

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY
COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER,
2012 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT : CM MacRae (Chair) M Jones
J MacKenna (Vice Chair) M MacKenzie
J Sanderson (Vice Chair) J Storie

C Will (Crofters' Rep)
Cllr. A Sinclair
Const. D Morrison
Const. E Logan 2 Residents

APOLOGIES were received from G James & I Matheson

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded by M MacKenzie & M Jones respectively.

Matters arising

- a) Police Matters – The Council will be responsible for putting a removal notice on any abandoned cars at Ceann an Uib. Owners will have their cars removed by the Council if they do not do so themselves within 14 days of the notice.
Four Plockton houses were burgled at the weekend and Police enquiries are in progress. The public are advised to contact the Police if they have any evidence, sightings or hearsay that might help them in their investigations. All are advised to lock doors and windows when they are out. Notices will be displayed in the village. (Action - J MacKenna)
No progress has been made re the burglary at no. 32.
If Kyle Police Station is unmanned when a call is made, the call will be automatically transferred to Portree or Fort William.
- b) Plockton Play Area – no update available. Application for funding can be made once planning approval is obtained.
- c) Burnside – A footpath to the bridge has been constructed. Existing road signs will be moved to the start of the new housing development.
The parent councils of the primary and secondary schools have agreed to submit a combined bid for funding to the Safer Routes to School programme for additional lighting/improvements to this area.
- d) Station Road – Still no progress. The Chairman spoke to Mary Scanlon MSP about this during her recent surgery in Plockton and she has since written to

Alistair Dodds with a request that the Council look into this issue when upgrading local roads.

The Chairman also informed Mary of the problem of fly tipping since the withdrawal of skip provision. She has written to Alistair Dodds requesting the provision of six skips annually, which should prove more cost effective than the Council having to travel from Portree to remove discarded items from the area. Three skips will be provided for the village clean-up on 9th November. Following a third request, Mary has written another letter to Alistair Dodds requesting that local planning applications be made available directly to Plockton. These are currently available only in Kyle of Lochalsh and Dingwall. (Copies of these three letters are available.)

A letter re the poor condition of the road surface in Harbour Street is to be sent to Mark Crowe. (Action – Chairman)

- e) Railway Station – Plockton High School has had some good publicity in the press and television for their station project. The planned presentation ceremony has been postponed till 2013.
- f) Fish Farm South of Airigh-Drishaig – Cllr Sinclair explained application details and that the main reason for the refusal of this application was the existence of the unspoilt coastline. The CC agreed with many of the points made by Jane Buckley in her letter and a reply from Alistair Dodds clarifying these had been received. Cllr Sinclair advised that comments on planning applications should always be made immediately, expressing interest, as there is normally no more than a week granted for this.
- g) Sewage Problem at Nessun Dorma – this is ongoing. However, drains are currently being cleared weekly on a trial basis.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Budget Consultation meeting in Lochcarron was not well attended (7). CC members will submit their own completed questionnaires as it would be virtually impossible to combine all opinions and suggestions in one for all. Deadline is 31st October.
- b) Peggy Moore's bequest – It was agreed to spend part of this on a commemorative seat for the village. (Action – Chairman)
- c) Catchment areas of Plockton & Portree High Schools – it was agreed that South Skye area would be included in Plockton High School's catchment area.

- d) Hearing Resource Centre in Dornie – a request had been made to Hearing Support, Dingwall for notices and leaflets for local notice boards. These have now been received.

3. AOB

- a) The path to the War Memorial would be cleared in the spring of 2013
- b) No progress re the NTS Craft House in Cooper Street.
- c) There has been no reply from Matt O’Neill re the railway fencing at Duirinish.
- d) The hazardous area at the bottom of Strathie still needs to be addressed.
(Action - Chairman)
- e) The high edges on the Achmore road are still in need of attention.
(Action – chairman)
- f) Sandy McVarish is to be contacted re the deteriorating condition of the wall at the car park. (Action – Chairman)
- g) A big “thank you” is extended to all those who gave of their time to cut back the greenery in the car park.
- h) The hedges round the Primary School still need to be cut back. The Chairman will contact Niall MacKinnon.
- i) Cllr Sinclair gave a short talk on constitution boundaries and proposed changes. The planned reduction in the number of MPs in London would mean the loss of one constitution, that of Charles Kennedy. There is a current consultation re boundary proposals.
- j) The Church of Scotland has applied for planning permission for the construction of two semi-detached houses in the garden ground or The Park adjoining the Old Manse. Ms Annabel Nicolson, resident of the Old Manse, had sent a copy of her letter of objection to all CC members prior to the meeting, requesting that the CC consider their views on the matter. Members were unanimous in their disapproval of any proposed development here. This is the only remaining open space left in the village, used both by the primary school and the community. The Church, the Old Manse and The Park, which lie within a Conservation Area, are of historic and architectural significance and should remain unchanged. Moreover, the area in question is not included in the Local Plan of 1999. A letter of objection will be sent to the planning department stating reasons in more detail. (Action – J MacKenna)

- k) A donation of £20 had been received from Tristan Aitchison, a screen-writer, who had used Plockton as the setting for part of a film made earlier this year.
- l) The field drain at Ard a' Mhorbhair is to be upgraded. A copy of the proposed plan was made available by C Will. The Chairman will contact Peter Gordon of Scottish Water for more details as this work could affect the proposed Play Area.
- m) Stromeferry Crossing – a questionnaire was made available to the residents of the Lochcarron community, giving them the opportunity to air their views on the way forward. The CC area was not included in this, so a request is to be made to Rhoda Grant MSP that the community be included in any such exercise in the future. (Action – J MacKenna)
- n) Loch Achnahinich – More prominent signage is required to advise the public that this loch is used for drinking water and that dogs should not be allowed to swim here. (Chairman to contact Peter Gordon, S W)

4. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 7.30pm in Plockton Village Hall.

J MacKenna
Acting Secretary