

Minutes of the Board Meeting held at the Boathouse, 27th May 2025

Present: Barry Moncrieff (BM), Toby Diamond (TD), Simon Meason (SM), Adrian Bird (ABird)

In Attendance: Lisa-Marie Muir (LM), Davie Campbell (DC)

1. Apologies: Ashley Boyd, Graham Rendall

1. Declarations of Interest: Shapinsay Sports Committee SWAP – BM and SM

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Proposed by TD, seconded by ABird. Approved.

3. Action Log:

- **Stonechips for Rulinvoe:** GR progressing.
- **SWAP wording for accommodation:** Completed by LM for board approval.
- **Crisis Fund – Directors' Notes:** LM to complete for next meeting.
- **Weekend Evening Car Service:** Service has started; no uptake so far.
- **PAT Testing:** Booked for the first week of June.
- **Car Checklist:** Manager checklist in progress; weekly checks underway.
- **Gardens Maintenance:** No success finding a gardener. LM to ask D. Swannie about No. 9.
- **Boat Advert:** Renewed.

4. Turbine Update:

- Increased curtailment and lower wind led to a less productive month.
- Aquatera to begin investigations into re-powering/new powering options in early June.

5. Accounts:

- DC shared draft 2024/25 accounts, ready for submission to the accountant.
- Year-end bank balance: £1,019,154.88.
- Strong financial position allows investment in future income projects to protect current services (e.g., Balfour Cottages). However, with turbine income set to drop significantly within the next 12 months, future sustainability must be considered carefully.

6. Projects

- **Rulinvoe:** Complete; tenant moved in.

- **No. 9:** Now vacant; painter booked for early August. Billy Groundwater to conduct EPC at Rulinvoe and assess No. 9 for damp issues before painter is engaged.
- **Balfour Cottages:** Building warrant submitted 23.03.25. Compound BW submitted 21.02.25. Preferred contractor chosen as RS Rendall for full project including roads, demolition, compound and rebuild. DC to explore OIC housing loan to bridge funding gap.
- **Spion Brae:** DC to ask SLF about repurposing grant for design and QS costs. Final design decision needed within 3–4 months. Priorities: housing and plots followed by enterprise zone.
- **Transport:** Engage a marine surveyor to assess a potential boat.
 - Mrs F. Mowat has been banned by Northerly Marine Services Ltd for conduct issues. The board supports this decision.
- **EV Chargers:** ChargePlace Scotland is ceasing operation. LM and ABird attended a webinar on Tap Electric as a possible replacement. LM to follow up.

7. Wellbeing

- A. McDougall to be invited to the next meeting to discuss project direction.
- Other trusts are exploring collaborative funding; SDT interested in conversations but not committing yet.
- LM to include a feedback request from residents in the next *Sound* newsletter.

8. Smithy – Next Steps

- A letter of complaint from an ex-lead cook was read and noted; situation to be monitored.
- Decision: Do not recruit a new lead cook at the moment. Continue summer operations with current kitchen crew and management support.
- Bar staff request to close at 11 p.m. if no customers – approved. To be advertised.

9. Tourism Strategy

- LM has begun drafting a strategy and engaged with Visit Scotland.
- LM to involve relevant community members for input.

10. SWAP Grants Approved

- School: £639.72
- Shapinsay Sports Committee (Picnic): £500

- Chaney (Training): £15.36

11. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

- **Shapinsay Parent Council:** Request for financial help or raffle prizes. Board decision: ask for event-specific prize requests and submit SWAP applications for funding for specific events.
- **Assistant Manager:** Now in a position to receive a permanent contract – board approved offering one.
- **Cast Affs:** SM queried what's happening – LM stated that it has returned to 2 (or more) days/week with community group involvement (as agreed in January). SM asked LM to invite the Cast Affs working group for further discussion.
- **Electric Car (Green):** ABird noted it will be 3 years old next year and asked whether to explore replacing with new model while EV tax relief applies, board are happy for this to be explored. Tyres need replacing – to be booked in.
- **Staff Updates:** SM requested LM send out a staff update to welcome new Smithy staff.

12. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday, 23rd June 2025

