

Plockton and District Community Council meeting

11 December 2017

Present

Mary Jane Campbell (Chair), Thomas MacLennan, Alexander MacKenzie, Alex Townend, Catherine Will (Crofting Representative), Jane Camp

Apologies

Tristan Southall, Morag MacKenzie, Iain Turnbull, Councillor Isabelle Campbell, Ewan Cameron.

Minutes of 09 October 2017

Adopted without amendments

Planning Matters

Nothing noted on the Highland Council site.

Action: AT will look into getting regular updates from the Highland Council Planning Dept.

Finance

AT reported on PCC finances. The gazebo for events was paid out of the Special Projects account. This cost will be shared with the Village Hall Committee. The grass cutting and Hall costs have been paid out of the treasurers account

Balances:	Special project	£4342
	Fireworks	£2950
	Treasurers	£1605

Action: Secretary to write to Village Hall committee and request £500.00, half the cost of the Gazebo.

Roads

The meeting with Mr. D. MacLeod took place and the report was circulated. At the meeting Mr. Macleod advised the committee that no work would begin until spring. MJC reported that:

- Mr. Macleod has requested stone repair work quote for the areas identified in the meeting.
- The Duncraig junction is to be repaired urgently.
- Repairwork on the cattle grid to Port An Eorna has been forwarded to the contractor.
- The issues of water and leaves gathering outside Margaret Sutherland's house is the responsibility of the Council's Housing Department.

A discussion ensued regarding the state of Innes Street, Charlie MacRae had expressed his concerns. It was agreed that while the committee could meet with representatives, individuals can also report issues and faults in the roads. This is important as the more individuals that report the more likely the department will address the issue. This can be done at the following link:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems

Or by calling: **Roads, flooding and street lighting 01349 886601**

AT reported that the lack of ditches on the Achnandarach Road means that water is running freely down the road and has been freezing making it impassable and also wearing away the road surface. There is a similar issue on Wee Strathie.

AM enquired about the village grit spreader. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that AM would explore the condition and possible repair of this to enable it to be used by any volunteers wishing to spread salt and grit on pavements in the village.

Action: Members of the village and surrounding area are encouraged to report roads issues directly to the Council on the link provided or by phone at the above number.

Septic Tanks

There was nothing to report at this time as SEPA will get back to MJC regarding enforcement by January 2018.

Action: MJC to follow up with SEPA.

Village Consultation

The committee discussed the good work that TS has done on this project. A follow-up meeting in the New Year to discuss the findings with representatives of local committees and groups needs to be scheduled. It was agreed this should be 15th January 2018.

Action: TS to communicate with groups and advise them of the date and support the meeting.

Paddock

The issue of the Paddock for sale by the Church of Scotland was discussed. MJC read out the letter received in response to the letter from the PCC. The Harbour Assoc is unable to purchase the land as it has no maritime connection.

Action: This issue to be included in the community consultation meeting on 15th January 2018.

Street Lights

The new lights have not yet been connected to the power source.

Fireworks

Two volunteers have agreed to co-ordinate and organise the food and drink at the future firework events. AT agreed to take on the organising of the food float and the donation buckets. The Plockton Inn maintains a donation bucket on the bar and collected a generous amount.

AT reported that the collection buckets on the day collected £1065.00.

The food sales grossed £1269.00

It was agreed that the charity group running the food and drink would receive 20% of the food sales.

The current liability arrangements that were in place for last firework event will still be in place for the Hogmanay event, but after this the PCC will need to have a licence to provide and run a firework display.

Action: AT will write a cheque to the appropriate group for £250.00. The Secretary will write to all the local clubs for their annual donation to the fireworks.

Action: TM to talk to others about the licence and the forms to be completed.

AOCB

The committee expressed its disappointment at the decision by the Royal Bank of Scotland to close the Kyle Branch. There is the mobile branch, but this only visits the village once a week. This means that many villagers may experience difficulties in attending to their banking needs.

The Chair reported that the community clean up was a success. There was discussion regarding the next clean up in April and plans to include clearing gorse from around the village and on the island.

The Chair advised the committee that NTS does not allow memorials to be erected, and it also does not allow internment on its property. It has now restricted the spreading of ashes as these are altering the ecology of remote areas.

The Chair contacted the NTS regarding the agreement with crofters and reported that NTS will no longer finance the restriction of cattle grazing in the village and, as the crofters' rights to common grazing are enshrined in law, it will be up to the crofters to decide how to deal with this in the future. The Chair also advised the committee that it is the responsibility of the householders to ensure their property is stock proof.

The Chair has a request for a donation from the Plockton High School Garden. The garden has also applied to Aviva to their community project funding. The committee agreed to donate £100 from the special projects fund.

The Chair has a request for a donation from Friends of the Kyle Line to support promotion of the train line between Kyle and Strathcarron in particular. The committee agreed to donate £250 from the special projects fund.

AM advised the committee that the Scottish Government has issued a consultation paper on the Proposed Sites to Host Inshore Fisheries Pilots 2017. "The aim of this initiative is to explore alternative approaches to managing inshore fisheries, in order to ensure our coastal communities are making the most of our waters." The consultation opened 30th November 2017 and closes 22nd February 2018. AM reported that part of the pilot will include the banning of trawling at two sites. The committee agreed to support comments and encourage others in the area to also submit comments to encourage this area to be one of the pilot sites. The consultation can be found at the link below.

<https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/inshore-fisheries-pilots-2017/>

The committee was advised that it is reported by a member of the community that Marine Harvest in Kyleakin is not employing local cleaners. The committee felt this was worth investigating as the company had said they would employ local people.

TM reported that the council had started installing central heating in Dan MacPhee's house, but work has stopped and not been completed resulting in no heating available in this very cold weather, apart from an open fire.

Action: MJC to contact the Housing Assoc or the Council to investigate and ensure work is completed in a timely manner.

It was reported that the red phone box beside the causeway is in need of painting.

Action: the secretary to write to BT regarding this.

Meetings for 2018

22nd January 2018

12th March 2018

23rd April 2018

11th June 2018 AGM

10th September 2018

22nd October 2018

10th December 2018

Next PCC meeting: 22nd January 2018