

# **Shieldaig Community Council**

## **Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Sildeag**

### **Minutes of the meeting Tuesday 6th October 2015**

**Present:** Richard Munday (Chair), Gerry Beard (Secretary), Donald Gillanders, Anne Barton, Viv Rollo,, Duncan Carmichael, Cllr. Audrey Sinclair and three member of the public.

**Apologies:** Lyndsay Dacker and Gemma Livingstone

#### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as the record of the meeting.

#### **2. Matters arising.**

##### **Roads update**

School Brae cattle grid ancillary fence now replaced.

##### **Recycling**

Still no self adhesive labels for blue bins; detailing additional recyclable materials. However, no reported problems with uplifting or processing additional materials.

##### **HSCHT Open day on 25th September** (which Richard attended)

Drew Hendry MP addressed the meeting and took questions from the floor on:

Roads, including funding constraints for road-works in the Highland area.

Business rates

Impact of VAT; particularly on tourism businesses.

John Watt (Chair of the Scottish Land Fund Committee) and Sandra Holmes(HIE) spoke on land reform and the community right to buy where funding will increase to £10m pa from 2016.

##### **Red Squirrels**

Following the successful reintroduction at Dundonnell, studies are in hand with a view to doing something similar on local estates in early 2016. The possibility of extending the programme to include the woods at Arrina will be raised with the team.

#### **3. Police matters**

No beat report

#### **4. Finance.**

Reported that the Highland CC grant had been received and the account is in good order.

## **5. Community Council Election**

The meeting understood that because sufficient people had submitted nomination forms with a view to becoming community councillors, a new Shieldaig Community Council would be formed.

The Community Council was delighted at the news and commended the community spirit of those who had put their names forward.

## **6. Syrian refugees**

There has been an excellent local response to the needs of refugees as winter approaches, with large quantities of clothing and sleeping bags etc dispatched by road from Kyle.

Richard raised the possibility of Shieldaig taking perhaps two Syrian refugee families as part of a Highland/Scotland wide settlement programme.

Audrey gave an insight into the broader Highland picture; particularly the requirement for cross-Departmental working, careful and sensitive assessment of the needs of families/individuals and appropriate resource allocation.

The meeting felt that Shieldaig probably would want to support such an approach but that a more careful examination and final decisions should be left to the new Community Council. A crucial issue would be the availability of local housing.

### **Post meeting note.**

1 offer of one cottage for 1-2 years already received.

## **8. Community Emergency Plan and SSE grant application**

Richard and Gerry explained the putting together of the draft plan accompanied by a formal grant application to SSE to cover the capital costs of an emergency generator and communications equipment. These were submitted at the end of July and SSE confirmed on the 22nd September that our bid had been successful and a grant of £10,000 awarded.

The meeting agreed to accept the SSE offer, Gerry to confirm the CC decision in writing.

## **9. Roads**

Muirne Buchanan reported that work had in fact now started on the outstanding resurfacing work including the lay-bys at Arrina. However the meeting was concerned that hired plant and equipment had been standing idle for months, which was an unnecessary financial burden in times of austerity.

**North Coast 500** (North of Scotland initiative) much larger traffic volumes are being experienced on the N Coast road/Bealach circuit and with a lack of public toilet facilities residents in Arrina are being approached by visitors to use their facilities.

There didn't appear to have been any consultation with local communities by Visit Wester Ross/North of Scotland Initiative prior to launching the NC500 as an interesting driving experience to motor clubs and organisations through the UK. The general concern about the impact of these increasing traffic volumes on road safety would be raised with the Police when they attended a future Community Council meeting.

**Nanny's parking** – Lynn planned to come to a future meeting to discuss the issue of parking at Nanny's.

## **10. Village signs**

No response yet from Andrew Hunter H.C. Roads Dept.

**11. SCA**

Next meeting Thursday 8th November at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall.

**12. Correspondence****Highland Council**

Notification of proposed road improvement scheme A890 Balnacra.

Consultation on the review of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.

**Scottish Government**

Public consultation of Proposals for Ward Boundaries

**13. Planning Matters**

Nothing to report.

**14. A.O.C.B.****BUTEC and MoD – range proposals**

The local fishermen will contact Richard about the terms in which the Community Council should make representations to MOD.

**The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.**

**Date of next meeting 3rd November at 7.00 p.m.**

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