

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

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

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1. Apologies

The Chair advised that apologies for absence had been intimated by Mr C Muir, and that he had handed in a note of resignation to the Community Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the apologies and resignation.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr S Garson and seconded by Mrs L Bews.

3. Grass Cutting Tenders

Following consideration of the tenders which had been received for grass cutting at Shapinsay kirkyard, Smithy garden, Burroughston Broch and the amenity areas, it was:

Resolved to award the grass cutting tenders for 2021 to Mr C Batty, Mr A Bird and Mr D Swannie respectively.

4. Matters Arising

A. Canons at Pier

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that the grant offer had been accepted and signed, and that the contractor had been instructed to start work on the canons as soon as he was able, 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 still to claim were yet to be contacted, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would arrange to contact the remaining applicants and ask them to arrange removal with the haulier.

D. Gritting of Pavement on Harbour Street

It was noted by members that some gritting had been carried out on icy mornings recently, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Recycling Collections

The Interim Clerk provided a response from the Operations Team Leader, which advised that his team had no requirement for bags to be presented in bins in Shapinsay. It went on to say that the isles properties had bins for storage purposes only, but if the customers that had bins preferred to present their bags within the bins on collection days, they would uplift the bins, otherwise they would uplift bags presented roadside.

He also advised that their routes are regularly impacted across Orkney, not just in Shapinsay, and that whilst they had no control over vehicles breaking down, they were working with their fleet services to try and improve the current situation in order to improve resilience with refuse and recycling collections, both on the isles, and the mainland.

Members responded by explaining that bin bags were not being collected if they were not presented within a bin. It was agreed to report this.

Members had also been previously consulted on whether they would like the recycling centre to be kept on the island meantime, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would advise OIC that Shapinsay Community Council would like the recycling centre to remain in situ for the present time.
2. That the Interim Clerk would contact the Operations Team Leader again with regards to the collection of bin bags.

F. Shapinsay School Car Park

The Chair advised that Education were not taking responsibility for this issue as it did not impact on the operation of the school, but that they had been advised to look at the school's travel plan. The need for drivers to park responsibly was discussed, but it was agreed that even when cars were parked right in, pedestrians still needed to step out into the road or up on the steep grass verge to pass the parked vehicles. Councillor G Sinclair suggested that the Community Council take this issue up with the Council's Roads section, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact the relevant officer in this regard and discuss options.

G. Roads Operative

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

Resolved to monitor the situation.

H. Burroughston Broch Sign

The Interim Clerk advised that this would be attended to and repairs carried out as necessary, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

I. Roads Issues

The Interim Clerk advised that all the roads issues reported at the last meeting had been passed to the Roads Support Manager, and that works were planned to rectify damage done to the verge at the junction at Elwick Brae.

The Chair also provided information from a recent Islands Community Resilience meeting and advised that there had been an increase in funding to the budget for roads in the new financial year, and that members should think about priority areas on Shapinsay's roads that required attention, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

J. Peedie Pier

The Interim Clerk advised that she had made enquiries with officers within Orkney Islands Council but that a response had not yet been received, and it was:

Resolved to await a response on this matter.

K. Streetlights at Millbank

Members advised that the streetlights had now been reset and were coming on at the correct time, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Correspondence

A. Scottish Government – Covid-19 Marketing Campaign

After consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the promotion of the Covid-19 vaccine, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Workshop on 5G

Following consideration of correspondence from the Strategic Advisor (Renewables and Connectivity), copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding a workshop to discuss rural connectivity and 5G, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had taken place on 25 February.

C. RSPB – Biosecurity Plan for Shapinsay

Following consideration of correspondence from the Biosecurity Officer for the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the formulation of a biosecurity plan for Shapinsay, it was:

Resolved that this was something better left with another group on the island.

D. Scotland's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from the Policy Manager, Heart Disease and Cardiac Arrest, Clinical Priorities Team, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding developing a refreshed national out of hospital cardiac arrest strategy, it was:

Resolved to note that the event had taken place on 16 February.

E. Circular Economy and the Planning System

Following consideration of correspondence from Planning Advice Scotland, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding events for community councils to provide an introduction to the Circular Economy as Scotland moves towards its zero carbon target by 2045, and an overview of the Scottish planning system, current planning reforms and of National Planning Framework 4, it was:

Resolved to note that the events had since taken place.

F. Scottish Water – Leaks and Bursts

Members considered correspondence from Scottish Water, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding help tracing leaks and bursts after the recent spell of cold weather, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. Islands of Orkney Brochure

Members considered correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager, advising of arrangements for the brochure for 2021, and that no paper copies would be printed but amendments could be made to the online brochure, and it was:

Resolved to note that any amendments to the brochure should be emailed to the Interim Clerk by 17 May 2021.

6. The Smithy

The Chair advised members that arrangements had been made to facilitate the Development Trust's Wellbeing Coordinator using the Smithy for a pop-up charity shop.

A leak had been discovered and had been reported to the relevant Council officers for action. It was also reported that the light in the bathroom was not working, and the Interim Clerk agreed to report this.

It was also reported that Shapinsay Development Trust had recently had a survey done on the property, and had agreement to get funding from the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme, providing they kept the heritage element up the stairs and developed the downstairs area for community use. An Asset Transfer was being discussed with Orkney Islands Council.

Hydro use within the building was discussed, and members agreed that they would be willing to continue to cover the cost of electricity used in the whole building whilst

still under Covid-19 restrictions, as the Heritage Group would not have been able to do their usual fundraising to cover costs.

Members also had a discussion as to who had sets of keys, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. That the Interim Clerk would report the fault with the bathroom light.
- B. That members were in agreement to continue covering the cost of hydro usage until further notice.
- C. That the Chair would ascertain who had keys to the building.
- D. To note the information provided.

7. Consultation Documents

A. Animal Welfare and Livestock Transportation

Following consideration of two consultations on animal welfare and livestock transportation being carried out by DEFRA and the Scottish Government, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline had already passed for these consultations.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan

Members had previously been sent a copy of the 2020 Verge Maintenance Plan and asked if they had any comments to guide the plan being made up for 2021, and it was:

Resolved that members would welcome an early cut again 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 £4,843.40 in the General Fund and £10,789.64 in the Smithy Fund as at 8 March 2021.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2020/2021 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 8 March 2021 it was:

Resolved to note that the balance remaining for approval in the main capping limit was £1,448.67, £669.00 remained in the additional capping limit, and £471.83 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 8 March 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 8 March 2021.

9. Financial Requests

A. Shapinsay Church “Reflective Routes”

Following consideration of a request for financial assistance from Shapinsay Church, copies of which had previously been circulated, towards producing a book on mindfulness walks around Shapinsay, it was:

Resolved:

1. To respond to the group and advise that the Community Council would be happy to support this project in principle. However, members would like to ensure that the church has sought permission from all landowners prior to publishing a booklet encouraging walking on their land and would be advising walkers to be respectful.
2. To query when the book is to be distributed, as in the current climate island residents may be wary of intentions to increase visitor numbers.
3. To share information regarding other suggested funding sources as requested.

B. CC Road Scheme

Following discussion regarding a road scheme to assist residents with the cost of aggregate for road repairs, it was:

Resolved:

1. To set aside £1,000 towards this project, subject to CCGS approval.
2. That the Interim Clerk would advertise the scheme with a closing date prior to the next meeting so that applications could be considered.
3. That the stipulation would be that residents would not be considered if they had received funding towards aggregate from the community council within the last 5 years.

C. CC Insurance 2021/2022

Following discussion of insurance costs for the new financial year, it was:

Resolved that members would be happy for insurance costs to be taken from CCGS for 2021/2022.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

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

B. Transport

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

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

The Chair advised that an update had been published recently in the local newsletter and provided a short report on what the Trust had been doing lately.

Following discussion of a representative of the Community Council to stand on Shapinsay Development Trust, Mr A Boyd agreed that he would be the nominated person, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would advise SDT of the new representative accordingly.

11. Publications

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

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – November and December 2020.
- VAO Newsletter – January and February 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – February 2021.
- Scottish Rural Action Newsletter – February 2021.
- Letter from School Place – January and February 2021.

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Orkney Ferries – Capacity

Members discussed concerns regarding space on the ferry and people being left behind in Kirkwall on the last run of the evening, and also queried when online booking would be available, and it was:

Resolved that the Transport Representative would address these issues with the Ferry Services Manager.

B. Kirkyard Gates

Members discussed progress with the kirkyard gates and making a part payment to the contractor for work already carried out, and it was:

Resolved that members would speak to the contractor and ask him to submit an invoice for work carried out to date.

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 on Tuesday, 1 June 2021 at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 20:35.