

Shieldaig Community Council Meeting

19 May 2020, by teleconference

Attendees

Ann Barton
Hannah Cundiff (Secretary)
Hugh Gosling (Minutes)
Alex MacInnes
Francois Raulier (Treasurer)
Natalya Revitt (Chair)
Kalie Wilkinson

Apologies

None.

Approval of minutes

Minutes from 27 April were approved.

Matters Arising

Coronavirus Community Support

Care packages

All applications for care packages have been approved. We have delivered care packages for three weeks to date, and demand has increased steadily. This week (w/c 18/5/20) we delivered packages to 14 households covering 37 people (25 adults, 12 children). The total cost for that week was £700. We will continue to assess the needs of recipients over time to ensure funding is spent as efficiently as possible. Hannah can include this in her weekly call (after two months or whenever life has returned to a semblance of normality).

Fuel assistance

All 14 fuel assistance requests in April were approved. In May, we have received 2 requests, which are also likely to be approved.

Grub Hub

Thanks to Keith McNicoll for volunteering to make the Grub Hub. It was completed last week and has been stocked with an excellent range of donations. In addition, we have received £90 in donations. The volunteers will check the cupboard three times a week.

Craft boxes

The children have been busy creating artworks using their new craft boxes.

Compost

Every request for compost was approved and 30 households received a portion.

Random Acts of Kindness

12 nominations have been received. 6 have been delivered, the remainder will be delivered soon.

Funding

Sources of funding to date: Highland and Island Enterprise (£20,000), National Lottery (£10,000), Foundation Scotland (£5,000), Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (£1,550) and North Highland Initiative (£626.62).

At the current rate, we will be able to fully fund all coronavirus community support schemes until August or possibly later. Ongoing discussions are taking place with HIE and the National Lottery to secure enough funding to continue the coronavirus support schemes until at least April 2021.

NR and FR to discuss how to accept private donations to support current efforts.

Supporting Local Employment

The Old Pier: FR is seeking a local person to undertake this work.

Village maintenance: Shieldaig Community Association has drawn up a list of essential maintenance work that is needed. FR to discuss financial contribution from SCC with Jim Alexander.

Hot Meals: Due to a number of private initiatives to provide reasonably priced hot meals to the community, the SCC will not pursue this.

Transparency

We have received no comments or questions about SCC activities. We will continue to share information about our initiatives and progress via existing platforms. It was agreed that we are doing everything we can to engage the community.

Planning

An application has been made for a welfare unit at the Kishorn fish farm. No action needed. An application is in the pipeline for the MOWI fish farm at Torridon for a change in use / renewal of permit. As this application does not include a change to biomass or existing physical installations, it is unlikely to be an issue.

Village Hall Art Project

AB is canvassing opinion on this scheme and will report on progress at future meetings.

Treasurer's Report

A new chequebook has arrived. All documents are now ready for the 2019 / 2020 accounts. FR will get the accounts formally and independently audited.

There has been no new income since 28 April. Total spend was £6,296.03 - £2,937.36 on fuel assistance, £2,504.05 on support for food and essentials (care packages, Grub Hub, etc), £774.62 on miscellaneous initiatives (Children's Activities, Random Act of Kindness, Compost, etc) and £80.00 on non-coronavirus items.

Secretary's Report:

HC has continued communications with HIE in relation to our complaint concerning an incorrect application made by Lochcarron for Shieldaig funds. The issue is in abeyance at present, but HC will return to it at the appropriate time. HC has successfully defused rumours within the community that support initiatives were not being allocated fairly. Complaints regarding this issue seem to have been resolved.

HC has also been calling Care Package recipients and reported that the feedback was universally positive.

Any Other Business

Face mask and hand sanitiser packs

After investigating an initiative in Achiltibuie to provide sanitation packs, KW is coordinating the sewing of fabric masks for the community. AB is coordinating small bottles of hand sanitiser. The packs should be read by this weekend. KW has received 21 requests, including 8 from members of the Community Car Scheme.

Mental Health Initiative

Planning is underway to look at how SCC can support Shieldaig residents in relation to their mental health. FR suggested contacting Dr Brown to assess demand and advice on delivering any services. Other means of assessing demand will be tested.

AGM

The SCC AGM is normally held in June. AM to advise on the matter.

Applecross Trust Hydro scheme

Work on the hydro scheme will restart next week, with significant construction traffic travelling on the coast road. The scheme has been approved by the government as an essential project.

Farming in Kenmore

A new farmer has moved to Kenmore from Oxfordshire with a herd of cows. Police were asked to check that livestock certificates were in place. Those involved were advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Toilet funding

There is £1,000 in the Ward 5 Council budget for refurbishing the toilet block. The SCA will need to apply for this money. FR to remind them.

Next Meeting

The next SCC meeting will take place on 2 June 2020 via teleconference at 7.00pm.