

Shieldaig Community Council meeting minutes

Draft

Tuesday 2 March 2021 via Zoom.

Attendance:

Ann Barton (Chair), Becky Cameron, Hugh Gosling (Secretary), Alex MacInnes, Viv MacLennan, Tom O'Halloran (Primary School), Steve Schnabel (TKCC), Karen Starr (Treasurer), Kalie Wilkinson.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Approved.

3. Matters Arising:

Hardship funding

Our applications to the CRF/HIE grant for £7,920 was successful and we have received the funds. We are very grateful, and believe the grant will be crucial for the community. Any member of the community that need assistance due to COVID are reminded that they can apply for grants. KW to publish a reminder on Facebook.

WRTP motorhome leaflet

Our thanks to KW who attended a meeting of the Wester Ross Tourism Partnership. A leaflet is being produced for motorhomes that covers Wester Ross and offers useful information including a map, sites for waste disposal, fire safety, driving advice, etc. The funding for three part-time tourism officers has been approved for three years; the officer for this area will be based in Gairloch. Adverts for the positions have been published.

AB raised the issue of producing a postcard-sized item that members of the community could place under the windscreen wipers of vehicles as a reminder of the request not to stay overnight in the village and blocking access/parking places etc.

Roads Response

KW has contacted Mackenzie Sutherland about the roads. AM reported the Roads team has been very busy and that there were new employees. KW to contact MS again, also mentioning some new potholes.

Sea defences

Repair work undertaken by a member of the community was discussed. AM will follow up with Mackenzie Sutherland as a matter of urgency concerns raised in December.

Tourism signage

HG/KW/VM refined the wording for signs to be placed around the village. The proposal is for smaller signs at the two entrances to the village and more detailed signs to be attached to the gates at the two cattle grids (one side on the south entrance, both sides of the gate near the Hall). Finally, two

signs to be attached to the male and female toilet doors asking visitors not to dispose of motorhome waste in the public toilets. HG to circulate agreed wording for CC approval, then HG/KW/VM to organise printing and erection of signs.

4. Finances

Cash at bank was £22,950.50 on 28 Feb 2021, including £13,879.56 of coronavirus funds. Regular outgoings are £330 per week, plus £450 per month, on care vouchers for food and household items, and fuel support. Funds for care voucher, fuel support and grub hub are now being taken from the new CRF/HIE grant fund. Toiletries are very popular with the Grub Hub. AB to put together a list for HG to buy from Bookers.

5. Waste & Public Toilets Ward 5 Meeting Report

Our thanks to VM who attended the meeting and circulated a report. KW to request a recycling bin to be placed next to the general waste bin at the toilets and another at the pier. Also, to request stickers for what can and cannot be placed in each type of bin. AM reported that HC waste service will collect bins daily at identified hotspots, which could include Shildaig. The big bin on the pier has not been emptied for some time; AM recommended that we contact Kevin Wickham.

6. Police Matters

KW contacted PC Craig Allen about attending CC meetings. KW to follow up.

7. Planning

No planning applications have been published on the HC website. AM reported several phone masts were looking to be reconditioned.

8. Correspondence

Felling at Torgarve Woods

The Applecross Community Company contacted the CC to inform that the Torgarve woods would be felled in the summer and the lumber transported out along the coast road. The CC expressed concerns about the increased traffic from lumber lorries. HG to reply asking whether the work can be postponed to the autumn to avoid the peak tourist season, and whether there is any payment in the budget to the Roads department for potential damage to the coast road.

Gate by the Hall

A member of the community contacted the CC about the poor state of the pedestrian gate by the Hall. John O'Neill has fixed it. This falls under SCA village maintenance.

Planters

Phil Collins has kindly agreed to sponsor two planters.

Boat wreck

A member of the community has alerted the CC of a boat that broke its moorings in the autumn and was wrecked at Port Laire. AB to contact the owner. Steve Schnabel will discuss with TKCC.

9. School update

Tom O'Halloran (Cluster Head Teacher for Shildaig & Kinlochewe) introduced himself to the CC. All local schools now have permanent head teachers. The renovation of the school house – essential for

a growing school – is at the tendering stage, which ends this week. The build will last 20 weeks and will cause some disruption given the challenging nature of the site. The community will be sent a schedule of works when it has been put together. Tom raised the possibility of community minibus. Potential funding could be available from the Highland Council discretionary fund and The Robertson Trust. AM suggested the Highlands Coastal Communities Fund may consider such a plan.

AOB:

Peninsula track

We have receive a report of a major increase in the number of off-road motorbikes using the Aird track, leading to damage to the surface.

Next meeting

Tuesday 6 April 2021. The AGM will be held on 1 June 2021.