



Shildaig Community Council Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Sildeag

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 3rd June at 7.30pm

Present: Richard Munday (Chairman), Gerry Beard (Secretary), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer), Ann Barton, Donald Gillanders and Duncan Carmichael.

Apologies: Viv Rollo, Lyndsay Dacker, Councillor Audrey Sinclair and P.C. Gary Taylor of Police Scotland, Lochcarron beat.

1. Annual General Meeting

The Chairperson's report covering the work of the Community Council in 2013/14 was agreed (annex1).

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2013/14 which had been certified by Roger Cundiff. These were agreed and signed and are at annex 2; the Community Council expressed its thanks to Gemma and to Roger.

Election of office bearers : it was agreed unanimously that Richard, Gerry and Gemma would continue in office for a further year.

2. Minutes of the 6th May meeting

Accepted as the record of the meeting

2. Matters Arising

Police beat report to follow.
Bealach Beag cycle event.

A meeting has been arranged for 4th June at Kinloch with event organiser Alasdair Lawton, 2 Applecross Community Council representatives plus Richard and Gerry. The aim is to agree mutually acceptable dates for 2015 avoiding Bank Holidays in order to minimise local disruption, particularly for Applecross.

3. Finance report

Expenditure for May:
Hall rental £100
Web hosting £18

4. Applecross Estate - timber lorries

The estate's plan to transport 11 -13,000 tonnes of timber via the coast road was extensively discussed at the recent public meeting in Applecross. Despite strong opposition from Shieldaig CC the estate confirmed that road transport was the only practical option given the time constraints, and shipments via the coast road would start mid July 2014. All that was offered by way of mitigation was local consultation on the timing of lorry movements, reduced journeys in high season and remedial road works upon completion of the contract.

5. Roads

Traffic census on the A896 adjacent to Baile Shuas is now complete and results awaited.

Coastal defence works at the A896 junction are nearing completion and there has been discussion about the creation of a metalled turning circle to facilitate left turning. Our thanks to Mike Lovett for a job well done.

The cattle grid at the bottom of the School brae has been inspected and Gerry to check with Bryan Stout as to the likely date of remedial work.

6. Refuse Collection

Over the Easter weekend the 2 bulk refuse bins at the car park were overflowing which raised concerns about current capacity, particularly during peak holiday periods. Gerry contacted the depot manager who explained that Highland Council were seeking to reduce provision of 'public use' bulk bins rather than increase it.

H.C. have two problems with bulk bins:

The first is that the bins are being mis-used, they should be used for none recyclable waste whereas they are seen by many as 'mini' skips which are emptied every Friday and are perfect for getting rid of any old junk lying around.

This leads to the second problem which is that the content of these bulk bins goes to landfill and H.C. has to pay land fill tax of £80 per tonne.

The Council is holding a series of events across Highland to consult with the public over their future spending plans. At present, The Council has to find savings of an estimated £63 million between April 2015 and March 2019. This is in addition to the £90 million of savings consulted on since 2010.

Unless we use these bins responsibly and take recyclables to Dingwall or Inverness then we could lose these bins altogether under future H.C.cost saving measures.

7. Community Emergency Planning.

Initial contact has been established with relevant SSE personnel and Gerry will report to July meeting.

8. Shieldaig Community Assn.

Next meeting Shieldaig hall 10th June 7p.m.
Proposed Baile Shuas play area progressing.

9. Scottish Salmon Co's - Sgeir Dughall site

S.S.C. have submitted a planning application to remove the original planning approval condition of an initial 10 year limit. Further use beyond this 10 year limit would be dependent on the proven implementation of an effective sea lice management programme.

SCC to submit an objection to any changes in the planning approval period without evidence of effective sea lice control.

10. Correspondence

NHS Highland - As part of their on-going public engagement have requested a meeting with SCC on 10th July at 6.30 pm in Shildaig hall, all welcome.

Highland 3rd sector update bulletin.

11. AOCB

Highland Council budget consultation (see item 6 for finance implications)

Richard reported that H.C. are seeking ways to reduce or cut services altogether.

Local communities could be given resources to look after public toilets, piers, street sweeping, grass cutting et.

11. Date of next meeting 1st July at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Annex 1

Shieldaig Community Council

Chairman's report for 2013/2014

The Community Council met on 10 occasions during 2013/14: very good progress was made on some issues, work remains ongoing on others and a frustrating lack of progress has to be reported in a number of cases (details below).

During the year Irene George stepped down as a community councillor and Duncan Carmichael was co-opted to fill the vacancy. We are grateful to Irene for her work both as a councillor and as our planning contact and look forward to working with Duncan during the remainder of the current community council's term of office. We now have our full quota of 6 elected and 2 co-opted councillors.

We are also most grateful, as always, for the contribution of our hard working secretary Gerry Beard, our treasurer Gemma Livingstone and for the continuing support and wise counsel of Highland Councillor Audrey Sinclair.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Liz Pritchard in March 2014. Amongst her other contributions to public service in the local communities, she had served for over 30 years as a community councillor and secretary on the Shieldaig and previously the Shieldaig and Applecross Community Councils.

Key Issues

- 1. Restructuring of Community Organisations.** The new Shieldaig Community Association was established and came into operation in March 2014. It has the structure of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It has had strong support from within the community from the outset and already has over 70 members. From now on the Community Association will be responsible for running all community events in Shieldaig, including the fete, maintaining community assets and developing those new projects which the community considers the highest priority and which look to be affordable and practical. The Community Council has transferred its ownership of the grass playing field to the Community Association, together with responsibility for the Shieldaig Information booklet. The Community Council will now be able to concentrate on its core job of representing the views and interests of the community to those statutory and other organisations whose actions (or inaction) affect the interests and well-being of local residents.
- 2. Local Housing.** Within the limited powers at its disposal, the Community Council's aim is to promote the development of the community's housing stock in such a way as to ensure that sufficient housing is available for those local people – particularly young people – who wish to live, work and bring up families within the Shieldaig area. While holiday homes bring some benefits to the area and many of the owners have developed strong links within the community, the Community Council is concerned that there are now too many in Shieldaig with the result that many local people are being priced out of the market. We were therefore delighted that 3 new

Annex 1

“rent to buy” homes were completed during the year by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) at Baile Shuas. We were pleased that HSCHT took on board the views of the existing Baile Shuas residents to ensure that the final layouts of the new houses fitted sensitively with the earlier phases of development. No further affordable housing is planned in the village at the moment, but the Community Council will aim to identify any emerging needs. The Community Council used its power to make representations under the Planning acts to support the development of new private sector houses for local young people at the top of the village and is delighted that one of these houses is already complete and occupied and construction of 2 others is well under way. The Community Council was unsuccessful in its objection to an application for a new house which if developed will almost certainly result in additional holiday home traffic past the entrance to the Shieldaig Primary School.

3. **Roads.** The Community Council’s 2 main concerns here are road safety and the deteriorating standard of the surface of many local roads which because of budgetary constraints is unlikely to improve at any time soon. Some time was spent trying to work out the reason why so many local vehicles have come off the road on the bend just to the west of the Balgy bridge. A possible explanation is the egress of water onto the road from the adjacent ditch, which the roads department will now clear and extend. But this may not be the only factor and drivers are therefore advised to be particularly cautious on this stretch of road. The Community Council continues to be concerned about fast moving traffic on the top road round the village, particularly now that so many families with young children have houses in this area. Speed monitoring sensors were installed to establish what the traffic was actually doing and when the results of this exercise are available the Community Council plans to organise a general discussion on road safety. As this report goes to press, the roads department are working to repair the winter storm damage to the rock embankment at the southern entrance to the village, following which it is hoped that the turning area will be extended and resurfaced. Finally the Community Council has objected in the strongest terms to the proposal by the Applecross Trust to take out 10,000 – 13,000 tonnes of timber by the north Applecross Coast road starting in July. We consider the north coast road quite unsuitable for this number of heavy lorry movements with a serious risks of accidents, damage to the road surface and disruption to the lives of local residents and businesses.
4. **Scottish Water.** Following the commissioning of Shieldaig’s new water treatment plant the previous year, the Community Council received a number of complaints about chlorine levels in the local supply. After extensive and fruitless efforts to establish what was happening with Scottish Water management centrally, a meeting was arranged with Ross-shire Engineering (who built the plant) and the local Scottish Water plant manager. The Community Council was shown the results of an exercise to monitor chlorine levels at various points in the distribution system and was satisfied that successful efforts were being made to keep chlorine levels just above the

Annex 1

essential health thresholds. Certainly overall chlorine levels appear to be much more acceptable with the new treatment system than with its predecessor. Little progress has been made in persuading Scottish Water that it would be less disruptive and more cost effective to replace the remaining lengths of old asbestos/concrete pipe in the village as one project rather than carrying out repairs as and when bursts occur – there were 2 on or above the School Brae during the year.

5. **Adventure Events.** Wester Ross is becoming an increasingly popular area for holding major national and international outdoor sporting events most notably the Celtman extreme triathlon and the 2 Bealach cycle events. In general these have been well organised, interesting for local people and have been good for tourism, particularly by raising the profile of the area for outdoor adventurous activities throughout the year. However the decision by the organisers of the Bealach Beag, taken without local consultation, to have this year's event on the Saturday of the Spring bank holiday caused significant disruption to people and businesses particularly in Applecross. Discussions will be held between the Shieldaig and Applecross Community Councils and the event organisers aimed at agreeing dates for 2015 which will reduce disruption and be acceptable to all 3 parties. The wider issue is whether in remote rural communities like ours, with generally poor road networks, a limit should be set on the number of such large events to be held in a year to keep disruption to local communities within acceptable limits. My own view is that the limit of 3 – 4 major events between May and October has now been reached.
6. **Shieldaig Oil Club** Thanks to Gerry's efforts an oil club has now been set up covering the Shieldaig, Applecross, Torridon and Kinlochewe areas with an initial membership of 21 people. Orders for central heating oil will be collated by Gerry and submitted to Highland Fuels on at least 5 occasions during the year. Ordering in bulk in this way should result in discounts of up to 5p per litre depending on how close we get to the 10,500 litre tanker capacity. This is particularly welcome with energy prices so high and taking an increasing proportion of household budgets.

RM

ANNEX 2

Shieldaig Community Council

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Income | £ | £ |
| Administration: | | |
| Highland Council Grant | 829 | 865 |
| Publicity: | | |
| Receipts for sales 2013 publications | 650 | |
| Receipts for advertising 2013 publication (130+90) | 220 | |
| Donation from Graham Kinder | 100 | |
| | 970 | 2339 |
| Sea Eagle Project: | | 4000 |
| Total Income: | 1799 | 7204 |

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Expenditure | £ | £ |
| Administration: | | |
| Secretarial Fee | 500 | |
| Data Protection/Website Domain/Stationery (18+25+35) | 78 | |
| | 578 | 590 |
| Publicity: | | |
| Stationery Costs | 5 | |
| Donation - Balgy Gap Celebration | 100 | |
| Transfer of Funds to Shieldaig Sports Association | 1570 | |
| | 1675 | 4089 |
| Community Development: | | |
| Transfer of Funds to Shieldaig Sports Association | | 244 |
| | | 500 |
| Sea Eagle Project: | | |
| Payment to RSPB | 4000 | |
| Transfer of Funds to Shieldaig Village Association | 2851 | |
| | 6851 | |
| Donation to Sea Eagle Project | | 1000 |
| Village Maintenance: | | 670 |
| Total Expenditure | 9348 | 6849 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Surplus/Deficit for the year | -7,549 | 355 |
| Add balance brought forward | 8393 | 8038 |
| Balance carried forward | 844 | 8393 |

Certified as correct in accordance with Treasurer's books and records.

Treasurer: *g. Livingston*

Auditor: *[Signature]*

Chairman: *[Signature]*

Date: 30-5-14