**Minutes**

***Shieldaig Community Council***

**Meeting Tuesday 5 November 2019**

**Present**: Gordon Drysdale (Acting Chair), Lisa Fraser (Treasurer), Viv Maclennan, Councillor Alex MacInnes and three members of the public (Janene Waudby, Julian Fox and Roger Hodgson).

**Apologies**: Kalie Wilkinson, Claire Munday, Duncan Carmichael.

**Salmon Farm Area Management Group**

Further to the May 2019 Community Council (“CC”), at which members of the Scottish Salmon Company (“SSC”) and MOWI attended and agreed to draft Terms of Reference for establishment of an informal Area Management Group for Loch Torridon, the CC had invited these representatives to attend the meeting to discuss the Terms. While no response to the invitation had been elicited from MOWI, Marc Browne of SSC had committed to attend.

As detailed in the May Minutes, the CC had explained to SSC and MOWI that after a public consultation in January 2019, the community is keen to forge closer links, an open dialogue and a greater understanding between the community, fish farm companies, the Sea Trout Project and creel fisherman.

Regrettably Marc Browne of Scottish Salmon Company did not fulfil his commitment to attend the CC on 5 November, nor had the Terms been submitted for review. Hugh Mackinnon of MOWI had not responded to the invitation.

**Action point:**

* Gordon to contact SSC and MOWI and express the CC’s regret that the Area Management Group initiative has faltered. In response, Marc Browne said he had misunderstood the date of the meeting and Hugh Mackinnon that the email inviting him had gone into his Junk email folder.

In Mr Browne’s absence, members of the public raised objection to the recent change of colour of the SSC feed barge at Aird, Ardheslaig. Gordon Drysdale explained that the previous colour scheme was that suggested by Scottish Natural Heritage, as statutory consultee, to the planning consent for the feed barge. He explained that Marc Browne had said by email to him in January 2019 that any change to that colour scheme would require alteration to the original planning consent. Gordon further explained that the previous and new colour scheme are contrary to the Highland Council's **Loch Torridon Aquaculture Framework Plan**, specifically paragraph 87 (page 19, Landscape & Visual Amenity).

**Action point**:

* Gordon to enquire of Marc Browne whether variation to the barge’s planning consent has been obtained.

**Matters arising**

Insufficient number of nominations to form next Community Council – it was noted that Robbie Bain of Highland Council (“HC”) has intimated:

* there will be one final meeting of the current Community Council in December, after which time the Council bank account will be frozen and the existing office bearers remain as Trustees of the CC’s assets; and
* that Interim elections will take place in January, at which time those wishing to stand as an Office Bearer can do so. It is hoped that sufficient numbers of Office Bearers will be found (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and a quorum of four attained.

Shieldaig Primary School – following Norma Young’s attendance at the last CC, Gordon updated the CC that:

* he wrote to Norma Young following the meeting setting out what she had committed to and she acknowledged the letter and her commitments, other than the provision of Additional Support Needs space in the converted school house (until such time that her project team has assessed the space available);
* Norma Young had promised to update Gordon in advance of the CC but regrettably none has been forthcoming; and
* Norma Young and project management colleagues did visit Shieldaig school house during week commencing 28 October. It is inferred this was in relation to the proposed conversion of the house into nursery accommodation.

**Action point**:

* Gordon to ask Norma Young again for an update.

Shieldaig Play Park – Gordon and Ruairidh Maclennan have agreed to pursue the renewal project. Alex MacInnes is liaising with Douglas Miles at HC re. provision of new play bark for the existing facility.

Woodland Trust – it was noted that the CC welcomed the Trust’s steps to engage with the Shieldaig community regarding their Ben Shieldaig holding. Malcolm Turner, Project Development Manager for Loch Shieldaig, had intimated the following to the CC in advance of the meeting:

* a cull of hinds on Ben Shieldaig will be undertaken over the coming months, and butchered venison may be available to local residents; and
* there will be a family woodland event on Sunday 17 November, 14:30 – 16:30 hours in the pinewood clearing at the Coast Road junction opposite the telephone exchange – activities and storytelling round a fire, for children.

Other planning matters

Aird salmon farm, Ardheslaig – the CC noted the SSC is appealing the decision by HC to refuse application to expand at Aird (planning reference 19/01413/FUL). Those present discussed that the CC should object to the appeal and that this stance is consistent with its objection to the original application, a result of the unanimous vote cast at the January 2019 community meeting. Objections to the appeal are to be submitted by Thursday 14 November, to meet the deadline for submission.

**Action point:**

* Janene Waudby to share with the CC her and the Community Association’s proposed letter of objection, to inform the CC’s objection.

Police– no report submitted by PC Allan.

Finance– expenditure has been drawn down by Duncan Carmichael and Tom Tindale for community resilience items, at the request of the CC, being:

2x multi function head torches, 10x ambulance blankets, 1x two burner gas powered portable cooker hob and 1x large first aid kit.

These will be kept in the Shieldaig Community Association sheds behind the primary school. These items cost £585.35 in total and the balance in the CC account is £10,054.71.

Correspondence

* Bear Scotland: closure of A835 west of Garve Hotel, 10th -14th November 7pm-7am for essential drainage works.
* Travelling exhibition, “Housing to 2040” – Ullapool, 6th November. Scottish Government initiative.
* Woodland Trust tree safety work was carried out on 29th October. Wood left where felled to create a deadwood habitat
* Henry Allen has suggested to Woodland Trust a re-instatement of the path from Shieldaig to Balgy (an initiative the Trust are already considering)
* Double yellow lines on road at Nanny’s Café corner. People can load/ unload only. Highland Council advise that if any issues with parking on these lines and the parking enforcement officer should be contacted.

AOB

Shieldaig Public Toilets – Alex MacInnes stated that following HC staff taking back the keys due to health & safety fears relating to a leaking roof, Alex has recovered the keys from HC.

Alex went on to state that Ward 5 Members have agreed that the best approach is for the Shieldaig community to be given the chance to assess the condition of the building with the option to take forward repairs at their own hand. Ward 5 Members agreed that the Ward Budget would support the community in this if necessary.

Alex continued that if an affordable repair can be effected, the community would then run the facility for the winter season as in previous years and would continue dialogue with HC about a full take-over of the facility for the longer term, if the Shieldaig Community Association so wished.

**Action Point**:

* Keys to be returned to Lilian by Lisa Scott, who left the CC meeting with the keys;
* Viv Maclennan to liaise with Keith McNicoll about what needs done to effect repair to the roof.

Planning - a member of the public then raised concern as to whether three pieces of recent development fall within the scope of permitted development, which were:

1. Erection of new wooden fence along boundary between residential house and highway, at Baile Shuas (Forder & MacDonald);
2. Erection of garage on property Gnoc Gaoithe; and
3. Erection of decking structure on land immediately north of residential flat above Nanny’s Café (NB nothing to do with Nanny’s Café).

**Action point:**

* Gordon to forward a copy of The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2011 to the member of the public for further research.

Date of next meeting: 3 December 2019