

# Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 29 November 2022 at 16:15

## 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 G Bevan (via Teams).
  - Councillor J Stockan (via Teams).
  - Mr K McPherson, Property and Asset Management Facilities.
  - Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
  - Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
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- Six members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies had been intimated by Mrs J Smith.

## **2. Island Emergency – COMAH Plan**

The Chair advised that the presentation by the Safety and Resilience Officer and the Terminal Manager had been postponed so that it could be held as a public meeting early in the new year, and it was:

Resolved to note that a public meeting would be held for Flotta residents early in 2023 to discuss the COMAH plan.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting of Flotta Community Council held on 20 September (which was adjourned) was adopted, being proposed by Mr C Mullins and seconded by Mrs R Biddle.

The minute of the reconvened meeting held on 6 October 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mrs P Gee and seconded by Mr C Mullins.

## **4. Matters Arising**

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

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that this project was now in the hands of members and that whatever they decided to do with the area of land would need to be for the benefit of all the community and also be in line with the reasoning behind them being sold it in the first place. She suggested that members should gather information and views of the residents and bear in mind the original idea of a community garden, and it was:

Resolved to discuss this matter again at the next meeting.

### **B. Play Park Equipment – Repsol Sinopec**

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that she had been in touch with the terminal, and they had agreed to erect the equipment in the spring when the weather was better and the ground was a bit drier, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would get back in touch with the terminal in the new year to arrange the installation of the equipment.

### **C. 13 and 14 Burnside**

The Chair advised that, since the last meeting, members had requested from Democratic Service details of the lease, information on what they could and couldn't do, and details what insurance cover was in place. Accordingly, members had been provided at the meeting with this information. Members were informed that the buildings were insured by OIC, but the contents were covered under the community council's public liability cover.

It had been queried whether they could use the Airbnb platform to rent out the properties, but the Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there may be issues with this, and that perhaps they could look at the system OIC used to rent out other Council properties such as those in Hoy and Birsay. She offered to check with OIC Finance what the preferred set up would be for taking payments.

It was agreed that there was nothing else that the community council could do until they had another meeting of the sub-committee, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

#### **D. New Notice Board**

Members had previously asked about the possibility of installing a dropped kerb below the notice board, outside the school. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that Education was responsible for this area, but that it would not be covered under the school's budget. Members asked how much it would cost, and Mrs R Biddle advised that she had spoken to someone at St Colm's about the dropped kerb, and it was:

Resolved to ask Roads Support via the business letter what the installation of a dropped kerb would cost.

#### **E. Bicycle Shelter**

No further information had been obtained, and it was:

Resolved to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

#### **F. Wind Turbine Fund**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she had sent a letter on behalf of Flotta Community Council to the new owners of the community turbine, after Mrs J Smith had provided an address in Glasgow. She advised that the letter had subsequently been returned to Democratic Services, unopened.

Councillor J Stockan reported that he had spoken to the previous owner after the turbine had been sold and he had been under the impression that community benefit payments would continue, and offered to enquire further with the previous owner, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor J Stockan would enquire with the previous owner if there was an alternative address for the new owners.

#### **G. Old Phone Box**

Members discussed the proposal to adopt the old phone box, and agreed that there was not an appropriate use for the phone box, and it was:

Resolved that the community council did not wish to pursue the adoption of the phone box.

## **H. Car Parking Spaces for Blue Badge Holders**

Mrs R Biddle advised that there were still people interested in having more disabled spaces at Burnside, and that this would have to be put to the Roads Support Manager. It was advised that this would obviously reduce the overall number of car parking spaces. A member suggested using part of the green space outside number 7 for blue badge holder spaces. They advised that there were currently 6 households who had blue badges and that there were only 2 blue badge spaces available for use; one of those parking spaces was always full. Members queried whether there was anything in legislation that stated how many parking spaces one household was entitled to, and it was:

Resolved to ask Roads Support and Housing, via the business letter, if it would be possible for consideration to be given to additional blue badge spaces being provided at Burnside West.

## **I. Christmas Tree Lighting 2022**

Mrs R Biddle advised that she would be collecting the tree on Thursday, 1 December, and that battery powered lights would be put on the tree, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **J. Christmas Gifts**

It was reported that the advert had been circulated around the island asking for applications for the Christmas gift and that, to date, there had been 21 enquiries, and it was:

Resolved to note that the closing date for applications was 9 December 2022.

## **K. Burnside Housing Square**

It was reported that nothing further had been said about possible uses for the square. The bicycle shelter was discussed, and members reported that it was going to be objected to if it is outside someone's house as they would see this as a disturbance, and it was:

Resolved to carry this item forward to the following meeting.

## **L. Island Handy Person**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that a roads operative was now employed in Flotta on a casual basis, and that any repairs that were deemed to be the Council's responsibility should be reported to OIC Customer Services. It would be up to individuals to offer a handy person service should they wish to provide this, as it would not be something the community council could administer, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **M. Tesco Deliveries**

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that she had written to Tesco and that no response had been received to date, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **N. Warm Hub**

Members resumed consideration of the proposal to provide a Warm Hub in the community centre and agreed that this would be something for the Community Association to discuss. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she had asked that Democratic Services be advised of any repairs to the school/community centre so that the relevant people could be advised in terms of bookings. She also advised that the Community Association should contact Education regarding any issues rather than take them through the Community Council for action.

Councillor L Hall offered to speak to the Education department about the heating, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Flotta Community Association should pursue issues directly with the Education department.
3. That Councillor L Hall would contact Education regarding the broken heater.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. HITRANS – Scottish Islands – Windracers**

The Chair advised that if any members of the public had noticed items on agenda list of correspondence that they wished to know more about, they could ask a community council member to see it.

Members considered correspondence from HITRANS, which had previously been circulated, regarding windracers, suggesting that community councils might have some good ideas about how windracers could be used within their communities. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. SSEN – Stakeholder Surgery**

Members considered correspondence from SSEN, copies of which had previously been circulated, containing information on a stakeholder surgery which had been held the previous day, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **C. Offshore Wind Power Ltd – Proposal of Application Notice**

Members discussed correspondence from Offshore Wind Power Ltd (the West of Orkney Windfarm), copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding their intention to submit applications to construct an offshore windfarm and the associated onshore transmission infrastructure to connect the West of Orkney Windfarm to the

grid at, or near, the Spittal substation in Caithness. Details of public consultation events were also included within the correspondence, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To note that Councillor J Stockan advised the community council to contact Jack Farnham and ask him about the implications for Flotta Community Council.

#### **D. Meeting with the Convener of NZET**

Correspondence from Voluntary Action Orkney had previously been circulated to members, which invited members to a meeting on 28 November to speak with the Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee about their experiences of using local ferry services, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

#### **E. Shapinsay Community Council – Ferries**

A letter from the Chair of Shapinsay Community Council regarding Orkney Ferries and the need for new vessels had previously been circulated to members and was read out by the Chair. Councillor L Hall spoke in defence of the Councillors and advised that Councillors had spoken to the Scottish Government on a number of occasions but that they were not taking on board the very real problems that Orkney had. He agreed that there were very serious problems, and that we didn't want them to be, but that everyone was very keen to solve these problems.

Councillor L Hall continued that it would perhaps help if there were letters from all community councils and from the general public as well, to support the case for new ferries and to inform of the problems faced using the ferries and document the real evidence of need.

Councillor J Stockan added that he was delighted that there was going to be a united front as he felt we need everyone to help. He advised that he was due to speak to the Deputy First Minister tomorrow, and if that was unsuccessful then we need to mobilise communities and speak about the disadvantages we have and mount a national campaign. The vintage fleet were becoming dangerous by their age, and don't conform to the more modern disabled standard, and he suggested that FCC should certainly respond to Shapinsay and say that they would be part of this effort.

Councillor G Bevan added that there was a CRG meeting the following night and suggested that the communities make bit of a splash, as recently with the NHS situation joint letter, and that it was more powerful if all the communities got together. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Chair would draft a letter to respond to Shapinsay Community Council regarding the need to replace ferries.

## **6. Consultations**

### **A. EMEC – Application to Vary Section 36 Consent**

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence regarding an application to the Scottish Ministers for a variation to the existing section 36 consent, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Verge Maintenance Plan**

Members had previously been circulated the consultation on the verge maintenance plan, and the Chair advised that there had been some changes but not to Flotta, and it was:

Resolved that no comments should be forwarded on behalf of Flotta Community Council.

### **C. Boundary Commission for Scotland**

A consultation from the Boundary Commission for Scotland on its Revised Proposals of UK Parliament constituencies had been forwarded previously to members, and members noted that there had been no proposed changes for Orkney or Shetland, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

After consideration of the General Fund statement as at 14 November 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £49,797.74.

### **B. Burnside Account**

After consideration of the Burnside statement as at 14 November 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £7,183.56.
2. To note that there would be another meeting of the subcommittee again shortly to discuss rates and charges.

### **C. Wind Power Fund**

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 14 November 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the estimated balance was £4,621.77.
2. To note the proposal that the money in this fund be transferred to the General Fund.

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

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 14 November 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £1,018.84, £743 and £719 remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits respectively.

## **E. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 14 November 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that £5,980.51 remained available for allocation.
2. To note that there was no guarantee or any further tranches of CDF funding.

## **F. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 14 November 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,161 remained available for allocation.

## **8. Financial Requests**

Resolved to note that no financial requests had been received.

## **9. Publications**

Resolved to note that the following publications had been previously circulated to members and had been made available:

- Orkney Harbours Newsletter – October and November 2022.
- Scottish Water Autumn Newsletter.
- NHS SHARE.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

## **10. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Planning Representative**

Resolved to note that there had been nothing pertaining to Flotta on the weekly lists of late.

## **B. Transport Representative**

The Chair asked Councillor L Hall about the Sunday ferry timetable, and whether the meeting to adopt the timetables had happened, and he confirmed that it had and that Flotta and Hoy would be getting the same Sunday timetable without the request element, throughout the year. The Chair also advised that they had also discussed the decrepitude of the ferries and how to go about getting funding. Jim Buck had pointed out to those that had suggested having a “reserve ferry” that all the docks and linkspans are different so it wouldn’t work. The South Isles ferries were not interchangeable and there was a mountain of regulation, such as linkspan gradings. It had also been advised that they couldn’t have one of the North Isles boats on the Hoy and Flotta run so the interchangeability wasn’t so easy. Following the discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the report.

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

### **A. Dog Bins**

A member advised that there was a number of people who walk, and tourists who stop at Kirk Bay or at the airfield and because there were no bins at these locations, they had to take their dog mess or rubbish with them. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to ask, via the business letter to Democratic Services, that general waste bins be sited at the corner before you turn off to Stanger Head and at Kirk Bay.

### **B. Repair to Tarmac near Gibraltar Pier Linkspan**

Members advised that they had asked for a repair to be done to the tarmac near the linkspan and that it had gotten dangerous. There was also a patch which was coned off which needed to be tarmacked. They queried who was responsible for that and the footpath, and could they be waiting for the works to be finished at the waiting room. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to ask the relevant Council service about the road surface at the pier, via the business letter to Democratic Services.

### **C. Repair to roadway at junction near Old Navy Cinema**

It was reported that there were inch deep potholes at the junction near the cinema, and it was:

Resolved that this was not an adopted road, and therefore the Council were unlikely to carry out any work at this location.

### **D. Cattle Grid**

Members advised that there had been a lot of loose gravel on the corner at the cattle grid, which could be quite dangerous. It was reported that this had since been swept up but that it should be kept an eye on in case it built up again, and it was:

Resolved to monitor this location in case gravel built up again.

## **E. Forest**

It was advised that Flotta Heritage Trust are meeting with the Council on this, so Councillor J Stockan would provide an update to them instead, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

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

Members discussed moving the meetings to a Saturday, as this would give more time to discuss some items more thoroughly. It was agreed to think about this meantime, and it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Flotta Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 16:15 at Flotta Community Centre and via Teams.

## **13. Conclusion of Meetings**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 17:55.