

Minutes of the meeting of the Shapinsay Development Trust held on the 6th of October 2025 at the Boathouse

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

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

1. **Apologies:** Toby Diamond
2. **Declarations of interest:** None

This meeting was called to discuss the next steps for the Out of Hours (OOH) ferry service.

Discussion: Before proceeding with any changes to the current OOH service, a business plan outlining various models and options was created.

DC presented each model in detail, summarising the advantages and disadvantages of each:

- **Option A:** Continue with the status quo, establishing a 1–2 year contract with the current provider.
- **Option B:** Run the service wholly in-house.
- **Option C:** Tender the service.
- **Option D:** Subsidise a local provider to operate the service independently.
- **Option E:** Cease the service entirely.

Discussion Points:

- ABird proposed a hybrid of Options A and B, where SDT would own and operate a second boat to allow an additional evening service and potentially undertake commercial work. This was considered too costly and beyond current capacity.
- It was agreed that Option B, while offering potential income opportunities, would be expensive and impractical due to the staffing, maintenance, and operational requirements involved.
- **Option E:** Will continue to operate the service as a priority while turbine subsidy continues.
- **Option C:** Risk identified of alienating the current provider and/or driving up costs.
- **Option D:** Similar risks to Option C, with no known local interest in running the service.

Decision:

- **Option A** (status quo with 1–2 year contract) was agreed as the preferred next step. Ideally with a 12 seater ferry to increase capacity on busy nights, engage in discussions around options for a 2nd sailing on when required. (noted that from a management standpoint, 2 sailings in an evening will be hard to manage)
- Engage with **OIC** to gauge their future plans for Shapinsay ferry provision.

Next Steps:

- **LM** to draft a proposal for the Board outlining the approach for the next period. To include option for a 2nd sailing up to 3x per week
- **DC** to arrange a meeting with **Naomi Bremner** and **OIC** to discuss future service provision.

4. AOCB:

- **SWAPS Funding:**
 - *Alison McDougall* – Training and accommodation (£465) **approved**.
 - *Alex Hall* – Driving lessons (£400) **approved**.
- **Kitchen Lead:**
 - *ABird* declared an interest.
 - *DC* and *SM* to conduct interviews to identify a suitable candidate.