

Shieldaig Community Council meeting minutes

Final

Tuesday 6 April 2021 via Zoom.

Attendance:

Ann Barton (Chair), Becky Cameron, Hugh Gosling (Secretary), Alex MacInnes (Ward 5 Councillor), Karen Starr (Treasurer), Mackenzie Sutherland (Highland Council Roads department), Kalie Wilkinson.

1. Apologies

Viv Maclennan.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Approved.

3. Finances

Cash at bank was £29,832.10 on 31 March 2021, leaving £11,761.16 remaining from coronavirus funds. The regular outgoings stated last month were incorrect. The correct regular outgoings are £285 per week, plus £340 per month on care vouchers and fuel support. The cost of the tourism village signs has been taken from the Foundation Scotland grant.

It was agreed that the CC will discuss a schedule of closure for the COVID support schemes at the next meeting, at which time we will know more about the lifting of restrictions and the situation within the community. The CRF stipulates that its funds must be spent by the end of May.

KS has been advised to contact the Highland Third Sector Interface, and has been put in touch with Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL). *NB: After the meeting, Marie McMillan, Senior Financial Officer at VAL has agreed to carry out this year's annual accounts review. She carries out this type of service for community councils, schools and a wide variety of voluntary organisations. The standard fee is £100.*

4. Roads etc. update from Mackenzie Sutherland from the Highland Council

Railings outside Baile Shuas

These are on order but have not yet arrived. They will be fitted when the railings become available.

Yellow lines/turning area at south entrance to village

The area will need to be resurfaced before lines can be added. MS reported that while there is a limit on the amount of surfacing that is permitted, he hopes this resurfacing work can be done. MS suggested the Ward discretionary fund could be used to pay for this work.

SSE electrical pole and cable replacement at Inverbain

The CC considered problems associated with this work, especially as it will take place at the same time as timber lorries from the Torgarve Woodlands at Applecross will be using the coast road and the high tourist season in May/June. The SSE work will involve some road closure and traffic management. MS reported he had not seen a traffic management plan but that SSE has the right to

apply for permits to work on the road. The HC has a duty of care to ensure any work is safe and reasonable, so MS will speak to Andrew Bone (Highland Council) about this matter.

NB: After the meeting, the CC was informed that the SSE work may be completed ahead of schedule in late April.

Riprap safety

After an inspection on 5 March, the rock armour is deemed to be in a poor state of repair, however, urgent action is not required. The likelihood that it would be washed away quickly are low. Rock armour falls apart one stone at a time. The rock armour is being monitored and will continue to be, especially after storm events. As most of the stone remains nearby, the repair would not involve large material costs.

While there is no immediate danger to the road, there is a danger to the public at the top of the rock armour as the verge has been undermined. This hazard was the reason for a temporary blue fence being erected. This fence has now been removed by a member of the community without permission from the HC, which requests the fencing materials be returned. The HC can collect them if notified of their location.

Planters

While a plan is formulated for the repair of the rock armour, the CC discussed alternatives to the blue fencing erected by the Highland Council that may be more acceptable to the community. It was discussed whether positioning wooden planters (which have already been purchased) on the verge outside Stovold's would be a better way to prevent pedestrians and vehicles from using the undermined verge. The CC will notify residents and businesses prior to any planters being placed there. Two planters will be donated to the school. Purchase of compost and plants will be needed.

MS also asked whether any member of the community remembers what the area looked like prior to the installation of the rock armour, or has old photos that show this.

Waste in Kenmore

Flytippers have left white goods and other rubbish by the roadside in Kenmore. With no visitors around, this was likely done by a more local person. KW to send photos to AM who will arrange its removal.

5. Matters Arising:

Boat wreck

AB has spoken to the owner of *Kingfisher*, who has committed to inspecting the wreck once the COVID restrictions are lifted and he can borrow a boat. However, the owner believed the remains of the boat were deeply embedded in the rocks making removal difficult.

Seafront erosion

See section 4 above. The CC believed it was important that the community be kept abreast of the project to repair the rock armour. HG to request a report from the Highland Council, which can be shared with the community. *NB: After the meeting, Andrew Bone from the Highland Council visited the village again. He agreed to provide a report on the rock armour and also confirmed that the*

planters would be allowed on the verge, if accepted by the community, but that they would be the responsibility of the CC.

Deer/Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust has received complaints about deer causing damage in the village. AB attended a meeting regarding this matter. Woodland Trust has put up cameras to monitor the situation and a stalker has been out twice. Any member of the community having problems with deer can contact Malcom Turner directly (malcolmtturner@woodlandtrust.org.uk or 07785 338 582).

Waste meeting

KW attended a meeting with HC waste team, who were very helpful. The public bins by the toilets will now be emptied twice a week. There is a service centre number we can call if the bins are full prior to the twice-weekly collections. HC is trialling the use of recycling bins with stickers as there is an issue with recycling bins being contaminated with non-recyclables. If the trial is success, it may be possible to place recycling bins at the toilets also. The HC has provided 50 stickers for blue domestic bins listing what can and cannot be placed in them. KW will distribute these. Emptying of the bin at the harbour is paid for by the harbour authority so may not be emptied if the bill is not paid. KW has contacted the harbour master.

Timber Transport Applecross

KW/HG attended a community meeting with the Applecross Community Company (ACC) about the extraction of timber from the Torgarve woodlands in Applecross and the transport of the timber along the coast road. The meeting was extremely positive and the community engagement has been excellent. The project is also very positive as it will replace the mature Sitka spruce, which are in need of felling due to their age, with native broadleaf species grown from native Applecross seed-stock. It will also generate revenue for the Applecross community.

The meeting discussed whether it would be possible to delay the extraction and transport of the timber to avoid the high tourist season but ACC reported that this was not possible. ACC estimates that 5,500 tonnes of timber – or 220 loads using a wagon-and-drag system – which would take 57 days at 4 lorries per day or 29 days at 8 lorries per day. ACC was keen to hear the views of the coast road community about how best to manage this.

It was decided that a maximum of eight timber lorries per day would use the coast road between 7 and 9.30 am or between 5 and 7pm in order to minimise disruption. The lorries will be spaced 20 minutes apart. Lorries will use lowered tyre pressure to minimise damage to the road surface. Drivers will not exceed 30mph. Experienced drivers who are familiar with single-track driving will be used. Signs will be placed at the ends of the road to warn other drivers. The haulage company will conduct a road survey prior to and after the extraction to monitor any damage to the road surface.

KW also connected ACC with the contractors doing the SSE pole and wire replacement at Inverbain (Galbraith) so ACC and SSE can coordinate their projects to minimise disruption.

Tourism signs

In response to a consultation with the community about the impact of tourists/visitors last year, the CC has purchased signs to be displayed in the village asking visitors to respect our community, to refrain from parking/sleeping overnight in the village and to dispose of their waste responsibly. These signs are welcoming and polite in tone. The CC is keen to notify the village before erecting

these signs. *NB: This matter was discussed after the meeting but is included here to keep the community informed of this development.*

6. Police Matters

PC Craig Allen was unable to attend the CC meetings. He will attend future meetings if he is on shift. He aims to send a report ahead of each meeting.

7. Planning

One planning application has been received for an extension and upgrade at Willowbank.

8. Correspondence

Wester Ross Biosphere Leaflet

KW has shared the finished leaflet, which was launched on 31 March. 10,000 copies are being printed. The leaflet will be sent to all motorhome rental companies, campsites, tourism centres, etc.

While these leaflets were made with motorhome users in mind, they are relevant to anyone visiting Wester Ross, containing a great deal of helpful information. The CC will place a laminated copy at the toilets to show visitors where they can dispose of their motorhome waste.

Celtman

A smaller event is planned in June, involving UK athletes only. To allay any concerns from the community about the event, the CC will publish information provided by the organisers regarding safety measures and precautions being taken to ensure the event is safe for participants, their supporters and local residents.

9. AOB

Communications

From now on and where appropriate, the CC will post additional information about matters that impact the community on the Facebook page and on noticeboards to reduce misunderstandings. We will also include more information where appropriate in CC meeting minutes.

Next meeting

Tuesday 4 May 2021. The AGM will be held on 1 June 2021.

If you have any questions for the Community Council, please contact the Secretary. Hugh Gosling, hughgosling@gmail.com, 755780) or attend our meetings (see below).

You are welcome to attend Community Council meetings!

CC meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month and the agenda is published one week before. Meetings are usually at 7pm via Zoom (until face-to-face meetings can resume). If you would like to

attend a meeting, please use the details below:

Zoom Meeting ID: 7457855276

Passcode: 197939

If possible, please let us know ahead of the meeting if you wish to discuss a particular issue.