

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in Shapinsay Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 19:00

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Ms H Green, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure (via Teams).
- Mr M Steward, Scottish Sea Farms.
- Ms M Walker, Scottish Sea Farms.
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer.
- Miss J Follwell, Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor H Woodbridge.

2. Presentation by Scottish Sea Farms

Two invited representatives from Scottish Sea Farms gave a presentation to members on their pre-application for the proposed new farm development in Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay. A presentation detailing their proposals and the next steps to progress their application was provided. Members agreed that due to the nature of the proposals and the impact on Shapinsay, it would be good if a public event could be held, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Members would agree a date in January/February 2023 for Scottish Sea Farms to hold a public drop-in event on Shapinsay before their application is taken to the next stage.

B. That this drop-in event would be advertised widely to Shapinsay residents.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 27 September 2022 was approved, being proposed by Mrs E Phillips and seconded by Mr C Leslie.

4. Bench Repair Tender

It was advised that no tenders had been submitted for the storage and repair of the benches. It was also reported that one of the benches was beyond repair and it was requested an order be submitted for two new recycled plastic benches as per the previous order earlier this year, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That the Clerk would re-advertise the tender with a closing date of 14 December 2022.

B. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would place an order for two new benches.

5. Matters Arising

A. Christmas Lights

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there was no update on this item. Members asked for a cost per column to adapt to house Christmas lights and also the yearly costs of erection and removal so that this could be taken forward for next Christmas. It was suggested that if planning applications were required, all Community Councils could get together and submit a joint application, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would follow this up so that it could be discussed again at the next meeting.

B. Recycling Collections

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, listened to members' frustrations that none of the previous problems with the recycling collections had been resolved. Following an email from the Head of Neighbourhood Services on 21 October it is felt by members that residents of Shapinsay (and Westray) should be told their bagged recycling was not actually getting recycled and collections should be stopped. Members agreed there should be an apology from OIC to Shapinsay residents as a matter of urgency, providing full details of how the island waste was handled by OIC and an explanation of how the waste would be managed going forward.

There was also a discussion about the community recycling centre that was previously located in the village but was removed once the kerbside recycling started, post-lockdown. It was agreed that the large recycling centre was now required and should be located on the bike shed side of the fence at the Community Centre, providing the Community Association agreed to this. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, would take all of these points forward and respond to members as soon as possible.
2. That the Clerk would write to the Community Association to request the siting of the large community recycling bins at the Community Centre.

C. Roads Operative

Members asked if it was possible to see the remit and job description for the Shapinsay Road Operative post, and also what jobs are currently on the Shapinsay repairs list, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would obtain this information and pass to members.

D. NILPS Projects - Kirkyard Gates and War Memorial

It was noted that the application for North Isles Landscape Partnership Fund money towards the repair of the gates was underway. Members agreed that the railings at the War Memorial also required attention, and should also be included in the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme projects, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would obtain quotes for the repair/replacement of the War Memorial railings.

E. Portacabin at Shapinsay Pier

It was reported that the new portacabin was delivered to Kirkwall on 16 November, but no date had been given for delivery and installation on Shapinsay Pier. It was

requested that a date be given to allow members the time to clear out the old one, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would ask Marine Services for an update on this item.

F. Waiting Rooms at Balfour and Kirkwall

As had been discussed at numerous meetings previously, members wished to request the refurbishment of the waiting room in Kirkwall. It was mentioned that Marine Services had suggested in the past that they would consider 'doing up' the waiting room if the vandalism ceased. It was also reported that the NILPS were considering a project involving the Shapinsay Waiting Room and that some repair work could be undertaken as part of that works, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would make enquiries about improvements to Kirkwall and Balfour waiting rooms.

G. Pier Parking and Scrap Car Scheme

Members agreed that parking for ferry passengers on Shapinsay was limited due to some vehicles being parked long term on the pier, making it very difficult to get a space on some days, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would request parking signage for the pier, shop and the boat.
2. That the community council would discuss the possibility of a Scrap Car Scheme at a future meeting.

H. Outdoor Access, Walking and Cycling – CC Suggestions

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that she had passed on the members' suggestions but that no feedback had been received, and it was:

Resolved to note and bring forward to the next meeting.

I. Letter to Isles CCs – Orkney Ferries

Members reported that there had been no feedback or reply to the letter that was sent from the Chair on 11 November to all the other Isles Community Councils regarding the outer isles ferry services, and it was:

Resolved to note and bring forward to the next meeting.

J. SDT - Community Council Co-opted Director

It was noted that the SDT invitation to SCC to appoint a representative to the board had been declined. Mrs E Chaney had provisionally agreed to represent the CC on the board, but she explained that she had recently taken up employment with SDT and would therefore be unable to take up the role, and it was:

Resolved that in order to keep in touch, Mr Leslie was willing to attend SDT meetings on behalf of the CC if required, and Mrs L Muir from SDT would attend CC meetings to provide updates where required.

K. Shapinsay Cycle Shelter

Members were informed by the Community Council Liaison Officer that OIC Planning were unlikely to accept their choice of design for the cycle shelter, as it was felt the materials were not appropriate for a conservation area. Noting that the shelter needed to be delivered and installed by the end of March 2023, it was agreed that members would review other options, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members would look at alternative designs as soon as possible.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would ask OIC Planning to review their decision forwarding the members reasons for selecting the original design.

L. Shapinsay Christmas Tree Lighting

It was reported that the Christmas tree lighting was taking place on Friday, 2 December at 19:00. The Salvation Army Band had been asked to play, but this was to be confirmed. The Chair would ask an islander to conduct the speech during the lighting ceremony, and the event would be advertised widely within the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that the Community Council Liaison Officer would check with the Salvation Army that they were able to attend.

6. Correspondence

A. Roads Works Update from OIC

Members had previously been circulated the information regarding the road works from OIC, and it was:

Resolved to note there was nothing listed for Shapinsay.

B. OIC – Community Transport Review

A copy of the Community Transport Review had previously been circulated to members to confirm that the details held were up to date, and it was:

Resolved to note that the Clerk should check the information held included the out-of-hours boat, electric car and e-bikes for hire.

C. Royal Mail Industrial Action – Repeat Prescriptions

Members discussed correspondence regarding prescription requests, and noted that these were hand delivered to the pharmacists by surgery staff and therefore the Royal Mail industrial action would not affect the service, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. Road Markings - Balfour

An email from Lorna Richardson dated 21 October was circulated to members. In the email she confirmed that the reason there are no white line markings (Post Office Corner) in the centre of the road is because it is too narrow and therefore markings are not required. Steps could be taken to look at putting in double yellow lines to deter anyone from parking on that corner, however it would require a Traffic Order which could take 6 – 12 months to put in place. Members felt it was more appropriate in the first instance to speak to the shop owner regarding parking on the corner and the issues around traffic/pedestrian safety, and it was:

Resolved that Mr C Leslie would speak to the shop owner on behalf of the CC.

E. OIC – Avian Flu Update

An update on Avian Flu had previously been circulated to members regarding a local outbreak, and information was also widely circulated to the community, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

F. Get Involved – Scotland Loves Local Gift Card

The information from Scotland Loves Local on their gift card had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

G. National Library of Scotland – Moving Image Archive

A request for permission to release a copy of moving images had been sent to the Chair (Scenes Around Shapinsay), from the filmmaker's grandson. Members agreed to releasing a copy, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the National Library of Scotland and agree to releasing a copy.

H. Islands Housing Group – On-Line Meeting

Information regarding a meeting of the Islands Housing Group had been circulated to members. The meeting had been held earlier in the day and Shapinsay had been represented by SDT, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

I. SSEN – Powering on together this winter

Information regarding a stakeholder event had been circulated to members. The meeting had been held earlier in the day, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

J. OIC - Announcement of New Chief Executive

Information had been circulated to members regarding the appointment of a new Chief Executive for Orkney Islands Council, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

K. NZET Committee

An invitation had been sent to all members regarding a meeting with the Chair of the Net Zero Energy and Transport Committee. Members were informed that the Chair would be meeting with him, alongside Mrs L Muir from SDT, and travel with him on the 16:45 Shapinsay sailing to Kirkwall to discuss Shapinsay's ferry service on 28 November, and it was:

Resolved to note that Mr C Leslie would try and attend meeting in Kirkwall on 28 November on behalf of the CC.

L. EIA: Scapa Deep Water Quay and Orkney Logistics Hub – Proposed Projects

Details of the above meeting to be held at Kiln Corner on 1 December had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

7. The Smithy

It was reported that SDT were in the process of seeking planning permission from OIC and getting the licence transferred before work begun. SDT had not yet made any decisions about the items which they may want to purchase for the Smithy, but will be in touch with the Community Council in due course, and it was:

Resolved:

A. That SCC would await contact from SDT with regards to any request for help purchasing equipment.

B. That Mr C Leslie would attend meetings with SDT on behalf of SCC if required.

8. Consultation Documents

A. Verge Maintenance Plan 2023

Members discussed the Verge Maintenance Plan that had previously been circulated by email. It was agreed with no amendments required, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would reply by the 19 December deadline.

B. NHSO and NHS24 – Proposal for New System

The Chair and Mr C Leslie reported that they had attended a meeting on 7 November where NHS Orkney shared their plans to change the Out of Hours procedures for all the North Isles to a NHS24 service. The Chair then attended a

further meeting on 16 November, which was called by Sanday Community Council, as a chance for all the ferry-linked islands to discuss the proposal for the new system and raise their concerns. The decision taken at that meeting was for an open letter to be written to NHSO expressing the joint concerns. The Chair and Colin Leslie then attended a further meeting on 23 November along with all the ferry-linked island Community Councils and further raised their concerns with NHSO. The original plan was to put the new system in place from 5 December 2022, but due to the overwhelming negative response and feedback from the island communities, it had been decided to delay implementation until a full consultation was conducted. NHS had called a further meeting on 13 December, which the Chair and Mr C Leslie would attend, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation and discuss again at the next meeting.

C. Scottish Islands Federation – Events and Consultations

The information on various consultations and events being run through SIF had been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

D. EMEC – Application for Variation of Consent

The information regarding an application for variation of consent in relation to the Billia Croo wave test site had been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Boundary Commission for Scotland – 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies

The consultation from BCS regarding boundary changes had been circulated to members. It was confirmed there were no changes proposed for Orkney, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

9. Financial Statements

A. General Finance Statement

Following consideration of the General Finance statement, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £6,155.64 in the General Fund and £5,895.68 in the Smithy Fund as at 11 November 2022.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2022/2023 Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 11 November 2022, it was:

Resolved to note that there was £1,222.85 remaining in the main capping limit, £561.01 remained in the additional capping limit, and £719 remained in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund, it was:

Resolved to note that £3,627.53 remained available for allocation as at 11 November 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 11 November 2022.

10. Financial Request - Remembrance Wreath

Resolved to note that members had previously agreed via email to funding of £34 for the Shapinsay community remembrance wreath, which had been funded through CCGS.

11. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport Representative

The Transport Representative advised that he had attended a meeting with Marine Services, and that additional ferry crossings would run for the Shapinsay Agricultural Show, Darts Match and two additional days trips with the dates to be agreed.

He also reported that the MV Shapinsay would once again be replaced by the MV Thorsvoe over the Summer months, and that it had been promised that the repairs and adaptations would be completed before it was put into service on the Shapinsay route. The members agreed that the guarantee of repairs should be put in writing to the CC to ensure it does happen, unlike this year.

Members also heard that a review into the ferry ticket prices including books of tickets was being conducted and members asked if Community Councils could be included in any negotiations before final decisions were made. It was also confirmed that the age for the youth fare had now increased to 22 years. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the CC would ask the community for their preferred dates for the two additional ferry crossings and discuss at the next meeting.
2. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would request the guarantee of repairs/adaptions to the MV Thorsvoe in writing to the CC before the Summer.
3. To request via the business letter that the CC is included in negotiations regarding ticket prices before final decisions are made.

B. Planning Representative

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

C. Shapinsay Development Trust Representative

It was reported that the Shapinsay Warm Hub was now up and running with staff in place until March 2023. The SDT initial grant application for Phase 2 of the 5-year development plan had been submitted. The Youth Club was now up and running on Friday evenings. Funding for another 10 eBikes for members of the community had been granted, and an eCargo Bike was on Shapinsay for residents to try out, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

12. Publications

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

- VAO Newsletter - September and October 2022.
- Scottish Water Autumn Newsletter.
- Health Improvement Scotland Newsletter.
- NHS Scotland Initiative – SHARE.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – October and November 2022.
- Letter from School Place – October and November 2022.
- Orkney Harbours Offshore Wind – Community Newsletter October 2022.
- HITRANS: Scottish Islands – Windracers.

13. Any Other Competent Business

A. Shapinsay Community Council Website Page

Members had noted that the Shapinsay Community Council website page, currently managed by SDT, was not up to date and wanted to confirm who was responsible for doing this, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would make enquiries.

B. Road Repairs

Members agreed that Hollandstown Road (Rose Cottage to Frustigarth) required surface dressing as it was very smooth, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would pass this request to OIC's Roads department.

C. Shapinsay Hydrogen Plant

Members discussed the hydrogen plant at the school, as it was not operational, and it was felt it should be removed and the school allowed to use the compound.

Members also stated that Shapinsay no longer had a helicopter landing site for use in emergency situations as a result of the positioning of the hydrogen compound and said that they would like enquiries made as to whether this could be reinstated were the plant out of use. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that Councillors S Clackson and M Thomson would take these matters up with OIC.

D. Aggregate Scheme

Members agreed that they would like to run the Aggregate Scheme again this financial year and apply for CCGS funding of £1,000. Grants would be made of £200-250 for successful residents. They agreed that the advert should go out in January with the wording explaining the grant is for roads not driveways and clarifying the selection process to residents. It was agreed that residents who received the grant within the last 3 years would not be eligible to apply, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council Liaison Officer would confirm the wording required for the advert and names of previous successful applicants in the last 3 years.

2. That the Clerk would advertise the scheme in the new year and apply for CCGS funding of £1,000 to cover the scheme.

3. To note that successful applicants would require to have claimed their funding no later than mid-March to allow the funding to come from this year's CCGS allocation.

E. Shapinsay Community Council Facebook Page

Members discussed the idea of a dedicated Shapinsay Community Council Facebook page and agreed that they would like to test it out on a trial run, and it was:

Resolved that the Community Council Liaison Officer would confirm whether this was possible.

14. 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 on Thursday, 2 February 2023 at 19:00.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

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