

Shieldaig Community Council

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 3 September at 7.30pm

Present: Richard Munday (Chairman), Gemma Livingstone (Treasurer), Lyndsay Dacker, Ann Barton, Highland Cllr. Audrey Sinclair and 2 members of the public.

Apologies from Gerry Beard (Secretary), Irene George and Viv Rollo. The Council sent its best wishes to Donald Gillanders for a speedy and complete recovery from his accident.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July were agreed as an accurate record. It was agreed that in future –

- a. minutes and agendas for Community Council meetings would be displayed on the board outside the Hall and
- b. when draft minutes are circulated to councillors for comment, they will also be asked if they are content for the minutes (incorporating any suggested changes) to be put on public display and sent to the press in advance of their formal approval.

2. Matters Arising

The Church of Scotland Moderator's visit to Shieldaig on 28 August appeared to have gone well and Lorna and Peter Hood had enjoyed meeting a cross-section of people involved with local voluntary groups.

3. Finance

There had been no transactions since the July meeting – the balance of £5274.19 was unchanged. It was agreed that Graham Kinder's donation of £100 should be transferred as a contribution towards the Balgy Gap celebrations.

4. Police Matters

PC Gary Taylor's attendance at Community Council meetings was always welcome and valuable. However with rosters changing this might be increasingly difficult. The Community Council would therefore explore with the Police the possibility of getting regular reports on issues of local significance which it could discuss at its meetings. (action - Gerry).

5. The Highland Council Quality Awards

It was agreed that the bin men were helpful, did a consistently good job and should be nominated for an award (action - Ann to complete the forms)

6. Scottish Water

After discussion with Gerry, Richard would write to Rhoda Grant and Rob Gibson as agreed at the July meeting.

7. Roads Issues

Many thanks to those who had responded to Ann's notice in the shop identifying the worst potholes/road surfaces within the Community Council area. Richard to contact TEC Services (Brian Stout) to arrange an inspection visit to discuss remedial action. Key problems identified included –

1. the edge of the junction at the southern approach to the village
2. the large pothole(s) in the pavement and damaged salt bucket in Temperance Brae
3. the poor drainage under the rock-face to the south of the village
4. the poor surface (and drainage) between Inverbain and Ardheslaig

8. Sea Eagles

Both eagles had been seen in the area on a regular basis.

9. Pontoon

The party would be open to all the village and would be from 17.00 - 19.00 on Saturday 14 September. Audrey had kindly volunteered to cut the tape. Richard would put up a notice in the shop and Gemma would notify the Coastguard about the fireworks.

10. Issues for Future Meetings

Councillors would consider possible topics for discussion at the October meeting. 3 suggestions were –

- 1.a panel discussion on the Independence Referendum jointly with the Torridon and Kinlochewe CC around March 2014
- 2.social care
- 3.energy monitoring and conservation

11 Community Council Scheme Evaluation 2013

The Community Council considered the feedback from the Highland Council following their evaluation of the new Community Council Scheme after 12 months in operation. Apart from a small number of minor changes it appeared that the Scheme had bedded down well. No changes were proposed to membership numbers or quorum levels.

11. Planning Applications/Decisions and related issues

Key points arising –

- a.the HSCHT application for Baile Shuas was approved on 30 July. Work is expected to start on site in September. There will be some further advertising locally to make sure that anybody interested has a chance to apply before HSCHT finally allocate the homes.
- b.there was discussion about the nature of the need for recreation space at Baile Shuas. Richard will have an informal word with the landowner.
- c. the Community Council expressed its disappointment at Highland Council's decision to grant permission for a second house at Rubha Lodge. The Community Council – supported by the Headteacher - had consistently objected to this development because of the danger to children of further traffic past the school door. Community Councillors were fast coming to the conclusion that the Highland Council Planning Department attached little real importance to the views of community councils whatever general views were expressed to the contrary.
- d.Richard had submitted comments on the Kishorn Port proposals in line with the decisions at the July meeting.

12 Correspondence

The following were important events at which the Community Council planned to be represented. Could councillors proposing to attend liaise with Gerry or Richard on numbers –

1. HSCHT Open Day and AGM on 27 September
2. Ward Forums – 16 September in Garve, 23 September in Dornie
3. Road safety Seminar – Inverness 22 November
4. District Partnership – 16 September

12. AOCB

Audrey reported on progress with plans to extend the coverage of fast broadband across the Highlands. While Shieldaig was generally well served at present, it was noted that a wide range of local businesses relied heavily on good internet connections and the opportunity of upgrading links should not be neglected.

13 Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 October at 7.00pm (note new time).

