

SHIELDAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 2nd September 2014 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Richard Munday (Chairman), Gerry Beard (Secretary), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer) Viv Rollo, Ann Barton, Donald Gillanders, Lyndsay Dacker, Cllr Audrey Sinclair and 11 members of the public.

Apologies from Duncan Carmichael, Inspector (T) Paul Moxon and P.C. Gary Taylor.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as the record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising

Bealach Beag - cycle event

Awaiting agreement for a post event meeting and organisers confirmation of dates for 2015.

Scottish and Southern Energy - Emergency Planning

No response to date.

Applecross timber lorries

Richard received an email from the Applecross Estate factor regarding the £200k of road improvements to be undertaken and seeking confirmation that matters were being managed in such a way as to limit delays and congestion. While the Community Council remained concerned about the potential impact of the timber movements, feed-back so far suggested limited disturbance to local residents and businesses and considerate driving by the Ferguson staff.

Concern was also expressed about legacy damage to bridges/culverts, and the lack of warning signs at Kishorn/Tornapress.

3. Police matters

P.C. Taylor has been unable to attend the last few meetings and Inspector (T) Paul Moxon has apologised for non attendance, and requested that any issues should be reported for his attention. General concern was expressed about the impact of what appeared to be a very low level of community police cover in the area. It was agreed to delay a substantial discussion until the next Community Council meeting which the Police are able to attend. It was also agreed that Police non attendance should not inhibit the submission of a beat report.

4. Campsite

The meeting heard a wide range of views from the floor on the rights and wrongs of the campsite and it's users and the level and degree of public order breaches including loud music and partying into the early hours, which is a cause of concern to nearby residents and B&B businesses. These concerns having been expressed in writing to the Community Council in a letter signed by residents who strongly objected to the behaviour of a minority of campers. A further (unsigned) letter sent to the Grazing's Committee set out the author's view of what was required of the Crofter's in order to restore order and prevent future unacceptable behaviour.

As not everybody present had seen them, Richard read out both letters to the meeting together with the reply from the Grazings Committee..

Following a full discussion in which a wide range of points were made, there was general agreement that

1. Local residents living near the campsite shouldn't have to put up with the unacceptable behaviour to which they had been subjected
2. The Grazings Committee in general and Alice and Duncan MacLennan in particular had done all they reasonably could to improve standards of camp-site behaviour
3. However they had no powers of eviction and public order offences should be reported to and tackled by the Police.
4. Most users of the campsite behaved well, problems were caused by a small minority
5. There was no support for closing the campsite. It was part of Shieldaig's tradition and brought a lot of business to the village. Removing the fencing and returning the land to general grazing could make matters worse.
6. Problems also needed to be tackled relating to rubbish bin capacity and toilet facilities
7. The key was to find an effective way to improve management of the campsite whether by better self-regulation or more formally
8. A working group should be established to try to develop solutions. It would report back to the Community Council, to the Community Association and to the Grazings Committee. Membership would comprise Pauline McNeil (SCA), Lyndsay Dacker (SCC) and SGC (to be advised).

Alice MacLennan reported that the crofters have to date spent the following from the campsite honesty box.

Bin emptying	£482.28
Camping area expenditure	£3,280.19
Grants to village good causes	£6,375

5. Finance report

One transaction since last report, DD payment of £35 to the Information Commission.

Current balance £964

6. Kinloch Woodlands Charitable Trust

The Trust presently has 7 trustees, 4 family members, 2 professional advisers and 1 Community Council member.

Overtime, it was envisaged that the community would take control of the Trust with family members gradually being replaced by community members. Consideration is being given to whether overall responsibility should be transferred to the community more rapidly, whether by restructuring the Trust as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) or by amending the current Trust Deed. A further report will be made following the KWCT AGM in November.

7. Roads

Gerry has written to Bryan Stout for details on progress with cattle grid and turning circle at the South end of the village.

8. Shieldaig Community Assn

Next meeting 23rd September at 7 p.m.

9. Correspondence

H.C. CE's letter - Richard to reply

Rubbish bin capacity

Highland 3rd sector conference

HSCHT AGM

10. Planning

Cllr Audrey Sinclair took no part in the following discussions

Scottish Salmon Company's site NW of Sgeir Dughall, Lochtorridon.

Application refused. The decision was welcomed by the Community Council.

11. AOCB

Super fast broadband - post 2016

Gerry to write putting our case for priority.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

The next meeting Tuesday 7th October at 7.0 p.m.