

Minutes of meeting 4th February 2014 at 7p.m.

Present: Richard Munday (Chairman), Gerry Beard (Secretary), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer), Ann Barton, Donald Gillanders, Lyndsay Dacker, Viv Rollo and 4 members of the public.

Apologies from P.C. Gary Taylor.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as the record of the meeting

2. Matters arising

Given the growing number of children in the village it was agreed that at a future meeting there should be a themed discussion on Road Safety and Hugh Logan the Highland Council Road Safety Officer would be invited together with P.C. Gary Taylor. Gerry to check availability and suitable dates.

The cycle event to be held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend involves closure of the Bealach with delays to other road users, particularly Applecross residents. It was agreed that it was too late to try and change the date for 2014 but the organisers should be persuaded to move the event to a non-Bank holiday weekend for their 2015 event. Gerry to approach Applecross CC to decide how best to take this forward.

Shieldaig War Memorial - work is required to improve the access steps and Audrey suggested an approach to Highland Council who have a fund for such works. Gerry to speak to Robbie Bain and report back.

Resignation of Community Councillor - Irene George tendered her resignation, the meeting expressed its thanks for her work as a Community Councillor and Planning contact and her resignation was accepted.

Lyndsey Dacker will now be the CC planning contact.

A co-opted replacement for Irene is now required, any member of the community interested should contact Gerry (01520 755292) and a decision will be taken at the March meeting

3. Finance report

Current balance after payment of Secretary's expenses of £500 is £3,753.80.

It was agreed that the funds for the Sea Eagle project to be transferred to the SCIO before 1st April 2014.

4. Roads etc.

Resurfacing of the road beyond Inverbain should be completed within the current financial year, weather and budget permitting.

Balgy Bridge accident black spot, awaiting an inspection from Highways Dept. hopefully before the end of February.

Road Markings - Highways Dept to be approached to re-do the white lines prior to the start of the Tourism season.

Damage to coastal defences, Highways have been approached and supplied with photographic evidence of erosion and potential danger points. The meeting thought that a survey was needed urgently and this should be considered at the same time as the Balgy Bridge visit (above).

5. Scottish Water

The cement/asbestos main on the school brae has recently failed again and the repair to the road surface is less than satisfactory. Gerry to suggest to Scottish Water that it would be cheaper and less disruptive if this length of the main was replaced and the road resurfaced rather than repairing individual bursts.

Post meeting note - data on chlorine levels has now been received from SW and circulated to community councillors for consideration at the March meeting.

6. Police Matters

The Lochcarron Beat reports for December 2013 and January 2014

December - total number of calls 30, compared to 19 in December 2012

January - total number of calls 25, compared to 38 in January 2013

Crimes include; assault/vandalism, possession of drugs and breach of bail

There were no serious road accidents reported.

P.C. Taylor carried out Road Safety talks at Applecross and Lochcarron Primary schools prior to the Christmas holidays.

7. Review of Entertainment Licensing

The members were of the view that an extension of the licensing rules applying to small communities was unnecessary, however the meeting was supportive of relevant codes of conduct and the need for insurance.

Shieldaig Village Assn. has the necessary entertainment license and insurance cover for use of the village hall. Gerry to reply to the HC consultation document before the 7th February deadline.

8. Shieldaig Community Assn. SCIO.

The new organisation to be up and running from 1st April 2014

9 members of the community have expressed interest in serving as trustees and a further 25 as members

There will be 3 core activity groups:

Maintenance

Activities, and

New projects.

The second newsletter is going out this week and other material is available at:
www.shieldaig.info

The first project is refurbishment of the hall kitchen and replacement of soft furnishings, Fund raising activities are on-going.

9. Baile Shuas

The 3 new houses should be completed by the end of March and are all allocated.
Play area - residents to be consulted on the proposal.

Highways to be approached regarding the provision of a bus shelter.

10 Correspondence

Minutes of the Wester Ross Public Partnership Forum.

Next meeting of the forum in Shieldaig is Monday 13th October 2014.

Letter from Police Scotland requesting CC contact and calendar of meetings.

email from Highland Council outlining progress on the Proposed National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy.

11. AOCB

The 2014 Shieldaig Booklet is ready to go to the printers, many thanks to all involved.

Leader Programme - concerns were expressed as to the level of bureaucracy involved together with changes to the process, Without the Highland Council's bridging finance completion of the pontoon project would have been problematic. Audrey was asked to pass on the CC's concerns (Stephanie Ash will provide her with a note setting out the detailed issues) and to seek a review of how the current Leader Programme had worked, with the aim improving arrangements for future programmes.

Ann Barton reported that funding for Green electricity meters is proving difficult to source. She will pursue with a contact in Applecross.

Temperance Brae - council housing, problems with insulation installation contractors prior to the new central heating systems being installed. Also lack of consultation as to the council's fuel choice for new heating systems. Audrey will pursue.

Lyndsay said that there was strong community support for a Bike Park in the vicinity of the all weather pitch with potential funders already identified. The SSA already owned and had de-crofted a piece of land above the sports court. Lyndsay will take this forward through the new SCA.

A village tidy-up, including the foreshore has been organised and Crown Estates are to provide funding for litter bags and a skip.

A proposal for a Shieldaig and surrounding area Oil Club received strong support from members, basically an oil club is a co-ordinated bulk buying scheme which can result in considerable savings by reducing transport costs. The Secretary of Torridon and Kinlochewe CC has also been contacted with details of the scheme.

Gerry to produce a short pro forma for circulation to all households to determine the level of interest.

The meeting closed at 9 pm

The next meeting Tuesday 4th March at 7 p.m.