

# Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Sunday, 4 February 2024 at 11:15

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
  - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
  - Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
  - Councillor L Hall.
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- Nine members of the public.

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## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed Mr M Grant to the meeting, after his election to the community council at the public meeting held prior to the general meeting, and it was:

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

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 28 November was approved, being proposed by Mrs J Ward and seconded by Mr N Cheeseman.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Community Transport**

Mrs J Ward reported to members the findings of a survey of a sample of island residents. She explained that a few residents would appreciate a service, however it was not feasible given the low expected take up. It would not be cost effective to purchase and register a vehicle for community transport and train volunteers. It was suggested that this was not something the community council was set up to organise, and perhaps the Burnside Residents Association would be in a position to take this forward. A response from Mr I McConnell was discussed during this item, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that the Interim Clerk would provide a written response to Mr McConnell.

### **B. COMAH Plan**

After hearing a report from members that a meeting was due to take place with the Terminal Manager, it was:

Resolved that this item now be removed from the agenda as adequate information on the plan had now been made available to Flotta residents.

### **C. Community Asset Transfer – Area of Land**

The Community Liaison Officer advised members on information received from the Senior Planner regarding the use of the land.

Mrs J Ward updated members on the sub-groups' aspirations for the land including things such as a polycrub, raised beds, trees, shrubs, and fruit bushes. Food security was expected to be an issue in future, and this would be a step towards combating that. She detailed the type of work that would be required on the area along with equipment that may be required. She also advised that a surveyor would be needed to advise and there would be a need for plans to be drawn up for the purpose of planning permission for change of use, if required. The Community Council Liaison Officer offered to make contact with planning regarding the proposals, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would assist with ascertaining what the pre planning requirements were for the project.
2. To invite a Planning Officer to attend the next meeting.

### **D. 13 and 14 Burnside**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the electricians had been on the island however they had run out of time and would be returning to the island to finish off the work, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask that the contractor return to finish the work required.

### **E. New Notice Board**

Mrs R Biddle advised members that the notice board was in the island and that the Terminal had agreed to remove the old one and put the new one up, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and the relevant officer in the Education Department should be advised accordingly.

### **F. Tarmac at Gibraltar Pier**

Councillor L Hall advised members that he had made queries regarding the tarmac and had been advised that there were two issues – that the fence needed to be extended, and the tarmac cut back and built up to the edge. It was agreed that a permanent solution was needed.

Members also discussed the metal strip that covered the cables and road edge at the pier, which moved slightly every time it was driven over, leaving a gap, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that work would be done to cut back the tarmac and build it up to the level.
2. That the Interim Clerk would make enquiries regarding the metal strip at the pier, which kept being displaced.

### **G. Pier Gritting**

Members asked who was responsible for the gritting of the pier, particularly the area at the waiting room, and arrangements could be made for it to be included in the gritting schedule, and it was:

Resolved to ask via the business letter if the area round the pier waiting room could be included in the gritting schedule.

## **H. Pier End Container**

Members were advised that the Terminal had ordered a new container for the pier and that it would be installed soon. Members asked if Marine Services had been notified of the proposed new container, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report and that Marine Services should be contacted regarding the container via the business letter.
2. To note that the Men's Shed were interested in taking the old container to refurbish and would make necessary arrangements.

## **I. Flotta Men's Shed**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Service Manager, Development Manager, advising that he was aware that some recent applications had taken a long time overall, but there were often delays on both sides, as information was requested. On the specific point regarding correspondence not being signed by a named officer, this was changed a few years ago following correspondence to the opposite effect, that applicants were responding to emails sent by a specific technician but were then finding that that technician did not work every day or was on leave. It was further advised that planning application validation is a role within the team, not covered by a specific person, but by different technicians at different days. It was therefore made the case that responses were from the team. This was to ensure there were no delays and to speed up the process, to address the first point made by the CC.

Members were also advised that all correspondence includes the following statement: "Please note that validation checks are carried out by a team of technicians who work different working patterns. This email is therefore issued from a generic email address and not a named officer, to help avoid delays. Should you have any queries, correspondence can be sent by return email and will be addressed by a member of the Development Management team", and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. To note that members did not agree with the signature policy.
3. To note the application for the Men's Shed polycrubs had now been validated.

## **J. Play Park Fund**

Following discussion of the broken net in the play park and hearing that the Terminal had provided an estimated cost in the region of £750 for the replacement of the net, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the net should be replaced and the cost to be met from General Funds.

2. That the Interim Clerk would contact the Terminal about replacing the net.

## **K. Scrap Car Scheme**

After hearing a report from the Community Council Liaison Officer advising members that there had been applications of interest in the removal of eleven scrap cars from the island, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would advise those that had expressed an interest and arrange for the removal of the cars from the Island.

2. That the Interim Clerk would inform the Terminal of the cars that would need to be taken off the island, as per the offered arrangement.

3. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost of any removals.

## **L. Flotta – 20mph Signs**

Councillor L Hall reported that the decision regarding 20mph restrictions around schools had been made at full Council and it applied to all schools even if they were closed. Members advised that the lights had been removed from the signs however asked, would it be possible to cover the signs when the speed limits were not in use, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council if the signs could be covered as the school was not currently in use.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising that a grant fund aimed at supporting community-based initiatives promoting good mental health, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

### **B. Help Name Your Gritter**

After consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council inviting residents to help name the island gritter, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

### **C. Community Council Webinar with Open University**

Following consideration of correspondence, previously emailed to members, regarding a community council webinar with Open University, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **D. Additional Tranche of Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council advising member of and additional allocation of £5,000 to each community council from the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **E. R100 Programme**

Following consideration of correspondence Orkney Islands Council providing a summary of the current broadband investment programme in Orkney, members raised the point that many houses would be left without landlines, as the copper network was not being maintained. They were concerned that many of the older residents in Orkney did not have mobile phones or internet and therefore would be left stranded, especially if they had a care system installed. A member of the public (who worked in Communications) advised that the gap in provision would eventually be filled by the Government, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **F. Scottish Water**

After consideration of correspondence from Scottish Water, which had been previously emailed, advising on how to report leaks and burst, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

## **G. Scottish Islands Passports**

Members considered correspondence advising on a Scottish Government funded project to encourage people to visit more of the Scottish islands. A member of Flotta Heritage Trust showed an interest and advised that she would bring it to their next meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and the discussion.

## **H. Remembering Together, Flotta**

Following consideration of correspondence from R Bryant regarding the Remembering Together project for Flotta and the proposal to provide an outdoor seating space/garden in the play park, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the correspondence.
2. To note that the project officer would check if Planning Permission was required.
3. That stone for the project could possibly be sourced from the already quarried stone at the quarry.

## **5. Consultations**

### **A. Local Transport Strategy**

Following consideration of the Local Transport Strategy, which had been previously emailed due to the deadline of 8 December 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the document and that no comments had been forwarded.

### **B. Papdale Halls of Residence**

Following consideration of a consultation from Orkney Islands Council, regarding a recent review of their policy on admissions from Hoy and Flotta, which had been previously emailed due to the deadline of 3 January 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that one response had been received and forwarded to the relevant officer.

### **C. Ferry Services Consultative Forum Meeting**

Mr N Cheeseman advised that an offer had been made at the Forum for the Transport Representatives from the south isles to meet with Officers to discuss the ferry timetables. It was raised that it was felt that there were inadequacies in the online booking system, and they would be taken to the next forum meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that the Transport Representative would raise the issues with the online booking system at the next meeting.

### **D. Winter Service Plan**

Following consideration of the Winter Service Plan, which had been previously emailed, member discussed the locations of the grit bins and how the lids of the bin did not stay closed. It was also mentioned that there was only one priority road, and could consideration be given to adding the remaining roads as well, and it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Islands Council about the siting of the grit bins and if the remaining roads could be included in the same priority.

### **E. Orkney Local Development Plan Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the Orkney Local Development Plan, which had a deadline of 7 March 2024, it was:

Resolved that Mrs J Ward would look at the documents on behalf of the community council to see what may be relevant to Flotta.

### **F. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan, which had a deadline of 29 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Islands Council that the verge offlets were overgrown and required to be cut and cleared after the recent influx of silt caused by the excessive rainfall recently.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £53,412.37.

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

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, and whether the account should remain open or the funds transferred to the General Account, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance was £4,275.77.
2. That the Wind Fund account should remain open meantime.

### **C. Burnside Account**

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £7,135.78.

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

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 16 January 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

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

### **E. Community Development Fund**

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 16 January 2024, 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 16 January 2024, 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**

Resolved to note that there were no financial requests to be considered.

## **8. Publications**

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

- SIF Member Bulletin – December 2023.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – November and December 2023.

## **9. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

Resolved that this item had been covered at Item 5(c) above.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note that the planning application for the polycrubs had been validated.

### **C. Health and Care**

Resolved to note that the next meeting of the Health and Care Group was due to be held on 4 March 2024.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Ferry Waiting Room**

A member of the public asked why the Ferry Waiting Room was being locked overnight and was advised that this was due to the premises being misused therefore an official decision had been taken to lock the building overnight, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and to ask if it could be locked from 19:00 to 07:00 or at least locked after the last ferry left the island.

Due to the sensitive nature of the following items, they were discussed in private.

### **B. Kirkyard Tenders**

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

Resolved to award the contract to G Goddard.

### **C. Putting Green Tenders**

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

Resolved to award the contract to A Holland.

### **D. Planning Enforcement**

Members discussed the contents of correspondence received from Flotta residents/property owners regarding the recent issue of an enforcement notice being served on a member of the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the Councillor L Hall would make queries on behalf of the Community Council.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

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

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at 16:15.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 14:00.