



Shieldaig Community Council

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

D R A F T

Minutes of meeting Thursday 9th October 2025

1. Attendance and apologies

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

Highland Councillor: Chris Birt **Members of the Public:** Ann Barton

Apologies: Hugh Gosling, Laura Mackenzie

2. Minutes of meeting on 4th September

Community councillors approved the minutes of the meeting on 4th September.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Visitor Levy

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

3.2. Local Housing

Richard has contacted Albyn to ask for an update on the proposed four unit site in Shieldaig and awaiting a response...

3.3. Postal Service

The Community Council welcomed the fact that the postal service now seems to be restored to normal service.

3.4. Village Association

The need for better ongoing communication between the Community Council and Community Association was discussed at the last meeting. **Action: Daniel** to share future meeting dates with the Association.

4. Finance

The annual grant has been received from Highland Council. A direct debit has been set up for payment of fees to the Information Commission. The current balance is £5,710.

5. Radio Wester Ross

The Community Council thanked Michelle Stevenson and Iain Meadows from RWR who attended the meeting to give an overview of the service provided to the local community.

A transmitter has been installed on Ben Shieldaig and is currently on test awaiting final approval from the regulator Ofcom. The service can be received on **101.8 FM** and online via the various radioplayer apps or via the website.

Iain provided a history of the station, previously called 2 Lochs Radio, and now rebranded as Radio Wester Ross. As this is a commercial station advertising is welcome, and Iain advised that rates were very affordably based on a weekly fee for five plays per day, including recording of the advertisement by the station. The station welcomes contributions from the local community and being used as a means to promote local events and provide information about issues affecting the local area.

More details here: [Radio Wester Ross](#)

6. Overnight Parking in the Village

The meeting discussed this issue and in respect of Shildaig, the Community Council feels that advisory signage is the best approach rather than an attempt to enforce mandatory parking restrictions via a Traffic Regulation Order. The signage recently installed at other local villages aimed at deterring overnight sleeping in vehicles was discussed and how this seemed to be at odds with what Shildaig Community Council had been informed was not permissible.

The Community Council feels that there should be a consistent approach across all the local communities suffering from the same problem. Ross Bartlett, Principal Officer (Acting) Traffic & Parking, has been invited to visit to see the situation on the ground and attend a Shildaig Community Council meeting.

7. Village road safety plan

The Community Council is grateful once again to Cllr. Birt for his efforts to progress the request for a reduction of the 40mph speed limit on the top road with the Ross and Cromarty Area Roads Team. Unfortunately, there has been no progress of note since the last meeting.

8. Road Maintenance

Cllr. Birt advised the meeting that the full schedule of proposed works for this financial year was still to be approved. However, there was a meeting scheduled to discuss this next week which he would attend and continue to press the case for resurfacing on the Coast Road.

9. Woodland Management

9.1. Woodland Trust

Malcolm Turner provided a Community update prior to the meeting, which can be viewed here: [Woodland Trust Community Update Oct 2025](#)

This includes:

- Deer Management: an out-of-season licence and a night licence has been approved by NatureScot to reduce the impact of deer within the ancient woodland on the estate. Police will be advised prior to this activity.
- Plans for a small access bridge over Abhainn nan Lub in Glen Shildaig: [Glen Shildaig Bridge Plan](#)
- Developing a new woodland creation scheme, linking the recently planted area in Glen Shildaig to the Couldoran House area in the south.

The above items were discussed, and no significant concerns were raised, although the Community Council would expect to be consulted on the details of the access bridge.

9.2. Kinloch Woodlands

Richard briefed the meeting on progress with the track extension and the planned AGM the following day. The Community Council agreed to propose Ann Barton to replace Ruairidh MacIennan who was stepping down as a trustee of Kinloch Woodlands after almost 10 years service.

10. Planning

No new planning applications have been notified to the Community Council since the last meeting. It was agreed that ongoing, Laura should become the focal point for planning applications: for informing fellow councillors of upcoming applications in the area and - as required - finding out the views of local residents.

Action: Laura to take responsibility for planning applications in the Community Council area.

11. Community Resilience and Emergency Planning Group

The next significant step would be the meeting which the Group planned to have with Pamela Harvey SSE(N) on 27 October to discuss the best ways of building community resilience to cope with power outages. Recent experience with Storm Amy suggested that the impact of power cuts on local phone and broadband services – land lines and mobiles – was a particular problem: the Community Council accepted Ann Barton's kind offer to join the Group to help take this forward.

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Highland Housing Need & Demand Assessment Survey

The meeting discussed the recently launched Highland Council housing needs survey, and it is hoped that many local residents will take the time to respond. The survey can be filled in via this link: [Housing Needs Survey](#)

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm **Thursday 6th November 2025**