Community Council Comments

Following consideration of correspondence received from Roads Services with their responses to the VMP 2025 Community Council Comments, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### D. My Place Awards

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust, who were promoting their national My Place Awards, which celebrated excellence in community-led placemaking in Scotland, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for nominations had passed on 30 April 2025.

### E. Ferry Replacement Programme Update

Members had previously been sent an update on ferry replacement programme. Councillor L Hall confirmed that the tendering process had started for the larger ferries, and that the process for the smaller ferries, including for the south isles, would begin after that. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

### F. Ferry Service

Copies of correspondence from a resident had previously been circulated to members, with concerns in relation to the ferry service and timetables. Concerns had been expressed both by members and the general public that the views of Flotta residents were not being adequately put across at the Transport Forum meetings, and suggestions were made that minutes were not accurate. A member suggested that a transcript of the meeting be provided, and the Community Council Liaison Officer advised that all Transport Representatives received a draft minute following the meeting so that they could make any comments. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask the Transportation Service Manager, via the business letter, that all future minutes of the Transport Forum meeting would include the views of the Flotta residents, and that draft minutes would continue to be sent to the Transport Representatives for their perusal.

2. That Flotta Community Council meeting minutes would record any decisions made in relation to timetable requests and these would be sent to Democratic Services via the business letter for onward distribution to the relevant departments.

3. That a letter of appreciation would be sent to Ms S Robertson by the Clerk in response to correspondence received stating that members agreed with the contents and that the changes were to be implemented in the ferry timetable 2026.

### G. Letter from Mr I McConnell

Further to the receipt of a letter of information from Mr I McConnell, on various points, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would send a letter of thanks to Mr I McConnell for bringing the matters to the attention of the Community Council.

## 5. Consultations

### A. Winter Service Plan 2025

Following consideration of a consultation on the Winter Service Plan 2025, copies of which had previously been sent to members, it was:

Noted that members could comment directly to the Clerk prior to the deadline of 30 June 2025.

### B. SEPA - EPAS Proposals

Following consideration of correspondence relating to SEPA – EPAS Proposals, copies of which had previously been sent to members, it was:

Noted that members could comment directly to SEPA prior to the deadline of 30 June 2025.

### C. SCDC – Offshore and Onshore Renewable Energy Development Webinar

Following consideration of correspondence from SCDC advising of a webinar which was open to CC members, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had passed.

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

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

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed on 2 April 2025.

### E. SEPA – Community Council Note on Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

## 6. Financial Statements

### A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 30 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £53,864.59.

### B. Wind Power Fund

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 30 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £16,493.77.

2. To request that Democratic Services locate agreement for the Wind Power Fund.

### C. Burnside Account

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 30 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £5,254.73.

### D. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 30 April 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £819.82 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 Community Development Fund statement as at 30 April 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 30 April 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 Requests

### A. Kirk Strimmer

Further to the request from Mr G Goddard for a replacement brush cutter style strimmer for the Kirk, to replace the previous machine owned by Flotta Community Council, it was:

Resolved:

1. To grant the request, and that the purchase would be funded from CCGS, subject to approval.

2. That the new strimmer would be owned by Flotta Community Council, for the purpose of kirkyard grass cutting.

3. That Mr G Goddard would be asked to go and advise on which model would be most appropriate so that a purchase order could be raised for the equipment to the relevant supplier.

### B. Flotta Day Club

An application had been received from the Flotta Day Club asking the Community Council if they would fund the hiring of a bus for the yearly outing to the mainland. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved to award £650 from CCGS for this cause, subject to approval.

## 8. Publications

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

* Orkney Ferries Statistics – February and March 2025.
* SEPA - New Surface Water Flood Maps.
* VAO Newsletter – March and April 2025.
* VAO Training and Funding Update – April 2025.
* Orkney Island Games Sports Schedule.
* Scottish Islands Federation AGM – 27 March 2025.

## 9. Reports from Representatives

### A. Transport

Mrs R Biddle and Mrs I Smith advised that they had attended the joint meeting with members of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council to discuss the summer and winter timetables ahead of the Transport Forum in August. Although summer timetables could not be changed for this season, it was agreed that Flotta Community Council representatives would consult with the community and ensure that they put up the relevant information ahead of the Transport Forum meeting this year so that their wishes could be considered when timetables were being agreed. It was also noted that the winter 2025/2026 timetable had been amended to include a morning drop to Flotta on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and it was:

Resolved that further discussions would take place with the Transport Representative prior to the Transport Forum meeting on 19 August 2025 so that the relevant information could be raised at the meeting.

### B. Planning

Resolved to note that the Planning Representative reported that the application for the kitchen extension at the Community Centre kitchen had been validated.

### C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representative reported that they would be attending the next meeting on 3 June 2025.

## 10. Any Other Competent Business

### A. School House Wall

It was brought to the members attention that the wall at the schoolhouse facing the Community Centre car park had a large crack in it and could possibly fall down and therefore was a danger to the public. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would take some photographs and send them to the relevant department at OIC for action.

### B. Fallen Road Sign

It was brought to the members attention that a road sign on the left going towards Pan Pier was damaged and had fallen to one side, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would report the fallen road sign to the relevant department at OIC.

2. That the Chair would send photographs of the sign to the Community Council Liaison Officer and would also report it through MyOrkney.

### C. Heritage Centre Heating

Mrs P Gee informed members that the heating at the Flotta Heritage Centre had broken and required a new heat pump at the cost of £6,644. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would be asked for information to help establish who would be responsible for this repair, prior to any further decision being made on funding.

2. To note that the Community Development Fund could be used for this purpose, if required.

### D. Area of Land

Members discussed the sub-committee for the area of land at Burnside, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs K Bradley and Mr N Cheeseman would join the sub-committee.

### E. Flotta Oil Terminal

The future of the Flotta Oil Terminal was discussed and Councillor L Hall informed members of the following:

* The hydrogen project had been shelved but not completely dismissed.
* Another company could buy and use the site.
* The area of land could be returned to its original landscape with OIC being responsible for clearing the area.
* A feasibility study was being carried out for the Scapa Deep Water Quay proposal.

## 11. Dates of Future Meetings

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

Resolved that the next meetings would be held on Tuesdays 8 July and 2 September 2025.

## 12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:10.