

Shieldaig Community Council
Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Sildeag

Minutes of the meeting Tuesday 2nd June 2015

The Community Council acknowledged the contribution and commitment to SW Ross by the late Charles Kennedy and expressed its condolences to the family.

A.G.M.

Chair's report

The meeting felt Richard's report comprehensively covered the major issues of 2014/15 and thanked him for his efforts. Report attached below minute.

Accounts 2014/15

Show a healthy balance, the meeting approved the accounts and thanked Roger for undertaking the audit function and Gemma for her work as treasurer.

Election of Office Bearers.

To be left as is, pending November election

Main meeting

Present: Richard Munday (Chair), Gerry Beard (Secretary), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer) Donald Gillanders, Ann Barton, Viv Rollo and Cllr. Audrey Sinclair.

Apologies: None

1.Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as the record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising.

Recycling

New explanatory labels on order for the blue bins.

Aird noise nuisance

Recording sheets have been distributed to those effected.

Community Emergency Plan

Meeting with SSE at Kinloch on 1st July to move matters forward.

B.U.T.E.C.

Consultations due to start by end of summer.

3. Police matters

The meeting thanked P.C. Gary Taylor for his support during his time here and looked forward to meeting his successor.

Lochcarron Beat Report to follow.

4. Finance.

Payment for web hosting the only item.

5. Wester Ross Biosphere report.

Seeking letters of support.

6.Shieldaig Community Association.

Nothing to report

7.Correspondence

Social Enterprise Summit. Inverness 11th June.

Highland Council

West Highlands and Islands core paths plan review.

Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Offering consultancy and grant funding work.

8.Planning matters

Gemma has contacted Eplanning to ensure that the CC can deal with weekly planning notices in good time.

9. A.O.C.B.

Merging CCs, a short paper from Claire Munday and Alice MacLennan looking at the merits of proposing an amalgamation of Shieldaig and Torridon CCs. Particularly because of the consequential implications for Kinlochewe, it was agreed that this should await the next review of CC boundaries.

Roads, Richard has contacted Mark Crowe, assistant area manager (Portree). regarding incomplete coast road improvements and localised pot holing and roadside ruts. The plan is to meet when he is next in the area.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Date of next meeting 7th July at 7.30 p.m.

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Shieldaig Community Council

Chairman's report for 2014/2015

The Community Council met on 8 occasions during 2014/15. This was the first year of operation of the new Shieldaig Community Association, working alongside the Community Council. The new arrangements appear to have started well, with good co-ordination of effort and no evidence of duplication. The Community Association is now responsible for running all community events, including the fete, maintaining community assets and developing those new projects which the community considers the highest priority. The Community Council has been able to concentrate on its core job of representing the views and interests of the community to those statutory and other organisations whose actions (or inaction) affect the interests and well-being of local residents.

The effective operation of the Community Council is as always largely down to the contribution of our hard working secretary Gerry Beard and our treasurer Gemma Livingstone. We are also grateful for the continuing support and wise counsel of Highland Councillor Audrey Sinclair.

Key Issues

- 1. Timber movements on the N. Applecross Coast Road.** The Community Council was unsuccessful in its representations to the Applecross Trust to move the 10,000 + tonnes of commercial timber out by sea rather than over what it regards as the totally unsuitable N Applecross coast road. The Council was particularly concerned about the risk of road traffic accidents and damage to the road verges. In the event, and thanks in large part to the care and skill of the Ferguson drivers, happily, there have been no accidents. And the £200,000 package of resurfacing and passing place improvements (which are still in progress) has been helpful. But the Community Council remains firmly of the view that this is not a suitable road for large scale movements of timber and hopes that the Applecross Trust will take this to heart in any plans for future timber extraction.
- 2. Shieldaig Campsite.** Concern was expressed to the Community Council about users of the campsite causing disturbance to nearby residents, despite the best endeavours of the Grazings Committee to tackle the problem. Following a public meeting there was general agreement that the campsite was an important and longstanding asset to the village and should be kept open. However the disturbances were significant and unacceptable and the only way to square the circle was to find some way of better managing the facilities. The Community Council therefore supported subsequent proposals by Ruairidh Maclennan to consider developing a small commercial campsite to replace the current informal arrangements. If this goes ahead it will require an apportionment of the croft land and the Crofting Commission will hold a public meeting at which supporting and opposed views can be expressed.
- 3. Replacement of Water Mains in the Village.** Following 2 years of representations by the Community Council and a very helpful intervention by Audrey Sinclair, Scottish Water agreed to replace all the remaining lengths of old cement/asbestos pipe in the village. Over the last few years there have been repeated bursts to the mains on and above the

School Brae causing significant inconvenience to local residents. As we approach our year end, work on the project appears to be going well.

4. **Community Emergency Plan.** Following some preliminary work and public discussion, it was agreed that there could be value in preparing an emergency plan for the Community Council area. The prime purpose of such a plan would be to help the community cope with any severe winter weather events which might disrupt power supplies for extended periods. To be useful and practical such a plan would need to be kept simple and up to date and be built on the natural resilience of local people. The Community Council has prepared a framework for the plan which it will now flesh out in discussion with SSE (who have the lead role in emergency planning for the various statutory service providers). Hopefully none of the work will be needed. But with more extreme weather events globally, better safe than sorry.
5. **Kinloch Woodlands Charitable Trust.** Since the Trust was established in 2001, the Community Council has nominated one of the 7 trustees and this is currently Viv Rollo. Following discussion at its AGM, the Trust decided to update its management structure and reconstitute itself as a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). As part of this exercise it proposed to increase the proportion of community nominated trustees and invited the Community Council to increase its nominees from 1 to 3 (giving a new total of 9; 4 family, 2 professional and 3 community). The Community Council agreed, decided to nominate Jim Alexander to join Viv and is currently considering who should be the 3rd nominee.
6. **Planning Issues.** The Community Council was in correspondence with the Highland Council Chief Executive about what it perceived as the inadequate weight given to the views of community councils particularly on planning issues. While there was no obvious meeting of minds on the issue, the Community Council felt under some pressure to respond carefully and substantially when the Planning Department subsequently called for comments on the proposed West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan. In its response the Community Council made clear that it supported policies which encouraged new growth in the area – housing and businesses – with priority given to meeting local needs, while at the same time recognising the importance of being sensitive to the local environment and maintaining the attraction of Shieldaig as a popular tourist destination.
7. **Recycling.** For the past few years, and particularly in the tourist season, we have had serious problems with a lack of bulk bin capacity, that is the 1100 litre green bins, the contents of which go to landfill. A request to H.C. for additional capacity occasioned a visit from Andy Tuckwood head of West coast waste and recycling. Inspection of the bulk bins revealed large quantities of recyclable materials, non domestic waste and a quantities of recyclable cardboard packaging clearly marked as being delivered to an address outwith the Community Council area..

In order to improve our recycling performance we have requested a supply of adhesive labels to be affixed to blue bins throughout the village reminding residents and visitors alike of their responsibility in ensuring only landfill items end up in the green bins.

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