

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in the Shapinsay Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 6 February 2025 at 18:30

Present:

Mrs L Bews, Mrs E Chaney, Mr C Leslie, Ms J Noble, Mrs E Phillips, Ms P Dunnett,
and Mr G Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs L-M Muir, Shapinsay Development Trust.
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed two new community council members who had been elected at the public meeting prior to this meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note that Ms P Dunnett and Mr G Rendall had been elected on to the Community Council.

2. Local Place Plan

The Shapinsay Development Trust Representative advised members that they had been approached about preparing a Place Plan for Shapinsay. She asked if the Community Council was doing one or how they would wish to proceed. She was aware that there was Place Plans being done in other areas and that consultants had been employed to undertake the work, and it was:

Resolved that the Trust would look into possible funding and requirements for the Plan and get back to the Community Council.

3. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held on 28 November 2024 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs E Phillips and seconded by Mr C Leslie.

5. Matters Arising

A. Bins

Following consideration of correspondence from the Housing Officer advising members that no responses had been received from the residents of Helliar View therefore no further action would be taken at this time, the Interim Clerk advised that a response was awaited regarding bins at the pier and war memorial, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report, and that the Interim Clerk would ask Democratic Services to chase up a response on the War Memorial and pier bins.

B. Funding for Pathways – School Path

The Chair advised members she had received an update from the Headteacher and there was no further progress however it was still on the plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and to keep on the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Shapinsay Hydrogen Plant Removal

The Interim Clerk advised that the target date for the removal of the equipment was scheduled for the Easter school holidays, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Bike Shelter at School

The Empowering Communities Liaison Officer advised that no update had been received from the Building Inspector regarding the bike shelter. The Chair advised that the Headteacher had spoken with a Building Inspector who had advised they were looking at options, one of which was to potentially look to demolish and rebuild a new bike shelter at the back of the school. Members felt this was an excessive resolution and would like to request that the current shelter be repaired, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk write to the Orkney Islands Council asking them to reconsider the potential demolition of the shelter instead of repairing it.

E. Yacht at Shapinsay Slipway

The Interim Clerk advised that there was no update. Councillor Thomson advised that she had spoken to Harbours regarding this matter and would follow up with them again, and it was:

Resolved to note Councillor Thomson would speak with Harbours.

F. Burroughston Brough

The Interim Clerk advised that Burroughston Broch was not under the ownership of Historic Environment Scotland, but that Orkney Islands Council had guardianship over it as a scheduled ancient monument. The Community Council should submit details of what work they would like undertaken along with photos.

Members advised that as this was the only monument in Shapinsay for tourists to visit on the island, they would like the area tidied up such as the grass area and the fence renewed, if it is required to be there, and that continued maintenance of the area could be organised by the Community Council, if necessary, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that Orkney Islands Council holds guardianship over Burroughston Broch.
2. That Orkney Islands Council be asked to tidy up the grass areas and repair or replace the fence.
3. To note that annual maintenance of the grass could be arranged through the Community Council.

G. NILPS (North Isles Landscape Partnership) Projects

Members asked when the map for the information board was likely to be reinstated at the portacabin at the Shapinsay pier, and it was:

Resolved to ask NILPS when the map was to be returned.

H. Winter Service Plan 2024/2025

Members were advised that they are waiting for a response regarding the Hill Road, and it was:

Resolved the Interim Clerk would chase a response.

I. Winter Treatment Contracts

Members were advised that contract process was to be simplified and re-advertised, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

J. Quiet Routes

Following consideration of a briefing note from Neighbourhood Service and Infrastructure providing an update on the data collection and next steps for the project, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the briefing note.

K. Floodgates at Kirkwall Pier

The Interim Clerk advised that there was no further update available, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

L. Signposts for Public Toilets

The Chair advised that the sign had been erected, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

M. Seaweed on Road

Following queries from members, the Interim Clerk advised that the best way to report seaweed on the road is via MyOrkney or by phoning Orkney Islands Council's Customer Services, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

N. Roads Officer Visit to Shapinsay

Colin Leslie advised members that he was to meet with a roads officer but unfortunately this had not taken place. Members noted that they had been advised previously that the road from Howe to the end of the Hillside Road was to be resurfaced in 2024 but had not happened and asked if this could be done in 2025, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would forward the request to the relevant officers.

O. Shapinsay Waiting Room – Kirkwall Pier

Members raised concerns regarding the condition of the waiting room at Kirkwall Pier and suggested that the graffiti, some of which has been there for over twenty years, should be removed, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would forward their concerns to Democratic Services.

P. Waiting Room – Shapinsay Pier

The Interim Clerk advised members that the Deputy Harbours Master had advised that they were investigating the panel and repairs works would be undertaken as necessary, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

6. Correspondence

A. MyOrkney

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members to direct community members to the MyOrkney portal for reporting issues such as potholes and missed bins, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and that the information had been shared with the community.

B. Petition – Veantro Fish Farm

The Chair advised members of a petition that had been raised regarding the expansion of the Veantro Fish Farm. Members also noted the various consultations that had been arranged by the company regarding the expansion of the site. After the first consultation session the community council had raised various queries with the company and the responses received were put out locally, following which no responses or feedback was received from the community. Members also were made aware of an invite from Scottish Sea Farms to attend an interview, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the Chair's report.
2. To acknowledge receipt of the petition.
3. That no one was available to attend the interview on this occasion.

C. Webinar – Rural and Islands Poverty

Following consideration of correspondence inviting members to the Rural and Islands Poverty webinar, it was:

Resolved to note that members had not been able to attend the webinar.

D. Playpark Lighting

A member advised members that the Parent Council would like there to be lighting for the play park. The Chair advised that as the property was the responsibility of the Community Association the enquiry should be directed to them in the first instance, and it was:

Resolved that the Parent Council should write to the Community Association.

7. Consultation Documents

A. 20mph Proposals

Following consideration of the 20mph consultation document, which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and that members response remained the same as their original response.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Following consideration of the Verge Maintenance Plan 2025, copies of which had previously been emailed, it was:

Resolved:

1. That if there was only to be one verge cut it should be done early June.
2. That the hedges and verges at the war memorial requires more than one cut for safety purposes.

C. R100 Broadband Evaluation Survey

Members considered an email which had been circulated previously regarding consultation to understand whether and how households and organisations had benefited from R100. The Scottish Government was undertaking an evaluation of the programme, and were surveying households and organisations, and it was:

Resolved to note that the survey was open until 3 March 2025 and members could respond individually.

D. Off Wind Community Benefits

Following consideration of an email from the Scottish Community Development Centre advising members of webinars to be held regarding community benefits from offshore and onshore renewable energy developments, it was:

Resolved to share the information with the Development Trust.

E. Orkney Islands Council Trees and Woodland Strategy

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding the Trees and Woodland Strategy and SEA Environmental Report for the OIC TWS, it was:

Resolved that members should submit individual responses on the documents.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance statement as at 27 January 2025 it was:

Resolved to note that the estimated balance was £11,240.98

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme Statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the balance remaining for approval was £1,007.66 in the main capping limit and £407.52 and £140 in the additional categories.
2. That applicants receiving road scheme funding must have grants claimed by 31 March.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that £8627.53 remained for allocation.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 27 January 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £3,400.

9. Financial Requests

A. International Island Games Legacy in Orkney

Following consideration of the letter received from the Island Games committee requesting assistance towards the cost of Shapinsay Primary School making a banner for the Island Games, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £200 towards the cost and that Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.

B. Picnic Tables

The Community Council had previously agreed to the purchase of a picnic table with benches for the community quiet reflection area at Shapinsay Kirk. Members also considered provision of a bench for the play park area, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To purchase two recycled picnic tables with benches from Birsay Farmers.
2. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost.
3. That the bench gifted by Miss Hamlyn should be checked to see if any maintenance was required.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative advised members that she had attended the Air and Ferry Forum on 22 January. She advised that changes of ferry times for the Islands Games would have to be requested however this was difficult to do as there was no timetable of events available at present. It is hoped that the Scottish Government would introduce free ferry travel for under 22's as of 1 April. Orkney Ferries new booking system and the various booking options were also discussed and that fifty books of tickets were going to be phased out as some point. The Zevi arrival was going to be delayed and that a request had been made for them to visit the island so that the public could see it, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Planning

The Planning Representative advised that there was nothing to report, and it was:

Resolved to note content of the report.

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

Resolved to note that the Trust was working on the Local Place Plan.

D. Health and Care

The Health and Care representative gave a short update on the last Health and Care meeting, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

11. Publications

The following publications had all been previously emailed to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – December 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – December 2024 and January 2025.
- VAO Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – October, November and December 2024.

- Letter from School Place – December 2024 and January 2025.
- SRA Newsletter – December 2024.
- Transportation Infographic.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Flooding

Members discussed flooding opposite Newhouse where it had been really bad, due to Openreach works. The Chair had forwarded information and photographs to Democratic Services and the problems were subsequently dealt with very swiftly. There was also flooding at the school, and it was thought that there would be a drain at the back of the school that would be blocked. This has been cleared previously, and a grating was to have been put in place but has not been replaced, and it was:

Resolved to advise Orkney Islands Council of the flooding at the back of the school causing it to gather on the main road.

B. Community Council Keyholder

Resolved to note that Phoebe Dunnet agreed to be the Community Council keyholder for the Community Association.

C. Aggregate Scheme

Members agreed to provide funding for an Aggregate Scheme for 2025/2026 and that applications should be invited, and it was:

Resolved to advertise the scheme locally and that the deadline for applications would be 14 April 2025.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved to note that the next meeting of the Shapinsay Community Council would be held at 18:45 on 24 April 2025 at the Shapinsay Community Centre.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:02.