

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 15:45

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Stockan (via Teams).
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Election of Office Bearers	2
3. Adoption of Minutes	2
4. Matters Arising.....	2
5. Correspondence	6
6. Consultations	7
7. Financial Statements	7
8. Financial Requests	8
9. Publications	8
10. Reports from Representatives	8
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	9
12. Date of Next Meeting	10
13. Conclusion of Meeting	10

1. Apologies

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

2. Election of Office Bearers

Following a series of secret ballots, it was:

Resolved to note that the following appointments were made:

Chair – Mrs R Biddle.

Vice Chair – Mr N Cheeseman.

Transport Representative – Mr N Cheeseman.

Planning Representative – Mrs J Ward.

Health and Care Representative – Mrs R Biddle.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Flotta Community Council held on 3 October 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mr N Cheeseman and seconded by Mrs J Ward.

4. Matters Arising

A. Community Transport

A member reported that a discussion had been had by the sub-committee and that they were looking at various alternatives, and that more research was needed into permits. They had drawn up a survey so they could gauge levels of uptake and assess whether it would be financially viable.

Councillor L Hall advised that the Haey Hope Club in Hoy would be worth contacting for advice on how any scheme could work, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. COMAH Plan

The Chair advised that the visit to the Flotta Terminal by community council members the previous week had been very interesting, and that the manager had advised that he was happy to hold a public meeting to give residents more information and an opportunity to ask questions. A draft Public Information Zone leaflet had been circulated and it was intended to put these out to all households. It was also noted that the LPG plant had now been removed so the terminal generated a lot less gas than they used to, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Community Asset Transfer – Area of Land

Councillor J Stockan joined the meeting during discussion on this item.

It was advised that the sub-committee had not met, but that suggestions would be welcome on a use for the land. It was agreed that this was very much a long-term project and the community council needed to get it right for all of the island's residents, so the whole community needed to be involved.

A member of the public asked if the land included the play park, and what its current use was for in planning terms, as perhaps change of use would need to be applied for. The Community Council Liaison Officer reminded members that they were sold the land on the basis that it was for "community use", and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would make enquiries regarding what the status of the land was.

D. 13 and 14 Burnside

It was advised that the sub-committee had not met. It was agreed that the electrical work required would need to be listed and a tender put out. It was also agreed that Mr K Gee should be thanked for the work he had put in to temporarily make good the windows, but a member advised that if they were to fail again, then a more permanent solution would need to be sought. Thanks were also noted to those that had repaired the fence at the front of the properties, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would get the information from Mrs P Gee regarding electrical work required in the Burnside houses and put together a tender.
2. To note thanks to those that had helped with recent repairs.
3. To note that the repair to the window was temporary and a more permanent solution would need to be looked at.

E. New Notice Board

The Chair advised that she had been to St Colms regarding the notice board and that they promised to have it ready before Christmas, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Tarmac at Gibraltar Pier

The Community Council Liaison Officer read out a response from the Interim Service Manager for Property and Capital Projects, which advised that the white lining was down to be part of the waiting room works but it was decided not to do it at the time. He had further advised that the issue with the kerb was where to stop, as this was as far as the existing building and wall went. Members were not content with the response, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor L Hall would make enquiries in this regard with the relevant department.

G. Pier End Container

The Interim Clerk advised that deliveries were now being left in the waiting room, and that this solution seemed to be working. The Flotta Terminal had offered a container for use at the end of the pier, but it was deemed that this would be too big for what would be required. Members asked if something could be put there to stand in and shelter when waiting for the ferry, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would enquire as to whether a smaller container could be found for the end of the pier for deliveries and shelter.

H. Flotta Men's Shed

It was agreed that clarification was required regarding the Men's Shed proposal to use land at the putting green to site their polycrubs, so that their application for planning could be progressed. As the community council leased the site from Orkney Islands Council, their permission was required. However, it was noted that Orkney Islands Council ultimately own the land and therefore would have final say on whether they approved of the Men's Shed using the land. It was also advised that the lease that the community council had with OIC regarding the land stated that it could not be used for any other purpose than a putting green.

Following discussion, a vote was taken, and the majority were in favour of allowing the Men's Shed to use the land leased by Flotta Community Council for the siting of polycrubs.

It was also agreed that Flotta Community Council would cover the cost of the plans being drawn up, being £76, and the planning fee of £300.

Comments were made regarding the length of time taken to receive updates from the planning officers, and that correspondence was not signed by a named officer so there was no point of reference for any enquiries. They referred to the principles of public life and asked if it would be possible to ask the planning department if it was appropriate for correspondence to be sent without a signature. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Flotta Community Council gave permission for Flotta Men's Shed to use the land they leased for the putting green to site two polycrubs.
2. That Flotta Community Council supported the planning application for two polycrubs by Flotta Men's Shed, would assist with the planning application and cover the cost of the £300 fee, subject to CCGS approval.
3. That Flotta Community Council would cover the cost of plans being drawn up, being £76.

4. That the Interim Clerk would enquire as to whether it was appropriate for correspondence to be sent from the planning department with no signature.

I. Photographic Competition

The Chair provided an update on the results of the photography competition which had been judged by Ken Amer. Rose Biddle had been awarded second and third place, and Bruce Findlay had been awarded first prize. His photograph would be put forward to The Orcadian to be used in the next edition of the Islander magazine. The Chair also advised that all the photographs submitted had been loaded on to a pen drive should anyone wish to receive a copy or have a print. She suggested that perhaps the Heritage Trust would like to work in conjunction with the community council in having a calendar produced, following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Rose Biddle wished her prize funds to be donated to a local charity (Flotta Burnside Residents Association).
3. That the prize funding would be processed to the winners once payment details had been provided.

J. Play Park Renewal Fund

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that information had been provided to members on the different types of equipment available and that some community consultation would be required if an application was to be submitted to the PPRF, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That a public meeting should be arranged by CC members to gauge interest in what pieces of equipment would be suitable for the play park.

K. Scrap Car Scheme

The Interim Clerk advised that a poster had not yet been produced, and it was agreed that a poster should be displayed asking for notes of interest, after which point the finer details of any scheme could be agreed, providing there was enough interest, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To display a poster asking for notes of interest in a scrap car scheme with a closing date falling prior to the next community council meeting.
2. That this item would be discussed further at the next meeting, if there was sufficient interest in the scheme.

5. Correspondence

A. West of Orkney Windfarm

Members had previously been sent information regarding applications submitted by West of Orkney Windfarm, and advice that comments required to be returned no later than 20 November 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

A copy of the Winter Service Plan for the current season had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that the operative was doing a good job.

C. My Place Awards 2024

Correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust had previously been circulated to members, advising of the My Place Awards which celebrate projects and people that work to improve places and communities in Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council – Benches

A survey had been received from the clerk to Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, asking for information in relation to the purchase and maintenance of community benches. The Chair asked Mrs P Gee if she could ask Mr K Gee if he had available space to store benches for the winter to allow them to dry out in time for Spring. The Chair would have the chance then to paint/treat prior to the benches being put back in place, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Ms J Ward would complete the survey.
2. That Mrs P Gee would ask Mr K Gee if he would store the existing benches over the winter and the Chair would treat them.

E. Business Gateway Orkney – New Business Event

Copies of correspondence from Business Gateway Orkney had previously been sent round members, advising that officers were hoping to offer a workshop in local community halls for people who were thinking about starting a new business, and it was:

Resolved that any interested parties in Flotta could contact Business Gateway Orkney directly.

6. Consultations

A. National Islands Plan – Consultation Events

Members had previously been sent information on two consultation events in Stromness and Westray on 6 and 7 November in relation to the National Islands Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Review of Biosecurity Plan

The Interim Clerk advised members that the Orkney Native Wildlife Project had contacted her asking if members wished to be provided with an update on the plan for Flotta, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond to ONWP explaining that it would be nice to know where the traps were, but that a full update was not required.

C. PhD Research – Scottish National Islands Plan

A copy of correspondence from Adele Lidderdale had previously been circulated to members, asking for assistance with a survey she was doing in relation to a PhD research project around Our Islands, Our Future, and it was:

Resolved that members could complete this survey as individuals.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Flotta Community Council as at 13 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £53,951.39.

B. Wind Power Fund

Following consideration of the wind power fund statement for Flotta Community Council as at 13 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £4,275.77.

C. Burnside Account

Following consideration of the Burnside Account statement for Flotta Community Council as at 13 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £7,019.93.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of Flotta Community Council's CCGS statement dated 12 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that £256.52, £743 and £719 remained available for allocation in the main, additional and island capping limits respectively.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF fund statement for Flotta Community Council as at 12 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the total balance remaining for allocation to projects was £5,980.51.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn fund statement for Flotta Community Council as at 12 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note that the total balance remaining for allocation to projects was £3,161.00.

8. Financial Requests

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

9. Publications

The following publications had been received and forwarded to members, and were noted:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – September and October 2023.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command Newsletter – November 2023.
- ORSAS Newsletter – November 2023.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

It was advised that the ferry timetable had been changed for a Sunday to give a longer day but that some consistency was needed. The winter timetable was studied, and it was agreed that this should be raised at the next ferry service consultative forum meeting in the new year. Councillor L Hall offered to speak to Orkney Ferries meantime, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there were no applications of concern.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that there was due to be another meeting of the Joint Isles Health and Care group next week.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Grass Cutting Tenders

Members discussed the tenders for the kirkyard grass cutting, along with other community areas. It was agreed that the tender should go out for the kirkyard grass cutting on the basis of 10 cuts, and that a similar tender should go out for the cutting of the putting green, both on a one year contract and with a closing date of the next meeting. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would draw up tender documents and advertise accordingly, with a closing date of 29 January 2024.

B. Flotta Community School and 20mph Signage

Members asked about the status of the school, as they believed that there were no children currently attending the school. They also asked about whether the 20mph signage and lights would still be erected if the school was to be mothballed, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor L Hall would investigate this matter.

C. Handyman

Members again asked about the possibility of having a handyman for the island. Following further discussion, it appeared that the jobs related to housing repairs and faults on the road network, and it was:

Resolved that a poster would be made up by the Interim Clerk and put on display, to advise of how to report a fault to Orkney Islands Council.

D. Tourist Tax

A member of the public raised the issue of the proposed tourist tax, and commented that, depending on how this was applied, this could have an impact on Flotta residents having to spend a night in Kirkwall prior to hospital appointments or travelling south. Councillor J Stockan advised that this was in OIC's sights and whether this tax was applied was up to the individual local authorities. OIC would be taking everything into consideration, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

E. Hydrogen on Flotta

Councillor L Hall and Mrs P Gee left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Councillor J Stockan advised that he had recently had a meeting with representatives of the hydrogen hub, and asked if community council members would like a presentation at a future date, and it was:

Resolved that Flotta Community Council would like to receive a presentation on the hydrogen hub proposal and that Councillor J Stockan would advise the representatives.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of a date for the next meeting, taking into account that it should be a public meeting to elect to the vacancy on the community council, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Flotta Community Council would take place on Sunday, 4 February 2024, with a public meeting to be held prior to the general meeting.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 18:12.