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

**Tuesday 5th February 2019 Shieldaig Village Hall 7.30 pm**

**All Members Present, Cllr. Alex MacInnes & 3 members of the public.**

**Minutes 6th November 2018.** Matters arising. Land boundary issues: Gordon Drysdale had emailed with advice on title plans and boundaries’ issues following our last CC meeting. If any member of the community is having similar problems please contact Claire. Robbie Bain repeated that HC sees the issue as one for the Registers of Scotland.

**Police matters.** PC Allan not present.

**Highland Council housing allocation policy.** Shieldaig community’s concern is that there is a lack of affordable housing i.e. accommodation which is affordable for someone who is not eligible for social housing. This problem has arisen partly because Baile Shuas units ( that we used to regard as affordable housing) are now centrally allocated by HC. Cllr. MacInnes said that HC were reviewing the point system as local people can be disadvantaged. Janene Waudby, secretary of Shieldaig Community Association (SCA), has written a paper “Shieldaig – the Affordable Housing Gap” for HC in order to outline the gap in our community’s housing needs. If you would like a copy email Claire – [munday125@btinternet.com](mailto:munday125@btinternet.com)

**Roads.** Cllr. MacInnes said HC were aware that they haven’t been carrying out adequate road maintenance. They are prioritising “A” roads in order to fix pot holes. We are asked to take photos of pot holes that are of concern and report to HC Tel: 01349 886601 or online [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) Kalie raised again the lack of “allow overtaking “ signs on Applecross coastroad. Cllr. MacInnes said there were plans for traffic calming measures in Shieldaig CC catchment area in the summer. **Gritters.** There are numerous complaints regarding lack of gritting. Why is priority given to the Bealach at the expense of the Applecross coastroad where people live and businesses are located? There has also been poor gritting in Glen Torridon which prevents the school bus getting through to Shieldaig in the morning; parents have been asked to take their children to Kinlochewe if they want them to attend Gairloch high school. The road from Ardheslaig to Aird is not gritted by HC, although grit is left by the roadside for residents and businesses on this road to spread. On Friday 1 February HC bin lorry skidded on black ice in Ardheslaig and went off the road. The occupants were unhurt.

**Playpark.** Claire contacted Douglas Miles, HC Amenity officer. He confirmed that HC were aware the play area required work particularly to the fencing, bark pits, climbing frame. He was sorry to confirm HC does not have sufficient funds to do all this work; they are happy to work with the community giving advice and possibly using some of their limited funds (£200) to help “seed fund” a larger community project. SCA have fund-raised over £2000 towards playpark improvements. Douglas Miles recommended a sales rep for children’s playpark equipment meet with us to advise on next steps. Tina, Laura, Claire, Pauline, Viv are happy to form a sub-group.

**Public toilets.** SCA are in discussion with HC regarding repair of roof.

**Community Resilience planning.** Kalie, Claire, Duncan and Tom tasked with pulling this together. Claire to contact Sandy Murray SSE to arrange an installation of a changeover switch for the hall. Duncan and Tom to decide and order emergency equipment needed which can be stored in shed up by the school. Kalie to purchase a noticeboard for SCC outside the hall where the plan can be displayed with contact numbers and a “telephone tree” of emergency co-ordinators. Viv is now defibrillator custodian; she and Claire alternatively carry out monthly checks on the defibrillator. Viv will arrange another resuscitation session in the autumn. The issue of poor mobile phone coverage was discussed and how to address this. Following the meeting Kalie heard from Stuart Robertson, HIE, that R100 contract is still in the procurement phase and now unlikely that a bidder (for full fibre connections) will be chosen until late in 2019.

**The third Scottish Rural Parliament.** Kalie attended the November meeting in Stranraer. She gave us a summary of the 6 Rural Asks which have been published following the event – more decision-making should be carried out at a local level, and more services should be delivered at a local level; there needs to be a transparent, formalised and obligatory process for identifying rural-urban tensions and needs within the policy-making process; the rural voice needs to be heard on issues which are key to the future and sustainability of rural communities; communities need to be educated and supported to take advantage of new legislation designed to empower them; rural communities can be and are agents of change; there is a need for increased cross-sector knowledge and experience-sharing.

**Mary Street.** There has been slow progress made regarding the clearing-up of the area between the track and the foreshore. There was a discussion as to ownership of this area and Gordon confirmed that it is owned by the Lochcarron Estate.

**Waste Recycling point.** There is a plan to tidy up this area by moving the clothes bank and bottle banks to be in line with the other 2 large wheelie bins in line with the public toilets.

**Finance.** Balance stands at £10,230.56p. Hall hire of £80 paid on 20/11/18 and Kalie reimbursed for accommodation at Rural Parliament meeting in Stranraer. Members can claim mileage (45p per mile) if attending a meeting on SCC’s behalf.

**Planning matters. Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) planned expansion at Aird.** Having heard views at a joint public meeting on 5th January from SCC & SCA, SCC have decided to object to this expansion even though the proposed expansion in cage numbers has been reduced from 6 to 4. This remains a 40% increase in cage numbers. Our basis for objection is a deeply held concern relating to the environmental impact of SSC’s current operations. SEPA notified us on 1/2/19 that they propose to grant the application. We have 21 days to explain why we object to SEPA’s proposed determination and send it to Scottish Ministers. Individuals can send their own responses to SEPA if they wish. As yet SSC have not applied to HC for planning permission. **Planning development of 2 housing plots at Baile Shuas by Hugh Tollemache.** CC have no objection to residential development of these 2 plots. There is some uncertainty how the Woodland Trust may be involved in the development of these plots as they have not been in contact with the village about their plans. CC to contact WT and invite them to a CC meeting. No other relevant planning applications.

**Correspondence:** a member of the Shieldaig community has raised the legitimacy of the decking adjacent to the flat above Nanny’s café. Claire has spoken to the owner. CC decided it is not a development that falls under any of the Planning Acts. **Developer Contributions Supplementary guidance:** anyone interested in guidance updates on requirements for all scales and types of development, including single house applications contact [devplans@highland.gov.uk](mailto:devplans@highland.gov.uk)

**AOB: HC CC scheme review** of the 154 CC’s across Highland have decided not to change the current boundaries. This means that SCC’s suggestion to approach Torridon & Kinlochewe CC as to the possibility of amalgamating will not be necessary. **Kinloch Woodlands SCIO.** Richard Munday, is invited to attend CC meeting on 2nd April to discuss KW SCIO’s future plans. **Wester Ross Biosphere meeting:** Kalie to attend meeting in Ullapool on 9th February.

**Date of next meeting: 5th March 7.30pm.** Thereafter: 2nd April, 7th May. 4th June AGM, 3rd September, 1st October. Then elections held for new Community Council.