

Shieldaig Community Council

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D R A F T

Minutes of meeting Thursday 4th June April 2026

1. Attendance and apologies

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

Highland Councillor: Chris Birt

Community Association: Kalie Wilkinson **Members of the Public:** 2

Apologies: Laura Mackenzie

2. Minutes of meeting on 16th April

Community councillors approved the minutes of the meeting on 16th April.

3. Matters arising

With one exception, it was agreed to address these under the agenda items below.

3.1. Vandalism of Trees on the Coast Road aka “our own sycamore gap”

The Community Council was dismayed that for the second year in succession trees have been felled at the same spot on the Coast Road. Since the last meeting the incident has been publicised locally on social media to raise awareness, and a sign has been added to the fence at the location to encourage more responsible behaviour.

4. Finance

At the earlier AGM, Jim presented the Treasurer’s Report. Since the last meeting Jim has followed up on the quotes for insurance and presented options to the meeting. The Community Council agreed to take out the basic insurance cover offered. **Action: Jim** to follow this up with the insurers.

5. Short Term Let Control Area Consultation Process

The meeting discussed Highland Council’s proposal for the introduction of a Short Term Let Control Area (STLCA), which would include the Shieldaig Community Council area and how the Community Council might respond to the Highland Council consultation. A range of views were expressed, both for and against. Concerns raised included how applications for new STL licences would be decided and the impact on existing operators, having to evidence either planning permission or the lack of need for it at licence renewal. It was decided that the Community Council would not vote on the proposals itself but would leave individual Councillors to contribute to the consultation with their personal views.

Members of the local community can also provide their own response to the consultation, via the Highland Council website: [Highland Council STLCA Consultation](#)

The consultation ends on 23rd June 2026.

6. Road safety, Road Maintenance & Parking

6.1. Road Maintenance

The Community Council is pleased to learn that work to improve the Coast Road in the vicinity of Ardheslaig has taken place. This is very welcome, although during the discussion that followed concerns were raised about the poor state of the local roads and it was felt there were many other stretches of road, that could benefit from similar remedial work. It was also noted that some of the original funding for works on the Coast Road, was reassigned elsewhere.

6.2. Top Road 40mph speed reduction

There seems to have been no progress, since the last meeting, regarding the requested reduction of the 40 MPH speed limit and other safety improvements on the top road. **Action:** Cllr. Birt to follow up.

6.3. Kinloch Bridge

Since our last meeting there have been various communications concerning the need to repair the road at Kinloch Bridge. It is now with Highland Council to advise on the structural aspects of the repair work which is Openreach's responsibility to carry out.

6.4. Overnight Parking

The proposed on-site visit by Daniel Denmark-Melvin from Highland Council's Traffic and Parking Services, to look at the possibilities for signage has not yet happened.

As an interim measure the Community Council agreed to reinstate the polite signage on the cattle grids requesting that people did not camp overnight in vehicles, on the road between them. **Action:** Richard to follow up the issue of more permanent signs with Highland Council.

7. Community Resilience Planning Group

Richard gave an update to the meeting of ongoing activities undertaken by the Resilience group since the last Community Council meeting, including work to finalise the communication tree.

8. Woodland Management

Nothing to report since last meeting apart from Kinloch Woodlands designation as a Nature 30 site.

6. Planning

No new planning applications with significant community implications have been received since the last meeting. The Community Council welcomed the Highland Council's decision to grant planning permission for the floodlights on the sports court.

7. Any Other Business

7.1. Telephone box at Kenmore

Kalie informed the meeting of the BT "Adopt a kiosk" scheme: [BT adopt a kiosk](#), where community councils (and other authorised bodies) can adopt a disused BT phone box for £1, in order to repurpose it for community use. She suggested that it would be great for those on the Coast Road if the phone box at Kenmore was adopted, and a defibrillator installed, given the nearest one was up to 9 miles away. She had already contacted the Applecross Health Care Association, who would fund some of the cost and any maintenance costs (since it is within the Applecross Surgery boundary). Shieldaig CC would first need to adopt the phone box since it is located within the Shieldaig CC area.

It was also agreed to approach BT about adopting the old phone box in Shieldaig.

The Community Council agreed unanimously with this proposal. **Action:** Daniel to contact BT about adopting both phone boxes.

7.2. Minibus for Community Use

The minibus made available via the Community Car Scheme has been of great benefit locally, and well used, particularly by the Shieldaig School. The Car Scheme had also requested a

wheelchair accessible vehicle, under an understanding that this would be provided in addition to the existing vehicle. The Community Council was disappointed to learn that the Highland Council have advised that the wheel chair accessible vehicle is now available, but as a replacement for and not additional to the existing minibus. This will present problems, particularly for the use by the school, given the fewer number of seats which will be available. There is a meeting between the Community Car Scheme and the Highland Council to discuss this scheduled for Monday. **Action: Richard** contact Cllr. Birt following Monday's meeting.

7.3. Albyn housing

A question was asked about the status of Albyn's proposed development of four units near Baile Shuas, particularly given Albyn had recently publicised their target to build 600 new homes in the next two years. **Action: Richard** to follow up with Albyn Housing.

8. Date of Next Meeting

7pm Thursday 10th September 2026