

Minute of the Meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held in the Club Rooms, Shapinsay Community Centre and via Teams on Thursday, 24 April 2025 at 18:45

Present:

Mrs L Bews, Mrs E Chaney (via Teams), Mr C Leslie, Ms J Noble, Mrs E Phillips, Ms P Dunnett and Mr G Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Councillor M Thomson (via Teams).
- Mrs J Montgomery, Empowering Communities Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Ms C Kelday, Community Council Liaison Assistant/Interim Clerk.

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1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Clackson and H Woodbridge.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Shapinsay Community Council held on 6 February 2025 was adopted, being proposed by Mrs E Phillips and seconded by Mr C Leslie.

3. Matters Arising

A. Bins

A response from OIC stated that they had secured a location for a bin at the War Memorial and would look for a good location at the pier and would install 240L bins for capacity. The waste lorry would empty the bins when passing. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Funding for Pathways – School Path

The Interim Clerk advised that there was no further update available, and it was:

Resolved to note the information, and to keep on the agenda.

C. Shapinsay Hydrogen Plant Removal

The members were advised that the company undertaking the de-gassing were unable to get mobilised to do the work in the Easter Holidays, but a new date should be set soon, and it was:

Resolved to the Interim Clerk would request an update.

D. Bike Shelter at School

Members were advised that the fascia boards around the bike shed could be renewed if a new bike shelter was not the preferred option.

Members advised they were happy with the update of the existing shed, however asked if more information could be sought on the new bike shelter option and advised that there was more than just the bikes in the shed. They agreed that more information was required on what any replacement shed would look like, and that the community council should be consulted before any works were planned, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That members were happy with the proposal to replace the fascia board.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask the Building Inspector via Democratic Services to consult with the Community Council on what the replacement bike shed would look like.

E. Yacht at Shapinsay Slipway

The Interim Clerk provided the response that the owner had been contacted and had agreed to move the yacht. Members advised that the yacht had not been removed, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would ask for an update.

F. Burroughston Broch

Members were provided with an update advising that it was not practical for the barriers to be replaced and instead suggested a sign warning of the dangers to be placed on the gate which would be funded by NILPS.

Members were also advised that the Community Council could arrange the grass cutting at the Broch if they wished for it to be done. They agreed to tender for this for 4 cuts per year, for a 2-year contract to take the tender process in line with the kirkyard tenders. Following discussion, it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the content of the report and confirm the sign to be erected.
2. To advertise a tender for the grass cutting at Burroughston Broch for 4 cuts per year, for a 2-year period.
3. That any grass cutting works would be funded through CCGS.

G. Drainage/Hot Water at Shapinsay School

Resolved to note that this item had been left on the agenda in error.

H. NILPS Projects

An update was provided to state that the information board at the pier was in place. Members asked how to display items within the board, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair would speak with NILPS regarding displaying items.

I. Floodgates - Kirkwall Pier

Members were provided with an update on the floodgates at Kirkwall Pier and advised that they would like the option of the gate to be further investigated by the Council, as suggested in the update. Members agreed that if the boat was running, the gates should be open.

A member advised that the OIC Communications Team were granted access to the Shapinsay Facebook page to provide updates but had not used this, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To respond to OIC via the business letter about the gate option at the waiting room barrier.

2. To request that the OIC Communications team use the Shapinsay Facebook page to promote information regarding the floodgates.

J. Shapinsay Waiting Room – Kirkwall Pier

The Interim Clerk advised that this issue had been raised on Concerto for investigation, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To note the information.
2. That the Interim Clerk would ask Democratic Services for an update before the next meeting.

K. Flooding at Shapinsay School

The Interim Clerk advised this issue had been raised on Concerto, and it was:

Resolved to note a request be made before the next meeting to ensure this has been done.

L. Aggregate Scheme

The Interim Clerk advised that nine applications had been received for the Road Aggregate Scheme, with one being removed from consideration due to receiving from the scheme within the last five years. Members agreed to offer five £250 grants and would look to review the scheme before advertising the 2026-2027 tranche.

Names were put in a hat and the following residents were awarded funding:

- Anthony Smith, Housebay.
- Davie Moffat, Diggings.
- David Owen, Quoybanks.
- Liz and Mark Wragg, Quholme.
- Edith Tait, Linton.

Following discussion, it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact the applicants to advise them of the outcome.

4. Correspondence

A. Our Budget Challenge

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council, copies of which had previously been circulated, advising members of the survey results of the budget consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

B. Orkney Ferries SmartCards

Following consideration of correspondence previously emailed regarding the issue of Smartcards to island residents, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report and email the Chair the graphic for putting on Facebook.

C. SEPA – New Surface Water Flood Maps

Following consideration of correspondence from SEPA regarding the new surface water flood maps, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Response to Verge Maintenance Plan Consultation

Following consideration of correspondence from Orkney Islands Council of the response to the feedback provided on the 2025-2026 Verge Maintenance Plan, members raised concerns that some areas were not on the safety cuts list, advising the need of a safety cut at the bend at Elwick in particular, and it was:

Resolved to request the bend at Elwick is added to the safety list and that members would collate any further details on safety cuts required.

E. ZEVl update

Members had previously been issued a briefing note by email with regards to the ZEVl arriving in May, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

5. Consultation Documents

A. SFRS Strategic Plan 2025/2028

Following consideration of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Strategic Plan, copies of which had been previously emailed, it was:

Resolved to note the date for any feedback had passed.

B. Northern Isles Freight Vessels Replacement Project – Public Events

Following consideration of an email regarding the Northern Isles Freight Vessels Replacement Project, and a public event on 20 March 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the date of the event had passed.

C. Visitor Levy – Full Islands Act ICIA Required

Following consideration of an email from K Johnson regarding the Visitor Levy, Full Island Act ICIA, it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

D. Winter Service Plan 2025

Following consideration of the 2025 Winter Service Plan which had been circulated previously by email, members advised that they would like to know why the Hill Road had not been changed to a Priority 1 route, and would request a member of the Roads team attend the next meeting to explain in person why this had not been changed, and it was:

Resolved to invite a member of the Roads team to the next meeting to advise why Hill Road could not be changed to a Priority 1 route.

E. SATE Survey

Following consideration of correspondence regarding a survey on the Sustainable Aviation Test Environment, it was:

Resolved to note the information.

6. Financial Statements

A. General Finance

After consideration of the General Finance Statement as at 14 April 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £10,654.06.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the 2024/2025 Community Council Grant Scheme Statement as at 14 April 2025, it was:

Resolved to note the balance of the 2024/2025 allocation of Community Council Grant Scheme was fully allocated, with two items carried forward to 2025/2026

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the Community Development Fund statement as at 14 April 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that £8,627.53 remained for allocation.

D. Seed Corn Fund

Following consideration of the Seed Corn Fund statement as at 14 April 2025, it was:

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

7. Financial Requests

A. Travel Grant – S Dunnett

Following consideration of correspondence from M Dunnet requesting assistance towards travel cost for her son attending the Scottish National Boulder Competition in Edinburgh, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £50 for the trip from the general fund.

B. Travel Grant – S Dunnet

Following consideration of correspondence from M Dunnet requesting assistance towards travel cost for her son attending the Climb Scotland Fun Competition National Final in Edinburgh, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £50 for the trip from the general fund.

C. Shapinsay School – P6 Outdoor Activities and P7 Hoy Trip

Following consideration of an application from the Head Teacher for financial assistance towards the P6 and P7 outdoor educational activities for the school, members noted that the application had been submitted prior to the Under 22 travel being free and asked if the amount requested included ferry fares for children given the new free ferry travel for children, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To ask for clarification on the funding being requested.
2. That Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied for on the cost of the adults and car travel.

D. Travel Grant – E Rendall

Following consideration of correspondence from A Kirkpatrick requesting assistance towards travel cost for her son attending the Climb Scotland Fun Competition National Final in Edinburgh, it was:

Resolved to award a grant of £50 for the trip from the general fund.

E. Picnic Committee Insurance

Mrs L Bews declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussion.

Following consideration of correspondence from the Shapinsay Picnic Committee requesting assistance towards the insurance cost for the island picnic day, estimated at a cost of £168, it was:

Resolved that funding of the full cost of the insurance should be granted and that the Community Council Grant Scheme assistance should be applied on the full cost.

F. Shapinsay Community Association – Kitchen

Following consideration of correspondence from the Shapinsay Community Association requesting assistance towards the cost of upgrading the kitchen, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council supported the project, in principle.
2. To note that the attached quote was provided in 2024 and it would be preferred to have updated quotes and total costs for the full kitchen project before committing a cost for funding.
3. That on receipt of the additional information requested, the Community Council would consider providing financial assistance, in principle, from the Seed Corn fund.
4. If Seed Corn was not granted funding should be applied for from CDF instead.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative advised that further to the ZEV arriving in May she would check to see if Orkney Ferries were still planning on taking the ZEV around communities before entering service.

Members queried what impact it might have on the bin lorry travelling to the islands if the Shapinsay or Rousay vessels were out of action and the contingency plan was in place where the ships alternated. There was no boat on a Wednesday on the contingency timetable which was the bin day in Shapinsay therefore would the bin lorry go out to the Islands on another day, and it was:

Resolved to check the situation with the bins in the event the contingency timetable had to be used for a longer period of time.

B. Planning

Resolved to note that the Planning Representative advised there was an application in for a hard standing for another house at Balfour Cottages.

C. Shapinsay Development Trust

Resolved to note that there was no update for this meeting.

D. Health and Care

The Health and Care Representative advised that they had attended the Joint Health and Care meeting on 4 March 2025. They were waiting for the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) for emergencies on each island to be issued.

The Chair also advised that she was liaising through the Health and Care meetings with John Daniels, Head of Primary Care, about the hours worked by the island ANP's, and it was:

Resolved to note the content of the report.

9. Publications

The following publications had all been previously emailed to members and were noted:

- VAO Newsletter – March and April 2025.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – February and March 2025.
- Orkney Ferries Statistics – January, February and March 2025.
- Letter from School Place – February and March 2025.
- Isles Special Collection Rota to September 2025.
- SRA Newsletter – March 2025.
- Shapinsay Digital Roadshow 2025.
- Island Games Sports Schedule.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Shapinsay Darts Club Ferry Request

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

Following a request from the Shapinsay Darts Club, which had been agreed by email previously, for an alteration to the ferry timetabled departure from Shapinsay at 19:00 be amended to 20:00 departure for the Shapinsay Open on 6 September 2025, it was:

Resolved to note that members had agreed to requesting Orkney Ferries change the time for the sailing on 6 September to accommodate the competition.

B. Shapinsay Local Place Plan

It was advised that Shapinsay Development Trust and Shapinsay Community Council had agreed that, as neither had the capacity to do another LPP project, they would submit the Shapinsay Development Plan as their Local Place Plan, and it was

Resolved to note that the Development Plan had been submitted.

C. Bench

Members noted that as L McArthur MSP would be in Shapinsay on Saturday, 3 May 2025 to open the reflective area at the Kirk, it was hoped that the bench would be in place before then, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would check on delivery of the bench for the reflective area to the island

D. Bag the Bruck

Following discussion of the annual Bag the Bruck and funding to groups, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Chair would advertise on the local Facebook page.
2. That the £300 should be divided between any applicants applying for funding for taking part in the annual Bag the Bruck event.

E. Drainage at OIC/OHAL Property

Following consideration of correspondence from Shapinsay Development Trust regarding concerns raised about a drainage issue at the OHAL/Council Houses at Helliard View due to a problem at Millbank, it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Community Council should advise OHAL of the problem.
2. That the Chair would check the relevant house numbers.

F. Land below Helliard View

A member asked if the area of land, which was Council owned, below Helliard View could be planted with wildflowers etc for some benefit and to enhance the look of the area, and it was:

Resolved:

1. To submit a request to Orkney Islands Council asking if they would consider planting the area with wildflowers.
2. That to ask, if Orkney Islands Council was not willing to do the work would they grant permission to the Community Council to tidy up the area and plant wildflowers.

G. Roads

Members noted that the some of the roads, including the Howe Road, were being repaired, and it was:

Resolved to monitor the situation.

H. Christmas Lights

A member advised the Christmas Lights were still on despite being due to be turned off in February, and it was:

Resolved that the Interim Clerk would contact the contractor again to ask that the lights be switched off.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Resolved that the dates of the remaining 2025 meetings would be:

- 26 June 2025.
- 11 September 2025.

- 20 November 2025.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:45.