**Minutes of a Meeting of the Shieldaig Community Association**

held at 7pm on Tuesday 20 November 2018 in the Shieldaig Village Hall

**Present:**

Pauline Stephenson, Viv Rollo,Andy Moyes, John McGregor, Nick McNeil, Peter Fenton and Janene Waudby. Apologies for absence were received from Jim and Fiona.

**Introduction:**

Pauline noted a quorum was present and tabled the agenda for the meeting. It was noted that the first item was the general meeting to adopt a new constitution. The meeting was then adjourned to allow the general meeting to proceed.

**General Meeting:**

The Secretary noted a quorum was present for the general meeting. The proposed new constitution was tabled and its principal changes noted. The Chair proposed the resolution, which was passed unanimously by the members present. The Secretary confirmed she would make the appropriate notifications, including taking advantage of any applications which could be made under the various community empowerment acts to protect the community’s interests. The members’ meeting was then reconvened.

**Matters arising from the last meeting:**

The invitations for the Christmas lunch had been sent out. It was also discussed whether a licence was required for the village bonfire event. It was agreed that this was probably “overkill” for such a small and essentially private event, but that it should be added to the village insurance policy (at a cost of £100). It was agreed that lighting should be arranged for next year for the “bridge” over the ditch from the track to the shed.

Andy confirmed he would make the repairs to the noticeboards.

John confirmed he had removed the donations box from the campsite ready to be fitted to the pontoon. He had also tightened the anchor cables for the pontoon and fixed the handrail. He would be discussing charging separately with Kenny and Julian.

**Toilet Block:**

It was noted that if the Highland Council would not be closing the Shieldaig toilets, and the shared arrangement would continue. It was agreed there was no point acquiring the block while this was the case and Pauline would speak to Robbie Bain with a view to getting £700 of funding for the village to repair the roof so the men’s toilets could be reopened.

**Schoolhouse Update:**

It was agreed that, subject to consulting the teachers, the boundary between the school house and the school would run straight down the garden from the house to the gate. It was also agreed we should proceed with a single unit (rather than split into two units). John had estimated repairs would cost at least £75,000. At Peter’s recommendation, it was agreed that an approach should be made to the old and new counsellors for their support. Janene and Viv agreed to continue to advance the matter on this basis.

**Balgy Estate Update/Housing**:

The Secretary reported that various meetings had taken place with Sir Hugh Tollemache. He wanted to arrange outline planning permission and also decroft two plots on the edge of the Baile Shuas estate, which would be a condition of the sale of the estate. He had agreed that the plots would not block off access to the remainder of the land from the estate. He was now in the process of advancing this so that the sale could take place, but that these steps could take time. The lack of a local grazings clerk could also delay matters, although there was no objection in principle from the crofters to these plans (subject to valuation).

It was then discussed whether there could be other options for the remainder of the site over and above just housing. It was noted that the site was bounded by rocks and would only accommodate a limited number of houses, which would never enable the community to meet local demand. It was discussed whether a more creative solution could be proposed which might benefit the whole community, such as a modest youth hostel with staff accommodation and room for laundry, treatment or other businesses to run alongside. It was noted that many parts of the community might benefit from such a scheme, which could also provide accommodation for local workers. The members agreed to consider this before the next meeting and if it was agreed that an alternative modified proposal had possible benefits, a proposal should be developed for community consultation.

**Next Meeting:**

Pauline then noted that a further meeting should be held in January once Jim had confirmed his availability.

**Close of Meeting:**

There being no further business, the meeting closed.