

Iain Turnbull, NTS, felt that the next step should be the measuring of the requisite land, and confirmed that the Trust's preferred arrangement would be that of drawing up a lease rather than the sale of the land.

The CC agreed to provide the services of the Village Officer to keep the area tidy.

Dr. and Mrs. Morgan requested that, as their property borders this area, when a drainage system is installed their land should be taken into consideration with no adverse effect and that they should be kept informed of the drainage plans. It was hoped that the whole area would benefit. *Cllr. Campbell informed the meeting that the HC had £2m set aside for drainage problems, and the hope was expressed that this project would benefit.*

It was agreed that outline Planning should be applied for as soon as possible.

- c) Footpath between Nos.10 and 11 Harbour Street – A quote of £1,500 for this work has been received.
- d) Plans for Extension to No.20 Harbour Street – These plans have been passed and the work is now out to tender.
- e) Roads Dept. –

Concern was expressed at the lack of action regarding rectifying safety issues relating to the Burnside development and the railway bridge area. A letter from Niall MacKinnon, Head Teacher of Plockton Primary School, highlighted concerns for the pupils' safety and also the issue of speeding past the school and requesting consideration being given to the provision of sleeping policemen or an extended 20 mph limit through the village. The question of sleeping policemen, however, is not an option as discussed previously.

A meeting held on 18.2.11. with Gordon MacDonald of HC TEC Services had outlined major issues of concern, and it was then agreed that appropriate signing and road marking to maximize safety on the bridge would be facilitated. These propositions have not, however, been furthered.

Cllr. Campbell has approached the Chairperson of Plockton High School Board requesting that it should make an official approach to the Roads Dept. to further action, and agreed to follow this up. It was hoped that an approach from the Board would help progress this worrying situation.

The real need for additional streetlighting in the Burnside area remains a problem, lack of funding being quoted as the reason for this not being installed. It was felt the police should be asked to pressurise for this.

The ongoing problem with the extremely poor state of the unadopted Station Rd. remains unresolved, and it was hoped that when the Roads Dept. is carrying out proposed work on the airstrip road they will be able to put some adequate fill into Station Rd. *Cllr. Campbell to follow up.*

With regard to the airstrip, following a query to TEC Services it was noted that the HC leases this to PDG Helicopters at a cost of £1000 pa, whilst the cost to the HC for Public Liability insurance is between £5000 and £6000 pa.

The poor condition of Harbour St. is noted and it is hoped this can be rectified.

The Chairman has contacted Roads Dept. highlighting the potholes on the Plockton/Kyle road and the fast deteriorating state of the Plockton/Balmacara road as a result of the ongoing Lochcarron bypass diversion

Duirinish Station road is still in need of attention. Duirinish bridge has been inspected, and although there are a number of non-structural maintenance issues, it was felt the bridge was generally in good condition with no recommendation to add the structure to the HC's programme of Bridge Construction and Traffic Loading. The road to Barleyport is also in need of attention.

- f) Achmore Road Closure – Scottish Water has given end of March as the completion time for this work.
- g) Church of Scotland – A letter had been received by the Chairman from Catherine Will suggesting the possibility of the village residents forming a group to buy and maintain the church as a community building to be used also as a church. The general feeling of the CC was the size of the undertaking, and it was felt that as at present the Free Church was hoping to be able to bid for the church if the necessary funding could be raised, the possibility of community involvement should be put on hold and only furthered depending on the situation. The Church of Scotland had agreed to delay the sale for 6 months to give time for the Free Church to raise the money in order to make an offer. This would also give the community time to discuss any possibilities.
- h) Duncraig Castle Trees – Phil di Duca, UPM-Kymmene Corp.(Forestry) confirmed that they would be tidying up the relevant sites at the Castle.

- i) Loch Lundie – The CC was still concerned as to the future of the Loch and the price it will be expected to fetch. The level has now been lowered by 2 metres and the CC will be informed prior to the dam being broken into. The future of the loch would be closely monitored and whether a community buy-out was possible.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Alan Barrow, Rural Surveyor NTS – copy of letter written to Austin Boyle expressing ongoing concern at the need to remove a portacabin and trailer parked on land in Plockton not belonging to the owner.

3. AOB

- a) No suggestions had been received re holding Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the village.
- b) Harbour CIC Management Committee Meeting Minutes confirmed that the sale of the public toilets would be completed by 7 March, and requests for repair quotes had been made. It had been agreed that long term plans for the building should be considered and grant funding sought. The problem of the bad odour emanating from the pontoon area was also being dealt with.
- c) Blythswood would be collecting on 22 March, and no TVs would be accepted after 1 April.
- d) Village Clean-up will be 20 April.
- e) The Ceann an Uib notice board had had to be replaced. Many thanks to Geoff Webster for organising this.
- f) The plans for Duncraig Castle had been passed
- g) There had still been no reply to the letter requesting an update on the situation re the septic tank needed at the Rhu property. The owner of the Cooper St. property informed the meeting that he would shortly be having a tank installed.
- h) A request had been made for the Plockton sign to be placed on the Duirinish side of the Burnside cattle grid, which had previously been asked for 12 months ago, and also that there should be a general sign in this area for all village

amenities rather than so many individual signs in the car park area. It was also suggested that a sign near the bridge should indicate "To Village Centre".

j) NTS Matters – Iain Turnbull :

The NTS is to remove the interpretation panel from the car park area and install a seat between the remaining two stone pillars.

The vandalized open air church sign was to be removed. The replacement solution was still to be resolved.

There had been no final resolution made as to the future of the Cooper St. Craft House, but this was at present under discussion.

The possibility of building on the site below the war memorial (the tin church site) had been looked into several years ago, but housing associations had felt there were too many problems relating to the site.

The overgrown state of the land around the war memorial had been noted by the NTS and it was hoped a working party would be able to carry out this project.

Work would start in April on the Trust Forest Management Plan on the Estate. There will be a community consultation regarding woodland included in the Plan.

A Schools Work Course to promote crofting was to be made available to Plockton High School.

k) The Village Officer would be asked to clear the path to the Brae between Nos. 13 and 14 Harbour Street.

l) There was a length of barbed wire bordering the steps up to the Brae. *Chairman to action.*

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Community Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 16 April 2012 at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall.

Gill James
Secretary

