

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in Shapinsay Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 9 May 2024 at 18:45

Present:

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

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Clackson.
- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs J McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer/Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies.....	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising.....	2
4. Correspondence	5
5. Consultations	6
6. Financial Statements	7
7. Financial Requests	8
8. Reports from Representatives	8
9. Publications	9
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	9
11. Date of Next Meeting	10
12. Conclusion of Meeting	10

1. Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and advised that Mrs V More had tendered her resignation from the Community Council since the last meeting and therefore was not present.

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

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held on 15 February 2024 were adopted, being proposed by Mrs E Phillips and seconded by Mrs E Chaney.

3. Matters Arising

A. Christmas Lights

The Interim Clerk advised that thank you letters had been sent, and that the lights had been switched off following the festive period, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and that this item could now be removed from the agenda.

B. Bins

There had been no response to queries on this issue therefore the Interim Clerk asked for clarification on what the original request had been, Members confirmed that they had asked if it would be possible for a bin store to be erected at Helliard View for a large communal bin rather than every household having their own bin, advising that the ultimate solution would be to install a path at the rear of the houses.

Members also confirmed that they would like to request a bin at the monument and at picnic benches on the island, and commented that the bin at the cannons regularly overflowed with rubbish, querying whether it could be emptied more regularly or a bigger bin provided in the summer months, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask, via the business letter, if a bin store could be erected at Helliard View for a big communal bin rather than the residents each having their own wheelie bin.
2. To ask, via the business letter, if bins could be placed at the monument and at areas where there are picnic benches.
3. To request, via the business letter, if a bigger bin could be placed at the cannons or, alternatively, if the bin could be emptied more often in the summer months.

C. Road Repairs

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that they had not received a copy of the report following the last visit of the Roads Inspector, and members advised that, to their knowledge, no further works had been carried out.

A member further advised that the contractor carrying out the work to lay cables for fibre broadband had unfortunately filled in some of the offlets with the diggings, and asked if this could be investigated and put right. Members agreed to keep an eye on the situation but also asked if this is something that the Roads Operative could monitor.

Members also advised that the street sweeper had not been out to Shapinsay despite a request last year, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Interim Clerk would report, via the business letter to Democratic Services, that the offlets required to be cleared following recent works in the ditches.
2. To ask again, via the business letter, that the street sweeper be deployed to Shapinsay to clear the roadsides along the village and elsewhere as appropriate.

D. Funding for Pathways – School Path

Resolved to note that there was no further update at this stage.

E. Shapinsay Hydrogen Plant Removal

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that OIC were still chasing ITM, and members also added that the Shapinsay School Head Teacher was in contact with them also about the removal of the equipment, and it was:

Resolved to note the report and to keep pushing for the removal of the equipment.

F. Bike Shelter at School

Members advised that the shelter was still in a poor state of repair and required attention. The Community Council Liaison Officer confirmed this had been reported, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

G. Kirkyard Grass Cutting Tender

The Community Council Liaison Officer advised that there had been no further tenders submitted for the kirkyard grass cutting tender, despite it being readvertised. It was agreed that there was some urgency now for the grass to be cut, and it was:

Resolved to contact the Head of Neighbourhood Services for advice on this matter.

H. Yacht at Shapinsay Slipway

Members were advised that the owner of the vessel would be disposing of the yacht however it was agreed that a timeframe for this was required as it could not sit at the pier forever, and it was:

Resolved that Councillor M Thomson would liaise with Marine Services in relation to this issue.

I. Drainage/Hot Water at Shapinsay School

It was reported that the hot water had been restored and was still working, but that the drainage issue had not been sorted. The Building Inspector had visited and was looking at solutions. Councillor M Thomson advised that the culvert had been cleared of debris, which would hopefully mean that the burn would flow directly to the sea, with a grate to be fitted.

Members again advised that the flooding had caused damage to the car park. Temporary repairs had been carried out, but a more permanent solution was required, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information provided.
2. To report the outstanding issues via the business letter to Democratic Services.

J. NILPS Projects

Members advised that the interpretation board at the gas works required some board walk in front of it, across the ditch, as it was not close enough to the road for people to read it, resulting in some visitors falling into the ditch, and it was:

Resolved to report the above to NILPS and ask that some boarding be installed.

K. Winter Service Plan 2024/2025

Members asked if there was any feedback on whether their comments had been included in the new plan, and it was:

Resolved to ask Roads Support, via the business letter to Democratic Services, if the Shapinsay CC comments had been incorporated into the plan and if not, why not.

L. Resilience Plans

Members queried whether there had been any progress with putting together island resilience plans around island emergencies, bad weather events etc. and tendering out snow clearing locally, and it was:

Resolved to ask for more information, via the business letter to Democratic Services, and that an officer attend the next meeting.

M. Quiet Routes

Members asked for more information on the monitoring posts, as two sets had been proposed for Shapinsay but only one had been installed so far. Members also commented that they had received queries within the community about what the posts were for, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To request information on whether the second set of posts would be installed.
2. To enter information regarding the data collection/monitoring posts into the next edition of the Shapinsay newsletter.

N. R100 Programme

Members advised that it would be good to know when contractors were planning to be on the island to install fibre cabling as there did not seem to be joined up thinking. Councillor M Thomson advised that the contractors are different depending on the route of the cabling/location, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

4. Correspondence

A. Ferry Fares for Young People

An email had been received from Liam McArthur MSP in response to Mrs E Chaney's email regarding ferry fares for young people and circulated to members. It was noted that this would be introduced soon, and that it had also been mentioned in correspondence from Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Free Webinar: Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

Members had previously been emailed details of a free webinar from Scottish Empty Homes Partnership which works to identify empty homes across Scotland with the aim of bringing them back into use, and it was:

Resolved to note that the event had now passed.

C. Volunteering for Island Games 2025

Following consideration of correspondence regarding volunteering for the Island Games 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence, and that the Chair would arrange for the poster to be put on display locally.

D. SEPA - Disrupting Criminal Dumpers

Members had previously been sent information from SEPA regarding online waste criminals with information on how to report this activity, and it was:

Resolved to note the information.

E. Development Planning – Local Place Plan

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council regarding giving communities the opportunity to prepare a Local Plan for their area, members agreed that this might be something SDT would be prepared to lead on, and it was:

Resolved that Mrs E Chaney would discuss this with Shapinsay Development Trust and suggest that the Community Council work in partnership with them to put together a plan.

F. SSEN Subsea – Drop-in Event

Members had previously been forwarded correspondence from SSEN regarding a drop-in event on 12 March in Shapinsay School to provide information on the planned installation of a subsea cable between mainland Orkney and Shapinsay, and it was:

Resolved to note the correspondence.

G. Orkney Ferries Letter – Fares

Correspondence had been received and circulated from Orkney Ferries in response to Mrs L Bews' letter regarding ferry fares and the potential plans for Islander discounts in the future. Members discussed the phasing out of the books of tickets and that an islander rate/pre-loaded card would be a preferred option going forward, as the books of tickets was a way of accessing discounted fares to island residents. Councillor M Thomson explained that there is a push for an islander discount and a charge for no-shows etc, however the key thing would be getting the new booking system up and running and this was taking time. She added that the pricing structure would be a Council decision. The Chair advised that she would bring this up again at the next CC Chair's meeting, and suggested that they write a letter to Orkney Ferries, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would draft a letter which would be sent on, once checked, with the OIC Chief Executive, the OIC Leader, Orkney MSP and the North and South Isles Councillors copied in.

5. Consultations

A. Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVA) Consultation

A public consultation survey had previously been circulated to members in relation to potential areas at risk of flooding and flood risk management plans, and it was:

Resolved to note the survey and the deadline for comments of 24 June 2024.

B. Scottish Hydro Electric – Cable Replacement

Correspondence had been forwarded regarding a marine licence that had been requested by Scottish Hydro Electric to undertake a cable replacement, and it was:

Resolved to note that the deadline for comments on the application was 10 May 2024.

C. Transport Scotland – Islands Connectivity Plan

Members had previously been forwarded dates of consultation events around Orkney in relation to the Islands Connectivity Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note that there had been a session in Kirkwall on 2 May 2024.

D. SFRS – Shaping Our Future Service

Members noted that they had been sent information on a public pre-consultation exercise being carried out by the Scottish Fire and Rescue, as they consider changes to the emergency service they deliver across Scotland. Mr D Muir advised that it was important that people responded to this consultation, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for completing the survey of 30 June 2024.

E. Review of Local Development Plan

Information regarding the review of the Council's Local Development Plan, including surveys and consultation and asking communities where development should and shouldn't happen, had previously been circulated to members, and it was:

Resolved to note the deadline for feedback of 30 September 2024 and that information would be shared to the SCC Facebook page.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the Shapinsay Community Council General Fund statement as at 4 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £6,647.15.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

After consideration of the Community Council Grant Scheme statement as at 4 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the main capping limit was fully allocated, that £272 remained in the additional capping limit and that £719 remained in the island capping limit.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 4 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note that the total remaining available for allocation was £8,627.53.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 4 April 2024, it was:

Resolved to note the balance remaining for allocation of £3,400.

7. Financial Requests

A. Travel Grant – E Rendall

Members considered a request from A Kirkpatrick for assistance with the cost of E Rendall attending the Climb Scotland National Fun Climb National Final at Ratho in Edinburgh on 24 March 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award a general fund donation of £50 towards this trip.

B. Bag the Bruck

Members noted that Shapinsay School and Orkney Climbing Club had both approached the community council for sponsorship in relation to carrying out Bag the Bruck, and it was:

Resolved to award £150 to each group, subject to CCGS approval and the receipt of the relevant paperwork from both groups.

C. Shapinsay Picnic Day – Insurance

Mrs L Bews and Mr C Leslie declared an interest in this item and did not take part in discussion thereof.

Members considered a request from Shapinsay Picnic Committee for assistance with the cost of insurance for the annual picnic day on 29 June 2024, being estimated as £159, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £159 to cover the cost of insurance, subject to CCGS approval.

D. Travel Grant – S Dunnett

Members considered a request made on behalf of S Dunnett for financial assistance towards two trips to Inverness for climbing training on 10 and 22 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £50 per trip to S Dunnett, totalling £100.

E. Travel Grant – E Rendall

Members considered a request made on behalf of E Rendall for financial assistance towards two trips to Inverness for climbing training on 10 and 22 July 2024, and it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £50 per trip to E Rendall, totalling £100.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

Resolved to note that there was nothing to report.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that an amended planning application for Balfour Cottages had been submitted, and that a letter should be sent to the local MSP regarding Development Trusts also receiving a reduced fee for planning applications.

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

It was reported that the Charity Shop was now operating, and they were in the process of recruiting a coordinator, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Health and Care

The Health and Care representative advised that at the last meeting, they had discussed video consults, patient discharge/care for when patients are discharged in the middle of the night, and the success of Wellbeing Coordinators, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Publications

Resolved to note that the publications listed below had previously been circulated and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – February, March and April 2024.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – February and March 2024.
- VAO Small Grants Scheme 2024/2025.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – January and February 2024.
- Letter from School Place – February, March and April 2024.
- SRA Newsletter – February and March 2024.
- SEPA Waste Statistics.
- Scottish Water Spring Newsletter 2024.
- ORSAS Quarterly Newsletter – March 2024.
- Special Waste Collection – Bulky Items.
- Farm Diversification Drop-In Event.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Ferry Issues

A member raised that the community council needed to keep the pressure on regarding the ferries, reporting that they had had an ambulance case a few weeks ago and there had been an issue with the ramp. To their knowledge, no adjustments had been made to the MV Thorsvoe despite previous assurances. Councillor M Thomson advised that it would be useful to document these events, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would send information to Councillor M Thomson.

B. Benches

The Interim Clerk advised that she had received correspondence regarding benches that had been stored in the old kirk, and it was:

Resolved that Mr C Leslie would arrange for the benches to be taken out of the old kirk.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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

Resolved that the next meeting of Shapinsay Community Council would be held on Thursday, 22 August 2024, in Shapinsay Community Centre and via Teams.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30.