

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 17 January 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:

- Councillor G Bevan (via Teams).
- Councillor L Hall.
- Councillor J Stockan.
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.

- Five members of the public.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that no apologies had been intimated.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Flotta Community Council held on 29 November 2022 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs R Biddle and seconded by Mrs J Ward.

3. Matters Arising

A. COMAH Plan

Resolved to note that the Chair would liaise with the Terminal Manager regarding what the Community Council was expecting in relation to a public meeting on the plan.

B. Community Asset Transfer – Area of Land

Members had considered information on the purchase of the land which had been passed to them since the last meeting but commented that the lease was referring to a document that they did not have and they still had queries on what they were or were not permitted to do. They asked to have more information before they made any more decisions on this item. It was agreed to set up a subcommittee for this project, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the subcommittee would consist of the Chair, Mrs R Biddle, Mr C Mullins and Mrs J Ward.
2. That the Clerk would obtain some legal advice from the CC's solicitor regarding the lease.

C. Play Park Equipment – Repsol Sinopec

Resolved to wait until the spring to pursue the installation of the equipment further with the terminal.

D. 13 and 14 Burnside

Mrs P Gee had passed on further information on the properties but the other members stated that they felt they were still not clear on the full picture of what the houses cost to run. Covid was also in the mix so members felt it had been harder to work out what the usual position would be and therefore what to set the rates at.

Short Term Let Legislation was discussed, and it was agreed that this would need to be taken into consideration when deciding what to do

Ms J Smith asked if the rates for electricity were through a corporate and asked what the current rate was, and this was confirmed. She stated that the electricity contract was due to be renewed from 31 March 2023. She continued that as we were approaching the end of the financial year, to give the subcommittee a true figure, she

would like to have all the money to date (to 31 March) credited to the account before the end of the financial year, any invoices/bills pertaining to 2022 paid and showing on this year's financial accounts, and all housekeeping and grass cutting payments made and shown up on the accounts for 2022. This would enable the subcommittee to have a clearer view of what is going on, so that the subcommittee can make a well informed decision on the pricing. The two properties would need to be separated so that they could see the cost for each, also.

It was also requested that the outstanding booking dates be passed on to give as best a view as possible and Mrs P Gee agreed to continue doing this. It was advised that the subcommittee needed to get together sooner rather than later to discuss this issue, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would be asked to provide the information requested and ensure, as far as possible, that the accounts were up to date for 2022.

Councillor G Bevan joined the meeting via Teams during discussion of this item.

E. New Notice Board

Mrs R Biddle had contacted St Colm's about making a new notice board, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and carry this item forward to the next meeting.

F. Bicycle Shelter

Mrs R Biddle had spoken to residents at Burnside and advised that nobody was against the idea but none were keen on having the structure backing on to their garden. She had requested the brochures from two companies so that the CC could see what was available. It was mentioned that planning permission may be required for any structure and also permission sought from OIC Housing, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That Mrs R Biddle would circulate the brochures once they had been received.
3. That the Clerk would make enquiries regarding planning permission.

G. Wind Turbine Fund

Councillor J Stockan advised that the previous owner was no longer in Orkney, and he had not managed to contact the new owners to date. A member suggested that SSE would know who was receiving the feed-in tariff, but this information would be commercially sensitive, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would contact Enercon to see if they knew how to contact the new owners.

H. Car Parking Spaces for Blue Badge Holders

Members had received an email from Democratic Services advising that the Team Manager, Roads Support had advised that there was a process for disabled badge holders to request that a bay is marked near their property, and a link to the relevant OIC page had been included, and it was:

Resolved to ask all the individuals to apply separately for a dedicated disabled space.

I. Christmas Gifts

The Clerk advised that ? had applied for the grant and that Mrs P Gee had kindly helped with putting out the envelopes.

A member raised the point that two islanders had made comments regarding the £20 grant, and that it was discriminating. The Chair suggested that the CC take these comments into consideration when this item is discussed later in the year, and also bear in mind what the funding situation is, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and return to this item later in the year.

J. Burnside Housing Square

There were no further proposals from members as to what to do with the square at Burnside, however it was reported that a resident had queried whether a track could be put down the side of 14 Burnside and additional parking provided. It was suggested that further consultation with residents would be required.

Parking on the other side of Burnside was raised and the layout of existing spaces. Councillor Stockan advised that Housing will have responsibility for the car park and that the request would need to go to that department.

Unlicensed vehicles were also mentioned, and it was:

Resolved that members would look at the car parking areas at Burnside and consider ways the space could be maximised so that OIC Housing could be approached regarding an alternative layout.

K. Tesco Deliveries

The Clerk advised that no response had been provided and the Chair suggested that this item be removed from the agenda, and it was:

Resolved to no longer pursue this matter.

L. Warm Hub

The Clerk advised that the work order had been placed to fix the heating in the community room but that the work was yet to be carried out. In relation to the idea of a warm hub, it was agreed that it really needed to be a charitable organisation that took this on, and it was:

Resolved to remove this item from the agenda.

M. Shapinsay CC Letter – Ferries

The Chair reported that he had written a letter on behalf of Flotta CC in response to Shapinsay CC's initial letter regarding the level of service and ageing ferries. It was agreed that a united front needed to be shown.

Councillor Stockan gave an update on what they had been offered in terms of the budget compared to the Western Isles and advised that they had some real challenges in this regard. He felt that the communities needed to start making a fuss, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

N. Dog Bins

The Clerk read out a response from the Waste Coordination Manager who advised that the bin at the play park could be relocated and one new one provided so that there were bins at the corner of the road to Stanger Head and at Kirk Bay. Members were reluctant to lose the bin at the play park, bearing in mind that it could become a more well used area in future when the site was developed, and asked that this bin remain and two new ones be provided, and it was:

Resolved to ask via the business letter if two new bins could be provided for Kirk Bay and the turn off to Stanger Head, and the one at the play park be left in situ.

O. Tarmac at Gibraltar Pier

Members had been forwarded information from the OIC's Surveying Manager regarding tarring of the area around the new waiting room, sea wall and handrails, and this was noted.

Mrs P Gee reported that Leask Marine had moved the CC's hut and the recycling container in anticipation of the area to the west of the main pier being tarred. The Community Council needed to decide what was to do with the hut as they owned it, and it was agreed that it should be inspected and repairs done, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That members look at the hut that the CC owned to ascertain what repairs were needed.
3. To add "pier end container" as a new agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

A. NHS24 – Letter from Chief Officer, IJB

Copies of correspondence from the Chief Officer of the Integrated Joint Board had previously been circulated to members, relating to recent discussions regarding primary and emergency care in the outer isles. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

B. West of Orkney Wind Farm – Orkney Community Panel

An invitation to attend the Orkney Community Panel had been circulated to all members so that they could attend if they wished to, and it was:

Resolved to note the invitation for the event to be held on 23 January 2023.

C. SCOTO Community Tourism Roadshow

Members had been emailed a copy of correspondence from Scottish Community Tourism advising of an upcoming tour to raise awareness of the scale and impact of community-led tourism across Scotland, and events happening in Orkney in March 2023, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Thank You Letter

Resolved to note that a thank you note to the CC had been received from Mrs I Smith for her Christmas Gift.

5. Consultations

A. 20mph Speed Limits – Island Schools

CC members had previously been sent correspondence on behalf of the Roads Support Manager regarding the proposal to set 20mph speed limits around island schools, and it was:

Resolved to note that a response had been provided to Roads Support prior to Christmas.

B. Orkney Ferries – Draft Winter Timetables 2023/2024

CC members had previously been forwarded copies of the draft ferry timetables for winter 2023/2024 for consideration, and it was:

Resolved that the timetables had been discussed and comments passed on by the Transport Representative at the Ferry Consultative Forum meeting earlier that day.

C. Orkney Ferries – Booking System

Orkney Ferries had previously sent out a consultation query to CCs, which had been passed to CC members by the Clerk, asking for feedback from communities as they were currently reviewing the booking system with a view to modernising the way customers can manage their bookings, pay for their travel etc. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note that some comments had been sent to the Clerk already and a CC response would be provided to Orkney Ferries prior to the deadline of end of February 2023.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of Flotta Community Council's General Fund statement as at 23 December 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £49,788.57.

B. Wind Power Fund

Following consideration of Flotta Community Council's Wind Power Fund statement as at 23 December 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the estimated balance of £4,621.77.
2. To keep the Wind Power Fund money separate from the General Fund meantime.

C. Burnside Account

Following consideration of Flotta Community Council's Burnside Account statement as at 23 December 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £7,143.32.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 December 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that there was £1,018.84, £743 and £719 remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits respectively.
2. To note advice from Democratic Services regarding the balances remaining on some of the existing applications and that if no further claims were to be made on any of the applications, then they could be cancelled, and the balance would go back into the pot for other projects.
3. To note that there were items required for Burnside and that a list could be drawn up so that the remaining balances in existing categories 51710 and 51711 could be utilised.
4. To conjoin the two categories listed above to 51711.

E. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 23 December 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that £5,980.51 remained available for allocation.

F. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 23 December 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

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

7. Financial Request – Flotta Community Association - Equipment

Ms J Ward and Mr C Mullins declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

A request for assistance had been received from Flotta Community Association, for funding towards the purchase of various items for clubs which used the facilities. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award £360.17 towards the items, subject to CCGS approval.

8. Publications

The following publication had previously been circulated to members and was noted:

- Orkney Harbours Newsletter – December 2022.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative reported that she had attended the Ferry Service Consultative Forum meeting via Teams earlier that day and advised that she had brought up the issue of disabled passengers not being able to book on.....

Mrs R Biddle and Councillor L Hall left the meeting at this point.

B. Planning

Resolved to note report from the Planning Representative that there had been nothing of note pertaining to Flotta on the weekly lists from Development Management.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Community Transport

As Mrs R Biddle had asked for this item to be added to the agenda, it was:

Resolved to carry this item forward to the following meeting due to Mrs R Biddle not being present to discuss.

B. Community Council Clerk

Members again queried when Democratic Services would appoint a clerk to Flotta Community Council, as there had been interest in the role, and it was:

Resolved to note that due to the workload and number of ongoing matters, Democratic Services did not plan to appoint a new clerk at this point in time.

C. Grass Cutting

Democratic Services asked members whether they were in agreement to advertise the grass cutting tender for the new season on the same terms and conditions as the previous year, and it was:

A member asked if the person who had voluntarily been cutting the grass at the putting green should be recompensed for their duties during the summer, and Democratic Services advised that this would be CCGS eligible should members choose to do this. Grass cutting at the play park area was also discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the kirkyard grass cutting tenders should be advertised with a closing date falling before the next CC meeting.
2. That CC members would monitor the situation with grass cutting at the play park and putting green and discuss later in the year.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of a date for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Flotta Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 16:15 in Flotta Community Centre.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

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