**Shieldaig Community Association SCIO**

**Minutes of Meeting held 12th December 2017**

Present: Sarah Wedgwood, Pauline McNeil, Nick McNeil, Frosty, Jim Alexander, Jay and Julian Waudby, Viv Rollo, Kassie, Peter Fenton, Lucy,

Apologies: Kerry, Tom, Alan

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

* Minutes of last meeting. Not able to approve as we had no hard copy.
* Matters arising:
* Resignation of secretary – OSCR confirmed that this is not a notifiable event. New Secretary will be appointed at AGM.
* Meeting thanked Ann for all her work in updating the village website and Box.com
* Church Door – new door will be installed in the new year. Suggested that we have a keypad for the door. Sarah has the one from the tennis court which is no longer kept locked.
* Newsletter – this was compiled and distributed to each household and copies were made available in the shop. Next one due in May 2018 i.e. every 6 months.

**Treasurers Report & account update**

Current funds very healthy £21410, Recent expenditure includes the new shed £8244 £360 childrens xmas gift, all playgroup and primary school children included, £412 skiff repairs, £600 moorings fees although this will come back to the Association. Income £1134 mooring collections, £100 late fete donation. See discussion below about Village Maintenance and cleaning of public convenience. Both these items are regular payments made from Village funds.

**Shieldaig Housing & Business Survey – Next steps**

Sarah tabled a paper providing a brief summary of background to the projects, the consultation completed to date with the village i.e. survey and open-day and the various connections she has made as background information gathering to take things further. A sub-group has been formed and includes the following which includes representatives from the Community Council and the Community Association: Kalie Wilkinson, Claire Munday, Tom Tindall, Sarah Wedgwood, Kassie Forder, Viv Rollo, Lisa Rollo. Gordon Drysdale also been invited to join. Sub group has met once – meeting attended by Liz Howard, our buddy from Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

Four main strands were identified at the outset of discussions – two under the Community Empowerment Act which would be community asset transfers – public loos and school house. Sarah confirmed that she had submitted expressions of interest on both assets this being the first stage of the process. The other two strands were new builds – 2 affordable homes and a business hub.

Sarah reported that following a meeting with a representative from Highland Council at which it was made clear that previous funding arrangements for communities to run their own loo blocks were no longer available, it was suggested that Shieldaig Village might wish to combine grass cutting and cleaning/servicing loo block under a service level agreement with associated funding from the Council in future. Trustees confirmed this was a sensible approach and confirmed that we should not at this stage seek to purchase the loo block under the community empowerment act. We need to gather information about costs of providing both these services including wages, materials, maintenance of machinery etc. It was suggested we should get a current condition survey of the loo block and we would need to establish who was responsible for the actual maintenance of the building and insurance costs etc.

**School House** – Sarah reported that Highland Council now likely to view asset transfer favourably. Reported a positive conversation with representative of Highland Council. Trustees confirmed that we should proceed to purchase the school house ensuring future accommodation for school teacher. Recruitment of teachers in rural areas becoming increasingly difficult especially if no house available. Next steps would be to obtain a current valuation and current condition survey and a rough idea of what it would take to renovate the building and bring it back into a habitable condition.

**New Build** – affordable homes and business hub. After general discussion considering the amount of work required to pursue both these items and considering the limited voluntary resource available within the village it was decided that the priority was affordable homes. Therefore the sub-group should focus on pursuing this strand of the project . Agreed that next steps included gathering more information from other similar projects, general fact finding in terms of costs, likely sources of funding etc, identifying sources of help and strategic partners. Sarah confirmed there are lots of ideas out there and lots of help but we would need to do the actual work around grant applications etc. It is likely that professional fees for things such as feasibility studies would be available from government monies e.g. Scottish Land Fund and Rural Housing Fund.

* AOCB – Use of community sheds. New shed being fitted out with workbench and shelving at one end. The other end for storing new machinery. It was intended the central area be available as workshop space for anyone who needs to do a job out of the rain. Two existing sheds should be cleared and sorted and their use will be agreed at next meeting.
* Skiff Project. It was suggested that this could become a formal sub-group of the Community Association with an agreed budget which they administered. A representative of the skiff group would liaise between the two to ensure issues such as insurance are kept up to date. Jay to report back at next meeting. Alternative is that the skiff project could be split off and do its own thing.
* No future events to consider. Over 60s Xmas lunch went very well despite the weather. Trustees wanted to thank all the helpers who made it such a success. Sarah reported she’d had lots of thanks already.
* Booklet – Lucy confirmed that she had recently had a conversation with Alan who agreed to manage the advertising side. Lucy still doing editorial – any ideas to Lucy for content.
* Community Council – Sarah explained the background to the emergency planning questionnaire and asked that people complete and return it. Reference was made to the dangers of it being out of date quite quickly.
* Purchase of roof ladder and step ladder. Trustees agreed that we need to obtain a roof ladder to complete the equipment available for hire to the village to carry out roof repairs etc safely. Jay /Frosty to sort and report back to next meeting.

**Date of next meeting : 20th February 2018 Village Hall 7.00pm**