

# Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 22 October 2024 at 16:15

## Present:

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

## In Attendance:

- Councillor G Bevan.
- Councillor J Park.
- Councillor L Hall.
- Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
  
- 11 members of the public.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs A Holland.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mr J Ellis and seconded by Mrs J Ward.

## **3. Matters Arising**

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

#### **1. Orkney Local Development Plan – Land Submission**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager advising members that acknowledgment had been received, from Orkney Islands Council's Development and Marine Planning Team, regarding the land submission, as part of the review of the Orkney Local Development Plan. The correspondence also advised that in terms of next steps, before they can formally start the Plan preparation, they have to prepare an Evidence Report which will be independently assessed by the Scottish Government. If the Scottish Government agree the evidence is sufficient, they can move on to preparing the Proposed Plan. They anticipate that most of 2025 will be spent reviewing land allocations and policies on the Plan and they are aiming for a Proposed Plan to be published for public consultation in early 2026.

They had received a high volume of land for consideration. All the land will be formally recorded, mapped and assessed for potential suitability. If they need further clarification on the location of the land, or require other information, they will be in touch. This will be a time-consuming process, therefore patience and cooperation in this respect would be most appreciated. Once the Proposed Plan has been prepared it has to be approved by

have any impact on plans to redevelop the land, which can proceed as if it was part of the settlement, community councillors were aware there may be funding opportunities that could arise where being within a settlement boundary would be advantageous. Members were advised that that the transfer may take up to two years, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the transfer may take up to two years however the process would not hold up any planning application that may be submitted for this area of land.

#### **2. Update on Use of Triangular Area of Land**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager advising member that plans were progressing with the triangular area of land which is situated on the west side of Burnside, which lies between the playpark and the main road, with the objective of turning it into an area that would be used by and benefit the Flotta community.

The community council subgroup is currently in the process of arranging introductory meetings with potential architects, who would be able to visit the area of land, discuss what the community council wishes to have included within it, and then would create drawings based on these discussions. The drawings would be able to inform the planning application for the area and the architect would also be able to engage directly with Orkney Islands Council on what was being proposed.

A number of architects based in Orkney had been contacted however some had advised the proposed project would not be their area of expertise. One chartered architect had advised that this would be an area of their expertise and would be happy to meet with community councillors for an introductory discussion and to discuss costings.

In the interests of transparency, the subgroup felt it would be important to have a discussion with at least one other architect. The Democratic Services Manager has contacted another architect to arrange a similar introductory meeting. Once arranged, all community councillors would be welcome to attend these introductory meetings. Following these, it would be for all members of the community council to decide which architect they would wish to go with, following those intro meetings and quotes for what would be involved. At this point the community council would also need to agree what they would like this area of land to include once completed i.e. polycrubs, facilities, etc. Consideration would also need to be given on how to manage the flow of water within the site, but this could be considered as part of the architects' research work, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

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

Mrs P Gee informed members that she had asked Democratic Services to contact the electrician regarding the PAT testing and that the correspondence in the agenda papers about emergency lights was also a requirement. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that contact had been made with the electricians however a response was awaited. She also advised that there may also be a need for fire extinguishers to be supplied in the houses, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Democratic Services had been in contact with the electrician to arrange PAT testing in the houses.
2. That Mr J Ellis would arrange for the purchase of suitable portable lights suitable for use in the event of an emergency.
3. That enquires would be made into the requirement of fire extinguishers for the houses.

## **C. Gibraltar Pier**

Councillor L Hall informed members a new Safety Officer had been appointed and intended to visit the island to inspect the area at some point, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

### **D. Container at Pier**

Councillor L Hall advised members that he had made enquiries regarding deliveries being left in the waiting room, for collection, and the possible provision of a container at the pier for this purpose. He advised that the waiting room would be open prior to the first ferry arriving and then locked after the last ferry left the island. If a container was to be provided the community council would have to decide on how it should be operated and should note that any deliveries would be left at the risk of the recipient, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that no further action should be taken.

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

The Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communication, advised members that he had been in contact with Repsol who had advised that they would not be able to provide maintenance on the play park equipment. Mrs P Gee advised that the platform around the chute needed attention. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would contact Orkney Islands Council's Team Manager, Sport and Leisure, to ascertain names of contractors who may undertake this type of work and who could inspect the equipment.
2. That Mrs P Gee would forward photographs of the area around the chute that required attention to enable a quote for the necessary work to be sought, including the replacement of the net.
3. To note that the chute had been cordoned off to prevent its use.
4. That arrangements should be made to have an inspection of the equipment undertaken.

### **F. Scrap Car Scheme**

Following consideration of correspondence from Mr J Ellis requesting information on the process of removing scrap cars from the island, the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised on how the scrap car scheme could be operated and how costs could be funded through the Community Council Grant Scheme. The Chair advised on the present situation of the arrangements in Flotta, and that contact should be made with the Terminal to organise the uplift of scrap cars to be taken to Kirkwall, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the Terminal requesting the possibility of removing the scrap car and to check the back records for lists and deadlines.

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

Following consideration of correspondence from the Deputy Harbour Master advising members that a bin would be ordered however the siting of the bin required to be agreed along with the arrangements for the emptying of it, and it was:

Resolved await a further update.

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

Members considered correspondence from Democratic Services advising that the Roads Services Technician had said that inspections of Flotta core paths was due in 2025, although this may be brought forward to the end of this year. Generally, Orkney Islands Council did not mow/cut the core path network however if there was a specific section/issue then a safety cut may be possible. However, with the vegetation now dying back it was likely strimming would be inappropriate by the time the work instruction is implemented after the inspection. He also advised that he would be happy to work with the community council if they wished to put the work to tender, for a local contractor to undertake the work, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That both paths would benefit from a one-off cut, which would be adequate for some time.
2. That the Stanger Head path would benefit from additional signage.
3. That there was an area of the path round Head of Banks that required urgent attention due to coastal erosion.
4. That tenders should be invited for the strimming of the paths, which should also be put up locally, so that it would be in place when weather allowed early next year.

## **I. Shipping Container**

The Chair advised members that enquiries had been made regarding costs for the size of container concerned. Members were advised, by the owner, that the container had, since the last meeting, been sold and would be removed to the mainland. Mr J Ellis asked if there was still a need for a container and if so what for. The Chair advised that the community council was in ownership of furniture and equipment that required storage and maintenance which could be covered by the container. The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that should there still be a wish to purchase a shipping container it could be looked at along with the proposed project for the area of land and possibly included in any funding package ask, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report.
2. That the Interim Clerk would enquire if planning permission was required for the siting of a storage container.

3. That Mr J Ellis would put together a record of all items in the community council's ownership along with a rolling maintenance programme.
4. To note that should a container be required for storage in could be included with the proposed project for the triangular area of land going forward.

## **J. Christmas Tree Lighting 2024**

Following discussion of the Christmas Tree Lighting 2024 it was agreed that the arrangements had been made already and that a Christmas tree should be purchased. It was also thought that there may be a need for new tree lights, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a 15 to 20 feet Christmas tree should be purchased.
2. That new tree lights should be purchased, if required.
3. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied on the cost of a tree and lights.

## **K. Defibrillator**

Mr J Ellis advised members that the new defibrillator, case and pads had been delivered to the islands. The new case needed to be fitted as it was lighted and heated. Mr Ellis asked if members would be in agreement to a medical emergency drill being undertaken on the island to ascertain whether there was a need for a second defibrillator, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That E Fraser, electricians, should be asked about connecting the defibrillator case.
2. That members agreed that Mr J Ellis could arrange a medical emergency drill to ascertain whether or not a second defibrillator was required on the island.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **A. Remembering Together Project**

Following consideration of correspondence from Ms R Bryant thanking members with their assistance with the project, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. That the Chair wished to thank Mr K Gee and Mr D Hourston for all their assistance with the project.

3. To ask Ms R Bryant about the funds to be transferred for the ongoing maintenance.

## **B. Winter Service Plan 2024 - Responses**

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Winter Service Plan 2024, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the contents of the correspondence.
2. To make a further request for all roads in Flotta to be made a Priority 1.

## **C. Orkney Community Council Conference**

As Flotta Community Council had not been represented at the event on 4 October 2024, the Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communication, provided an update of the conference and advised that further events were to be arranged, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

## **D. Requests**

Following consideration of correspondence from a member of the public asking the Community Council to consider three items, it was:

Resolved to consider each query individually:

### **1. Winter Fuel Payment**

Members discussed the request regarding the possible provision of a winter fuel payment to the Flotta community, and it was:

Resolved to form a submit committee to discuss this, which would consist of Ms R Biddle, Mr J Ellis and Mrs P Gee, who would report back to a future meeting of Flotta Community Council.

### **2. Dog Poo Bags**

Members were asked to consider the provision of free dog poo bags on the island to help alleviate the issue of complaints regarding dog waste, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk should investigate the possibility of sourcing a dispensing mechanism and dog poo bins that could be attached to the bins.

### **3. Men's Shed – Briquette Maker**

Members discussed the request to consider providing the Men's Shed with a briquette maker to enable them to make recycled briquettes for the community, and it was:

Resolved that if and when the Men's Shed was in a position to make briquettes, they could submit a request to the community council for a briquette maker.

## **5. Consultations**

Resolved to note that no Consultation Documents had been received for consideration at this meeting.

## **6. Financial Statements**

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

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 11 October 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £56,366.13.

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

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 11 October 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, and whether the account should remain open or the funds transferred to the General Account, 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 11 October 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £8,394.18

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

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 11 October 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 11 October 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 11 October 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. Publications**

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

Orkney Ferries Statistics – August 2024.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

Resolved to note that the Transport Representative had nothing new to report.

### **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 she had been involved in the ANP interview meeting however had not heard back regarding the result. Mr J Ellis asked whether there was ever an ambulance and first responders on the island in relation to the ageing population of the island. Councillor L Hall advised that there was ongoing conversation between Scottish Ambulance Service and Orkney Islands Council regarding the Orkney wide situation on first responders. The Scottish Ambulance Service was reluctant to address equality across the isles regarding retainers paid. Councillor L Hall advised that any letters of support for the situation should be forwarded to Orkney Islands Council. A member of the public raised concerns around the number of times the ANP post had been advertised in the last year, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mr J Ellis would compile a letter regarding the first responder situation in the island and forward it to Democratic Services.
2. That Mr J Ellis would arrange a survey to be sent to all members of the community asking for their concerns in relation to health and care.

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

Resolved to note that there were no further items to be discussed.

## **10. Financial Request – Road Scheme**

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

Following consideration of correspondence from a resident requesting a grant for the purchase of stone for the driveway of their property, it was:

Resolved:

A. That a grant award of up to £500, payable on submission of receipts, be given towards the cost of purchasing stone for the driveway.

B. That application should be made to Orkney Islands Council for assistance through the Community Council Grant Scheme on a project cost of £500.

C. That the applicant be advised that no further assistance would be available for driveway maintenance at the property during the next five financial years.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

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

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 3 December at 16:15.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:10.