

Minutes of the meeting of the Shapinsay Development Trust held on the 28th Of July 2025

Present: Ashley Boyd (AB), Adrian Bird (ABird), Simon Meason (SM), Barry Moncrieff (BM), Toby Diamond (TD), Graham Rendall (GR)

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

1. Apologies -None.

2. Declarations of Interest - None.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2025 were approved. Proposed: Ashley Boyd, Seconded: Adrian Bird

4. Action Log Updates -

- Photo Competition: Judge secured.
- Smithy Broadband: Still to be confirmed.
- Stonechips for Rulinvoe Driver: GR to progress.
- Driver Medicals: A decision is needed about the weekend evening car service.
- Medicals will be arranged if it continues.
- SLF Grant Repurposing: Early discussions held (DC).
- Car Charger: Tap Electric installed and functional using RFID cards.
- Tourism Strategy: Drafted by LM. Limited community input so far – will revisit after the tourist season.
- Marinas: Included in Orkney Marine Plan. Hold off discussions until after the Community Council meeting.
- Policy Update: LM has emailed VAO. No response – to chase.
- No. 9: Still waiting for a quote on air-to-air or heat recovery system.

5. CDO Update

Youth Activities: Some interest in football; little uptake on other activities. LM to explore getting a coach.

Garden Project: LM had a productive conversation around a potential site for community garden. SM expressed opposition due to level of continued input needed from the community. LM to continue discussions and community engagement, noting consistent support in current and previous 5-year plans, no progress can be made without community buy in.

5-Year Plan / Place Plan: LM suggested using the current plan as a base for a Place Plan, as funders increasingly require one. No decision made at this time.

ECOP Project: Ending in October. Another trip to Shetland in September. LM to produce a transport strategy focused on OOH provision, weekend/evening service, and booking app rollout.

ICAN Network: LM to attend learning exchange in Uist and Barra in October.

Cast Affs: Remains open one day a week due to lack of community group engagement. Discussion held on whether to expand to two days – no decision made at this time. ABird noted any expansion would require volunteer/community support.

6. Turbine Update - ABird presented the latest figures, which continue to show almost 25% curtailment.

7. Accounts - DC presented current figures. Smithy subsidy has decreased year-to-date, it is hoped that figure will continue to reduce.

Winter Warmers:

- Grant available to support/expand the project.
- Need to understand actual cost of production (e.g. coffee) to allocate realistic subsidy.
- No decision on next steps for grant purposes (deadline 14th August)
- Suggestion made for Andrew to do price comparisons from wholesalers and suppliers.

OHAL Shares: DC mentioned an opportunity with OHAL; more information due next month.

8. Wellbeing Project - Board agreed to pause the project temporarily. A period of community consultation will be undertaken, with a potential rebrand and new funding model to follow.

9. Project Updates

Balfour Cottage:

- Roads update shared.
- Building warrant not yet approved due to delays in planning.
- £15k confirmed from HIE.
- Rural Housing Fund response expected soon.
- OIC discussions for a £200,000 grant are positive.
- Estimated funding gap: £270,000 from Trust reserves.
- **Spion Brae:** Some architectural and planning costs may be met from the remaining Scottish Land Fund budget.

DC has submitted an Expression of Interest in partnership with OIC regarding the Regeneration Capital Fund (in partnership with Westray Development Trust). If successful, it will significantly advance funding efforts.

10. AGM - Date confirmed: 29th September 2025.

- Joint SDT/SRL meeting to be held at 6pm.
- LM to produce a glossy annual report – approved by the board.
- 50 printed copies.
- Digital version to be made available online.
- Board members due to step down for re-election: GR and ABird.

11. Transport

Car: SM reported someone felt intimidated when offering a donation – LM to follow up.

LM to create a risk assessment covering driver hours and other considerations.

Bikes: Bike maintenance course available – LM to send details to ABird. Some bikes are aging. LM to price replacements using available ECOP transport budget.

Boats: Board viewed the Enbarr, after some discussion with people who are very familiar with the Enbarr, who cautioned that much of the work required was superficial and an offer from the owner to bring up to code, the board agreed to review it again as an option. A cautious approach was agreed: ensure crew commitment and a full business plan before making decisions.

12. SWAPS

- Dunnet – Driving Lessons: £400
- Leslie – Training: £122.69
- Chaney – Bouldering Competition: £208.20 (estimate submitted without full figures)

13. Any Other Business (AOB)

DTAS Energy Conference: Scheduled for 23rd September. ABird to attend. Other board members welcome.

Rural Leadership Course: LM invited to participate – to confirm financial and time commitments.

Show Day: SDT will host a stand and use it to engage with the community on the Wellbeing Project.

14. Date of Next Meeting : Monday, 1st September 2025