

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held at the Boathouse, Shapinsay and via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 14 September 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 G Sinclair.
- Councillor H Woodbridge.
- Mrs M Spence, Democratic Services Manager.
- Mrs K Groundwater, Project Officer (Communications and Engagement).
- 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 Councillor S Clackson.

2. Presentation – OCWP Community Benefit Scheme Consultation

Members heard a presentation from the Project Officer (Communications and Engagement) which provided information on the ongoing consultation on what should happen with Community Benefit funding should the Community Wind Project proceed. She explained that the findings of the consultation would be fed into a report to committee in November. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that members would discuss this and put together a response to the consultation by the end of the week.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 1 June 2021 was approved, being proposed by Mr s E Phillips and seconded by Mr A Boyd.

4. Matters Arising

A. Canons at Pier

Members advised that the work was yet to be completed, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk and Chair would speak with the contractor about a proposed date for the works.

B. Christmas Lights

The Interim Clerk advised that letters had been sent to various local businesses/organisations, with two responses received offering some financial support towards the proposal. An application had also been submitted to the Scottish Sea Farms “Heart of the Community” Fund. The Chair had also received an offer of some indoor lights from Tesco. It was agreed that nothing should be done meantime, and it was:

Resolved to note the information and discuss again at the next meeting.

C. Recycling Collections

Since the last meeting, members had queried what was happening with their recyclates, as there had been reports that it was just being put in with the normal waste and put to Chingliebraes. A member advised that he had heard that four bins would be supplied for each household to store recyclates separately, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask for another update.

D. Roads Operative

The Interim Clerk advised that no update was available on this and she believed that recruitment was still ongoing, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

E. Kirkyard Gates

The Interim Clerk advised that the contractor had received the new gates, which were now in situ at the kirkyard, and hoped to have them installed very soon, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Broken Benches

The Interim Clerk advised that no tenders had been received for the repair works to the benches. Members advised that the one at the Smithy now required to be replaced but that the second one at the Canons only required a slat replacing, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would look for prices for wooden and plastic benches and circulate to members for consideration.
2. That members would arrange for a repair of the bench at the Canons.

G. Roads Issues

The Interim Clerk advised that the schedule for works for next year was being completed, and that Shapinsay would be included for works on the worst areas of road, which was hoped to be completed by the end of March 2022, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

H. Speeding Drivers

The Interim Clerk advised that she had spoken to the Roads Services Manager regarding the issue of speeding through Balfour, particularly at the area around the school, and he had advised that the introduction of 20mph speed limits/zones would be the subject of a future report to the Development and Infrastructure Committee. He had also advised that he would arrange for traffic counters to be set out in the vicinity of Shapinsay School, which members confirmed had been done, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

I. Shapinsay Bypass

The Democratic Services Manager had issued a letter with her findings on the topic of the Shapinsay Bypass, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising that, at one point, there had been funding available but that the works were then

removed from the capital roads programme due to being unlikely to attract match funding. After extensive discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that there was no more the community council could do in this respect.

J. Prescriptions

The Interim Clerk advised that she had received information from the Practice Manager, Heilendi, which stated that improvements had been made to the procedure for repeat prescriptions and that an IT upgrade had been completed at a local pharmacy which had solved another issue with delays, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that improvements had been noticed in this regard.

5. Correspondence

A. Island Communities Fund

After consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Government, copies of which had previously been emailed to members, regarding the availability of funding to support the delivery of the National Islands Plan, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. 2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Following consideration of correspondence from the Scottish Boundary Commissions' Secretariat, copies of which had been previously circulated, regarding a report on the review of number of councillors and the electoral ward boundaries, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Community Development Fund - Update

Following consideration of an update on the Community Development Fund from Economic Development, Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Community Skip

Following consideration of correspondence from the Shapinsay Community Wellbeing Coordinator, copies of which had previously been circulated, asking whether it would be possible for the community council to arrange a skip for community use, it was:

Resolved to respond and offer financial support, in principle, if the Trust were willing to administer the project.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting and Event Management Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Democratic Services, copies of which had previously been circulated, regarding the community's plan for a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and associated EMP, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the tree lighting event would be held on Friday, 3 December.
2. That the Interim Clerk would order the tree and arrange for it to be delivered a week prior to the event.
3. That the Interim Clerk would ask the Salvation Army Band if they would be willing to play at the event.
4. That the Chair would ask the school children if they would like to take part in the event.
5. That the Chair would ask the Community Association if they would be willing to do the indoor part of the event, including hot drinks.

F. Community Active Travel Projects/School Streets

Members discussed correspondence sent on behalf of HITRANS, copies of which had previously been circulated, which advised of funding being made available to progress active travel and school streets projects within communities in Orkney and elsewhere, and it was:

Resolved to look into this further as it may be something to assist with the issue for pedestrians around the school car park.

G. Connecting Scotland – Phase 2

Following consideration of correspondence on the Connecting Scotland programme, copies of which had previously been circulated, it was:

Resolved to note that funding was available for devices for those in the recognised categories.

6. The Smithy

Members advised that there was no update on the Shapinsay Development Trust taking ownership of the Smithy.

Members considered correspondence from the Shapinsay Community Wellbeing Coordinator, advising the SHAC were going to start using the upstairs of the building again for their activities, and asking for permission to continue using the downstairs area in the Smithy, and it was:

Resolved:

- A. To note that the ownership of the property had not changed since the last meeting, with no update from Shapinsay Development Trust on the matter.
- B. That the Chair would advise the Wellbeing Coordinator that the Community Council had no issue with them continuing to use the Smithy for their pop-up shop.
- C. That the Interim Clerk would contact Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts to ask for confirmation that they were going to start using the upstairs of the building again.
- D. That, if Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts were planning to resume use of the upstairs of the building, they would be charged their share of the electricity bills.

7. Consultation Documents

A. Review of Gambling Policy

Following consideration of a consultation document received from Orkney Islands Council on a review of the Gambling Policy, 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. Orkney Local Flood Risk Management Plan

Members had previously been sent a copy of the SEPA consultation on the local flood risk management plan for Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note that members could respond to the consultation until 31 October 2021.

C. Review of the Inter Island Fare Structure

Members had previously been emailed information regarding a survey on the revised fare structure on the inter-island ferries, and it was:

Resolved that members could fill in the survey until 30 September 2021.

8. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £6,894.43 in the General Fund and £9,529.85 in the Smithy Fund as at 23 August 2021.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2021/2022 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 23 August 2021 it was:

Resolved to note that £2,456.65 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 23 August 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 23 August 2021.

9. Financial Request

A. Financial Requests

University Travel and Climbing Trips – P and S Dunnett

Mrs E Phillips declared an interest in the following item and did not take part in any discussions thereof.

Members considered a request from M Dunnett, copies of which had previously been circulated, for financial assistance with travel for P Dunnett to return to university, and for S Dunnett to attend four separate climbing competitions on mainland Scotland. Following consideration, it was:

Resolved:

1. To resume consideration of the request regarding P Dunnett at the next meeting.
2. To award £50 per trip to S Dunnett for the climbing competitions, totalling £200.

B. Shapinsay Community Association - Fireworks Display

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

Correspondence from Shapinsay Community Association had been forwarded to members for consideration the day before the meeting, which asked for financial assistance towards a community fireworks event on 5 November. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to award up to £500, subject to CCGS approval, but encourage Shapinsay Community Association to also apply for a SWAP grant.

10. Reports from Representatives

A. Planning

Resolved to note that there had been a planning application for two glamping pods.

B. Transport

The Transport representative advised that he had been unable to attend the Ferry Service Consultative Forum meeting, but that Mrs E Phillips had gone in his place. Various issues had been discussed, including the inter-island transport study, the fare structure and Thorsvoe breakdowns. Members agreed that problems, and their discontentment with the Thorsvoe servicing the Shapinsay route were well documented and agreed that they wouldn't want it to be the solution long-term. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would look out old correspondence regarding the Thorsvoe and send it on again to Orkney Ferries/Transport as a reminder of their feelings on the issue.
2. To note the information provided.

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

The SDT representative advised that there would be an EGM in October, and provided information on other projects still ongoing, 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 – April and May 2021.
- VAO Newsletter – June, July and August 2021.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – June, July and August 2021.
- Letter from School Place – June, July and August 2021.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Update – July 2021.
- Police Scotland – Orkney Area Newsletter – July 2021.
- VAO “Worrying About Money” Leaflet

12. Any Other Competent Business

A. Verge Cutting

A member advised that he thought the standard of verge cutting had been poor over the summer, and it was:

Resolved to feed this information back to the relevant department via the Interim Clerk.

B. Portacabin at Pier

A member advised that the portacabin at the pier was in very poor condition and was now not fit for purpose, possibly even a health and safety concern, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would report this issue to the relevant department.

C. Waiting Room at Balfour

Members reported that although the waiting room at the pier was kept clean, the door was scabby and needed painting, there was damp around the windows, and that it could do with some attention. It was also reported that the public bin in this vicinity needed replaced, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would advise the relevant sections and ask that these issues be attended to.

D. Waiting Room in Kirkwall

Members reported that the waiting room at the Kirkwall side required some maintenance and repair also, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would bring this to the relevant officers' attention.

E. Fireworks Display

The Chair advised that Shapinsay Community Association had asked the Community Council to organise the fireworks display and it be covered under their public liability. She advised that the Community Association would help put together the event management plan and submit it on behalf of the Community Council. It was agreed that the Gatehouse square could be a suitable location, and it was:

Resolved that this would be acceptable.

F. SDT Boat Times

The Chair advised that SDT had been approached to move the time of the Saturday morning out of hours boat to accommodate people getting in to work for 09:00. However, this would go against the agreement that the out of hours boat must be tied up before the first sailing of the Shapinsay. The Trust had approached Orkney Ferries to see what could be done and they had replied saying that this agreement was in place, but that their suggestion would be that the time of the MV Shapinsay could be altered but that this request would have to come from the CC. It was noted that the Trust cannot run in competition with Orkney Ferries. Members agreed that this should be put out to the Community to see what the feeling was, and it was:

Resolved that Democratic Services would suggest a form of wording for the advert which would be put up locally to gauge what the community's feeling was on this matter.

13. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that, pending restrictions, the next meeting of Shapinsay Community Council would take place via Microsoft Teams and in the Boathouse on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 at 19:00.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 21:32.