**Shieldaig Community Council**

**Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Sildeag**

**Minutes of Meeting**

***Tuesday 7th May 2019 – Shieldaig Village Hall***

**Present:**

Kalie Wilkinson (Chairperson), Lisa Fraser (Treasurer) Gordon Drysdale, Viv Maclennan, Duncan Carmichael, Alex McInnes, Janene Waudby (SCIO) 1 member of the Public

First part of Meeting: Marc Browne, Dougie Macleod & Jenny McLeish (Scottish Salmon Company) Hugh Mackinnon & Scott Forder (MOWI – Marine Harvest)

**Apologies:**

Claire Munday, PC Craig Allan

**Fish Farming:**

Kalie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked representatives of the fish farm companies for accepting the invitation to attend. Following on from a public meeting in Shieldaig, and community response to SSC’s proposed expansion at Aird, it was explained that the community were keen to see the re-instatement of the Loch Torridon Area Management Group in order to forge closer links, an open dialogue and a greater understanding between the community, fish farm companies, the Sea Trout Project and creel fisherman.

A discussion followed on how this could best be achieved and what information was currently in the public domain and shared between the two companies, with particular reference to fallow and stocking periods at the fish farms. Representatives of the two companies reported there was a synchronised plan in place with some formal & informal sharing of information. Both companies were reluctant to enter into a more formal arrangement following on from the breakdown of the previous Area Management Group due to litigation and references to the Freedom of Information Act.

However, they agreed that community trust and reassurance, could be addressed by periodic joint forums, for persons interested in the management and protection of the loch, if terms of reference and specific aims and objectives were established. It was agreed that Marc Browne would draft a reference document, setting out expectations for ongoing community engagement, and follow up with his MOWI counterpart in the next few weeks with the aim of a September meeting to take this forward.

Marc Browne explained that SEPA were making changes to the way farms were being licensed and the way the industry was being regulated. This seemed to be mainly with regard to the level of information farms will have to provide.

Specific questions followed from the floor.

* Noise from the feed barges at Aird. Dougie Macleod confirmed this was being addressed.
* Employment. Both companies expressed a desire to employ local people, but that recruitment was proving difficult. The CC is keen to support local advertising if helpful.
* Marine Litter. It was accepted that not all litter came from the fish farms. Beach cleans have been carried out by the companies and they were keen to continue with this. Contact personnel to report litter have been identified.
* Traffic on coast road. Worrying levels of high speed & inappropriate driving for single track road conditions by fish farm traffic on the coast road was reported. Marc Browne to escalate concerns to company.
* Sgeir Dubh site Diabeg. Question on capacity & expansion. No expansion planned.

Members of both fish farms were thanked for attending, especially those who had travelled from Edinburgh. Representatives of SSF and Janene left the meeting. Hugh and Scott extended invitations to visit local fish farms and confirmed that MOWI were happy for local level discussions to take things forward. They too left the meeting.

*The rest of the meeting continued.*

**Minutes from last meeting on 2nd April:**

Approved.

**Matters Arising:**

* The new CC noticeboard has been installed outside the hall. This will house resilience planning information & CC minutes/information etc.
* Alex McInnes commented on the CC resilience planning as being of a high standard and suggested other communities might like to use it as a point of reference.
* Roads – Alex gave feedback which was not encouraging. Traffic calming initiatives suggested by the CC months ago require a legal challenge which is not speedily resolved. Frustration was expressed at the lack of progress and expense involved. Other issues with roads and signage were discussed but with no hopeful resolutions in sight due to financial restraints.
* Alex reported on the intention of Ward 5 councillors to break away to form a sub group to have more control on how the locally allocated budget would be spent. 4/5 local councillors support this move at present. He commented that individual CC support would be helpful to pursue this move.
* Applecross Trust gave advance notification of timber harvesting which would impact the coast road in particular from mid- May for 3 months. There would be 2 lorries a day travelling the route in each direction.

**Police Matters:**

PC Allan had confirmed no crime had been reported since last month.

**Old Stone Jetty – Corran:**

The jetty has suffered storm damage and partial collapse. It has historic significance to the village, and it would be sad to see it deteriorate further. Photos have been taken and the damage reported to Highland Council. There was doubt expressed about who would take responsibility for the repair. Francois Raulier kindly offered to be part of a local project to repair it if necessary.

**Community Resilience:**

Duncan confirmed the proposed equipment had been identified but not yet ordered.

**Finances:**

Lisa reported a balance of £9756.00. John McNeill has been paid £40.00 cash for installing the new noticeboard.

**Joint CC Meeting in Lochcarron:**

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated to the CC and would be put on the noticeboard for interested parties to read. Particular reference to Shieldaig issues were housing, poor internet connectivity on the coast road and fish farm planning objection. Also closure of Strome Ferry bypass from 10pm-7am for 8 weeks from September 9th. There will be full closure on the weekend of 21/22nd September including closure for emergency service vehicles.

**Planning:**

No new applications to report.

**Correspondence:**

Consultation on Community Council Scheme, closing date for comments 31st May

**AOB:**

* Donnie Chisholm, site manager for the Scottish Woodland Trust, will attend the CC meeting on 3rd September.
* Mary St bins. Claire had received notification that HC intend to remove one of the 1100L bins from the end of Mary St due in part to misuse. Discussion followed. It was felt all the houses would require green bins and the large bin should be replaced by a large blue recycling bin. Claire to be asked to follow up with request.
* Gordon, and other parents in the village, have identified that there will shortly be 19 pre-school children in the village school catchment area. Parents are concerned and seek reassurance that HC are addressing plans for accommodating this increase.

It was suggested by Alex, and agreed, that Gordon would contact Norma Young, area education manager and invite her to attend a meeting to discuss further.

* Main Street lighting. Some street lights appear to be malfunctioning. It was noted that we are awaiting installation of LED lights, otherwise the issue could be reported through usual HC channels.

*Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th June 6pm - AGM*