

Shieldaig Community Council

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 12 November 2013 at 7 pm

Present: Richard Munday (Chairman), Viv Rollo, Donald Gillanders, Lyndsay Dacker, Ann Barton and Cllr Audrey Sinclair.

Apologies from Gerry Beard (Secretary), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer), Irene George and PC Gary Taylor.

1. Police Matters

The meeting discussed Gary Taylor's beat report for October. It was agreed that deer on the roads were a serious and increasing risk, particularly on winter mornings and evenings.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

Sea-Eagle Project. The Steering Group had met earlier in the day and Richard had signed the formal agreement on behalf of the Community Council. There were ample funds in the sea-eagle sub-account to cover the Community Council's likely share of costs over the year ahead. However it was agreed that it would make more sense for the new Shieldaig Community Association to take over responsibility for the project from 1 April 2014 and this would be taken up with the Association. At the Steering Group meeting, RSPB confirmed that the loss of chicks over the last 2 breeding seasons was almost certainly due to bad weather. But it was essential to minimise all those risks to newly hatched birds that could be controlled and to that end the camera would not be put onto the Island until end May and boats and kayakists would be asked to stay outside a 300m buffer zone. If all went to programme with the rebuild of Nanny's, that should be finished and ready to receive pictures from the camera at about the same time.

4. Finance Report

Thanks to Gemma for preparing and submitting the management accounts to 1 November. The overall balance was £6093; the admin grant from the Highland Council had been received; there was £1570 in the publicity (booklet) sub-account and £2851 in the sea-eagle sub-account, both of which would be transferred to the new Shieldaig Community Association.

5. Shieldaig Community Association

A progress meeting had been held on 26 October and had been well attended. The constitution of the new Association was agreed, together with a start date of 1 April 2014. It was hoped that good numbers of people would put their names forward both as prospective trustees and as members prepared to help with the wide range of community activities and projects. Lyndsay reported that the Parent Council had taken on responsibility for the 2013 children's Christmas party.

6. Roads

Still awaiting a date from Bryan Stout for a visit to look at the submitted list of defects and other road issues. Audrey will check on the reason for the delay. She also mentioned a new HC system for community councillors or members of the public to report defects etc (called CRM) which once the item had been logged in would stay live until the issue had been resolved.

7. Scottish Water

Richard updated the Community Council on the letter from Rhoda Grant MSP covering one from Scottish Water's Chief Executive about chlorine levels in Shieldaig's water supply. He had replied to Rhoda thanking her, on the CC's behalf, for having taken the issue up and saying that he would approach SW's Regional Communities Manager, Joanna Peebles, to see if a mutually acceptable solution could be found. It was possible that the CC's request for a meeting about chlorine levels had been confused with the efforts to find a date for the community and the School to visit the new treatment works. He had now spoken to Joanna who had undertaken to find some possible dates for one or more of their production staff to have a meeting with a small number of Community Councillors to try to establish whether there was a genuine problem and if so what could be done about it. In the meantime any members of the community experiencing water quality problems should contact the Scottish Water helpline on 0845 601 8855.

8. Highland Small Communities Housing Trust

Work on the 3 new rent to buy houses appeared to be going well with the foundations now complete. It was understood that all 3 houses had now been allocated. Richard was awaiting a call from Albyn Housing about the proposal to put in a small play area. Andy Moyes was in touch with Alex Gray (2 Lochs Radio) about the possibility of putting a signal booster on the new radio mast to improve TV reception for all the houses at Baile Shuas.

9. Correspondence

The correspondence from Chris Field was noted but no further action was required at this time.

10. Planning

The Community Council noted the approval given for development at the Kishorn Yard/Quarry. A traffic management plan had yet to be submitted.

Audrey updated the meeting on planning for the Stromeferry By-Pass. 9 options were currently being worked through as stage 2 of the process. This would come together in a public exhibition in March 2014 and in due course a preferred option would be submitted to HC. The impact of development at Kishorn Yard would be factored in.

11. Diary dates

5 December – senior citizens Christmas lunch in the Hall.

16 December – School panto in the Hall

21 December – children's Christmas party in the Hall.

12 AOCB

There was a discussion about the role which energy monitors could play in helping people reduce their electricity bills. Ann will try to source some monitors for use in the community without having to go through the process of putting in a formal funding application.

Tenants in Temperance Brae had had letters from HC about a survey of present heating systems but no details of proposed changes; Audrey agreed to make enquiries.

13. Next Meeting

This will be on **Tuesday 3 December at 7pm**

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