

# Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in Shapinsay Community Centre on Thursday, 7 September 2023 at 18:45

## Present:

Mrs L Bews, Mr C Leslie, Mrs V More, Mr D Muir, Ms J Noble and Mrs E Phillips.

## In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson (via Teams).
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor H Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mr M Webb, White Ribbon Orkney.
- Mr J Richards, White Ribbon Orkney.
- Mr R Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Interim Clerk.

## Order of Business

1. Apologies .....	2
2. White Ribbon Presentation .....	2
3. Election of Office Bearers .....	2
4. Adoption of Minute .....	2
5. Bike Shelter Installation Tender .....	2
6. Matters Arising .....	3
7. Correspondence .....	5
8. Consultation Documents .....	6
9. Financial Statements .....	7
10. Financial Requests .....	8
11. Reports from Representatives .....	9
12. Publications .....	10
13. Any Other Competent Business .....	10
14. Date of Next Meeting .....	11
15. Conclusion of Meeting .....	11

## **1. Apologies**

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs E Chaney.

## **2. White Ribbon Presentation**

Representatives from the White Ribbon Orkney group provided members with a presentation, explaining what they stand for and that they would like to present to other groups across Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the presentation and that information about White Ribbon Orkney would be shared on the Community Council and Shapinsay Residents Facebook pages.

The White Ribbon Representatives left the meeting at this point.

## **3. Election of Office Bearers**

Resolved to remain with the status quo and to perform election of office bearers at the next meeting.

## **4. Adoption of Minute**

The minute of the meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held on 8 June 2023 was adopted, being proposed by Mr C Leslie and seconded by Mr D Muir, subject to the following addition;

At Item 7A – To note a broader discussion on speed limits from the pier through the village and not just outside the school. Members discussed making the lights permanent and not just variable.

## **5. Bike Shelter Installation Tender**

Mrs Leanne Bews declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Members were shown a tender which had been received for the works to install the bike shelter. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved:

A. To accept the tender from Mr S Bews.

B. That the Interim Clerk would contact the successful tender and ask that they commence work at their earliest convenience.

C. That the Interim Clerk would contact HiTRANS in relation to funding to cover the installation costs.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **A. Christmas Lights**

Members had been provided with further information in relation to lights, including estimated cost to install. Residents in the area had been contacted and no objections had been received. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To purchase ten LED braid lights in pure white, with commando plugs fitted, with CDF funding to be utilised if possible.
2. That the Interim Clerk would contact Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Fund to confirm funding award of £1,500.
3. That the Interim Clerk would contact Shapinsay Development Trust to enquire about funding towards the lights.
4. That the Interim Clerk would ask for quotes from local contractors for the installation of the lights and circulate these round members for agreement.

### **B. Bins**

Members had previously requested that consideration be given to two additional bins at Helliar View, and it was reported that two had been removed but only one had been put back to replace them. No update was available on the request for additional bins at the Mor Stein and Vasa, but it was reported that Housing would not be pursuing the request for communal bins at the Council Houses. It was also reported that members were not aware of the street sweeper being out to the island, but that the verges had been done to schedule, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided, and appreciation for the verges being cut.
2. To request again that bins be sited at Mor Stein and Vasa.
3. To request again that communal bins for the Council houses be considered, but with a bin store created situated away from the paths, to allow clear and safe access to the houses
4. To request again that the street sweeper visit the island.

### **C. Shapinsay Road Repairs**

There was no response to this item, and members noted that the Roads Support Officer had not been back in touch to arrange a visit, and it was:

Resolved to request another visit to Shapinsay be arranged to carry out a review the road repairs required, along with Mr C Leslie.

## **D. NILPS Projects**

The Community Council Liaison Officer read an update from the Project Officer, North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme, which advised that most of the Shapinsay projects had been completed. Most interpretation boards were in place, NILPS funding supported the renovation work at the Smithy and the new displays in the heritage centre. There was a sign still to be installed at Burroughston Broch and listed building consent was needed for the board at the old Kirk in the Kirkyard before it could be installed. The small gates at the Kirkyard had been replaced and the cannons refurbished. Following the update, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **E. Ferry Waiting Room/Toilets at Kirkwall**

The Chair advised that she had sent a message the previous week regarding further issues relating to the vandalism and poor state of the toilets and waiting room. It was noted that these issues had been on the agenda for a number of years with no movement. The Community Council Liaison Officer read an email from the Corporate Director, Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, advising that he was aware of the issues and that he would have this looked into and see what could be done to get the facilities back into use/refurbished, along with looking at what is possible with regards to CCTV, and it was:

Resolved to note the update and to monitor the situation.

## **F. Pier Parking Signage/Scrap Car Scheme**

It was noted that signage had been provided since the last meeting, and that people seemed to be arranging for the scrap of vehicles on their own behalf due to the price of scrap etc., and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and remove this item from the agenda.

## **G. Funding for Pathways, School Path**

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that discussions had taken place between various Council sections, and that a plan had now been drawn up for a proposed path behind the parking spaces. The plan had been passed to the Head Teacher of Shapinsay School, who had confirmed that she was happy with it. The plan was that this would be worked into the school travel plan and external funding be applied for, and it was:

Resolved to monitor this project and ask for a further update to the next meeting.

## **H. Shapinsay Hydrogen Plant Removal**

There was no update on this item, however the Chair advised that discussions had been ongoing between the school head teacher, the Corporate Director (Education, Leisure and Housing) and the contractor, and hopefully this would be addressed shortly.

It was also noted that the system had been making strange noises and neighbouring houses had passed comment on this, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation with regards to the hydrogen plant.

## **I. Shapinsay New Benches/Disposal of Wooden Benches**

It was reported that the new picnic-style benches had been ordered and would hopefully be delivered shortly.

Members discussed what to do with the old benches, which were not fit for purpose. A member advised that the Old Kirk wished for the ones they had to be removed from storage there, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To await the new benches before agreeing locations for them.
2. That the old benches in storage at the Old Kirk, and the other ones in situ across the island that were no longer in good condition would be gathered in one location and offered for free to members of the public.

## **J. Orkney Ferries – Children’s Fares and 50 Ticket Books**

The Community Council Liaison Officer read an email from the Orkney Ferries Manager, advising that they would be replacing the current booking system with a much-upgraded system, hopefully from May 2024. It would also mean that passengers would be able to book/amend/get refunds online, and OF would have the ability to send out confirmations with a QR code.

The email also advised that OF would also endeavour to consult with communities on the changes to fares and ticketing where possible, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

## **K. Balfour Village – Maintenance, Repairs to Bike Shed, New Pathway**

Resolved to note that there had been no update on these matters.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **A. SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023**

Members had been previously forwarded information on the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund, which was again open for applications, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and the deadline for applications of 31 July 2023.

### **B. Community Led Local Development (CLLD)**

Members had previously been forwarded information on the availability of grant funding from the CLLD fund, which had been open for applications, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for expressions of interest had passed on 31 July 2023.

### **C. Shapinsay Residents – Sunday Excursions**

Members discussed correspondence which had previously been passed round regarding Sunday Excursions and, after discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Transport Representative would ask that the ferries be amended to allow Shapinsay residents to utilise Sunday excursions during the summer holiday period, end of July and one other, along with a North Ronaldsay trip.

### **D. Mill Dam – New Project and Management Plan Update**

Members had been forwarded information from RSPB in relation to their management plan and details of a new project, and it was:

Resolved to write a letter of support to RSPB for their future work.

### **E. Christmas Tree Lighting 2023**

Members discussed correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, in relation to the EMP for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the ceremony would take place on Friday, 1 December 2023.
2. That the Interim Clerk would order a tree.
3. That the Interim Clerk would invite the Salvation Army to play at the event.
4. That the EMP would be completed and sent back to OIC by the 13 Oct 2023 deadline.

### **F. SDT – Support for Housing Project Request**

Members had previously been sent information on a request from Shapinsay Development Trust, requesting a letter of support for their housing project, and it was:

Resolved to note that it had been previously agreed to write a letter of support and that this had since been sent.

## **8. Consultation Documents**

### **A. Consultation OIC - 20mph Speed Limits – Island Schools**

Members discussed the consultation on the proposed implementation of 20mph limits around the island schools, and it was:

Resolved to note that the report had been passed and to monitor the situation.

## **B. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board – Review of Policy**

A consultation in relation to a review of the licensing policy had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed on 25 August 2023.

## **C. Phase 3 of Permitted Development Rights Review**

A Scottish Government consultation in relation to a review of permitted development rights had previously been forwarded to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that consultation had closed on 23 August 2023.

## **D. OIC Procurement Strategy 2023 – 2028**

Members had previously been sent information regarding a consultation on OIC's procurement strategy, and it was:

Resolved to note that the consultation had closed for comments on 31 July 2023.

## **E. Women's Aid Orkney - Survey**

A survey by Women's Aid in relation to domestic violence against older women had previously been sent on to members, and it was:

Resolved to note that members could still complete the survey if they wished to do so.

# **9. Financial Statements**

## **A. Annual Accounts 2022/2023**

Resolved to note the annual accounts as at 31 March 2023.

## **B. General Fund**

Following consideration of the general fund statement for Shapinsay Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note the balance as at 17 August 2023 of £8,655.41.

## **C. Smithy Fund**

Following consideration of the Smithy Fund statement, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the balance of £709.48 remaining as at 17 August 2023.
2. To note that this balance would be transferred before the next meeting.

## **D. Community Council Grant Scheme**

Following consideration of Shapinsay Community Council's CCGS statement, it was:

Resolved to note that £2,394.40 remained in the main capping limit, £743 in the additional capping limit, and £719 in the island capping limit for allocation.

### **E. Community Development Fund**

Following consideration of the CDF statement for Shapinsay Community Council, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,627.53 remained in the fund for allocation.

### **F. Seed Corn Fund**

Members considered the Seed Corn Fund statement for Shapinsay Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note that £3,400 remained in the fund for allocation.

## **10. Financial Requests**

### **A. Sean Dunnett – Climbing Competitions**

Members had previously been sent a request for financial assistance from Marie Dunnett towards her son Sean's travel to climbing competitions in Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness and Kilmarnock, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 per trip, totalling £200.

### **B. Remembrance Sunday Wreath**

Members discussed correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, asking if they would like to purchase a remembrance wreath, and it was:

Resolved to order one wreath for Shapinsay and to apply for CCGS on the cost.

### **C. Shapinsay Agricultural Association – Show Insurance**

Members had previously been forwarded a request from Shapinsay Agricultural Association for financial assistance towards the cost of public liability insurance for their annual show on 8 August 2023, and it was:

Resolved to award £252.60 towards insurance, subject to CCGS approval.

### **D. Shapinsay Horticultural Association – Show Insurance**

A request from Shapinsay Horticultural Association had previously been forwarded to members, for financial assistance towards the cost of public liability insurance for their annual show on 19 August 2023, and it was:

Resolved to award £136.50 towards insurance, subject to CCGS approval.

## **E. Erland Rendall - Climbing Competitions**

Members considered a financial request which had been received on behalf of Erland Rendall, for assistance towards the cost of attending four climbing competitions in Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness and Kilmarnock, and it was:

Resolved to make a general fund donation of £50 per trip, totalling £200.

## **11. Reports from Representatives**

### **A. Transport**

The Transport Representative advised that he would be attending the Ferry Service Consultative Forum meeting on Wednesday, 13 September, and that it would be good to have some suggested dates for the Sunday Excursions prior to the meeting. Members agreed that it would be good to have at least one in the summer holidays, around the end of July, and then another later in the year.

He also reported the figures from the Saturday and Sunday morning SDT sailings, and it was agreed that they did not provide justification to continue running the service. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. That the Transport Representative would put forward suggested dates for Sunday Excursions for Shapinsay.

### **B. Planning**

The Planning Representative advised that only one application had featured on the planning lists since the last meeting, for permission to site a container at the back of The Smithy for storage, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and that members had no concerns.

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

The Chair advised that she had no official update from SDT, however members praised how well the Trust were working at present and commented that they were doing a great job and making a big difference with The Smithy, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Orkney Health and Care**

The Chair and Mr Colin Leslie both advised that they had not been able to attend the last meeting of the Joint Isles Health and Care Group but explained to the new members the importance of the meetings and that meeting together with other islands had made a big difference. Members acknowledged that Shapinsay were in a better position with retained first responders, nurses and trained firefighters but that there were always improvements to be made and it was good to be able to shout for

the other, less fortunate islands. The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the next meeting was scheduled for 17 October and, following further discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the update.

## **12. Publications**

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

- VAO - Training and Funding Update - June, July and August 2023.
- VAO - Newsletter - June, July and August 2023.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Command – CC Newsletter - May and August 2023.
- Letter from School Place – June 2023, July and August 2023.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – April, May, June and July 2023.
- SRA - Newsletter - July and August 2023.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – June and July 2023.
- ‘Good To Share’ Information Bulletin – NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland.
- Scottish Health Council – Member Recruitment – Summer 2023.
- Scottish Islands Passport – News and Survey.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – September 2023.

## **13. Any Other Competent Business**

### **A. Bushes at Elwick Brae**

A member advised that the bushes at the top of Elwick Brae required to be cut back again, as they were becoming overgrown and posing a risk, as visibility was restricted, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would include this in the business letter and contact the relevant department for a response.

### **B. Free Ferry Travel**

Members discussed a proposal from a member that the community council should consider funding free ferry travel for under 22's as the Scottish Government enabled free bus travel for under 22's, and the ferry was effectively the island's bus service to town. Members pointed out that they do offer grants towards school trips, which included ferry travel, and that they would be wary of going down this route as it could have a detrimental impact on OIC's ability to negotiate Scottish Government Funding. It was suggested that the member approach Shapinsay Development Trust as this may be something they would be interested in looking at, and it was:

Resolved to note the discussion.

### **C. Hydrogen Plant at Shapinsay School**

The Chair reported that noise from the plant continued to cause disturbance, and seemed to have a mind of its own, suddenly starting up and making a whirring noise. Complaints had been received from neighbouring property owners. Councillor M Thomson advised that the owners were decommissioning this project, so something was due to happen soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

### **D. Air Ambulance**

Members asked if there was any update on this item, and it was:

Resolved to note that no further information was available to members.

### **E. Bonfire Night**

Members discussed plans to hold a bonfire night and fireworks display on Sunday, 5 November, in conjunction with Shapinsay Community Association, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would submit an EMP to Democratic Services to be circulated to all relevant parties.
2. That Mr D Muir would be the named Fire Steward and Mr C Leslie would be the firework technician and ensure safe storage of the fireworks before and during the event.
3. To ask SDT if the Boathouse garden could be used on the evening of the event.
4. That members agreed to fund up to 50% of the cost of the event, up to £500, subject to CCGS approval.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Following consideration of a date for the next meeting of Shapinsay Community Council, it was:

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 17 November 2023 at 18:45 at Shapinsay Community Centre.

## **15. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:55.