

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 at 16:15

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
 - Councillor J Park.
 - Councillor G Bevan.
 - Mrs N Bremner, Arch Henderson Consultancy (via Teams).
 - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
 - Mrs A Holland, Clerk.
-
- 5 members of the public.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Presentation - Ferry Replacement Programme/Orkney Harbours Masterplan - Phase 2	2
4. Matters Arising	2
5. Correspondence	5
6. Consultations	6
7. Financial Statements	7
8. Financial Requests	8
9. Publications	8
10. Reports From Representatives	8
11. Any Other Competent Business	9
12. Dates of Future Meetings	9
13. Conclusion of Meeting	9

1. Apologies

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

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Flotta Community Council held on 8 July 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs A Newby-Tucker and seconded by Mrs R Biddle.

3. Presentation - Ferry Replacement Programme/Orkney Harbours Masterplan - Phase 2

This item, originally listed as 4F on the agenda under correspondence, was brought forward as the presenter was attending via Teams. A detailed and comprehensive presentation with slides was given on the second phase of both the Ferry Replacement Programme and the Orkney Harbours Masterplan. The following areas were covered:

- Infrastructure.
- Vessel Design.
- Routes and Traffic.
- Conditions of Piers.
- Fuel efficiency.
- Disabled Friendly.
- Different Requirements for Different Islands.
- Compatibility.
- Feedback and Involvement from Community Councils.

Following the presentation, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

The representative of Arch Henderson left the meeting at this point.

4. Matters Arising

A. Triangular Area of Land at Burnside

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that, having provided a draft plan for the area, the architect had now asked for feedback on the initial draft before any further work was done. Different opinions were shared, and one member raised the question of who would use the area and who would be responsible for managing it. It was subsequently suggested that it would be useful for the sub-committee to meet to discuss the plan, and the Chair asked that she be included in this meeting. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the sub-committee would arrange a meeting to discuss the draft plan for the area of land, with the Chair to be involved also.

2. That feedback would be provided to Democratic Services so that the architect could be advised of next steps.
3. That any architect costs incurred for work done so far on drawings should be paid from CCGS.

B. 13 and 14 Burnside

Mrs R Biddle confirmed that the moss at 13 Burnside had been treated, however, there was still more work to do. Members were made aware that if more materials were needed, the spend must be agreed by a majority of members, and a purchase order obtained from Democratic Services.

The Clerk informed members that the internet for the houses was available through Cloudnet, however, each house would need to have a separate installation

The sub-committee informed members that both properties would benefit from some additional/new furnishings. It was advised that care should be taken with anything that could have been donated to the houses and that consultation with all members should be carried out prior to any disposal. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs R Biddle would continue to treat the lawns for moss at 13 and 14 Burnside.
2. The Clerk would contact the provider (Cloudnet) to arrange for them to complete the work.
3. That the sub-committee would put together a list of the required/suggested items for Burnside to be agreed by the full committee.

C. Play Park

It was advised that, to date, nobody had been found to cut the grass at the play park on a permanent basis, but that Mr K Gee had been cutting a path to the mound through the grass. The Clerk informed members that a new price list from Scotplay was available this month which had been requested, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the tender next season for the putting green would also include the play park.
2. That, as the play park had not been fully cut this year, the Clerk would ask a mainland-based contractor in Kirkwall to quote for a one-off cut, to be funded by Flotta Community Council General Fund.
3. That the Clerk would forward prices of the equipment and installation costs as soon as they arrived for members to consider.

D. Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Paths

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the lease had been looked at and that OIC were responsible for maintenance of the way markers however they were not responsible for the cutting of the grass. Mrs P Gee informed members that a mainland-based contractor had been contacted, and he would be visiting Flotta to provide a quote, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that responsibility for grass cutting on the paths did not sit with Orkney Islands Council.
2. To note the information and await a quote for the works before giving further consideration to this item.

E. School House Wall

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that OIC were monitoring the wall and so far it had not moved and was not considered a risk, however arrangements would be made to repair the wall should things get worse, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To request, via the business letter, that some signage be put up or some fencing to keep people away from the wall.

F. Fallen Road Sign

The Community Council Liaison Officer informed members that the matter had been reported, however, as there had not been any update, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the matter would be chased with the appropriate department.
2. That the Clerk would send information to Democratic Services as to the exact location of the fallen road sign.

G. Heritage Centre Heating

Mrs P Gee informed members that the second quote for the repair had been received. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Flotta Community Council would pay the full amount of £6,644.00 as per the initial quotation, from the general fund.
2. That the Clerk would send Democratic Services a copy of the quote for information.

H. Seating at Stanger Head

The Clerk informed members that the seat they were hoping to purchase from a local retailer was no longer available until next year. The Community Council Liaison Officer suggested other outlets to try, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a recycled plastic bench would be preferable, noting that Marmax supplied these and had provided a number of benches to Orkney areas previously.
2. That members agreed to purchase a bench, being funded from CCGS.
3. That the Clerk would look at alternative suppliers and order accordingly.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish Islands Federation Summer Bulletin

Following consideration of correspondence previously received and circulated to members from the Scottish Islands Federation regarding their summer bulletin, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. ESS and ETS Invite

Following consideration of correspondence previously received and circulated to members regarding “The Emergency Services” and “The Emergency Tech Show” in the NEC Birmingham on 17 and 18 September, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. Invitation to VAO Annual General Meeting

Following consideration of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated, from VAO with an invitation to the Annual General Meeting on 14 August 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and to note that the event had passed.

D. 10 Million Changing Places Funding

Following consideration of correspondence received regarding the Scottish Government announcement concerning 10 million funding for Changing Places toilet facilities in Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the Chair would look into this funding in more detail.

E. Ayre Offshore Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence regarding a Supply Chain Event on 27 August 2025, copies of which had previously been forwarded to members, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that the event had passed.

F. Request for help from Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, copies of which had previously been circulated, asking for help in cascading planned switch-off information, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

G. Flotta Christmas Tree Lighting

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding the Flotta Christmas Tree lighting, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would complete and return the relevant EMP forms.

H. Remembrance Day Wreaths

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding Remembrance Day wreaths, it was:

Resolved that one wreath would be purchased, being funded from CCGS.

I. VAO Membership Renewal

Following consideration of correspondence from VAO regarding membership renewal at a cost of £15.00 per annum, it was:

Resolved that the membership should be renewed, being paid from general funds.

6. Consultations

A. Our Orkney, Our Future

Following consideration of correspondence regarding “Our Orkney, Our Future”, which aimed to gather views around tourism, and further discussion around visitors to the island, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the deadline for any comments was 19 September 2025.
2. That the “old” Flotta tourism leaflets would continue to be used and that a sticker could be used to cover over outdated information with new information.

B. Survey on Coastal Change

Following consideration of correspondence from OIC regarding a survey on coastal change, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that OIC officers and Mott McDonald would be visiting communities to discuss the topic and gather views.
2. To note that the deadline for returning the survey was 17 October 2025.

C. Opinion Request - Ferry Unions and Overtime Impacts

A request from The Orcadian for opinions on ferry matters had previously been forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed.

D. Winter Service Plan

Following consideration of the comments which had been returned by OIC Roads Support to CC comments on the Winter Service Plan, it was:

Resolved to note that no comments had been submitted from Flotta Community Council members.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 21 August 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £59,185.97.

B. Wind Power Fund

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 21 August 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £21,215.77.

C. Burnside Account

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 21 August 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £4,123.42.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 21 August 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £506.34 remaining for allocation, the Additional Capping Limit had £780 remaining for allocation and the Island Capping Limit had £755 remaining for allocation.

2. That the balances in project references 51810, 52102 and 52304 would be closed down to free up funding but that these projects could be opened again in future if funding was still required.

E. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 24 June 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 24 June 2025, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

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

8. Financial Requests

Resolved to note that no financial requests for assistance had been received.

9. Publications

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

- VAO – Training and Funding Update July and August 2025.
- VAO – July Newsletter.

10. Reports From Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport representative informed members that the consultation process and approvals document was available from Democratic Services should it be requested. Draft timetables had been advertised on Facebook on the “This is Flotta” page prior to the forum so that residents could make comments. It was suggested that the 17:30 ferry could come to Flotta first on some days, however it was noted that this would impact Hoy as the 15:15 ferry comes to Flotta first. A proposal was made to arrange a meeting with the Transport Representative for Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council so that any requests could be discussed ahead of the next forum meeting, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the update.

2. That the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council Transport Representative would be invited to the next meeting to discuss transport matters.

3. That if the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council Transport Representative was not able to attend the next meeting, a separate meeting between the two community councils would be set up in liaison with Democratic Services.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that the Flotta Community Centre kitchen extension and upgrade had now been fully approved, and that documents were available to view online.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representative would attend the Community and Transformational Change Directorate meeting on 27 October 2025, and that the NHSO no longer did free care for feet and ears for pensioners.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Lawnmower Service

Resolved to note that MLM Engineering had recently serviced and repaired a John Deer Run 41 Lawn Mower for the Community Council at a cost of £128.01 and that this had been charged to the general fund.

B. Thank You Gift

Members presented Mrs P Gee with a gift as a show of appreciation for all the work Mr K Gee did on a voluntary basis on the island, especially for cutting a walkway in the grass of the play park so that people could access the Flotta mound, and it was:

Resolved to note thanks from the community council to Mr K Gee.

12. 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 4 November 2025 and 13 January 2026 at 16:15.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:09.