

# Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 3 December 2024 at 16:15

## Present:

Mrs R Biddle, Mr J Ellis, Mrs P Gee, Mr M Grant, Mrs I Smith and Mrs J Ward.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer.
- Mrs A Holland, Clerk.
- 10 members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

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

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 22 October 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mrs J Ward and seconded by Mrs R Biddle.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **A. Triangular Area of Land at Burnside**

The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications, informed members that he had met with the subgroup and ideas had been put forward what the land could include such as raised beds, seating area, etc. It was also suggested that a questionnaire could be sent to residents on the island to obtain feedback regarding interest in the project, and it was:

Resolved that a questionnaire should be sent to residents for their feedback on the project.

### **B. 13 and 14 Burnside**

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that the electrician had confirmed that the PAT testing in the houses had been completed. The electrician had also advised that one of the heaters in 13 Burnside required to be replaced. Mr Ellis had sourced suitable emergency lights for the properties. Information on the requirements for fire extinguishers was still to be determined, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the PAT testing had been completed and that certification had been provided.
2. To ask E Fraser to provide and fit a new heater in 13 Burnside.
3. That a set of three lights should be purchased for each of 13 and 14 Burnside at a total cost of £119.90.
4. That Mr Ellis would ascertain if there was a requirement for fire extinguishers to be placed in the houses.

### **C. Broken Net in Play Park**

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was agreed to hold it in Committee.

Members discussed arrangements for the inspection of the playpark equipment. Mrs P Gee also asked if the work on the mound had been completed, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members would wish to proceed with the present process for inspection and grass cutting, if possible, and provide the relevant funding towards the cost.
2. To ask Orkney Islands Council if their operative would be available to undertake repairs on the platform of the chute.
3. That the Clerk would email Ms R Bryant to ask if the work for the Remembering Together Project had now been completed.

#### **D. Scrap Car Scheme**

The Interim Clerk advised members that there was a list of cars and that the Terminal had been asked to remove them. The list of cars was subsequently passed on to the Clerk.

The Chair advised that she had spoken to Bruce Findlay and that there are a total of ten cars to be removed, however, some are without registration documents and others need documents fully completing, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would ascertain where the relevant documents were and arrange for them to be completed correctly and passed to the Terminal.

#### **E. Bin outside Ferry Waiting Room**

Resolved to note that the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communication, informed members that no update had been received.

#### **F. Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Paths**

The Interim Clerk informed members that core paths had been inspected and six stiles required to be repaired and work on them would be arranged and that it appeared that the path from the Kirk to Stanger Head been mowed recently. Members advised that the paths had been mowed however they required to be strimmed back and widened to the edges, as they had been previously. Members were of the opinion that there may not be anyone on the island available to undertake the strimming work, and it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Islands Council on the requirements for the strimming and arrange for a tender to be invited for the work.

#### **G. Shipping Container**

The Interim Clerk confirmed that planning permission was required for the siting of a storage container and the community council could seek pre planning advice first, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Resignation of Community Council Member**

Members noted that a letter of resignation had been received. It was agreed by members that a letter should be sent to the former member to thank them for all their hard work and contributions made to the community during their time on the community council, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would forward a letter of thanks.

### **B. MSP Correspondence Re: Flotta Community Bus**

Following consideration of correspondence from L McArthur, MSP, regarding the possibility of having a community bus for Flotta. Members noted that this topic had been researched previously where it was identified that a bus would not be used enough to cover the costs. Councillor Hall also suggested that the costs involved with a community bus were prohibitive, and it was:

Resolved to advise L McArthur, MSP, of the reasons why it would not be feasible for Flotta to have a community bus.

### **C. Windmill Fund - Community Bus**

Following consideration of correspondence from a member of the public asking if community benefit wind funds could be used for the provision of a community bus, it was:

Resolved that a reply would be sent to the local resident outlining the non-feasibility of a community bus for Flotta using part of the windmill fund.

### **D. Orkney Scottish Water**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Scottish Water asking the public to report leaks and bursts, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence.

## **5. Consultations**

### **A. Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies**

Members had previously been sent correspondence regarding a survey on Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for completion had now passed.

### **B. Orkney Matters 2 Meetings Online**

Members had previously been sent an invitation to Orkney Matters 2 which followed on from Orkney Matters, a community engagement programme held in 2020-21 which saw partners from across the Orkney Partnership meet with communities across Orkney to identify key issues to these areas, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had passed.

### **C. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding a review of the present Polling Stations, it was:

Resolved to note that there had been no changes to the present system of postal votes for Flotta.

### **D. Action Log**

Mr J Ellis asked if an action log for meetings of topics allocated to members to take forward which should alleviate missing important deadlines, and it was:

Resolved that Mr J Ellis would arrange for a list to be drawn up.

## **6. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Finance 2024/2025**

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 22 November 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £55,586.14.

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

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 22 November 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £16,493.77.

### **C. Burnside Account**

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 22 November 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £9,251.40.

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

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 22 November 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit had £915.81 remaining for allocation.
2. To note the Additional Capping Limit had £765 remaining for allocation.
3. To note the OIC Island Capping Limit had £740 remaining for allocation.

## **E. Community Development Fund**

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 22 November 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 22 November 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**

### **A. Winter Fuel Payment**

Resolved to note that a meeting of the sub-committee had not been held to date.

### **B. School Wind Turbine**

Mr J Ellis queried the wind turbine that used to be at the School and asked what the present situation was. Councillor L Hall advised that a turbine of the same make had lost part of its mechanism, and the decision had been made to remove windmills of the same make from other schools. It was queried if the infrastructure remained at the site and the possibility of a replacement to generate funds however it was suggested that a reinstalment turbine may not be eligible for feed in tariff payments. The site would be in the ownership of Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note that this would be in the ownership of Orkney Islands Council therefore a request should be forwarded to ascertain the situation.

### **C. Orkney Care and Repair**

Due to the sensitive nature of this item, it was held in committee.

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Care and Repair in relation to repairs required, it was:

Resolved to ask Orkney Care and Repair for additional information and email it to members prior to the next meeting, if available.

## **8. Publications**

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

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – September 2024.
- Scottish Islands Federation – November 2024 Newsletter.

## **9. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

After hearing a report from Mr M Grant advising on his dissatisfaction with the procedures and responsibilities as Transport Representative he wished to resign from the post. The Chair asked if anyone wished to take on the post and in the absence of any offers agreed to attend the next Forum meeting. Councillor Hall suggested setting up a meeting which members were keen to hold in-person meeting between both community councils to discuss the ferry timetables and any other related issues before the Transport Forum on 22 January 2025, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the Chair would attend the next Transport Forum meeting due to be held in January 2025.
2. That Councillor L Hall would contact Transport regarding the timetable and Flotta Community Council's concerns.
3. That the possibility of a joint meeting between both community councils should be arranged if possible.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note that the Planning Representative reported that there were no new items for Flotta.

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

The Health and Care representative advised that there was nothing to report. Mr J Ellis informed members that a survey sent to all members of the community asking for their concerns in relation to health and care had so far resulted in 19 replies, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mr J Ellis would put the information from the questionnaires together for the next meeting.

### **D. Island Health Cover**

Mr J Ellis advised members that there was no health cover on the island for the week and what action would normally be taken in these circumstances. The Chair advised that she would raise this issue with NHS Orkney staff. It was asked if a Freedom of Information request should be forwarded to NHS Orkney asking for the financial costs for providing a medical cover including a locum doctor is. Members would also like to know what the liability would be if someone died on the island when no NHS medical cover was available, and it was:

Resolved that the requests should be forwarded to NHS Orkney.

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

### **A. Grass Cuttings**

A member raised concerns regarding the tipping of grass cuttings on rights of way which was creating a mess and causing flooding the road. The public should be aware not to dump grass cuttings in such areas, including drains and ditches as well, and it was:

Resolved to note the report.

### **B. Road Scheme Grants**

A member advised that they had been approached by a member of the public asking what the criteria was for the use of materials received through road scheme grant, and it was:

Resolved to note the verbal report provided by the member.

### **C. Resignation**

A member resumed discussion of the email from the individual who had resigned from the community council advising that she did not agree with the sentiment of their letter and found it offensive to suggest that projects were being hindered by certain groups within the island. Another member suggested that the whole community should be working together, along with OIC, to progress projects, and it was:

Resolved to include the members concerns in the letter actioned above.

## **11. Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Resolved that the next meetings would be held on Tuesday, 28 January at 16.15, Tuesday, 18 March at 16.15 (Public Meeting) and Tuesday, 13 May at 16.15.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:25.