

Minute of the Special Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in the Music Room at Shapinsay Community School, on Wednesday, 3 April 2019 at 18:30

Present:

Mr C Leslie, Mrs L Bews, Mr S Garson, Mr C Muir, Mrs E Phillips and Mrs F Summerfield.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr A Boyd.

2. Grass Cutting Contracts 2019

Members heard that the invitation to tender had been advertised for the four areas in Shapinsay. One tender had been received for the Smithy, the amenity areas and Burroughston Brouch; however, no tenders had been received to cut the grass at the kirkyard. Members considered the tender documents received and agreed to award the contract for maintenance at the Smithy, the amenity areas and Burroughston Broch to Mr D Swannie.

Members discussed what to do about the grass cutting at the kirkyard, and it was agreed that the Interim Clerk should be asked to re-advertise the contract. It was also agreed that Orkney Islands Council should be advised of the concerns surrounding the current condition of the kirkyard in relation to grass cutting, and that, to support this, Mr D Swannie would be asked to put in writing his reasons for not applying for this tender, and it was resolved:

A. To accept the tenders from Mr D Swannie for the amenity areas, the Smithy garden and the Burroughston Broch.

B. That the tender for the grass cutting at Shapinsay kirkyard should be re-advertised by the Interim Clerk, with a closing date of 19 April 2019.

C. That the Interim Clerk should advise Democratic Services of the Community Council's concerns regarding the current state of the kirkyard and how this may be deterring individuals from applying for the grass cutting tender.

3. The Smithy

The Chair informed members that Democratic Services had been approached by an individual who had expressed an interest in opening and running the Smithy as a café/restaurant. The individual had asked to have a look round the premises and had advised that they were aware of its current condition and the potential running costs resulting from this but would still be willing to run the café/ restaurant and meet all necessary bills. The interested individual also advised that they would be keen to obtain a licence for the premises. However, members advised that this may be more costly as the current premises licence has lapsed.

Members discussed correspondence which had been received from Shapinsay Heritage Arts and Crafts (SHAC) and agreed that the items highlighted did require to be addressed. The Chair agreed to visit the Smithy in the following days to investigate the issues. SHAC proposed to open downstairs as a presentation space but with self-service tea and coffee making facilities and a space for people to bring packed lunches.

After some discussion members felt that, in light of the proposal from the interested individual, and the information they had previously received from Orkney Islands Council regarding the potential cost and timescale of work, they wished to reconsider the running of the Smithy over the summer season. It was agreed to write a letter to SHAC apologising for the uncertainty but explaining that the Community Council would like to investigate the possibility of running the café again this summer. The letter should explain that members feel it is the option which will hopefully bring the most visitors to the Smithy and be of most benefit to the island.

However, members felt that it would be unfair to SHAC and other potential interested parties to only consider the request from one person, when it has been previously minuted that the Smithy would remain closed. Therefore, members decided that a poster should be put on display asking any interested parties to contact the Chair within a short deadline to give expressions of interest. It was felt the poster should explain that Shapinsay Community Council are aware that the Smithy requires work and that they would be hoping to undertake improvement works in the future, should funds become available, so that any individuals are aware that the lease is on a short-term basis and requires running the Smithy in its current condition. If more expressions of interest were received following the advert, they Community Council agreed that they may then need to request business plans.

Following further discussion, it was resolved:

A. That the Interim Clerk would be asked to advertise the sub-lease of the Smithy, with a closing date of 29 April 2019 for any expressions of interest.

B. That any expressions of interest received would be discussed at the next general meeting of Shapinsay Community Council, to be held on 1 May 2019.

C. That the Interim Clerk would be asked to write a letter to SHAC, explaining the change in circumstances and thanking them for their cooperation and understanding in the matter to date.

4. North Isles Landscape Partnership

Mrs F Summerfield asked on behalf of Shapinsay Development Trust if anyone would be willing to represent Shapinsay Community Council on the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS) Steering Group, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would represent Shapinsay Community Council on the NILPS Steering Group.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next general meeting of Shapinsay Community Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 1 May 2019 commencing at 18:45.

6. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 19:40.