

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 8 February 2022 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Councillor S Clackson.
- Ms H Green, Interim Executive Director, Environmental, Property and IT Services.
- Mrs L Muir, Shapinsay Development Trust.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.
- Mrs J Follwell, Incoming Clerk.

- One member of the press.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr A Boyd and Mr S Garson.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 23 November 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr D Muir and seconded by Mrs E Phillips.

3. Grass Cutting Tenders

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the tenders had been reviewed across Orkney and referred to the documents that had previously been circulated to members. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

- A. To advertise the grass cutting tenders for a two-year contract this time.
- B. To circulate the tender documents to those who had done the work last year.
- C. To advertise the tender with a closing date for applications of 10 March 2022.

4. Matters Arising

A. Canons at Pier

The Chair advised that the contractor was hoping to have work completed and the canons back in place by the start of the summer sailings, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Christmas Lights

The Interim Clerk advised that a further £1,500 of funding had been secured from the Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust. The Chair added that she had received some indoor lights from Tesco which had been used for the railings at Christmas. It was agreed that this project should be pursued, and the Community Council Liaison Officer agreed to recirculate the brochure and information on location of columns etc, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and discuss again at a future meeting.

C. Recycling Collections

No further update had been received regarding where recycling was being taken or whether bins were going to be provided, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would look to provide a response as soon as possible.

D. Roads Operative

The Interim Clerk advised that unfortunately the recruitment process had not proved to be fruitful. Members again commented that they thought the post should be full time, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

E. Kirkyard Gates

It was reported that the works had yet to be completed, although the concrete had been put in for the runners, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact the contractor.

F. Broken Benches

Mr C Leslie advised that he had mended the slats on the broken bench.

He also advised that he had previously circulated information on recycled plastic benches which could be purchased for use around the island, as a CC community project. Members discussed prices and number of benches, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information and thank Mr C Leslie for repairing the bench.
2. That the Interim Clerk should look into the purchase of three benches and apply to CCGS on the project cost of £1,600.

G. Verge Cutting

Members had previously advised that they felt that by the time the verges were cut by OIC in Shapinsay, it was too late as the farmers on the island had already done the cutting. The Interim Clerk advised that she had fed the comments back to Roads Support and that any further comments could be made through the Verge Maintenance consultation which was currently open. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Portacabin at Shapinsay Pier

The Interim Clerk advised that Marine Services were looking to replace the portacabin, however it was to be left in-situ meantime to provide some form of shelter for ferry foot passengers, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

I. Waiting Rooms at Kirkwall and Shapinsay Piers

There was not a response on this matter, other than Marine Services were currently keeping an eye on the Kirkwall waiting room, and it was being locked just before the last sailing to Shapinsay by the ferry crew. Members queried what the new CCTV

system would be like and also reported that the roof of the Shapinsay waiting room may be leaking, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact Marine Services again on this matter.

J. SDT Boat Times

The Chair advised that this had not been progressed, and asked members what they thought should be done. They felt that the current times worked well for the majority of people travelling, and it was:

Resolved that this was not a community council issue at present and that the current arrangements suited the majority.

K. Faded Line Markings

It was reported that photos had been passed to Roads Support, and it was:

Resolved to await a response.

5. Correspondence

A. Briefing Note – Route Based Forecasting

After consideration of correspondence from OIC Roads Support, copies of which had previously been emailed to members, regarding the treatment of roads in the winter months and the use of weather stations, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. A North Highlands and Islands Climate Action Hub

Following consideration of correspondence from the North Highlands and Islands Climate Hub, copies of which had been previously circulated, which provided information on what their aims and objectives were, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. To note that Shapinsay Development Trust had already responded to the organisation to inform them of current sustainable climate projects they had.

C. Message from Ferry Services Manager

Following consideration of correspondence from the new manager of Orkney Ferries, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding current issues and proposed changes, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.

2. To note that members were disappointed at the lack of communication around the removal of the passenger text messaging service but understood that it had been withdrawn at short notice by the provider.

D. Free Childminding Course

Following consideration of correspondence from the Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability), copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a free training and support programme aimed at encouraging individuals to become professional childminders, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Strategic Projects Team

Following consideration of correspondence from the Strategic Projects Team, copies of which had previously been circulated, which provided an update on the work that had been done to put together a location-specific community benefit scheme for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Orkney Youth Local Action Group

Correspondence had been received from the OYLAG Facilitator, copies of which had been emailed to members, asking for information about groups and individuals who may be interested in the projects involving young people and local projects, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

G. Scotland's Census 2022

Members had previously been emailed correspondence regarding the upcoming census and information on how to participate, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that it could be shared on the residents' Facebook page.

H. Bag the Bruck

An additional item of correspondence had been circulated via email on the day of the meeting, which provided information on the Bag the Bruck event that was proposed for April 2022. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To apply for CCGS of £300 to cover sponsorship of groups who would like to take part in Bag the Bruck.
2. To advertise the event and availability of CC sponsorship.

6. The Smithy

The Shapinsay Development Trust Manager was in attendance and was able to provide an update on the group's plans to take on the property. The decision still required to be agreed by Full Council. It was agreed that representatives from the CC and the Trust would set up a meeting at the Smithy to discuss the transfer.

Other SDT projects were ongoing, including a community garden and polycrub area, and it was:

Resolved:

A. To note the information provided.

B. That the electricity bills would continue to be paid by the Community Council meantime.

C. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would provide information on purchase of new equipment and send an inventory to the Chair for use when considering items left within the Smithy.

7. Consultation Documents

A. Fourth National Planning Framework

Following consideration of a consultation document received from the Scottish Government, asking for view on how space, land and environments in Scotland should be designed and planned, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note that members had not made any representations to this consultation prior to its closing.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2022

Members had previously been sent a copy of the OIC consultation on verge maintenance throughout the summer season, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would pass back comments from members regarding the first cut being carried out too late in the season in previous years, and asking for it to be done earlier this year.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £5,792.17 in the General Fund and £8,360.91 in the Smithy Fund as at 26 January 2022.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 26 January 2022 it was:

Resolved to note that £922.44 remained for allocation in the main capping limit, £676 remained in the additional capping limit, and £654 remained in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £6,315.53 remained available for allocation as at 26 January 2022.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,400 remained available for allocation as at 26 January 2022.

9. Financial Request - Shapinsay Community School

The Chair declared an interest in the following item and did not take part in any discussions thereof.

Members considered a request from Shapinsay School, copies of which had previously been emailed to members, for financial assistance with travel costs for taking seven pupils along with two members of staff to Stromness for a trip to the museum. Costs were £160 for coach and £31.02 for the ferry, and it was:

Resolved to cover the full cost of the trip, £191.02, from the general fund.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report in relation to planning.

B. Transport

The Chair reported on behalf of the Transport Representative in his absence and expressed concerns across the island on the removal of the text messaging service by Orkney Ferries. Weekend sailings were also discussed, and it was agreed that they should pursue the possibility of an enhanced Sunday service now that extra funding had been made available for services on a Sunday, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would pass on comments regarding Sunday sailings and find out what the position was on this.

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

The SDT Manager advised that they were trying, in conjunction with the Community Association, to get things up and running for the young folk on the island, under 16's and under 30's before thinking about activities for the younger children. The garden project was at a standstill but meantime they were carrying out a review of island transport, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Publications

The following publications had been circulated and were noted by members:

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – September 2021.
- VAO Newsletter – November and December 2021 and January 2022.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – December 2021 and January 2022.
- Letter from School Place – December 2021 and January 2022.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – January 2022.

The member of the press left the meeting at this point.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Women's Aid Presentation

An email had been received regarding a visit from a representative of Women's Aid, however members thought that the Community Association and the Wellbeing Officer may be organising something with her already, so it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence and thank the representative for the offer.

B. Flood Defences at Kirkwall Pier

A member advised that there had been issues with vehicles coming off the ferry from Shapinsay not being able to exit the car park due to the flood defences being put up. He asked that the relevant Council departments be asked to improve their communications in this regard so that if the ferry was still running, arrangements would be made for any passengers to be able to make a safe exit before the defences were put in place fully, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would contact the relevant officers asking that arrangements be made to ensure safe exit from the car park when flood defences were being put up.

C. Reflective Routes

The Chair advised that she had received a complimentary copy of the new book by Shapinsay Church of Scotland, which the Community Council had provided financial assistance towards. Members were impressed with the book, however reported that the location of the defibrillator was wrongly marked on the map, and it was:

Resolved that the group who published the book would be advised accordingly.

D. Roads Issue – Harbour View

A member advised that there was a dip at the side of the road at Harbour View that could be a hazard for vehicles, and it was:

Resolved that Mr D Muir would send photographs of the offending area to the Community Council Liaison Officer so that she could report this to the relevant OIC department.

E. Kirkyard Gates

A member asked if it would be possible for the CC to arrange for the small gates at the kirkyard to be shotblasted as they required some attention, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would make enquiries in this regard.

F. Smithy Equipment

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

Members discussed items that remained in the Smithy and what should be done with them, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would provide information on how best to purchase additional items as well as what to do with the existing pieces within the property.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Following discussion of possible dates for the next meeting, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting of Shapinsay Community Council would take place via Microsoft Teams and in the Community Centre on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:50.