

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 1 June 2021 at 19:00

Present:

Mrs L Bews, Mr A Boyd, Mr S Garson, Mr D Muir and Mrs E Phillips.

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mr C Leslie and Councillor G Sinclair.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mrs E Phillips and seconded by Mr D Muir.

3. Matters Arising

A. Canons at Pier

Members advised that the work on the canons should be starting soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Christmas Lights

The Interim Clerk advised that letters had not yet been sent to local businesses regarding sponsorship, and it was:

Resolved that letters would be sent to local businesses before the next meeting.

C. Scrap Car Scheme

The Interim Clerk advised that the three applicants to the scrap car scheme had been contacted and that the Development Trust were now taking scrap, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Recycling Collections

The Interim Clerk advised that the recycling skip that had been in situ during lockdown had now been taken back to the mainland and would not be returned now that collections had resumed.

A further response from the Operations Team Leader had been previously circulated, which advised that he had spoken to the foremen and crew, and that there seemed to be an occasional issue if larger or incorrect bags were being presented (manure/farm use type bags) instead of the domestic sized bags that were issued to householders each year.

Members agreed that the situation had improved recently, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Shapinsay School Car Park

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she had taken this issue up with the Council's Roads section and had been told that it was not a Roads issue but an Education one. The Chair explained that the Head Teacher had been told that it should be incorporated into the school travel plan that parents and visitors to the

school should be encouraged to drive carefully and park carefully. It was agreed to refer this issue back to the school, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would speak to the Head Teacher and explain that there was nothing further the Community Council could do with regards to the car parking area.

F. Roads Operative

The Interim Clerk advised that this position was being advertised again, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

G. Peedie Pier

Members advised that the works at the Peedie Pier had recently been completed by BDS, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Orkney Ferries

Councillor H Woodbridge advised that she had spoken to the Chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee about safeguarding children and making sure they were looked after if ferries were not running to schedule or alternative arrangements were being made. It was also noted that the new tariffs were to be introduced shortly, and that they were still waiting for the online booking system to go live, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Kirkyard Gates

Members advised that the gates were now at the galvanisers and that the contractor hoped to begin work on installing them once he had finished at his current project. It was agreed that the contractor should be asked for an estimate on when he planned to have the work finished, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would write a letter to the contractor asking for an update on the project.

J. Roads Issues

Members noted that Shapinsay was not on the list of areas where surface dressing was to take place over the summer, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk should contact the Roads section and ask that surface dressing be done in Shapinsay.

K. NILPS Plinth

Members were advised that there were plans through the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme to erect a plinth in the kirkyard, and it was:

Resolved that members would be happy with this as long as it was tastefully done and in an appropriate location.

4. Correspondence

A. HITRANS – E-Cargo Bikes

After consideration of correspondence from the Transportation Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the availability of E-Cargo bikes for communities through HITRANS, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Briefing Note – Community Renewal Fund

Following consideration of a briefing note from the Development and Regeneration Manager, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding invitations to bid to a new fund to enable pilot projects and new approaches to community development, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Orkney Regional Marine Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from the Marine Planner, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the preparation of a statutory Regional Marine Plan for Orkney and the Islands Communities Impact Assessment, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

D. Annual Grant 2021/2022

Following consideration of correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, copies of which had previously been circulated, which gave details of the annual grant amount being awarded to Community Councils for the financial year 2021/2022, it was:

Resolved to note that Shapinsay Community Council had been awarded an annual grant of £3,991.23.

E. Adoption of Planning Guidance

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding three planning documents that had recently been approved by Orkney Islands Council, it was:

Resolved to note that Housing in the Countryside Supplementary Guidance, Amenity and Minimising Obtrusive Lighting Planning Policy Advice and the Development Plan Scheme 2021 had all been recently approved.

F. Reporting on your Local Council

Members considered correspondence from the Policy Manager for the Accounts Commission, Audit Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding public performance, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that feedback could be sent in by 4 June 2021.

G. Agri-Environment Climate Scheme

Members considered correspondence from the Rural Planner, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising of a scheme to help landowners create and/or develop existing access routes on their land, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and the deadline for applications of 30 June 2021.

H. Tesco Community Grant Scheme

Copies of correspondence from Tesco had previously been circulated, which advised of the relaunch of Tesco Community Grants, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Shapinsay Map

Members considered correspondence from Dr Mark Smith, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an open street map for Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the correspondence.

5. The Smithy

The Chair advised that the pop-up charity shop was continuing on a month-by-month basis. It was agreed that the Community Council would cover the cost of the electricity until such time as the building could open as a Heritage Centre again.

The roof had been repaired, and the Chair had switched the heating back on after it had been discovered to be off.

It was also reported that Shapinsay Development Trust had now secured the funding to purchase the property but were looking at a Community Asset Transfer first rather than purchase.

The NILPS project to relocate a refurbished red telephone box was discussed, and it was agreed that the Community Council could not give the go ahead for it to be put in the Smithy garden until they knew what was going on with the transfer of ownership of the building. Other possible/alternative locations were discussed, including the top of Elwick Brae.

Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts had approached the Community Council about the installation of broadband, but it was agreed that they should be encouraged to explore mobile internet options until the future ownership of the building was ascertained.

The repair of the bench outside the Smithy was also discussed, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Interim Clerk would add the repair of the bench outside the Smithy to the tender for the works to the other benches.

B. That the Interim Clerk should send Mr Battye a thank you letter for painting the gate.

C. That the Interim Clerk would advise Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts to look at mobile internet options meantime.

D. To note the information provided.

6. Consultation Documents

A. Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions

Following consideration of a consultation on the easing of restrictions, which had been sent round by the Scottish Government and previously circulated to members, it was:

Resolved to note that a response had been sent in on behalf of Shapinsay Community Council prior to the 26 March deadline.

B. Orkney Partnership – Community Priorities

Members had previously been sent a copy of the consultation on community priorities, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had since passed.

C. Scheme for Orkney Community Councils

Members considered the consultation on the scheme for Orkney Community Councils 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, and it was:

Resolved to note that any comments should be with the Interim Clerk by 16 July.

D. Winter Service Policy and Plan

Members had been previously sent information and documents relating to the consultation on both the annual Winter Service plan and the 5-year policy. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to respond that the Sandyhill and Westhill Roads should be swapped in priority, and that Helliars View should be assigned priority 3.

E. Island Wellbeing Survey

Members discussed the Island Wellbeing Survey, which had previously been circulated and had been well publicised, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had now closed.

F. GO-HI Rural MaaS Project

Following consideration of the survey to learn more about the transport and technology needs and preferences of people living in the HITRANS areas, copies of which had previously been sent round, it was:

Resolved to note that members could still participate in the survey if they wished.

G. Under 22's Free Bus Travel

Members considered the consultation from Transport Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding an Island Communities Impact Assessment for the Young Persons Scheme (free bus travel), and it was:

Resolved that members had until 21 June to complete the survey.

7. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £3,990.10 in the General Fund and £10,569.49 in the Smithy Fund as at 24 May 2021.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 24 May 2021 it was:

Resolved to note that £2,873 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 24 May 2021.

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 24 May 2021.

8. Financial Requests

A. Road Aggregate Scheme

Following consideration of applications which had been received in response to the advertised road aggregate scheme, applications were drawn by way of a random number generator, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the following applicants had been drawn at random and would receive grant funding of up to £250 each towards road aggregate:

- Collinson, Parkhall.
- Kent, Easthouse.
- Linklater, South Brecks.
- Leslie, Odinstone.

2. That the Interim Clerk would advise all successful and unsuccessful candidates accordingly, with a deadline for claims given to successful applicants.

B. Reflective Routes

Members resumed consideration of an application from Shapinsay Church, for financial assistance towards publication of a booklet of 'reflective routes' on Shapinsay and, following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award £405 towards the project, subject to CCGS approval.

9. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report at this time.

B. Transport

The Transport representative made reference to the breakdown of the Thorsvoe while covering refit and how there had been a lack of communication around the passenger-only service. A letter had been sent to the Orkney Ferries Manager following the incident, outlining members' concerns. Members agreed that things had improved but reiterated the need for an urgent review of Orkney Ferries' out of hours policy.

The restructuring of fares was also discussed, and members agreed that they had all felt let down at the time about how it had come about, the lack of consultation etc. However, the outcome of the retention of the 50 books of tickets had been generally well received although it was noted that getting a fair outcome for all islands would be very difficult going forward.

The booking system was also brought up, with members querying if passengers would still have to book 24 hours in advance if we were going into level zero. There was no update on the online booking system.

Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To contact Orkney Ferries again to thank them but also to reiterate the Community Council's request that there is a review into the out of hours policy.

2. To note the information provided.

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

The Shapinsay Development Trust representative advised that things were still ongoing as to the purchase or transfer of the Smithy, and that e-Bikes were now available for islanders and visitors to use, through the Trust, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

10. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – February and March 2021.
- VAO Newsletter – March, April and May 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – March, April and May 2021.
- Letter from School Place – March, April and May 2021.

11. Any Other Competent Business

A. Speeding Drivers

Members discussed two pieces of correspondence from island residents about speeding vehicles through Balfour village, especially around the school. It was agreed that they should make people aware again of the speed limits for the village and that the speed limit should be revised. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk should contact Roads Services about the possibility of having speed smileys in the village, as well as requesting that the village be made a 20mph limit area.
2. That a notice be put on the Shapinsay Facebook page reminding drivers of the speed limits around these areas.

B. Shapinsay Bypass

A member advised that they had been approached by a member of the community asking for information on the Shapinsay bypass project, and it was:

Resolved that the Democratic Services Manager would research this and provide information ahead of the Community Council's next meeting.

C. Prescriptions

It was reported that some repeat prescriptions were taking 10 to 14 days to come out to Shapinsay. Supply and demand issues were the problem, especially with some of the more specialised drugs. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk should write to ask Heilendi if there was anything they could do to reduce the waiting time for some prescriptions.

12. 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 either via Microsoft Teams or in the Boathouse on Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at 19:00.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:45.