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

held at 7pm on Wednesday 30 January 2019 in the Shieldaig Village Hall

**Present:**

Pauline Stephenson, Fiona Moyes, Andy Moyes, Mya Aronica, Hugh Gosling, Jim Alexander, Brian Anderson, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Elaine Holmes, Lynn Frost, Nick MacNeil, Richard Munday, Claire Munday, Janene Waudby. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Fenton.

**Introduction:**

Pauline welcomed those present and noted a quorum was present.

**Previous Meeting’s Business:**

It was noted that Andy Moyes had yet to restore the village noticeboards, but he confirmed it was in hand.

In John MacGregor’s absence, Janene reported that a meeting had been held on the subject of the pontoon. By way of background, it was noted that as the pontoon is a community asset which is used by a fairly defined section of the community, it should be funded as much as possible from the users of the pontoon. As a result, it had been decided that annual fees would be levvied in the amount of £150 for commercial users and £100 for other users. A daily charge of £5 would be made for all other users. A new noticeboard was in the process of being ordered. Andy noted that an edition to the pontoon “legs” may be advisable so that they are not broken on the sea bed. It was agreed that the matter should be raised with the pontoon committee. It was understood that Kenny would be sending out invoices to pontoon users.

**Schoolhouse update:**

Janene reported that Viv Rollo and herself had attended a meeting with Robbie Bain and Ewen McIntosh, a member of the Highland Council asset transfer team. The meeting had been helpful and the Council had suggested that they might be prepared to transfer the asset for a nominal sum IF it can be demonstrated (with evidence) that the Community has a need for it. To this end, Janene had prepared a paper using the Highland Small Communities Trust Housing Survey and data from other sources. Next steps would be to finish the paper and application form (almost complete in both cases), arrange a survey and valuation of the schoolhouse, arrange a formal quote for the renovation and get funding organised (Kalie is organising this). The plan is to submit the application in time for the Council’s May asset transfer meeting. Finally, Janene reported that it would be ideal if the necessary works could be substantially completed in the school holidays, but this is likely to be a bit ambitious due to the necessary “legals” taking a long time.

**Toilets update:**

Janene reported that the subject of the toilets had also been raised with Robbie Bain and his advice was to let the Council continue to own the toilets, and not to consider buying them in any event unless there was useful adjacent land included within the sale on which the Community could do something else (e.g. laundry). The subject of the leaking roof was raised and it was noted that Robbie Bain was still trying to chivvy the works department to make the repairs. It was agreed that we should continue to follow up on this, and perhaps place a notice on the mens’ toilets saying that they should use the ladies’ toilets.

**Community Right to Buy**:

Janene reported that the Association’s new constitution had been submitted to the Scottish ministers for certification as required (as a condition of proceeding with any right to buy application). Janene had received an email requiring two changes, which was frustrating. Janene confirmed another general meeting would have to be convened in due course to make these changes (non-controversial).

**Woodland Trust update**:

Janene then updated the meeting on the Woodland Trust purchase and the land at Baile Shuas. It was noted that the Woodland Trust does not need both plots at Baile Shuas and it was unclear at present what would happen with the second plot, but that Hugh Tollemache had said that he “might keep it”. It was noted that the Woodland Trusts’ needs may depend in part on the outcome of the recruitment process. Janene had sent the draft schoolhouse paper prepared for the Council to Hugh as she felt this might help him better understand the Community’s problems as regards affordable housing. Broadly, however, the Woodland Trust were emphatic that they would be consulting with the Community at all stages. It was also noted that the “heavy work” on the estate, such as fence laying is usually outsourced to contractors and so members of the Community should consider if they were interested in picking up this work.

**Other Housing Opportunities**:

It was noted that as Wilma Holmes had died, there was a vacant property in the village and Elaine had suggested that the Council be contacted on this. Janene had contacted John McHardy in the social housing department and had communicated the issues with affordable housing, exacerbated by the Council’s centralised social housing allocation policy (meaning locals get overlooked for housing). Janene had suggested that the Council consider selling that house to the Community to create a layer of affordable housing for rent between the social housing and private housing. Janene had not received a response to this and confirmed she would follow up, acknowledging that it is a long shot.

**Hall rental agreement**:

Janene tabled a village hall rental agreement in relation to the Royal Mail. Jim Alexander confirmed he would follow this up to find the original agreement.

**Shieldaig Magazine**:

Janene reported on the magazine and tabled the proposed front page. Janene mentioned that people should contact her with any suggestions for print items.

**AOB**:

Claire Munday then raised the matter of the playpark. It was noted that funds had been raised and Jim Alexander would check the running total. It was noted that various equipment needed updating and some fencing reinstated, and this would be expensive, but that the Community should proceed to do this, while stopping short of being responsible for the park as a whole (which is a Council asset). It had been recommended that a sales rep for childrens’ playpark equipment attend a meeting as they would be well placed to advise on next steps. It was confirmed that the school wanted to plant in the newly created bed, but needed funds for topsoil.

It was also noted that June Miller may be in receipt of a cheque from the Hamilton Trust which had been set up some time ago to provide funds for local childrens’ further education. It was not known if the trust had been wound up, resulting in the cheque having been presented for the balance of funds in the account. It was agreed that Linda Livingstone should be consulted regarding the status of the trust and that Jim Alexander find out of the cheque was still in existence and whether it could be reissued. If the trust had been wound up, the Community Association could consider applying the balance of the funds in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust.

**Next Meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on 14th March.

**Close of Meeting:**

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Chairman

Pauline Stephenson