

Shieldaig Community Council meeting minutes

Final

Tuesday 7 September 2021 via Zoom.

Attendance:

Ann Barton (Chair), Becky Cameron, Hugh Gosling (Secretary), Alex MacInnes, Viv MacLennan, Karen Starr (Treasurer). Also: Lynn Frost.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Approved.

3. Matters arising

Community Support Coordinator – Lynn Frost

Lynn Frost joined the meeting as our new community support coordinator, covering Ward 5. The role involves looking at how the community has responded to the COVID pandemic, identifying any resilience gaps and seeking to close those gaps. The Highland Council has identified four harms and are inviting community groups to apply for funding. LF has spoken to the parent group about seeking funding for the playpark as the need for outdoor space. Food from the Dingwall hub is available for anyone self-isolating, which will be stored in the big shed alongside stores for the Grub Hub. LF said our community and some other smaller and more remote communities have managed very well.

CC likely abeyance – lack of office bearers

VM and KS have resigned. As the number of councillors falls below the minimum of 4 – and with no-one willing to take on the roles of Chair or Treasurer – the CC will fall into abeyance at the end of this meeting. HG will advertise information about the next elections and encourage members of the community to stand for election. We hope to reform after the elections in March 2022.

Co-option – Cathryn Field and Tom Tindale

We'd like to thank Cathryn and Tom for offering their services, however, the CC will go into abeyance before they can be co-opted. Also, as neither felt they could stand as Chair or Treasurer, their co-option would not have prevented the CC going into abeyance. We encourage them to stand for election to the CC at the next elections.

Cattle grids

AM reported that the damaged grid is a priority for Mackenzie Sutherland, who is also aware of the poor state of repair of the other grids. MS is also aware of the poor state of the road at the turning on to the coast road.

Planters

These will be maintained even though the CC has gone abeyance. The small amount of leftover soil will be donated to the school. We have yet to remove the unsightly old planters from the front.

4. Finances

Cash at bank was £15,466.36 at 31 August 2021. Recent outgoings covered Grub Hub repair, compost, insurance and a data protection fee. Coronavirus funds (included in cash balance) are £6,693.49, which can be spent on any pandemic-related activities and projects. When the CC goes into abeyance, Dot Ferguson will take over the role of Treasurer.

5. Police Matters

A report from Craig Allen: two road accidents on the Torridon to Shieldaig road, with no serious injuries; a stuck car following heavy rain; and, a full emergency services call out for a man stranded after trying to rescue his dog, recovered safe and well. An oil spill on the school brae was sanded. Mackenzie Sutherland has been alerted to the poor state of the road by Craig Allen (and others).

6. Planning

None.

7. Correspondence

Torgarve Wood extraction

Felling begins 14 Sept for 6 weeks, after which the wood will be extracted in four loads per day during off peak times until the end of the year.

Drainage/flooding Coast Rd. near Inverbain

Andrew Bone is dealing with this, talking to landowners, etc. about the lack of ditches, which becomes an issue with heavy rain. AM will get an update soon.

Mountain Rescue and human waste issues

Maintain Rescue encountered a large amount of human waste during a rescue. AM to send a link to the person who can support with any human or dog waste issues.

National Trust re: Island fire

AB spoke to the new NTS ranger, Paul Bolton, in Torridon about some fire-fighting equipment and signage and on the island.

8. AOB

Memorial bench

A memorial bench has been made for Nommie Cameron and is due to be placed on the embankment outside Nanny's. LF asked whether this was ok given that work may need to be undertaken to fix the subsidence issue (currently being monitored). AM advised to proceed.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator pads need to be replaced and the battery may also need to be replaced before the CC reforms. It was agreed to replace these asap. Training has not happened due to COVID although several members of the community are trained. However, training is not actually needed to use the defibrillator in an emergency. BC would be interested in training.

Hydro 'disruption' payment

The developers of the hydro scheme at Allt Na Moine have made a £5,000 payment to the Applecross community as a goodwill gesture. HG and Kalie Wilkinson attended a meeting of the Applecross Forum to request that this fund be given to the Shildaig community, which has experienced the vast majority of the disruption associated with the scheme, which continues still. The Applecross Forum was unable to vote on the matter as it is currently being formed as a SCIO, but the general feeling among members was that Shildaig should receive this money, which would be donated to the playpark. Separately, KW has been told that the hydro developers will also make an additional £5,000 goodwill payment to the Shildaig community, again earmarked for the playpark. KW will monitor the situation.

John O'Neill's caravan

A member of the community has officially complained to the CC about John O'Neill living permanently in a caravan in the car park by the toilets. AB reported she had received a number of unofficial complaints as well. It was discussed that there is a lack of accommodation in the village; AB reported that other people were asking about living there in caravans also. The complaint has been passed to AM and through him to the Highland Council, which will deal with the issue. Any further communications on this matter should be directed to the Highland Council.

Date of next meeting

N/A. The CC has now gone into abeyance.