**Minutes (draft) of Shieldaig Community Council (SCC)**

**Meeting Tuesday 5th September 2017**

**7.30pm. Church Hall.**

Members present: Kalie Wilkinson (Chair), Claire Munday (acting Secretary), Susan Holmes, Duncan Carmichael.

Also present: Morven Taylor (The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust), Tom Tindale, Eunice Cameron, Ann Barton, Alice Maclennan, Viv Maclennan, Sarah Wedgwood (Shieldaig Community Association).

Apologies: Lisa Fraser (Treasurer), Cllr. Kate Stephen.

Approval of Minutes of previous meeting on 6th June Tuesday.

Community Council Members

Since our June meeting 3 members have left the Council; 2 have left Shieldaig catchment area and 1 has resigned. We need to co-opt at least 2 more members.

**Shieldaig Community Council Catchment Area Housing & Community Needs Survey 2017**. Morven Taylor, Communities Co-ordinator for THSCHT, circulated the final report which was commissioned by Shieldaig Community Council and Shieldaig Community Association (SCA). The costs were shared equally - £1038.75 paid by each organization. Morven gave a brief summary.

There is a total of 127 households in the catchment area – 85 of which are occupied. In total 41 surveys were returned which gives a response rate of 47%. We would like to thank everyone who took part and also the businesses that replied to the business survey.

There are 6 households identified over the next 5 years whose current homes do not meet the needs of all of their household members. The most popular first choice tenure is that of renting from Highland Council (HC) or a Housing Association, closely followed by building a home. Morven has also followed up our supplementary questions regarding local assets. In order to make decisions about which assets we prioritise, it was decided to have an open meeting in the hall to encourage residents, including children and teenagers, to tell SCC & SCA representatives what their views are. We’ll arrange the event for a Friday afternoon/ early evening at the end of October.

Morven offered be there to answer questions. People would be able to drop-in and look at the survey and displays in more detail. There will be information on energy advice, assistance with repairing and improving your home. Residents will have an opportunity to indicate which projects they would like to see taken forward – for example, the School House converted or sold for residential or commercial use, an upgrade of the Toilet block by buying or leasing from HC, &/ or purchasing land adjacent to Baile Shuas for 2 new housing plots. There is a Rural Housing Fund which communities can access for new build options, renovations, and for adaptations for older people.

Morven suggested setting up a steering group after the open meeting. Anyone interested in getting involved please let us know at that event. THSCHT are happy to work in partnership with this group. Sarah Wedgwood, on behalf of the SCA, plans to meet with Morven before their next SCA meeting.

Police matters.

PC Craig Allan has picked up our concerns about speeding & wanting to reduce the 40mph limit along the by-pass road at the top of the village. Residents wish it to be reduced to 30mph and for the sign to be moved to the bottom of the hill at the south end of the village. PC Allan arranging static speed monitoring.

Defibrillator update.

Lucy has approached Cathryn Field who is happy to have the defibrillator sited on the wall next to the shop. Claire to find out from Lucy who the contact person is. Viv asked if there was training offered. Kalie said there was a two hour free training.

Repairs to the cattle grid by the Hall / Road repairs

Gerry Beard had contacted Robbie Bain (Ward 5 Manager) about the damage to the wooden struts by the Hall and also about the loose bolts on the grid itself.

On a general point, the CC continues to be frustrated at the lack of progress made on the road problems listed and given to Andrew Hunter back in April 2016. Loose bolts on the other cattle grid south of the village were only one of many other problems we raised with him. Kalie & Claire are attending the Joint Community Council meeting on Thursday and road issues are the first item on the agenda. We gather Andrew Hunter is not in post anymore but we have not been informed of who has taken up his caseload. Robbie Bain will be at the Joint CC meeting and we will raise our frustrations with him and Cllr. Kate Steven.

Correspondence.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust are looking for a volunteer to join their Board. Their AGM is on 8th September in Inverness but unfortunately no one is able to go.

Kenny Maclean (chair of Garve & District CC) is arranging a Ward 5 Joint CC meeting on Thursday 7th September at 7pm. Ward Councillors will be there. Items on the agenda for discussion include the capacity of the road network across the Ward area particularly in relation to NC500, and improving communication between CCs and Highland Council officials.

Planning matters.

Duncan reported that there was nothing relevant to our CC area.

Finances.

Balance stands at £12,616.25, of which £10,000 is ring-fenced for the community resilience plan. CC paid their share of HSCHT bill at the meeting.

AOB

-UNESCO Wester Ross Biosphere.

Kalie and Claire attended the launch of the UNESCO Wester Ross Biosphere on Monday 4th September in Kinlochewe Hall. Audrey Sinclair is the Chair and received the certificate of recognition. The biosphere extends from Knoydart to Achiltibuie and east to Garve.

Natasha Hutchison is the Project officer [natasha@westerrossbiosphere.com](mailto:natasha@westerrossbiosphere.com) .

Claire will contact her and ask for updates to be sent to the village website

-Shieldaig community website.

Ann Barton has agreed to look after this website [www.shieldaig.info](http://www.shieldaig.info) for the village. Claire to send her the Housing Survey report, and future CC minutes and agendas.

-Community Resilience Plan.

CC decided to give priority to the Housing Survey over the summer months, but we can now pick up this piece of work again. Kalie has the household emergency questionnaire almost ready to go. We plan to deliver this in October/ November. Claire to share with SCA the list of equipment budgeted for in the emergency plan as this may have relevance to purchases being planned by SCA.

Duncan will liaise with Lisa & Scott over the installation of the changeover switch; this switch will enable the village to be provided with a generator by HC in an emergency lasting longer than 3 days.

-Kinloch Woodlands SCIO. (KW SCIO)

Claire asked members if Bev Hill could remain as a KW community Trustee despite having left Shieldaig CC area. (The 2 other community trustees are Jim Alexander and Ruairidh Maclennan). It was agreed that, if Bev wishes to continue, members were happy. Claire to send KW Habitat Survey, carried out by Jim Alexander, and the Red Squirrel report, sent by Trees for Life, to Ann for the village website.

-Playpark.

Alice raised concerns about the state of the park – rotting wood, fence stumps which are a hazard, steep drops on the edge of the park. Claire to try making contact again with Douglas Miles in Gairloch and to contact HC Health & Safety.

-“Safer Routes to School” path at the top of the village.

Eunice reported that there were 2 places on the path which required infill repairs. Tom & Duncan offered to carry these out.

-Co-option of new CC members.

Viv Maclennan and Tom Tindale have offered to join to the CC. Notice of their co-option will be an item on October’s agenda and then formalized at our next CC meeting.

**Date of next meeting: 3rd October 7.30pm**

**Shieldaig CC meets on the first Tuesday at 7.30pm in the months of September, October & November, and then from February, March, April, June (AGM).** Anyone wishing to contact Kalie Wilkinson: email address: [kareliawilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:kareliawilkinson@btinternet.com) Tel:01520 755 291 or Claire Munday

Tel:015250 755206 By post: Kinloch, Shieldaig, Strathcarron IV54 8XJ