

Shieldaig Community Council

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 1 April at 7.30pm

Present: Richard Munday (Chairman), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer), Ann Barton, Donald Gillanders, Viv Rollo, Duncan Carmichael and Highland Cllr. Audrey Sinclair.

Apologies from Gerry Beard (Secretary), Lyndsay Dacker and PC Gary Taylor.

1. Liz Pritchard

The Community Council expressed its sadness at the recent death of Liz Pritchard. In addition to her work as a teacher, she had had a long and committed period of wider public service, including over 30 years as a councillor and secretary on the Shieldaig and previously the Applecross and Shieldaig Community Councils. She had been active on Health Service issues, particularly "out of hours" cover and the ambulance service. This had been recognised in her award of the MBE. The local communities owed her a debt of gratitude and the Community Council extended its sympathy to her family and friends.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bealach Beag cycle event. Richard would write to the Alastair Lawton of the event organisers stressing the need for proper consultation with the communities concerned before dates were fixed for 2015. Shieldaig appreciated the growing popularity of road and mountain biking in the area. But much more care was needed to minimise the impact on residents and businesses, particularly in Applecross.
- b. Shieldaig Oil Club. This looked to be a very worthwhile proposal which had gathered strong initial support. Gerry was thanked for his initiative which he would take forward once he was back home.
- c. Paul McGreal the organiser of the June Celtman event would be at Kinloch at 11.00 on Saturday 12 April for a final check on plans. Any community councillor able to come along would be very welcome.

4. Police Matters

The Community Council noted Gary Taylor's report for March which included thefts of a vehicle and garden sheds, a breach of bail and 2 minor road traffic accidents. It was grateful for these regular updates on local crimes and other incidents and would discuss aspects of their presentation with Gary at the next convenient meeting.

5. Finance Report

There had been no further transactions on the account which still stood at £902.41. With the Shieldaig Community Association's assumption of a number of activities previously handled by the Community Council, the Community Council's future finances should be much more straightforward. Gemma would arrange for the 2013/14 accounts to be prepared and brought to the June AGM for approval.

6. Community Emergency Planning

Audrey reported on some useful work which had been done between the Community Council and SSE in Glenelg, particularly in relation to helping vulnerable members of the community cope with power cuts. After discussion the Community Council concluded that –

- a. a formal plan was unnecessary in a community with strong social support systems which could be mobilised as needed
- b. it would be helpful to contact SSE to check that their records of vulnerable households in the Community Council area were up to date. Particular attention should be given to those living on the coast road.

7. Roads etc

Work had started on improving the drainage on the road between Inverbain and Ardheslaig. Gerry would check whether this would be followed by resurfacing.

Richard reported on the site meeting which he and Steve Carter had had with Gary Slupek of the Roads Dept. at the accident black spot to the west of the Balgy bridge. Their conclusion was that there was no obvious defect in terms of road design or maintenance to explain the number of vehicles which had gone off the road at that point. However Steve would wait for wetter weather and take photographs of any significant amounts of water on the road at the point where the accidents had occurred. The Community Council would discuss the issue again then.

Gary Slupek would remind Bryan Stout of the priority which the Community Council attached to tackling the coastal erosion particularly at the southern entrance to the village. This was a potentially dangerous situation. Gerry to follow up and also mention the loose and noisy cattle grid at the northern end of the village. Viv will check with Baile Shuas residents, the need and best location for the proposed bus shelter.

8. Scottish Water

Richard to write to Rhoda Grant covering the satisfactory outcome to Scottish Water's monitoring and management of chlorine levels in the local water supply. Action on replacing the mains on the School Brae is still outstanding.

9. HSCHT Baile Shuas

New residents had moved into the 3 new houses at Baile Shuas that day. The Community Council wished them a warm welcome and a long and happy stay in Shieldaig. It also recorded its thanks to HSCHT for this important addition to the community's stock of affordable houses and the way it had taken the views of the Baile Shuas residents into account in finalising layouts and designs.

10. Highland Council – Service Point Closures

The Community Council underlined its continuing concern at the prospect of closing the Lochcarron Service Point. It thanked Audrey for her support in opposing the closure and was briefed on the forthcoming review. It was assured that it would be fully consulted in due course.

11. Wester Ross Biosphere Event

Richard and Audrey reported on the discussion held in Poolewe on 8 March which had been well attended. A wider area of designation could have benefits in terms of tourism and funding but the development process seemed very bureaucratic and could be demanding in terms of local consultation. At the conclusion of the event it was decided to consult the local communities in more depth over a period of 6 months and this will include defining the boundaries of the wider area. A development officer will be appointed to co-ordinate the consultation.

12. Shieldaig Community Association - update

The new SCIO had had its 1st meeting and appointed trustees and office bearers - Pauline Mc Neil (chair), Stephanie Ash (treasurer) and Ann Barton (secretary). The next meeting at 7.00 pm on 8 April should see the sub groups organised and launched and planning started for the fete.

13 Planning Application

Application for development at Allt an Dubh. While the Community Council appreciated the concerns of the Allt an Dubh residents, it didn't feel that the application raised genuine community issues which would warrant an objection or representations by the Community Council. Audrey took no part in the discussion.

14. Correspondence

There was a brief discussion about the Highland Council's new departmental structure.

15 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 6 May at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

