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

**Tuesday 3rd April 2018 Shieldaig Village Hall 7.30 pm**

**Members Present:** Kalie Wilkinson (Chair), Lisa Fraser (Treasurer), Susan Holmes, Tom Tindall, Viv Maclennan, Cllr. Kate Stephen, Sarah Wedgwood (for part of the meeting)

**Apologies:** Claire Munday, Duncan Carmichael

**Approval of Minutes** from last meeting – 6/2/18

**Matters arising:**

Kate reported there was still no date for the switching of village street lights to LED lanterns.

The requested police monitoring of speeding vehicles & traffic calming measures are to be redone in July on the back road of the village. Due to a lack of communication within the police dept. previous monitoring systems had been inadvertently installed on the main village street in Autumn, out-with the busiest season.

The recent roads meetings with HC officials was discussed. Kate strongly advised that it was imperative ALL members of the public continually reported road conditions, speeding incidents, dangerous situations etc with photographic evidence where possible as HC need significant data to act. The purchase of 30mph speed stickers for members of the public to display on their own roadside properties/wheelie bins was considered as was the installation of flashing radar speed signs.

The state of the roads is to be raised at the joint ward 5 CC meeting in May and a date to be arranged for a roads meeting with CC's from Applecross, Lochcarron and Torridon/Kinlochewe in the near future.

Kalie attended meeting in Applecross on March 29th to discuss the Bealach closure, which is now happening in June. 3 km of the road are to be resurfaced /re skimmed and barriers repaired during the road closure. Emergency access will be available throughout.

**Village Developments – Sarah Wedgwood SCIO**

Sarah explained that Rory Dutton of the Scottish Community Development Centre would be coming to a meeting at 6pm on Friday 20th April in the Hall to discuss “a picture of the future” for the village. It was vital as many people as possible attended to express their views and hear what funding is available and what can be achieved by small communities. Projects in the pipeline, and to be further discussed, include the provision of affordable housing, control of the toilet block, development of the school house for community use and the refurbishment of the playpark. (Tina Macgregor has kindly offered to donate monies from her summer fundraiser to the playpark.) Sarah had also had preliminary talks with Hugh Tollemache about the possibility of community buyout of land on his estate if there was enough interest. It was felt that there was a very real need for a dedicated Community Development Officer to manage and develop these projects and to make the most use of the available monies & political will.

**Closure of Toilets in area**

Disgust was shown at HC’s decision regarding the closure of public toilets in the area, particularly at the onset of the tourist season. It was suggested maybe it was time HC lobbied the government about the inequity of council tax payments for holiday homes to help pay for these essential services.

**Broadband on the Coast Road**

Kalie had attended a meeting in Applecross with Ian Blackford MP about the potential and need to link coast road settlements to the fibre optic cable from Sand to give Broadband coverage and to fulfil R100 promises. The issue seems to be finding a supplier who will spend the money needed to connect & maintain the fibres for such a relatively small number of houses in each community. The potential remains & pressure to connect needs to be ongoing.

**Resilience Plan – SSE Community Funding**

Duncan had been to a community resilience conference in Edinburgh & in his absence he will report back at the next meeting. Currently the defibrillator is the only purchase to have been made from the funds. Tom to organise purchase of other items for village use such as first aid kits, gas stoves, head torches etc & to liase with Lisa & Susan. There was discussion about shared expenses with SCIO for the shed/electricity etc

Lisa advised the CC a/c stood at £10.734.02 (£8,500 is ring fenced for community resilience spending)

**Planning**

No new applications to report.

**Management of Schools Phase 2**

Kate advised that following a consultation process, local communities were not in favour of a suggested 3-18 campus in Gairloch but would prefer the status quo to remain with one HT for Gairloch, Kinlochewe & Shieldaig Primary Schools. The headteacher secondment that has been in place for the High School ends this summer and the post will be advertised.

**Correspondence**

* CC budgets to be halved – down to £350.00 pa
* Ward 5 joint CC meeting 17th May – Lochcarron
* Review of Polling Places – no expected changes for Shieldaig
* Gordon Drysdale – school sign – Kate confirmed it had been approved for installation
* Gordon Drysdale – removal of large green bin at public toilets. Kalie to photograph current situation which shows one bin is inadequate & to report to HC as a matter of urgency
* Gordon Drysdale – cable laying on coast road, re-tarring of people’s driveways has not been carried out yet. Kalie has informed SSE of this.
* Scottish Fire & Rescue consultation – firefighters roles to be re-defined to include first responder duties
* Info received about Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund
* Impact of Bank Closures Survey

**AOB**

Kalie reported that Duncan & Alice Maclennan have kindly donated the use of their croft for a community growing/polytunnel/allotment area. Meeting to be held 11am Sunday 8th April to plan.

Parking at Nanny’s – the double yellow lines on the road to indicate no parking on the corner have not been done. To be followed up.

Grass cutting – Kate informed the meeting that HC grass cutting policy has been changed & the bank between Nanny’s & Rivendell will not be cut as it is too steep! Gradients of 30 degrees or more are deemed unsafe. It was suggested we could cut it ourselves or plant with wildflowers. Any suggestions welcome.

Campsite planning has been approved. An application for a temporary licence to allow opening of the ground for camping for this year has been refused by HC. Therefore, due to legal advice and implications regarding public liability the gates will unfortunately need to remain closed for this summer. They will be opened for Celtman weekend with the organisers themselves assuming full public liability responsibilities.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 1st May 7.30 pm