

Minutes of the Shapinsay Development Trust Board Meeting Held on the 10th March 2025

Present: Ashly Boyd (AB), Barry Moncrieff (BM), Toby Diamond (TD), Christine Leslie (CL), Graham Rendall (GR), Adrian Bird (ABird)

In Attendance: Lisa-Marie Muir (LM)

1. Apologies: Simon Meason, Davie Campbell

2. Declarations of Interest: GR noted a potential conflict regarding contractors for the Balfour Cottages compound and/or demolition.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes from the meeting on 10th February were approved. Proposed by: CL, Seconded by: GR

4. Action Log: LM provided an update on the action log:

- **Drivers for evening service:** Medicals required, as with daytime drivers.
- **Black car:** Needs to go to Inverness for sensor issues.
- **Driving policy:** A policy will be introduced to prevent drivers from using poor tracks that damage vehicles.
- **Manager checks:** LM to introduce these.
- **Youth provision:** LM is exploring a potential grant and hopes to arrange visiting coaches for classes.
- **Photo competition:** A judge is still needed as the originally approached person is unavailable.
- **SHAC support:** SDT was asked to provide a chair for the AGM. ABird agreed to take on this role.
- **Crisis/hardship fund:** LM to draft director's notes.
- **PAT testing:** A contractor is booked to complete this.

5. Turbine Report: The turbine report was shared with the board.

6. Accounts: DC was absent, so no financial reports were provided. ABird proposed switching to quarterly full accounts, with monthly project finance updates for better clarity. The board agreed. LM will discuss this with DC.

7. Wellbeing Update: WC submitted a six-month plan, for winding down the project, which LM shared with the board. The board agreed to extend the contract for six months until the

funding period ends. No new programmes will be introduced; the time will be used for handover and winding down.

8. Project Updates

Rulinvoe: 10 applications received. LM highlighted the top three; however, the highest-scoring applicant did not include a supporting letter. LM has requested a letter from D&H before finalizing the decision.

Balfour Cottages

- **Planning:** Submitted for the compound and site amenities.
- **Roadworks:** Pricing requests sent to BDs and Andrew Sinclair; quotes expected next week.
- **Ecology:** Tim Dean appointed to handle planning-related ecology requirements.
- **Tenders: Demolition & construction tenders** to be sent separately. Some firms may bid for both; others for one aspect only. Build tenders sent to: R Rendall, WRC, Cloustons, A Flett, Orkney Builders, PD Construction. Demolition tenders sent to: The above plus Andrew Sinclair, Ally Miller, and Eoin Muir.
- **Asbestos survey:** Results expected this week.

Spion Brae

- Feasibility work is planned but may be delayed due to further funding pauses.

9. Smithy

- G Clark has completed Stage 1 consultancy and provided recommendations.
- LM & DC have drafted potential operational changes to reduce costs.
- LM proposed a separate meeting next week to discuss these in detail.
- April changes will be rolled out to allow for rota adjustments.
- A Smithy discussion meeting will be held on March 20th for those of the board that are interested in being involved in the discussion.
- CL requested allergen information to be added to the menu. LM to discuss this with the Smithy team.

10. Transport - Go Pluggable was suggested as an alternative programme for chargers. ABird researched and found it not viable.

11. SWAPS:

- **Mellor:** £61.44 – Swimming lessons

- **A McDougall:** £50.00 – Happiness Summit
- **Shapinsay Agricultural Association** enquired about £1,650 for sheep gates for show day. The board suggested applying to Scottish Sea Farms first but indicated a willingness to contribute.

12. AOCB

- **Smithy CCTV:** GR asked if signs were in place—LM confirmed they are.
 - **Late Sunday sailings:** GR suggested a later sailing or more flexibility. LM advised that Northerly Marine prefers to avoid late runs. A sailing time of 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm was requested by them for connecting travel. LM asked to inform the public again that this was the case.
- **Repowering Conference:** AB noted positives: SRL/SDT are not alone in needing to replace 1MW turbines reaching the end of their lifespan and a great opportunity for networking. ABird was less optimistic due to possible future grid constraints, lack of feed-in tariffs, and replacement challenges.
- **Community Climate Action Plan:** Draft submitted. As Part of the CCAP, LM attended a meeting with THAW, Home Energy Scotland, Warmworks, CES, and Aquatera to discuss home energy improvements, they are keen to come to the Isles. LM to get in touch to arrange

13. Date of Next Meeting: Next meeting: 7th April, 6:30 pm