



Shieldaig Community Council

Email: ShieldaigCC@gmail.com Website: <https://www.shieldaig.info/communitycouncil>

D R A F T

Minutes of meeting Thursday 5th June 2025

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

Highland Councillor: Chris Birt.

Three members of the public

Apologies: None

Community councillors approved the minutes of the previous meeting of 10th April.

1. Matters arising

1.1. Abandoned caravan near the entrance to Baile Shuas

The Community Council is grateful to the Highland Council for the removal of the caravan.

1.2. Hybrid Meetings

These have been trialed and the set up can support one or two virtual attendees, although all future meeting will still take place in person at Shieldaig Hall.

1.3. Visitor Levy

There is a general feeling against the charge being percentage based, given the issues that follow from this, such as the additional administration. However, a simpler charging mechanism would require further legislation. The view of the Community Council is that the implementation of the levy should be paused. The decision on whether to implement the scheme in its current form is now with the Highland Council to consider.

1.4. Roadside Rubbish Campaign

The Community Council has contacted the Lord Lieutenancy to give its support for the scheme.

2. Overnight Parking in the Village

The meeting discussed the issue of campervans and motorhomes parking overnight in and around the village. This matter has been raised by numerous local residents, with on occasion in excess of 20 vehicles parked up overnight. Problems associated include parking motorhomes in front of houses, lighting barbeques and cooking on the grass verges, overflowing bins near the public toilets and bags of rubbish left beside them. The safety concerns of numerous vehicles parked at the southern junction with the top road was also raised, along with vehicles using onboard cooking facilities while parked in close proximity.

The Community Council decided to reinstate the signs, previously used during the pandemic at either end of the village, which politely ask people not to camp or park overnight within the village limits. **Action: Daniel** contact Kalie re: signage. **Richard:** include the safety aspects of overnight parking as part of the village road safety plan in relation to the top road.

3. Ranger Service

The Community Council thanks Highland Council and welcomes the appointment of Gregor Watson as access ranger for South West Ross, which includes our area. **Action: Richard** to propose dates for a meeting with Gregor to discuss his role and what the Community Council can do to support his work.

4. Community Resilience and Emergency Planning Group

The meeting discussed the work undertaken by the sub-group and the Planning Paper prepared by it: <https://web-cdn.org/s/1464/file/cc-Emergency-Planning/Emergency-Planning-paper-May-2025.pdf>

The paper is focused on planning and resilience building and how Shieldaig might cope with a range of possible emergencies, such as powercuts, wildfires, disruption to water supplies, blocked roads and coastal flooding.

The Community Council agreed that the group should take forward the recommended approach outlined in the paper. This is to review and update the plan put together in 2019, find out what resources are available locally which could be called upon in an emergency and build a local communications and contact network. External contacts for organisations such as SSE, Scottish Water and Openreach would also be updated and discussions about the plan held with them.

Cllr. Birt advised the meeting that there may be the possibility of funding to support this work from the Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund. **Action: Richard** contact Highland Council re: Community Regeneration Fund

5. Local Housing

The work to rebuild the fire damaged houses at Baile Shuas is complete. The Community Council welcomed Laura's return to the village and Kerry's arrival. Awaiting contact from Albyn on the proposed additional four units.

6. Village Road Safety Plan and Road Maintenance

6.1. Reduction of 40 mph speed limit on the "top road" (A896)

No update from the Ross and Cromarty Area Roads Team on this matter. The Community Council asked Cllr. Birt, if he could ask for a site visit to be arranged with members of the Community Council and the Roads Team.

6.2. Road Maintenance

Repair work to the Coast Road within the Shieldaig Community Council area is still subject to approval and has not as yet been added to the list of planned works. See item under AOB below also.

7. Woodland Management

7.1. Woodland Trust

Now that tree planting in Glen Shieldaig has completed, the Community Council awaits an update on the restoration of the temporary access tracks.

7.2. Kinloch Woodlands

Richard reported on progress with the University of Edinburgh partnership and the work being developed with the Shieldaig Primary School.

8. Planning

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

9. Any Other Business

9.1. Royal Mail postal service

The meeting discussed the lack of postal deliveries which has been ongoing for 1-2 weeks. This could have serious consequences as the Council is aware of numerous local residents who are waiting on important communications such as notification of hospital appointments or replacement bank cards. **Action: Jim** to contact the controller in Inverness **Richard:** contact the West Highland Free Press to publicise the issue [and post meeting note contact Maree Todd MSP]

9.2. Poor Broadband in Shieldaig Village

The Community Council had been contacted by 2 local residents about their poor broadband internet connection speeds. While it appears that most properties in the village connected to the fibre at the cabinet on the top road are getting a satisfactory service it would be good if BT Openreach could improve the service to this small number of properties with a problem on the front road. During discussion the poor internet speeds available to properties on the coast road was highlighted. It was agreed that the whole issue should be reviewed with BT Openreach and mobile phone providers as part of the community resilience planning exercise (item 4 above)

9.3. Pot Hole

A local resident has raised the issue of the deep pothole which has recently appeared on the brae just east of Fruach Gael about 2.5 miles along the Coast Road from the Shieldaig junction. This particular stretch of road has already been cited at Council meetings in relation to the poor state of the Coast Road (see item 6.2 above). The road surface has deteriorated since. Again, the issue of safety was raised, given this appears to be “an accident waiting to happen”, likely involving a cyclist or motorcyclist. The community Council asked Cllr. Birt if he could raise the matter with the roads department.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm **Thursday 4th September 2025**