

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in the Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 16:15

Present:

Mr N Cheeseman, Mrs R Biddle, Mrs P Gee, Mr C Mullins, Mrs I Smith, Mrs J Smith and Mrs J Ward.

In Attendance:

- Mrs Maureen Spence, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities (via Teams).
- Mrs Jackie Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor G Bevan (via Teams).

- Seven members of the public.

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1. Apologies

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

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 was approved, being proposed by Mr C Mullins and seconded by Mrs R Biddle, subject to the following amendments:

Page 3 – Item H – should read “Resolved to request the provision of additional parking spaces be considered by removing the grassed area.”.

Page 3 – Item I – The second paragraph should read “A member raised the point that two islanders had made comments regarding the £20 grant and that the Community Council welcomed such comments. The Chair...”.

3. Community Transport

Mrs R Biddle advised members on the possible requirement of community transport and following discussion, it was:

Resolved to set up a sub-committee of the Community Council comprising of Mr N Cheesman, Mrs R Biddle and Mrs J Ward to look at the possibilities of taking the project forward.

4. Matters Arising

A. COMAH Plan

After hearing a report from the Chair advising members that the Terminal Manager had extended an invite to all the community council members to the Terminal, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would arrange a time with the Terminal Manager and would email members with a date of meeting.

B. Community Asset Transfer – Area of Land

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr M Grant advising members or the Flotta Men’s Shed and Gardeners Associations desire to acquire an area of the land recently purchased by the community council, it was suggested that the Community Council Sub-committee should convene a meeting on site to discuss the various ideas and that the provision of drawings of proposed use of the land should be given thought, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the subcommittee would arrange a time to convene a site meeting.
2. That consideration should be given to having drawings made up of proposed use of the land.

C. 13 and 14 Burnside

Mrs J Smith advised that there were repairs and replacements of equipment required to be made to the properties.

Members were advised that there was a Community Council Grant Scheme with £741.98 available for use for this purpose and that the total costs of a kettle, DVD, Hoover, freezer, bed and mattress was £624.96. It was also noted that the total project cost could be increased if required.

Mrs J Smith advised that she had been in contact with the Education Department requesting information in relation to their booking system for their various properties and was waiting to hear back.

Information had also been sought from Cloudnet and asking that package for internet to the houses and that they also give a presentation to islanders and a response was awaited.

Members also discussed introducing new rent rates for 13 and 14 Burnside and that the rate should include electricity costs. The new rates would be effective from 1 April 2023.

The Chair proposed that the rental figures for both houses required to be increased to be more in line with other areas. He suggested that an Islander rate should be available for Island residents making bookings for family, friends and workers.

He proposed that there should be nightly rate for the property of £30 per person, per night.

Island Resident - booking rates for 7 nights stay:

Winter - £100.

Medium - £150.

Peak - £200.

Standard Rates – booking for 7 nights stay:

Winter - £150.

Medium - £200.

Peak - £250.

It was also suggested that the cleaner's remuneration should also be increased, and the Chair advised that this would require to be discussed. The availability and booking procedures for the accommodation should be advertised locally and possibly on Orkney Islands Council website.

Members also noted that the Short Term Lets Licence would also require to be addressed and that the subcommittee would continue to take this forward. Members discussed the costs of the houses and how going forward the charges should be increased with a view to making the houses pay for themselves however this would require at least one full financial year to enable the calculations to be made, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a kettle, DVD, hoover, freezer, bed and mattress should be purchased.
2. To note that Mrs J Smith was waiting to hear back about the Education booking system for their various properties.
3. To note that a response was awaited from Cloudnet.
4. That the rent rates for 13 and 14 Burnside should be increased as detailed above.
5. To note the Mrs P Gee and Mrs I Smith abstained from voting on the rent increases.
6. That the new rates would include electricity costs.
7. That the new rates would be effective from 1 April 2023.
9. That the cleaner's remuneration should be discussed at a future meeting.
10. That the subcommittee would give further consideration to the Short Term Let Licence requirements.

D. New Notice Board

Mrs R Biddle advised members that St Colms would make a noticeboard, of a larger size, which would accommodate all groups advertising needs as an estimated cost of £440, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that Mrs R Biddle would forward the email containing the information to Flotta Clerk email address.

E. Bicycle Shelter

Members discussed the bike shelter and were advised that Glasdon do not provide paper copies of the brochure. The cost of supply of a bike shelter would be in the region of £6,000, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That no further action should be taken on the shelter.
2. To note that the Chair thanked Mrs R Biddle for her work.
3. That Mrs R Biddle would contact the residents who wanted the shelter and inform them of the outcome.

F. Wind Turbine Fund

Resolved to note that no update was available as at date of meeting.

G. Burnside Housing Square/Car Park

Mr C Mullins advised members that Housing would investigate the square at Burnside and report back, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

H. Dog Bins

Members considered correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising members that the preference would be to relocate one of the bins since they are close to each other, and one is not used much. Members were also advised that it was not best use of driver's time to stop and service nearly empty bins. One could be relocated in the verge, but they could not provide two new bins, and it was:

Resolved that one dog bin be relocated to Stanger Head and to request a new bin to be located at Kirk Bay.

I. Tarmac at Gibraltar Pier

Resolved to note that no update was available as at date of meeting.

5. Correspondence

A. COVID recovery in local communities

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. Letter from Flotta Resident

After consideration of correspondence from Mr I McConnell concerning various topics, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence however the content was not relative to Flotta Community Council.

C. Refit/other draft TTs and Air and Ferry Service Consultative Forum meeting notes

Following consideration of correspondence, previously emailed to members, and a verbal report from Mrs J Smith regarding the draft timetables, it was:

Resolved that the requirement for booking on a Friday for a Sunday sailing as an error which had been rectified.

D. Crofting Commission Area Representatives Recruitment 2023

Following consideration of correspondence from the Crofting Commission Development Team advising members of the area representative recruitment process, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the information is available on the notice board and Facebook.

E. Media Enquiry – Filming

Following consideration of correspondence from Humble Bee Films regarding filming on the island, it was:

Resolved to thank them for their interest and members would look forward to meeting them.

F. Funding for Coronation Events

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that funding had been applied for from the National Lottery on behalf of all community councils and that a response was awaited, Mrs J Ward advised that Flotta Community Association was hoping to hold an event such as a street party, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and discussion.

G. Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site

Following consideration of correspondence from Marine Scotland regarding the Fall of Warness Tidal Test Site, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

H. Bag the Bruck 2023

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising members of the annual Bag the Bruck and funding of £300 available through Community Council Grant Scheme assistance to any groups participating in the event, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance of £300 should be applied for.
3. To note that Flotta Community Association were going to take part in the event and wished to apply for funding.
4. That Flotta Community Association should be awarded the £300 on evidence of taking part in the event.

I. West of Orkney Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence from West of Orkney Windfarm advising members of their intention to submit applications for marine licences, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

J. Letter from Flotta Resident

Following consideration of correspondence from a resident raising various points, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and thank the resident for their letter.

6. Consultations

A. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding overprovision of licensed premises in Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that members had no comments to forward.

B. SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA advising of their opinion survey, it was:

Resolved that individuals could complete the survey themselves if they wished to do so.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 9 March 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £50,018.81.

B. Wind Power Fund

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 9 March 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £4,621.77.

C. Burnside Account

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 9 March 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £7,481.63.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 9 March 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £802.74 remaining.
2. To note the Additional Capping Limit was £743.00.
3. To note the OIC Island Capping Limit had £719.00 remaining.

E. Seed Corn Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 9 March 2023, 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 there were no financial requests to be considered.

9. Publications

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

- SSEN – Creating a Home Emergency Plan with SSEN.
- Isles Special Collection Rota – April – September 2023.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – December 2022 – February 2023.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

After hearing a report from the Transport Representative advising members of the discussion held at the Transport meeting, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there were no planning items to report.

11. Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tenders

After opening and considering one tender for the maintenance of the Flotta Kirkyard, it was:

Resolved to award the contract for the maintenance of Flotta Kirkyard to G Goddard.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Pier End Container

Resolved to include this in the next agenda for discussion.

B. Democratic Services Manager

Resolved to note that the Chair thanked the Democratic Services Manager for all her advice and guidance over the years and wished her all the best.

C. Flotta Heritage Trust

Mrs P Gee advised members that that the Flotta Heritage Trust had been granted permission to manage the woodland around the old Naval Cinema, on behalf of the Flotta Terminal Operator and Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

13. Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved that the date of the next meeting, towards the end of May 2023, would be discussed and arranged with the Interim Clerk.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:30.