

Minute of the Meeting of Flotta Community Council held in Flotta Community Centre and via Teams on Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at 16:30

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor L Hall.
 - Mr A Rodwell, Head of Improvement and Performance/Interim Clerk.
 - Mr K MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
 - Mr R Cunningham, Service Manager, Democratic Services and Communications.
 - Ms D-C Hunter, Service Manager, Safety and Resilience.
-
- 8 members of the public.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Resilience Plan Presentation.....	2
3. Adoption of Minutes.....	3
4. Matters Arising.....	3
5. Correspondence.....	6
6. Consultations.....	7
7. Financial Statements.....	7
8. Financial Requests.....	8
9. Publications.....	9
10. Reports from Representatives.....	9
11. Any Other Competent Business.....	10
12. Date of Next Meeting.....	10
13. Conclusion of Meeting.....	10

1. Apologies

The Chair announced that Mr Nigel Cheeseman had, since the last meeting, stood down from his position as a community councillor with immediate effect. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

A. To note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G Bevan and J Park.

B. To note that an election of a replacement for Mr Nigel Cheeseman could take place when six months had passed from the last public meeting (4 February 2024).

2. Resilience Plan Presentation

A presentation was delivered by the Service Manager, Safety and Resilience, giving an outline of her role, and her plans to work with Flotta Community Council and the wider community to have definitive plans in place in the event of an emergency on the island, including if an incident occurred at the oil refinery.

She explained that she wished to hold a mock evacuation with members of the community later this year in order to ensure that everything would go to plan in the event of a real emergency.

Members asked about the process for returning people to their homes in Flotta following an evacuation and what would happen if, during an evacuation of the island, some residents wished to stay. The Service Manager, Safety and Resilience, stated that the return to homes plan would be dependent on the incident so it would be hard to give a clear answer. She added that if residents wished to stay in their homes rather than be evacuated that there would be some paperwork involved for the resident and that an ongoing communication would be in place to ensure the resident could change their mind.

A member of the public asked how effective an immediate response would be to an emergency due to no police or fire officers being based on the island. The Service Manager, Safety and Resilience, advised that she would be looking, as part of her plans to put training in place for members of the community, to be able to support those organisations in the event of an incident. The member of the public suggested it would be better to have those professionals already on the island rather than training local people.

Mrs P Gee commented that there had been similar evacuation exercises in the past but that they weren't a great success. The Service Manager, Safety and Resilience, explained that there was a planned upcoming multi agency meeting to discuss what plans are in place in the event of an incident on Flotta and that a member of the community council would be welcome to join.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 4 February 2024 was approved, being proposed by Mrs J Ward and seconded by Mrs P Gee.

4. Matters Arising

A. Community Asset Transfer – Area of Land

The Community Council was updated by the Interim Clerk that Democratic Services (DS) had spoken to Planning, who advised that they would be happy with the proposal to use the site as a community garden, in principle, but would need further detail. This would fit within policy 11 of the plan which encourages the provision of new public services, facilities or infrastructure which help to support and enhance general community interests, including community growing facilities. They advised that the new local plan was starting to be prepared and Flotta CC should request that the piece of land be included in the settlement boundary for Burnside. Members were further advised that any proposal would require change of use of the land, and DS would speak to Roads about where they would like to see any junction with the main road and whether parking would be required, although this was unlikely given the site's proximity to Burnside. A draft plan for the area would need to be drawn up in conjunction with CC members and once DS had an architect/draftsman in place to do these works, DS would be back in touch with members. However, if the sub-committee wanted to work up their own plan meantime, showing exactly what they would like within the space, that would be extremely helpful.

Mr C Mullins said that he would be happy to be involved but wants to see other issues around previous planning attempts resolved before taking this forward. Mrs J Ward said she would be happy to undertake work around this. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Mrs J Ward and the Chair would work on a presentation plan of what was intended for the land.
2. That Democratic Services would seek the assistance of an architect/draftsman to do draft plans.

B. 13 and 14 Burnside

The Interim Clerk advised that Democratic Services were still chasing the contractor for a date that they planned to return and complete the works, and it was:

Resolved that Flotta CC will wait for E Fraser Electrical to complete the works.

C. New Notice Board

Resolved to note that the new notice board had been erected and was in use, and that no further action was required.

D. Tarmac at Gibraltar Pier

Councillor L Hall advised that he had spoken to Orkney Harbours about this issue and that they had reassured him that remedial work would be carried out, particularly on the steel plate as a priority as it was a potentially dangerous issue, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

E. Pier End Container

Marine Services had been consulted and would be contacting Flotta Terminal directly as they had not been made aware of this and may have concerns depending on where it was going to be situated, and it was:

Resolved to note that no further action was required.

F. Flotta Men's Shed

The Interim Clerk provided an update that on 19 February, Mr M Grant advised Flotta CC that he had removed himself as agent for the polycrubs, which would leave Flotta CC as the applicant. The Chair and Interim Clerk were contacted by Development Management later that day to advise that Mr Grant had stood down as agent and that further information was required by the Environmental Planner and that they were still awaiting comments from consultees.

Concerns were raised by the planning authority about whether this was truly a Flotta CC application and around the land ownership certificate that had been submitted which stated that the owner of the land of the putting green had been notified prior to the application being submitted. It turned out that this had not been done due to a misunderstanding around who should have been notifying the Council, as landowner.

Due to the application no longer having an agent, the need to have had further information submitted, the possibility of the application needing to go to committee, and the query over whose project this was, the Chair was asked at a meeting at Orkney Island Council on 29 February whether this application should be progressed or withdrawn. It was noted that Flotta CC did not yet have permission from the Council as land owner to use the land at the putting green for this purpose.

The Chair was in agreement and Democratic Services contacted the other members of the community council over the phone for agreement on this also, and the application was withdrawn following agreement by a majority of members.

Mr M Grant wished to state that he did not completely agree with that account, particularly on the ownership certificate, as during the application process he had been under the impression that the survey of notice had already been completed. He was unhappy with the situation and had emailed the Council with regards to that.

Mr C Mullins stated that the consultation with community councillors over the phone led to no record of what was being said or discussed and suggested that any decisions of that nature should be taken by the full community council in meetings. He stated that he would like to be involved in taking forward plans for this project but

that he would need to have more confidence that the process could be progressed, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion and information provided.

G. Broken Net in Playpark

The Interim Clerk advised that Flotta Terminal was unable to source the net due to new procurement rules in place within the company but had offered to help install it. The updated quote from Wicksteed was £832.35 and this would be CCGS eligible should members wish to progress with purchase.

A member of the public said the platforms on the climbing frame were potentially faulty with a couple of holes in it which were only going to get worse and that it might be cheaper to source a new frame. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That Democratic Services would be asked to look at the climbing frame platform and to ascertain whether it would be best to replace the net only or the entire frame.
2. That Democratic Services would find out a cost for replacing the platform, if required.

H. Scrap Car Scheme

The Interim Clerk advised that Bruce Findlay had been contacted and confirmed he would help to move vehicles to the area opposite the Old Cinema, however he had not been given the list as yet until Democratic Services had confirmed details with the owners of the vehicles. Members were advised that Flotta Terminal were still to respond regarding removing the vehicles from the island, and that vehicles that were filled with rubbish would not be collected, and it was:

Resolved to note the update provided.

I. Flotta School and 20mph Signage

The Interim Clerk advised that the signs were due for removal and would be returned to the depot. Councillor L Hall advised that he had spoken to the Head of Neighbourhood Services who agreed that it would be best to take the signs down meantime until such time as the school was open again, and it was:

Resolved to note that the signs had already been taken down.

J. Ferry Waiting Room

Mr A Rodwell said that no response had been received as yet, noting that Flotta CC had previously asked if the waiting room could be locked only after the last ferry had left for the day, as parcels are left there to be collected.

The Chair said that one of the reasons it was locked was because dog waste bags had been left in the bin and suggested it would be beneficial to have a bin outside the waiting room for this purpose. Mrs P Gee advised that this had been asked for

external of Flotta CC a few months ago and the Chair suggested that a direct correspondence from the community council on this may help, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask, via the business letter, to have a bin placed outside the ferry waiting room.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish Islands Passport – What’s New for 2024

Following consideration of the Scottish Islands Passport, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of new features on their app, it was:

Resolved to note the contents of the correspondence and that no posters would be needed.

B. King’s Portrait Scheme

Following consideration of correspondence from the Cabinet Office, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of the availability of free framed portraits of King Charles III, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had passed, and that no portrait was needed.

C. Free Webinar – Scottish Empty House Partnership

Members considered correspondence from West Lothian Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a webinar for community councils on 20 March 2024 with the Empty Homes Advice Service, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence and that the event had passed.

D. Volunteering for Island Games 2025

Copies of a poster advertising sign up sessions for volunteering at the 2025 Island Games had previously been sent to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

E. SEPA – Disrupting Criminal Dumpers

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence from SEPA, which had previously been circulated.

F. Invitation to create Local Place Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the Team Manager (Development Planning), inviting communities the opportunity to create a local place plan, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

6. Consultations

A. NHS Orkney Listening Event

Members had previously been sent information regarding public drop-in events to hear feedback from patients, families and communities, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that the events had since passed.

B. Proposed Nordic Sea Summer South Isles Service

Details of the proposed service to be provided to the south isles over the summer had previously been circulated to all members, and it was:

Resolved to note that Flotta CC's comments had been passed on to Orkney Ferries.

C. The future of the Universal Postal Service

Members had previously been sent information on a consultation regarding the postal service, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments was 4 April.

D. Mapping progress towards island decarbonisation

Following consideration of information from SIF on a project to build up a picture of progress towards decarbonisation across the islands, it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that members had no comments.

E. SEPA – Potential Vulnerable Areas

Members had previously been sent information from SEPA on a review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland, and it was:

Resolved to note the consultation and that no action was required at this time.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Flotta Community Council as at 20 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £50,906.01.

B. Wind Power Fund

After consideration of the Wind Power Fund statement as at 20 March 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £4,275.77.

C. Burnside Account

After consideration of the Burnside Account statement as at 20 March 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the balance was £5,159.71.

D. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 20 March 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the OIC Main Capping Limit was fully allocated, exceeding the limit by £414.67.
2. To note the Additional Capping Limit had £743.00 left.
3. To note the OIC Island Capping Limit had £719.00 remaining.

E. Community Development Fund

After consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 20 March 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 20 March 2024, 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. J Ellis – Stone and Haulage Aggregate

Correspondence had been received, and circulated to members, requesting a contribution from the community council towards the purchase of 16 tonnes of 20m chips to repair a private driveway. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the request did not fit the criteria for receiving funding and was therefore declined.
2. That the Interim Clerk would respond to the applicant advising of the decision.

B. Bag the Bruck – Flotta Day Club

Mrs I Smith and Mr M Grant declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussion thereof.

Members had previously agreed via email that the £300 funding available for Bag the Bruck within CCGS should be allocated to Flotta Day Club, and it was:

Resolved to note that a CCGS donation of £300 would be paid out to Flotta Day Club on completion of their clean.

C. Flotta Community Association – Summer Café Staffing

Following consideration of a request from Flotta Community Association, copies of which had been circulated to members, for financial assistance towards staffing costs for the summer café, it was:

Resolved that Flotta CC would pay a general fund donation of £960 to Flotta Community Association, which would cover around 50% of the wage of one staff member.

9. Publications

Resolved that the following publications had been previously forwarded to members and were noted:

- Orkney Ferries Statistics – January and February 2024.
- Special Waste Collection Rota – Bulky Items.
- Scottish Water – Spring Newsletter 2024.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

It was noted that this item could not be covered in full as Mr Nigel Cheeseman had stood down from Flotta CC and had been the Transport Representative until his resignation.

However, a discussion did take place around the recent change of ferry times on a Saturday which has resulted in people travelling from Flotta to Houton and back having an extra hour on Orkney Mainland than before, which some members of the public at the meeting had found inconvenient and would have liked more of a consultation before the decision was made, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the discussion.
2. That the role of Transport Representative should be elected to at the next meeting.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that there was no update.

C. Health and Care

Resolved to note that there was no update.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Recruitment of Clerk

Mr C Mullins raised frustrations around the time it had taken for the recruitment of a new clerk for Flotta CC. The Interim Clerk advised that Democratic Services were working to have a clerk in place as soon as possible and that the post would be advertised the following week, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

B. Wind Turbines

Due to the sensitive nature of the following items, they were discussed in private, and the remainder of the meeting was held in committee.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

Mr M Grant asked about the viability of the wind turbine on Flotta and whether payments to the local community would be re-established. Mrs I Smith said that she believed that a new company which had taken over the wind turbine would likely not be required to pay the local community any profits, and it was:

Resolved to wait for further updates regarding whether payments would be re-established.

C. Supporting Flotta Resident

Members discussed concern around an ongoing planning enforcement notice, and it was:

Resolved to write a letter in support of the resident and await further updates.

12. 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, 28 May at 16:15.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:30.