

Shieldaig Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2020 (via Zoom)

Attendees:

Ann Barton (Chair)

Becky Cameron

Hugh Gosling (Secretary)

Alex MacInnes

Viv MacLennan

Karen Starr (Treasurer)

Kalie Wilkinson

Apologies

None.

Minutes of last meeting

Approved.

Matters arising

Neutral Minutes

A discussion was held on whether individual SCC members should or should not be named in the minutes. It was agreed to reduce the frequency to achieve more 'neutral' minutes.

Letter to previous Chair

The previous SCC chair has reported that she has turned over all paperwork and advised that the previous Secretary may have some more. KW will speak to the previous Secretary.

Questionnaires – Hardship, Campervans & Planters

Surveys to assess community opinions on these topics have been created for completion online. Contact AB for paper copies. AM commended SCC on these surveys; he is recommending this approach to other community councils. VM & KW to help create paper versions of the questionnaires. AB will investigate how best to analyse the responses.

Winter newsletter

A newsletter to keep the community up to date on SCC activities has been drafted. Hand delivery has been organised. Printing will be done by the Torridon Community Centre. HG to circulate the newsletter and liaise with TCC for printing.

Confidentiality

The personal details of recipients of hardship grants will be kept confidential and will not be discussed at open SCC meetings. Discussions around the criteria for support will not be limited to Office Bearers.

Police matters

None. The SCC will update Craig on SCC activities.

Wester Ross Tourism Partnership

KW represented Shieldaig at this forum, which was well-attended. It is hoped there will be a three-year funding scheme from HIE to employ three part-time tourism officers to develop projects and address priorities in Wester Ross. Most communities face similar issues around tourism so this is a good forum to discuss them. It was suggested we share the results of the campervan survey.

Roads

Shieldaig has been added to the list for a traffic survey but there are already 70 other applications, 10 of which are urgent. Mackenzie Sutherland (MS) has asked Iain Moncrief to find out where the rumble strips need to be positioned at either end of the village on the A896. MS said that when the road is repaired at the turn onto the coast road – which is on a waiting list – he will ask them to tarmac the turning circle by the lower entrance to the village.

Finance

The changeover to allow the Treasurer access to the SCC bank account is underway. The balance on 6/10/20 was £23,146. Expenditure for care packages has been £205/week, leaving a balance on 3/11/20 of £22,121. The total remaining from the hardship funds is £12,834.

It was agreed to seek an auditor from outside the community in future due to confidentiality concerns. AM can recommend auditors. Ideally, three quotes will be sought.

Hardship support

It is hoped that the hardship questionnaire will give an indication of the levels of hardship predicted for the winter. This should allow us to assess what level of grants we can make.

Logs

No logs will be purchased. Fuel grants will be made instead to those households meeting the hardship criteria due to COVID-19.

Planning matters

No new planning applications have been made.

The Scottish Salmon Company has won the appeal to expand their fish farm at Aird. They will shut down the Kenmore farm. The overall biomass in the loch will remain the same. The appeal also stipulated an Environmental Management Plan with the Highland Council Planning team, Marine Science Scotland and Wester Ross Salmon and Fisheries Board. SCC agreed to write to Mark Harvey expressing disappointment and asking that the EMP be robust. SCC to consult with Gordon Drysdale regarding the Loch Torridon Area management group, which was set up previously.

Correspondence

Playpark

The Playpark group emailed to say believed planters behind the hall would present a Health and Safety risk and interfere with maintenance.

Fireworks

The village association has done a risk assessment for the bonfire and fireworks night event.

Rural Housing

AM reported a consultation is underway regarding rural housing.

AOCB

Area around the working pier

Concerns have been raised about the general untidiness of the area around the pier, including plastic containers blown away by the wind. SCC acknowledges that it is a working pier but several members of the community have concerns around access. SCC will contact the Harbourmaster in December if no improvement is seen by the next SCC meeting.

Remembrance Day Wreath

The children's wreath will be placed on the memorial for Remembrance Day. SCC will apply for the Highland Council grant, which will be donated to the British Legion.

Raw meat waste and impact on livestock

Livestock cannot be moved presently due to raw meat waste left by wild campers, which is having an impact on the crofters along the coast road. Bags of rubbish are now being deposited in the bins along the coast road due to the removal of bins in Applecross.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 1 December 2020.