

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 8 July 2025 at 16:15

Present:

Mrs R Biddle, Mrs K Bradley, 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 J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
 - Mrs A Holland, Clerk.
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- 9 members of the public.

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Prior to the official start of the meeting, a minute silence was held for Brian Laurie, a local resident of Flotta, who had passed away the previous week.

1. Apologies

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

2. Election of Office Bearers

After a series of secret ballots, it was:

Resolved that the following members were elected to positions as follows:

- Chair - Mrs K Bradley.
- Vice-Chair - Mrs R Biddle.
- Planning Representative - Mrs J Ward.
- Transport Representative - Mr N Cheeseman.
- Health and Care Representative - Mrs I Smith.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 13 May 2025 was approved, being proposed by Mrs I Smith and seconded by Mrs J Ward.

4. Matters Arising

A. Triangular Area of Land at Burnside

Mrs R Biddle confirmed that all the trees had been received from the Woodland Trust and that the area would be prepared for the trees. Democratic Services informed members that they had not had a response from Leslie Burgher, however a quote had been received to draft a plan for works for the garden of £1,100 plus VAT from Cindy Mackenzie. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr N Biddle would plant the trees, leaving space for access.
2. That the quotation from Cindy Mackenzie would be accepted.
3. That details would be put together for planning application.
4. That funding for the draft plans and planning application fee would come from the Community Council Grant Scheme, subject to approval.

B. 13 and 14 Burnside

The Clerk informed members that local gardening businesses had been contacted regarding the lawns at 13 and 14 Burnside, however, there was no positive outcome for work in the summer as contractors were busy with their own work. Euan Mackenzie, Gardener, stated that he would be available later in the year.

Members also discussed the options available for Wi-Fi at the properties and possible updates i.e. new sofa for No.14 and curtain rails for both properties. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs R Biddle would treat the lawns for moss at 13 and 14 Burnside and would hire a scarifier and arrange to purchase the necessary items.
2. That the hire of a scarifier and other good would be paid for from general funds.
3. That the best option for the internet would be to have the Muckle package installed in one of the houses on a 24-month contract with a booster in the second house, and that the Clerk would contact the provider (Cloudnet) to see if this was possible.
4. That the sub-committee for the properties would compose of Mrs R Biddle, Mrs A Newby-Tucker and Mrs A Holland (Clerk).

C. Play Park

It was reported that, to date, nobody had been found to cut the grass at the play park on a permanent basis. A member of the public highlighted several new items in the Scotplay brochure that may be suitable for the playpark, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Clerk would contact Scotplay for prices and details regarding delivery and installation of selected equipment.
2. To note that the question of insurance was raised, however it was advised that this would already be covered by the Public Liability Insurance for the playpark.

D. Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Paths

Mrs P Gee informed members that the paths still needed cutting and evidence of an agreement for the Council to maintain the paths had been found, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would be asked, via the business letter, to look into the matter and check the markers etc.

E. School House Wall

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

Resolved that the matter would be chased with the appropriate department.

F. Fallen Road Sign

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

Resolved that the matter would be chased with the appropriate department.

G. Heritage Centre Heating

Mrs P Gee informed members that they were awaiting a second quote regarding the repair. The question was also raised about who was responsible for payment, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a decision would be made on funding once both quotes had been received.
2. To note that it had been confirmed by Democratic Services that the Heritage Trust were responsible for any payment for repairs and that the Heritage Trust could ask Flotta Community Council for funding.

5. Correspondence

A. Island Games Road Closures

Following consideration of correspondence received from Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure outlining road closures planned during the Island Games, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

B. ERCS

Following consideration of correspondence received from ERCS (Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland) outlining free support and advice, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

C. 2025 SURF Awards Open for Application

Following consideration of correspondence received from 2025 SURF Awards, which were open for application for Best Practice in Community Regeneration and details of how to apply, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

D. The Orkney Fund - Expression of Interest Forms

Following consideration of correspondence received from Economic Development, OIC, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding The Orkney Fund EoI forms, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

E. Ayre Offshore Windfarm

Following consideration of correspondence from Thistle Wind Partners, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a proposed offshore windfarm which would be situated 22km off the east coast of Orkney, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

F. RTS Switch-Off Information

Following consideration of correspondence from THAW Orkney, copies of which had previously been sent to members, concerning the RTS (Radio Teleswitch Service) Replacement Program, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ensure that relevant information and posters were displayed on the islands' noticeboards.

6. Consultations

A. SEPA – Online Information Session for Communities on EPAS

Following consideration of correspondence relating to an online information session about EPAS proposals, copies of which had previously been sent to members, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had passed on 4 June 2025.

B. National Islands Plan - Engagement

Following consideration of correspondence from Scottish Islands Federation, copies of which had previously been circulated, outlining various dates for online discussions of the new National Islands Plan, it was:

Resolved to note that the events had passed.

C. Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

Following consideration of correspondence regarding the consultation on the Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, copies of which had previously been emailed to members, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed for the in-person event in Kirkwall, however, the on-line events would run until 22 August 2025.

D. Invite – Community Wealth Building Action Plan Online Meeting 24 June 2025

Members had previously been sent an invite to a meeting on 24 June to discuss the Community Wealth Building Action Plan.

Mr N Cheeseman informed members that he took part in the online meeting to obtain details of grant schemes that were available. Councillor G Bevan advised all communities to have a plan ready for when funding became available. Mrs P Gee informed members that some other Community Councils have submitted their plans online. Councillor L Hall stated that due to the cycle correspondence comes in, the deadline can sometimes be missed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would look into submission of plans and forward details to the Chair.
2. That the Clerk would continue to monitor emails and send to members highlighting those which have a short time frame.

E. Timetable Procedure

Mrs I Smith stated that communication between Flotta and Hoy regarding the ferry timetable was poor and that she had not been aware that Hoy had asked for a change of time on next years' timetable. Councillor L Hall commented that decisions rely on bus times and the crew's working hours. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and that the Transport Representative would advise members of any proposed changes to timetables.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

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

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £59,330.47.

B. Wind Power Fund

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

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £21,215.77.
2. To request that Democratic Services locate agreement for the Wind Power Fund.

C. Burnside Account

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

Resolved to note that the balance was £4,263.04.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 June 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.
2. To note the Additional Capping Limit had £780 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 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

A. Kirk Strimmer

Further to the request from Mr G Goddard for a replacement brush cutter style strimmer for the Kirk, to replace the previous machine owned by Flotta Community Council, which had been forwarded to members for a response, it was:

Resolved to note that the new strimmer had been purchased at the cost of £485 from the Community Council Grant Scheme.

B. Seating

A request had been received from a member of the public asking if the Community Council would be willing to purchase and install a seat at Stanger Head. It was suggested that this could be used by members of the public, especially those who had come to view the puffins. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To purchase a recycled plastic bench seat to place at Stanger Head from general funds.

2. That the Clerk would contact William Shearer's in Kirkwall to obtain a price for a bench.

9. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – April 2025.
- Free Family Fun Day – 15 June 2025.
- Orkney Digital Voice Event.
- VAO – Training and Funding Update May 2025

10. Reports From Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that there was no further update.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there was no further update.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that the Health and Care Representative reported that at the recent meeting the question was raised of having an additional disability room on the ferry.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Putting Green

The Clerk informed members that despite putting in his resignation to maintain the putting green due to health issues, Mr A Holland was now in a position to continue to maintain the putting green, and it was:

Resolved

1. That Mr A Holland would be asked to continue to maintain the putting green.
2. That the location of the holes on the putting green needed to be more obvious, one suggestion being to buy coloured cups that fitted above the hole into which the flags could be put, and that this should be investigated.

B. Roads

Mr N Cheeseman brought it to the members attention that there was a lot of loose grit on the road near the cattle grid. It was also noted that due to the ditches and outlets getting blocked puddles were forming on the roadside. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would raise this in the business of meeting letter to Democratic Services so that they could report the matters to the relevant department at OIC.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

Following consideration of dates for the next meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Flotta Community Council would be held on Tuesdays 2 September and 4 November 2025 at 16:15 in Flotta Community Centre.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:20.