

# Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in Shapinsay Community Centre on Friday, 17 November 2023 at 19:00

## Present:

Mrs L Bews, Mrs E Chaney, Mr C Leslie, Mrs V More, Mr D Muir and Mrs E Phillips.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs L Muir, Shapinsay Development Trust Manager.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs J Noble and Councillors M Thomson and S Clackson.

## **2. Election of Office Bearers**

Resolved that all office bearers should remain in their roles, being Mrs L Bews as Chair and Health and Care Representative, Mr C Leslie as Vice Chair and Planning Representative, Mr D Muir as Transport Representative.

## **3. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held on 7 September 2023 were approved, being proposed by Mrs E Phillips and seconded by Mr C Leslie.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **A. Bike Shelter**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that further permissions were required, and that the contractor was awaiting additional parts before this project could progress, and it was:

Resolved to note the update.

### **B. Festive Lights**

Members were advised that the lights had been delivered and were due to be erected the following week, on streetlight columns within Balfour village. The quote of £4,304.40 from the contractor for installing the sockets and putting up the lights had been circulated to members, and they agreed that a request should be sent to Shapinsay Development Trust asking them to consider an increased grant to include the installation of the lights.

1. That Mr C Leslie would speak to the roads operative about making sure they could be switched on the day of the tree lighting ceremony.
2. That the Interim Clerk would write to Shapinsay Development Trust asking if they would be willing to increase the £500 grant already awarded to take into consideration the added cost of installation.

### **C. Christmas Tree Lighting Event**

Members discussed plans for the tree lighting event on 1 December, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would advertise the event.
2. That the Interim Clerk would contact the Salvation Army to confirm their attendance and advise of plans.

3. That Shearer's would be asked to contact Mr C Leslie to arrange delivery of the tree.

4. That all community council members that were available on the night should meet no later than 18:45 at the school on the night of the ceremony to marshal etc.

## **D. Bins**

Resolved to note that no update had been provided.

## **E. Road Repairs**

Members asked if roads were due to complete any works in the next few months as the roads were slick and not good in areas. The Community Council Liaison officer advised that officers would be due out at the beginning of next year to oversee the installation of the 20mph limit signage around the school, and that there may be an opportunity to set up a meeting to discuss any problem areas, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would ask for any further information on what road works were planned for Shapinsay in the next quarter.

## **F. Funding for Pathways – School Path**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the School Travel Plan Review Group would be progressing the path, and that they were due to meet the following week, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That a further update would be provided at the next meeting.

2. That the Interim Clerk would add to the business letter to query if the white lines could be repainted at the school car park, marking out spaces.

## **G. Shapinsay Hydrogen Plant Removal**

Councillor H Woodbridge reported that IFM planned to remove their structure at the school but that there was no timescale for this. She offered to speak to relevant officers and make queries, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor H Woodbridge would pursue information on the decommissioning of the hydrogen plant matter.

## **H. New Benches/Old Bench Disposal**

Members advised that all the old benches had been removed and taken away for disposal, and that all the new benches were in situ, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **I. Balfour Village Repairs – Maintenance and Repairs**

It was reported that the weeding had been done but the bike shelter remained in a poor state, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would report the bike shelter again.

## **J. Bushes/Kerb at Elwick Brae**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that this work had been added to the schedule for works but it was not known when it would be completed, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **A. Fish Farm Expansion**

Members had previously been circulated correspondence from a local resident, regarding an objection to the proposals to expand the farm at ?? by Scottish Sea Farms. Members noted that this application had not yet been lodged with planning, and that opinion seemed to be mixed on the island, so it would not be appropriate for the community council to make any representations. They agreed that they would be happy to take questions and facilitate discussions/fact finding on the matter.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would respond to the individual advising of the community council's stance.

### **B. Winter Service Plan 2023/2024**

Members had previously been emailed a copy of the Winter Service Plan for the 2023/24 season. They reported that the operative currently drives to Newlot, back to the War Memorial to go to Ness, and suggested that if he went over the Hill road instead and back to Hollandstoun, then he would only have to go over it once and the Hill Road would get done at the same time. They advised that there are a lot of first responders, boat crew, firefighters and school pupils on this route, who need to be able to travel the road early in the morning. They suggested that changing the priority could actually be a cost saving, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask if the Hill Road could be changed to a priority 1 on the Winter Service Plan.

### **C. My Place Awards 2024**

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Civic Trust, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding My Place Awards, which celebrate community-led built environment projects that have transformed their locality, as well as the hard work of the people behind those projects, it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for nominations of 14 January 2024 and that Shapinsay Community Council may wish to nominate The Smithy.

## **D. Kirkwall and St Ola CC – Benches**

Members had previously been sent correspondence from Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council, asking for information on the community council's involvement in the purchase and maintenance of benches in their area. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would complete the survey.

## **6. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Scottish Water Survey**

A survey from Scottish Water on their performance had been emailed to members, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would complete the survey on behalf of Shapinsay Community Council.

### **B. National Islands Plan Consultation Events**

Members had previously been sent information on consultations events happening in Westray and Stromness on 6 and 7 November, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that no members had attended the sessions.

### **C. Scottish National Islands Plan – PhD Research**

Members were advised of a survey being carried out by A Lidderdale, copies of which had previously been circulated, on the Scottish National Islands Plan in relation to Our Islands, Our Future, and it was:

Resolved that members could complete the survey should they wish to do so.

## **7. Financial Statements**

### **A. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Shapinsay Community Council as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £5,371.30.

### **B. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of the CCGS statement for Shapinsay Community Council as at 1 November 2023, it was;

Resolved to note the balances remaining in the main, additional and island capping limits of £1,106.38, £743 and £719 respectively.

## **C. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement for Shapinsay Community Council as at 1 November 2023, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £3,627.53.

## **D. Seed Corn Fund**

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement for Shapinsay Community Council as at 1 November 2023, it was:

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

## **8. Financial Requests**

### **A. S Dunnett – Climbing Competition – Inverness**

Members had previously been sent copies of a financial request from M Dunnet, for assistance with the cost of S Dunnett attending a climbing competition in Inverness in November 2023, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 towards the trip.

### **B. Shapinsay Community Association – Tree Lighting and Party**

Members considered a financial request which had been received from SCA on the night of the meeting, for support with the cost of the refreshments for the tree lighting ceremony, and towards presents and a Christmas party for the children of Shapinsay. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to make a CCGS award of up to £600, subject to approval.

## **9. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative did not have a lot to report, the cost of 50 books of tickets had previously been mentioned and he also advised that the extra Sunday sailing would remain, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **B. Planning**

Resolved to note that there were no applications of concern to Shapinsay Community Council.

### **C. Shapinsay Development Trust**

The SDT Manager advised that an application would be submitted for Balfour Cottage and may require to be submitted by the community council to receive a discounted fee. She also asked if members would be willing for a letter of support to be sent to SDT for the purchase of a portacabin to house the charity shop. She also

provided an update on the youth project, the Smithy, and the new boat which had been recently purchased to do out-of-hours sailings between Kirkwall and Shapinsay.

Mrs V More offered to be the co-opted member of Shapinsay Community Council on Shapinsay Development Trust's Board, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the report.
2. That Mrs V More would be invited to future SDT meetings and would be the SDT Representative for Shapinsay Community Council.

## **D. Health and Care**

The Health and Care Representative reported that NHS Orkney had been successful in recruiting to most of the vacant ANP posts across the isles, and that, going forward, community council representatives would be invited to participate in the interview process, and on-island visits would be made standard. Following discussion regarding who to contact when information needed to be distributed, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the First Responders should be on the list of those to contact first when important information pertaining to medical provision on the island needed to be relayed.

## **10. Publications**

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

- VAO Newsletter – September and November 2023.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – September and October 2023.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – September and October 2023.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – August and September 2023.
- Letter from School Place – September and October 2023.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – September 2023.
- Police Scotland - Orkney Area Command Newsletter – October 2023.

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Grass Cutting Tenders**

Members discussed the grass cutting tenders, as the contracts were due to be renewed for cutting at the kirkyard, at Burroughston Broch and around the amenity areas in Balfour, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To advertise the contracts on a three-year tender (2024 to 2026 inclusive).
2. That the contractors who had done the cutting in 2023 should be sent the tender documents.

## **B. Free Ferry Travel for Under 22's**

A member raised that Liam McArthur MSP continued to press for isles communities to offer free ferry travel for under 22's, and that it would be good to acknowledge that and offer their support, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

## **C. NILPS Projects**

Members queried what stage some of the outstanding North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme projects were, and it was:

Resolved to note that most of the works had been done but the Development Trust were working with NILPS officers to replace the maps at the Old Kirk and Pier.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Shapinsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 15 February 2024 at 18:45 in Shapinsay Community Centre.

## **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:30.