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

**Tuesday 1st May 2018 Shieldaig Village Hall 7.30 pm**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes Tuesday 3rd April** following corrections under **matters arising second paragraph:** “Due to a confusion of communication, previous monitoring systems had been inadvertently installed on the main street..”, and under **AOB first paragraph** “Kalie reported that Duncan & Alice Maclennan have kindly offered the use of their croft…”

**Matters arising:**

**Ward 5 Joint Community Council meeting on 17th May Lochcarron Hall.** Kalie and Claire will be attending this meeting. During the meeting, they hope to meet with the 4 South-West Ross CCs to arrange a joint meeting regarding mutual roads issues.

**Visit of Director of Community Services, William Gilfillan on 2nd March.** Members who had attended this meeting wanted to know from Cllr. Kate Stephen whether there had been any community developments following his visit; at least 6 people had attended hoping issues concerning our communities would be taken forward on our behalf.

**Closure of Bealach na Ba.** Closure from 18.00 – 07.30 all days from 11th June – 20th July.

**Closure of Toilets in South-West Ross area.** Kinlochewe toilets are to remain open now till August and then their future is uncertain. Members felt strongly that we should lobby HCs, MSPs, MPs about how such a basic sanitary provision can be removed. We’ll raise this public health issue at the Joint CC meeting on 17th May.

**Broadband on the Coast Road.** Claire had contacted Fiona Ogg, SSE Enterprise/Telecoms Land Consents manager, & Derek Murphy-Steele, SSET project manager, prior to CC meeting to find out where discussions were regarding possible broadband service providers on the coastroad ; she was told that SSE Telecom “are still in discussion”. The Scottish Government have a commitment to deliver superfast broadband access to 100% of premises by 2021, but as we understand it, the provision of this on the Applecross coastroad is not financially viable. Maybe potential service providers are waiting till there are financial incentives offered to them to carry out the work?

**Police matters.** PC Allan was sent an agenda of our meeting but did not attend or contact us.

**Roads Department issues. -Camping on the main street.** Claire contacted CC, on behalf of Cathryn Field, regarding tents erected outside the hotel on the road verge. With the campsite closed this summer there is concern that this could become more common. Gary Urquhart, Roads officer, has told us that “it is an offence to camp on a roadside verge”. The placing of 2 or 3 temporary signs that read “NO CAMPING” will be placed on the roadside verge along the main street. These will be removed when the new campsite opens next year.

**Waste issues. -Follow up on removal of green bin at public toilets:** Kalie contacted Katrina Taylor & Duncan Falconer at HC. She received this reply “ We did remove one of the 1100 l. bins last year due to the amount of fly tipping being put in the bins. The bins at this location should be there for 5 properties that don’t have their own bins, but had allowed for 2 for a bit of tourism too. It was suspected that there were even commercial customers coming from quite some distance to make use of these unregulated bins. We will replace the bin but it will be monitored and if found to be mis-used we may have to consider removal again”. When this second bin returns the CC would be grateful if any unregulated usage is reported to us.If locals wish to have items uplifted this can be arranged through HC; 3 items can be collected for £22.03 and 6 items for £44. **-Follow up on Shieldaig community pontoon bin:** Katrina Taylor wrote “Apparently Highland Harbours pays HC to empty a large bin at our pontoon. This was arranged through Len Campbell, Harbour Master at Gairloch. This hasn’t been happening for quite some time. I think the bin was moved by someone but it is now back at the pier and is being paid for to be emptied fortnightly”.

**Reports back on meetings attended by members during March/April:**

**-Community Resilience Conference in Edinburgh.** Duncan had attended in March. This conference was in recognition that as budgets are getting slashed, communities will have to become more resilient and be prepared to get “stuck in”. Duncan felt that Shieldaig is well on with some of the issues compared to other communities. Duncan found out that there is a Resilience Officer in Highland Council and he will make contact with them.

Related resilience business. Tom was not present so a discussion about how the purchase of resilience items is progressing was left for our June meeting.

Kalie asked if Resilience money could be used to fund a share in the skiff generator which is housed in Shieldaig for most of the year, and then in Torridon boathouse during the winter months. It was agreed to pay £300 towards the Skiff fund for a share in the generator.

Defibrillator due to be installed on Tigh An Eilean Hotel wall next week.

Chains saw training**.**  There were 12 people with chainsaws who responded in the resilience questionnaire last winter. CC thought of running a chainsaw training session if there was a need. If you would be interested please let us know.

**-Heritage Routes in the Wester Ross Biosphere on 18th April in Kinlochewe.** Kalie and Claire attended the meeting which was set up by SHAPE (Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism). Laure Hamlet, responsible for this project, asked those present to explain the links between communities past and present, so that these different routes – drove roads, footpaths, seaways – could be promoted to encourage slow tourism in Wester Ross. We did our best!

**-Shieldaig Community Association meeting on 20th April.** There was a presentation by the Development Trusts Association Scotland explaining about the Land Reform Act, Community Right to Buy, Community Ownership Support Service, and the Scottish Land Fund. There were inspiring examples of what other communities have achieved. There was a discussion on further development possibilities at Baile Shuas and at the Schoolhouse with drawing of the options for a 2 bedroom house or 2 one-bedded units. It was felt that there would be a lot of work for whoever took on the role that Sarah Wedgwood has started and a Community Development Officer post could be applied for (3 year term?) to take on this project and any other projects at a later date.

**Finance.** Lisa had confirmation from HC that our annual grant for 2018/19 , less our annual premium insurance of £86, is £336.14. This will be sent to us once they have received copies of our certified accounts as agreed at our AGM in June. Members agreed that travel expenses to CC related meetings and ink cartridge use for CC business could be claimed for.

**Planning applications.** 18/01108/FUL erection of garage with self-contained residential unit, 4 Allt An Dubh, Shieldaig; 18/01281/PIP land 25m east of Tree Tops, Shieldaig; 18/01062/FUL land 140m SW of Kinloch, Shieldaig.

Duncan had contacted the planning department to ask why it was difficult to find out the closing dates for the public to log a comment on any planning application. They said that they gave neighbours 2 weeks to make comments and tried to process applications within 2 months. If someone wanted to know the closing date of a specific application it was necessary to phone the case officer.

Back in February we had queried a Scottish Salmon Company application for the siting of a feed barge at Kenmore which had been processed without an opportunity to comment; we were told by Malcolm Macleod at HC that the submission was undertaken through the Prior Notification procedure which grants permission for various minor works. We were given Mark Harvey as a contact for aquaculture related queries for HC. We asked him what the position was for the establishment of the environmental management plan at the SSC Sgeir Dughall site. The setting up of this plan had been agreed following the removal of HC 10 year planning condition. Mr. Harvey said that HC were in early discussion with SSC about the plan and “will expect them to initiate contact with local wild fish interests to help discharge some of the plan’s requirements”.

**AOB** -Duncan reported that a Community Polytunnel is being planned on the croft. Also in the playpark SCA are developing a gardening project with the school. HC own the playpark and we have been reporting to HC the need for repairs to play equipment and fencing for some time. Perhaps SCA & CC could together plan a way forward for the whole playpark area.

-Forest School programme: Shieldaig Primary school are attending 6 forest school sessions run by Lynda Beveridge over at Kinloch. These are being funded by Kinloch Woodlands SCIO.

Date of next Meeting which will **AGM & General meeting**: Tuesday 5th June 7.30 pm