**Minutes (Draft) of Shieldaig Community Council**

**Tuesday 5th June 2018 Shieldaig Village Hall 7.30 pm**

**Members Present:** Kalie Wilkinson (Chair), Lisa Fraser (Treasurer), Claire Munday (Secretary), Duncan Carmichael, Viv Maclennan **Also present:** Gordon Drysdale.

**Apologies:** Tom Tindale, Susan Holmes, Cllr. Kate Stephen, PC Craig Allan.

**AGM 2017/ 2018**

**Record Community Council membership:** Duncan Carmichael, Lisa Fraser, Susan Holmes, Viv Maclennan, Claire Munday, Tom Tindale, Kalie Wilkinson. Donald Gillanders has formally resigned. **Approval of Minutes of previous AGM meeting 6th June Tuesday 2017** Proposed by Viv Maclennan, seconded by Duncan Carmichael.

**Chairperson’s annual report.** Kalie took us through each item: Reports made to Highland Council, Community Resilience Plan, Housing & Community Needs survey, Roads, Launch of the Wester Ross Biosphere, Broadband, Fish farm issues, Speed monitoring, Roadside camping, Wheelie bins, LED street lighting, Sea eagles, Parking at Nanny’s, Joint Ward 5 Community Council meetings, Budget cuts to Community councils. Kalie expressed thanks to all who attend the CC meetings and to Cllr. Kate Stephen, our Highland Councillor.

**Treasurer’s submission of Financial statement.** Lisa presented the year ending 31st March 2018 accounts which were adopted by Duncan Carmichael, seconded by Kalie Wilkinson.

SCC Account: Income £736 Expenditure £2654 Balance £10,733

The CC is very grateful to Alaister Taylor for independently examining the Accounts.

**Demit of office bearers. Election of office bearers.** Kalie Wilkinson re-elected chair. Proposed Claire, seconded Duncan.Lisa Fraser re-elected treasurer. Proposed Viv, seconded Duncan**.** Claire re-elected secretary. Proposed Kalie, seconded Lisa.

**Kalie declared the provisional date for next AGM is 4th June Tuesday 2019**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**Approval of Minutes Tuesday 1st May**

**Police matters:** As requested we received a report from PC Allan; there have been 2 people reported for traffic offences including careless driving in the area. He replied to our request for more information about traffic counters to record the number of cars going through the village & on the top road. He knew that these had been installed in Lochcarron but did not know who by or who held the results; neither Highland Council or NC500 had been involved. He suggested we contact HC via Kate Stephen. He confirmed that speed monitoring on the top road is being arranged for a date in the summer. Once we have this information we hope to make a case for reducing the speed limit on the top road to 30mph and moving the speed restriction sign down to the bottom of the hill. We hope that PC Allan can come to our next CC meeting in September as we’ve not been able to meet him face to face yet.

**Matters arising from the Chairperson’s report and minutes of May CC meeting:**

**Roads: Speed and noise on the coastroad and the village “top road”:** Concerns were raised about the speed of cars and bikes using the coastroad, and the subsequent noise from as early as 6am. It became clear from our discussion that we are all fearful of a serious accident, especially from May-September, due to dangerous driving on our local roads. There was an example given of road rage verging on assault which was upsetting for the person involved; they had tried to report this at Lochcarron police station but PC Allan was not there at the time. We hope to meet with Applecross CC in September to share possible solutions to the impact NC500 is having on the noise and speeds on our roads. **Signage:** We agreed to get the 40 mph stickers from Anne Macrae that we can put on our wheelie bins. We discussed asking HC for rumble strips coming in and out of residential areas which might slow people down. Also about installing speed signs which give the speed a car is doing. There was a discussion about new signage at the Applecross coastroad/ Shieldaig junction suggesting that the coastroad is not suitable for caravans and motorhomes. Also at this junction it would be helpful to have information in the winter months as to whether the Bealach road is open. **Roadside camping & campervans:** The number of campervans parking overnight on the grass verges in Shieldaig has increased; in particular at the south end road junction which causes problems for large vehicles coming down the hill and needing to turn right into Shieldaig. **Double yellow lines around the corner at Nanny’s:** there was a site visit from Heather Masterson, Traffic Management & Control Team, HC on 1/6/18 and the extent of yellow lines were agreed. **Repairs:** there have been on-going road repairs on the top road over the last 2/3 weeks for which we are very grateful; however several residents have remarked that, when resources are scarce, they are aware of more serious pot holes elsewhere in the area. All the above issues we’re raising with Cllr. Kate Stephen.

**Broadband:** Recently the residents of Shieldaig CC area have received a letter from Colin Sempill, Managing Director, SSE Enterprise Telecoms addressed to “Dear Applecross Resident” with information regarding the fibre optic cabling programme so far and the pending overnight closure of the Bealach na Ba from 11th June - 20th July. We are concerned that there is a misunderstanding about what area is considered “Applecross” by service providers. We are writing to Mr. Sempill explaining that the CC catchment area for Shieldaig starts half way along the coastroad between Applecross and Shieldaig. Shieldaig residents have been reasonable over the 30 week period that the disruptive work was carried out along the coastroad during the winter and spring months, and now while the Bealach is closed. We think that maybe Shieldaig’s co-operation has been taken for granted. Mr. Sempill wrote that, once the second cable is installed, SSE will allow a suitable service provider to step in and operate the fibre; “talks are underway and we will keep the community informed”. The internet connection is poor and unreliable for many Shieldaig residents on the coastroad so we hope these residents will also be involved in future talks regarding connecting up to the new cable.

**Fish farm issues:** Over the last year the community who, traditionally have been supportive of fish farms, are now increasingly concerned that the fish farms are becoming insensitive to the environmental sustainability of their market driven expansion in the loch. We feel there needs to be a limit set for the maximum biomass the fish farms should be allowed to have in Loch Torridon; indeed the limit may be reached already. This community council has been consulted this May by Scottish Salmon Company for our views on the “likelihood of any significant environmental impacts arising from their proposal to increase the Aird site biomass from 1750 to 2500 T”. This is following an increase in 2016 from 1375 to 1750 T, and their new 91 acre site at Sgeir Dughall built in 2012. We have found it difficult to get environmental advice and guidance from the public bodies who are meant to regulate the fish farms and advise on their environmental impact on the wild fish. We are aware that fish farms provide local jobs but if not run sustainably in the long term then these jobs will go.

**Shieldaig Community Association update:** new trustees were appointed at their AGM and work is ongoing to look at options for the Schoolhouse and Baile Shuas. Kalie and Tom are CC representatives on the SCA development subgroup.

**School sign:** this has been installed and is a great improvement on the last one.

**Report back on Ward 5 Joint Community Council Meeting 17th May:** Kalie and Claire attend these meetings. It is an opportunity to meet the 4 Highland Councillors, who have connections to HC committees, MPs & MSPs. Also PC Allan and Ward manager, Robbie Bain.

**Defibrillator:** has been installed on the wall beside the hotel garage. Our thanks to Cathryn Field for allowing this. A second training will be offered to the community in September. **Chainsaw training:** Kalie has details of a chainsaw course for 4 people, either here or in Contin, which CC would fund from the SSE resilience fund. In return for attending the course there would be an expectation that the 4 would be available in an emergency when a chainsaw is required. Please contact Kalie if you are interested.

**Planning matters:** Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) are submitting a screening/ scoping request to HC on 31/5/18 for an expansion at Aird. Claire has consulted locally to find out the community’s view. There are concerns about the high levels of mortalities and subsequent strong odours from the site & form lorries leaving the site; noise pollution from the generators; loss of creel fishing ground; fish farm debris washed up on Loch Torridon beaches. CC will be responding to SSC’s request once we have heard back from Mark Harvey at HC, John Armstrong at Marine Scotland Science, Charles Allan at Aberdeen Fish Health Inspectorate, Paul Griffiths at SEPA and Bill Whyte at Wester Ross Fisheries Board.

**Correspondence:** Red Squirrel Celebration Day 22nd July Sunday at Attadale Gardens. Rock stabilisation works due to take place on a section just west of the avalanche shelter on A890 Stromeferry Bypass for up to 12 weeks from 3rd September. Flood Risk management planning: 2018 Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA) consultation; Claire has asked Kate Stephen about how we address coastal erosion issues in Shieldaig.

**AOB:** Public toilets. This CC would like to show solidarity with the communities of Kinlochewe and Dornie who are faced with closure of their public toilets. We feel it’s a public health service which should be provided by HC and free of charge.

**Date of next meeting: 4th September Tuesday 7.30pm**