



# Shieldaig Community Council

Email: [ShieldaigCC@gmail.com](mailto:ShieldaigCC@gmail.com) Website: <https://www.shieldaig.info/communitycouncil>

D R A F T

## Minutes of meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### 1. Attendance and apologies

**Present: Community Councillors:** Jim Alexander (Trs), Julia Böger, Laura Mackenzie, Richard Munday (Chr), Daniel Sharp (Sec).

**Highland Councillor:** Chris Birt. **Members of the Public:** five

**Apologies:** Hugh Gosling, Ian Livingstone

### 2. Minutes of AGM and meeting on 5th June

Community councillors approved the minutes of the meeting and AGM held on 5th June.

### 3. Matters arising

#### 3.1. Road Safety

The Community Council is grateful to Cllr. Birt for his efforts to progress the request for a reduction of the 40 mph speed limit on the top road with the Ross and Cromarty Area Roads Team. The proposed site visit minuted at the last CC meeting has yet to be arranged. The Community Council voiced its concern that the matter does not seem to be progressing. Richard highlighted the CC's own efforts to publicise the matter via the WHFP. Laura raised again the danger from fast moving traffic to children crossing the road near Baile Shuas on their way to school and made the meeting aware of a recent "near miss" involving a child. **Action: Cllr. Birt** to follow up.

#### 3.2. Hybrid Meetings

These can be supported for one or two virtual attendees, as advised in advance to allow set up of equipment. All future meetings will still take place in person at Shieldaig Hall.

#### 3.3. Visitor Levy

Cllr. Birt reported that there had been no update from Highland Council about whether to implement or revise the current scheme.

#### 3.4. Roadside Rubbish Campaign

The Community Council has contacted the Lord Lieutenancy to again give its support for the scheme, and advise that it did not feel that installation of a road side banner was appropriate in the Shieldaig locality.

#### 3.5. Local Housing

Following Albyn's recent announcement concerning plans for building more social housing in the Highlands, Richard has contacted Albyn to ask for an update on the proposed four unit site in Shieldaig. **Action: Richard** to follow up.

#### 3.6. Postal Service

The meeting discussed the recent collapse of the local postal service and thanked the efforts of those local residents who had in some cases personally collected and distributed mail. The Community Council welcomed the fact that the postal service now seems to be restored and thanked the new personnel for their efforts delivering the service to the Shieldaig community.

### **3.7. Poor Broadband in the Village**

Not discussed, but raised prior to the meeting. The issue of poor broadband provision to six properties in the village discussed at the previous CC meeting, appears to have been resolved and bandwidth is greatly improved.

### **4. Finance**

The current balance is £5,335. **Action: Jim** to provide Highland Council with the new bank account details in order for them to process this year's grant.

### **5. Overnight Parking in the Village**

Richard gave an overview of the background to this issue, including the installation of signage on the cattle grids, at the toilet car park, and the turning area to the south of the village. The strong response from numerous local residents concerning overnight parking of campervans and motorhomes in and around the village received as part of last year's local consultation was noted, along with the CC's previous communications with the Community Association.

Community Councillors and those present at the meeting, shared their views and opinions on camping, and campervans and motorhomes parking overnight in and around the village. Various possible solutions were proposed and discussed, along with the effects of the signage installed in late spring. There was general agreement that overnight parking and camping along the village frontage was the major concern and should be discouraged. The polite signage welcoming visitors, but requesting that they did not park overnight or camp, installed on the cattle grids met general approval, although it was thought that the signs could be improved.

Cllr. Birt advised that any signage would need approval by Highland Council. The Community Council agreed that any signage should be advisory rather than statutory. **Action: Community Council** to send Highland Council proposed signage via Cllr. Bir for review.

### **6. Village road safety plan:** See item 3.1 above

### **7. Road Maintenance**

Cllr. Birt advised the meeting that the full schedule of proposed works for this financial year was still to be approved. The Community Council noted and thanked the Highland Council for the recent works undertaken to patch the road surface on the Coast Road from east of Inverbain towards Arrina although this was no substitute for major resurfacing. Attention was also drawn to the growing problem of erosion at the edges of the tarmac which was a major cause of tyre blowouts.

### **8. Postal Service:** See item 3.6 above.

### **9. Woodland Management**

#### **9.1. Woodland Trust**

Malcolm Turner provided the meeting with an update prior to the meeting, which can be viewed here: <https://web-cdn.org/s/1464/file/cc%20agendas/Woodland-Trust-Community-Update-02092025.pdf>

#### **9.2. Kinloch Woodlands**

Richard reported that the spring planting alongside the river above Loch Dughaill had taken well and that work had started to extend the track to the south of the water treatment works. The Community Council was asked to consider names for a new trustee to replace Ruairidh MacIennan who was standing down at the AGM after 10 years service. **Action: Jim**

### **10. Planning**

The Community Council has not been notified of any new planning applications within its area, since the last meeting.

## **11. Community Resilience and Emergency Planning Group**

Richard gave the meeting an update on the group. The Highland Council Community Development department was thanked for being most helpful, including providing contacts to approach at SSEN to discuss community resilience in terms of electrical power supplies. Cllr. Birt advised that any request for a grant to support this work from the Highland Council Ward Discretionary funds, for example, would require a detailed plan of the activities to be funded, before consideration.

The group's focus was on how Shildaig might cope with a range of possible emergencies, such as power cuts, water shortages and wildfires. It was looking at practical and cost effective ways to boost the resilience of local households and businesses which might also be made available for wider community use.

## **Any Other Business**

### **12.1. Library Service**

Arrival of the two new vehicles to the fleet has been delayed until winter due to issues with receiving parts. Julia raised concerns at the proposed reduction of the service from every 3 weeks to every 4 and how this might impact provision to the school, given it can only happen during term time.

### **12.2. EV Chargers**

Cllr. Birt asked the Community Council whether it had considered the possibility of installation of EV charging points in the village. This had not yet been given consideration, primarily because it had not been raised as an issue by local residents. There was a discussion about this, and it was thought that an EV charging point might be incorporated in any planned work to extend the village hall.

### **12.3. Village Association**

The meeting agreed that better ongoing communication between the Community Council and Community Association would be a good thing. It was agreed that at least one member of each body should try to attend the other's future meetings.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be at 7pm **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025**