

Shieldaig Community Council
Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Sildeag

Tuesday 5th January 2021
7.30 pm by Zoom

Draft Minutes

Present: Ann Barton (Chair) Karen Starr (Treasurer) Kalie Wilkinson, Becky Cameron, Viv MacLennan, Alex MacInnes (Councillor)

Apologies - Hugh Gosling

Minutes of last meeting 1/12/2021- Approved

Matters Arising:

Loch Torridon Area Management Group

The proposed bi-annual meeting of the group has not yet been resurrected. KS to consult with Janene Waudby (SCIO) about possible next steps and community representation.

Area around the Pier

Liam Taylor, harbourmaster at Lochinver, with responsibility for other west coast piers, has been contacted and information cascaded to relevant bodies for future monitoring. There is evidence of a general tidy-up which it was hoped would be maintained.

Camper-van Questionnaire

There was a full and lengthy discussion about the responses from village residents and next steps. The main issues highlighted were:

- waste disposal - including impact on Coast Road bins, impact on people from human waste, impact on wildlife and livestock
- parking in the village
- inconsiderate behaviour linked to driving and parking
- limited benefit to the village of "passing through" tourism

AM reported that the Wester Ross Biosphere, Tourism bodies and HC were working towards a co-ordinated approach to identify and alleviate issues in the Wester Ross and the larger Highland area. This would include the provision of detailed information on chemical disposal points, bin locations etc. Information would be rolled out to camper-van hire firms. Any projects would be partly funded by Crown Estate Coastal Funding monies. KW will attend tourism meetings on behalf of Shieldaig CC.

With regard to local action in the village and on the Coast Road - and as a result of suggestions made in the questionnaire - the CC will consult with Mackenzie Sutherland (Roads Dept) and ask for an on site meeting to discuss signage and designated parking at the lay-by on the south side of the village, avoiding the turning bay which is to be tarred and hatched. The aim being to request that people do not park within the confines of the village cattle grids overnight, and advising them of the nearest waste disposal units, to the north and south, over and above official campsites. Pictorial signage will also be requested for re-cycling bins to encourage proper disposal of rubbish.

Planter Questionnaires

Little enthusiasm for the planters was fed back via the questionnaire. However, as a result of information gathering and further discussion, it was decided that the existing broken and unsightly planters on Main Street should be removed and the new wooden planters placed elsewhere. It was suggested if they stood on slate it might delay rotting and stop sinkage into the soil. It was felt for grass cutting purposes etc it was inappropriate to position them on the bend between Nanny's and Temperance Brae. The consensus of opinion was for 8 to be placed opposite the bottom of Temperance Brae as a mini allotment scheme, (subject to interest from individuals wanting to adopt a planter), 2 would be placed at the hall, 2 given to the school and 1 to the area near Nanny's. Mixed planting will be organised in the Spring. There were no offers of sponsorship for any of the planters.

Seafront erosion

Photos of significant seafront erosion on the rip wrap and damage to the shore access steps have been taken and distributed. Gavin Steele of Scottish Water has been notified regarding the exposure of sewage infrastructure and a site meeting requested with Mackenzie Sutherland to further discuss. Of particular concern is the bank between Nanny's and Temperance Brae which is being undermined and becoming increasingly unstable. This being a significant site for summer car and camper-van parking. It was felt professional work was urgently needed to stabilise the sea defences. AM to investigate if funding for some of the work might be appropriated from the Crown Estate Funding. He would notify the CC of further dates for funding applications.

Finance

KS updated the meeting on the current state of funds and information from Dot Ferguson, acting Ward Manager, on auditors for CC finances going forward. All internet banking access is now in place for the chair and treasurer.

Cash at bank on 29/12/20 was £18340.50. Regular outgoings are now running at £270 per week plus £390 per month. Care vouchers, fuel support and grub hub expenses are now all being taken from the National Lottery grant fund. Balance of various coronavirus funds is £8769.56 at 29/12/20.

It was felt in view of the new Lockdown measures it would be appropriate to remind people of the availability of hardship funding on the community Facebook page. At the current rate of support, CC available funding should last until April but this is subject to demand and length of the lockdown period. AM confirmed there may be additional funding we could apply for if it becomes necessary. KS to update HIE on our current state with regard to the communities recovery fund. KS and AB to have a virtual meeting to review current levels of support particularly with regard to winter fuel costs.

Grub Hub

Additional purchases have been made to maintain the Grub Hub. Personal care items seem to be in highest demand.

Planning

There is an overhead power cable upgrade under consideration at Kinloch.

Correspondence

* An email from Gordon Drysdale regarding the renewal of the licensing of the mussel farm in Upper Loch Torridon has been passed to TKCC as it does not fall within the area of Shildaig CC.

* Celtman Commemoration - further discussion with event organisers to be held.

- * Wester Ross Biosphere - notification of online webinars.
- * An Carrannach- a request from Alec Cormack to publish CC minutes on the online magazine website was agreed.

AOB:

The suggestion of a DVD swop box, to be housed in the plant swop construction by the village hall was agreed.

KW to attend the next online meeting of TKCC for the purpose of sharing common issues.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd February 2021

If you have any comments about anything on the agenda or in the minutes, or have anything you would like discussed under AOB please contact us or pass your comments onto one of the councillors:

Ann Barton, Becky Cameron, Hugh Gosling, Viv Maclennan, Karen Starr, Kalie Wilkinson.