

# Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 4 November 2025 at 16:15

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
  - Ms H Green, Director, Infrastructure and Organisational Development.
  - Mrs G Robertson, Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council (via Teams).
  - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
  - Mrs A Holland, Clerk.
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- 6 members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that no apologies of 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 4 November 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs A Newby-Tucker and seconded by N Cheeseman.

## **3. Discussion – Ferry Timetable for Winter 2026/2027**

The Transport Representative from Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council was in attendance via Teams to discuss the draft winter ferry timetable for the Hoy Head with members of Flotta Community Council, and it was noted that Flotta residents were generally happy with the timetable as it was at present. They asked if there was any feedback from Hoy and Walls on Saturday sailings, particularly regarding the last sailing, as there was mixed opinion on this. It was agreed that the representatives could ask if another run could be done on a Saturday. It was also acknowledged that crew training had to be factored in as well as hours of rest. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that a meeting between the Flotta Community Council Transport Representative and Chair and the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council Transport Representative and Chair would be set up so that these matters could be discussed further ahead of the Transport Forum meeting in January 2026.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Triangular Area of Land at Burnside**

The Chair suggested that, as two members that had been on the subcommittee had resigned from the Community Council, consideration should be given to putting a hold on the project meantime. She advised that there seemed to be varying views within the community regarding the project and how or if it should proceed.

Another member expressed disappointment, as they felt there had been some progress made, but agreed that if there was not a firm view on what should be done with the land, and an identified party to oversee any project, it was probably wise to pause at this point. Following discussion regarding maintenance and any plans for the land in the interim, it was:

Resolved to keep this item on the agenda for further discussion.

### **B. 13 and 14 Burnside**

The Clerk advised that the lease she had contacted CloudNet and they would be attending to install broadband in the properties on 12 November. She advised that she would arrange access to the properties.

Mrs A Newby-Tucker reported that the Clerk, Ms R Biddle and herself had visited the houses and put together a small list of items that might be considered for

purchasing. It was also suggested that new photographs could be taken for marketing purposes with a view to increasing occupancy. Members were advised that there was maintenance required as well and various inexpensive improvements that could be made to the properties, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the contract with CloudNet had been signed and that installation would be arranged shortly.
2. That any ongoing invoices/costs associated with the installation of broadband in the properties would be paid for from the Burnside Account.
3. That the subcommittee would visit both houses and work up a list of requirements for each property and circulate it round members for agreement.

## **C. Play Park**

### **1. Grass Cutting**

The Clerk advised members that she had received a response from E Mackenzie who had advised that he would come to Flotta to look at the play park to make a plan for cutting it. He would be available to travel to Flotta after 10 November, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would provide dates to E Mackenzie and the Chair and Mrs P Gee would meet with him.

### **2. Play Park Equipment**

The Clerk advised that she had been in contact with Scotplay who had advised that members may wish to take a look at the play park equipment at Dounby School, recently installed by Scotplay, which included items that Flotta had highlighted. Scotplay would provide a quote for equipment for Flotta. Members also asked if it would be possible to obtain photographs of the Dounby play park to give an idea of what was there, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that Scotplay would put together a quote for the equipment that Flotta had expressed an interest in so that members could finalise what they required.
- B. That the Clerk would ask for photos of the Dounby Play Park area.

## **D. Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Paths**

The Clerk advised members that she had received a response from E Mackenzie who had advised that he would come to Flotta to look at the paths at the same time as the play park, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would provide dates to E Mackenzie and the Chair and Mrs P Gee would meet with him.

## **E. Seating at Stanger Head**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised members that quotes had been received for the cost of seating and that carriage would require to be added to the cost. Mrs P Gee raised safety concerns regarding the condition of the ground due to holes being created on the path, possibly by dogs. It was suggested that a sign should be put up saying "Please keep dogs away from this area" and that a cost be found for putting a sign up, and it was:

Resolved that a decision would be made on the possible purchase of seating and signage at the next meeting.

## **F. Christmas Tree**

The Clerk advised members that the Christmas tree had been delivered. Members discussed various additional options for Christmas trees and decorations or solar fairy lights, and it was:

Resolved that a cost should be sourced for solar fairy lights in a number of locations as a possible alternative for a Christmas tree.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Island Creative Entrepreneurship**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Robert Gordon University, which had been previously emailed, advising members of bespoke entrepreneurial skills training being held on 7 October, it was:

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

### **B. 2025 Crofting Commission Annual Notice**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Crofting Commission, which had been previously emailed, advising on the required updated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **C. Orkney Coastal Change Adaption Plan Workshop**

Following consideration of correspondence received from Mott Macdonald Ltd and Orkney Islands Council, which had previously been emailed, regarding the Orkney Coastal Change adaption plan workshop to be held on 9 October, it was:

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

### **D. Rabbit and Wildlife Management**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding wildlife management, which had previously been emailed, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **E. Scapa Deep Water Quay**

Following consideration of correspondence providing an update on the Scapa Deep Water Quay project, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **F. UHI Archaeology Institute 10 Year Anniversary**

Following consideration of correspondence UHI Orkney inviting members to join them in celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the UHI Archaeology Institute, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **6. Consultations**

### **A. Community Right to Buy Review**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Community Right to Buy Review and a meeting with Scottish Government on 2 October, it was:

Resolved the content of the correspondence and that no one attended the meeting.

### **B. Survey on Impact of Coastal Change**

Following consideration of the survey on impact of coastal change, which had previously been emailed, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline had passed.

### **C. European Marine Energy Centre**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the European marine energy centre Section 36 Variation, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that members had no comments to make.

### **D. NIFS4 Public Consultation**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the NIFS4 public consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that members had no comments to make.

### **E. Have Your Say on Tourism – Workshops**

Following consideration of correspondence advising on Community Workshops to be held on 8 and 16 October and a report from the Chair, who had attended, she advised that most of the islands had the similar comments to make such as ferries, roads and paths being cleared to allow tourists to manoeuvre and finding manpower to undertake these jobs, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and report.

## **F. Burial Ground – Briefing Note**

Following consideration of a briefing note from Orkney Islands Council advising of the need to reduce the cost of grass cutting for the burial grounds in Orkney. It was also reported that the Kirkyard gates required to be looked at as they were in need of maintenance, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Flotta Kirkyard should be cut to the same terms and conditions as presently and the Community Council would fund any extra costs.
2. To raise, through the business letter, that the Flotta Kirkyard gates were in need of being repaired.
3. To make arrangements for the lawnmower to be serviced early March, prior to the grass cutting season 2026.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

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

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £59,523.76.

### **B. Wind Power Fund**

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

Resolved to note that the balance was £6,332.65.

### **D. Community Council Grant Scheme**

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

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £1,291.48 remaining for allocation.
2. To note the Additional Capping Limit had £414 remaining for allocation.
3. To note the OIC Island Capping Limit had £755 remaining for allocation.

## **E. Community Development Fund**

After consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 21 October 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 21 October 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**

Correspondence had been received from Flotta Day Club thanking the community council for the funding for the summer day out and requesting assistance towards attendance at the pantomime in Kirkwall. Members noted that in previous years the community council had funded the cost of the bus, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the letter of thanks.

B. To request additional information from Flotta Day Club regarding the visit to the pantomime.

C. That the Community Council agreed, in principle, to fund the cost of the bus, and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for once the cost of the bus was known.

## **9. Publications**

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

- VAO – Training and Funding Update September and October 2025.
- VAO – September Newsletter.
- Scottish Islands Federation – Newsletter – September 2025.

## **10. Reports From Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

Resolved to note that the transport representative had no further information to report.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note that the planning representative had no further information to report.

## **C. Health and Care**

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representative was to join online however this had not worked. She asked if the minute of the meeting would be sent to the representatives.

She further advised that she would have liked to have brought up the following issues:

- Not enough dentistry available without paying to be treated privately.
- Long waiting list for procedures, often for people that have paid into the system all of their life.
- Mobile eye/hearing tests and podiatry appointments.
- Palliative care for isles residents.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Cutting of Offlets**

Members raised concerns regarding the road offlets and ditches and that they had not been dug out this year again which was resulting in bad flooding on the roads. They suggested that if the verges were only to be cut once a year, the offlets should be cleared after that cut. It was noted that the operative had made a lovely job of cutting the verges. Members noted that grit had been removed from the roads however it was gathering at the cattle grid again. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Islands Council of members concerns regarding the roads.

### **B. Agenda Paperwork**

Mr N Cheeseman asked if the agenda could be provided to members as a scanned document via emails. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that this was a difficult one as some folk preferred paper copies, but scanned copies could be provided, and it was:

Resolved to defer consideration to a future meeting.

### **C. Key Holder – Community Council**

Members noted that the doors had not been open on arrival for the meeting and that the community council members were not key holders. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Mrs I Smith would arrange for the door to be open for the next meeting.

## **12. Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Resolved:

A. That the next meetings would be held on Tuesdays, 13 January and 17 March 2026.

B. That consideration would be given to holding a public meeting prior to the meeting on 13 January, to elect new members to the two vacancies on the community council.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

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