

Shieldaig Community Council

Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Sildeag

Minutes of the meeting Tuesday 2nd February 2016

Present: Susan Holmes (Chair), Lucy Kerr (Secretary), Donald Gillanders, Duncan Carmichael, Lisa Fraser, Beverly Hill, Claire Munday, Richard Munday, Ann Barton, Kalie Wilkinson, Cllr. Audrey Sinclair

Apologies: Robbie Bain

Handover

Richard Munday provided a short handover for the new Council in which he outlined the main aims of the Council. He firstly thanked the new Council members for volunteering and highlighted the close links that the Council has with the community. He encouraged the new Council to keep Shieldaig's best interests at heart, to develop links with the local MSP and to continue the work of the old Council by doing its best to support the local community through the development of local business and housing.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as the record of the meeting.

2. Police Matters

Dominic Sermanni attended the meeting and encouraged the Council to use the meeting as an opportunity to bring up any questions or issues they had relating to police matters. There were no significant crime incidents or emergency call-outs to report but he did warn motorists to take care on the roads as there was considerable risk to drivers from flooding and ice on the roads. He highlighted the fact that the roads were untreated between approx. 10pm and 7am.

He reported on some wider police-force issues letting us know that the Inverness Control Room would soon be downgraded to an enquiries-only centre and that the wider control room duties would be transferred to Dundee. Concern has been raised from the force about the lack of a Highland-based control centre and it was agreed that the Council would write a letter supporting these concerns. He also mentioned that there were vacancies for police positions in Skye & Lochalsh and that there was some concern over the proposal that police officers would have to pay rent for police houses.

Donald Gillanders asked if the police had any opinion on the impacts of increased traffic from the introduction of the North Coast 500 route and raised the concern that there was the potential for an increased number of car crashes and casualties. *Dominic agreed to raise these concerns with the force and suggest that the road watch stationed at Achnasheen might 'drift west' and have a presence on this stretch of the route. It was also agreed that the Council would raise its concerns directly with the NC500 organisers.*

3. Matters arising.

Village Information Website

It was agreed that Lucy Kerr would be made an administrator for the website and that the Council minutes would be posted here. Renewal for the website in each November.

Chairperson rotation

It was agreed that we would consult with Robbie Bain about the possibility of Sheildaig CC having a rotating chairmanship.

SSE

The money has been received and the new Council will need to move forwards with the plan. *It was agreed that we would consult with Scott Fraser about the cost of the purchase and maintenance of a generator to be installed at the Village Hall. It was believed that the maintenance contract for the generator would be between SSE and Scott Fraser but that the fund would pay for the generator itself. Lucy Kerr will find the plan and forward it to all new Council members so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.*

Kalie Wilkinson asked about provision for vulnerable people who live along the coast road. Richard Munday reported that it had been previously discussed and agreed that a list of those in need would be compiled and that provision may be made for coast road residents at the packing shed in Ardheslaig.

4. Consultation

Notes on the discussion about the Highland-wide Local Development Plan and the Application for Apportionment of the campsite croft were ratified and are attached to this document.

5. Planning Matters

Kinloch have applied to replace their boatshed, no other planning matters at present.

6. Correspondence

SNH January Newsletter

To be forwarded to Beverly Hill and Claire Munday.

HTSI

An agenda for their forthcoming meeting was circulated, if anyone would like to attend they could possibly be sponsored by the Community Council.

7. A.O.C.B.

North Coast 500

Concerns were raised earlier in the meeting about the negative impact of this initiative. Audrey Sinclair reported that the Applecross CC were making arrangements to meet with both the NC500 organisers and Visit Scotland. *It was agreed that Kalie Wilkinson would ask if Shildaig CC could take part in those discussions.*

Red Squirrels

Claire Munday reported that Trees For Life will be coming to the village to identify sites for the translocation of red squirrels to Shildaig. A public meeting would be held on Thursday 18th February to inform everyone about the project and it was hoped that the first batch will arrive on 24th February.

Cattle grid complaints

Lucy Kerr has logged these with the Highland Council. She explained that the system for logging issues is very simple and that it could be done by any member of the public. The CC will only get involved if

it felt that appropriate action is not being taken by the Highland Council. *Kalie Wilkinson agreed to log the need to passing place signs to be replaced along the coast road and Susan Holmes agreed to log the problem of damaged street lights in Shieldaig.*

There was a wider discussion about the state of the roads, the provision of signage for the village, for Doire Aonar and for the coast road (how passing places work). *It was agreed that Andrew Hunter would be invited to a meeting to discuss these issues and follow up on previous discussions held with Ann Barton.*

Syrian Refugees

Claire Munday reported that she had been thanked for her offer of homing a Syrian refugee family but the Highland Council are not currently seeking housing in our location, although this situation may change.

Community Council Training

Audrey Sinclair reported that Community Council Training was available for new Councils and agreed to forward the details to us.

Communication

Lucy Kerr asked that everyone responded to her emails so that she would know they had been received and noted.

Co-opted member

Claire Munday proposed and Lisa Fraser seconded Kalie Wilkinson to be a co-opted member of the Community Council.

Highland Council

Audrey Sinclair reported that there will be a wave of voluntary redundancies in the Highland Council and that there is likely to be some re-structuring in order to make the budgetary savings required of them.

8. SCA

Ann Barton reported that there would not be a representative from the SCA at every Community Council meeting but that they were happy to be consulted on any relevant issues and attend meetings if required.

- The possibility of repairing/replacing/improving the swimming pool at the school had been widely discussed. No solution had been found so the pool has been drained and dismantling will follow shortly due to concerns and official complaints regarding Health & Safety issues at the site. It is the cost of £20-30,000, the small number of beneficiaries and a lack of clearly identified funding that makes replacing the pool unfeasible.
- The AGM will be held on Saturday 5th March at which the SCA will be looking for a minimum of 3 new trustees
- Fete planning is underway and a meeting to discuss its organization was well attended, the next meeting will be held on Friday 26th February

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Date of next meeting 1st March at 7.30 p.m.

