

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 29 JANUARY  
2013 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT : C.M.MacRae (Chair) I. Matheson  
J. MacKenna (Vice Chair) G. James (Sec/Treas)  
M. Jones C. Will (Crofters' Rep)  
M. MacKenzie Cllr. I. Campbell

G. Sharp (Plockton Primary School Parents Council)

APOLOGIES were received from J. Sanderson and J. Storie..

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded by I. Matheson and J. MacKenna, respectively.

Matters arising :

- a) Police Matters – There was still nothing to report on the recent robberies.
- No reply had yet been received from the HC Roads Engineer regarding the CC's suggestions re proposals to alter Plockton speed limits.
- b) Plockton Play Area - Geoff Forrester, Morrison Construction, had confirmed that the Company would use the spoil material generated from the Scottish Water work carried out in Cooper St. to create a base for the proposed play area and the Playground Sub-Committee had been informed. The Chairman had expressed his thanks and appreciation to Morrison Construction, who confirmed the work would be carried out shortly.
- c) Burnside Area Safety Issue – Graham Sharp representing ,Plockton Primary Parents Council, informed the meeting that the HC Roads Dept.had no objection to an approach being made to Safer Routes for School in order to attain funding to deal with the very real problem of road safety, particularly in the railway bridge area.

To further this project it had been necessary to produce a Safer Routes to School Travel Plan, a draft plan of which Graham Sharp presented to the meeting., the initiatives of which, in order of priority, being as follows :

- The provision of two sets of speed bumps on either side of the approach to the railway bridge to curb the speed of approaching vehicles at an estimated cost of £8000.
- The installation of railway bridge streetlighting. at an estimated cost of £6000.
- Two sets of speed bumps on the west and east of the Primary School entrance gate at an estimated cost of £8000.
- The pupils are already provided with High-Vis jackets and parents should ensure these are always worn.

The CC totally endorses these proposals and expressed its thanks to Graham Sharp and the Parents Council for progressing this initiative. A letter would be sent to Lisa McKelliach, Safer Routes to School Officer, wholly supporting these measures.

- d) Station Road – Mary Scanlon, MSP had approached Network Rail to confirm where responsibility lay for the maintenance of this area, and had been informed that this road had been sold to the then County Council of Ross and Cromarty in 1968,. From that date it would be the Council’s responsibility to cost the works and approach Network Rail for a proportioned amount. The letter stated “*It is not Network Rail’s responsibility to carry out the necessary works. If Network Rail has concerns re the condition of the road, then we would be obliged to contact the local authority to instigate the works*”. The CC felt that if this were the case then due to the extremely poor state of the road, Network Rail should be contacting the HC to carry out the necessary work.
- e) Peggy Moore’s Bequest - The seat, with commemorative plaque, had been purchased at a cost of £930 and was now situated in front of Peggy’s house in Bank Street. The Chairman was thanked for arranging this and it was hoped. her family would be pleased.
- f) Roads – Innes St. and Harbour St. potholes remained major priorities in need of repair work.
  - Dog fouling signs were expected soon. The bin situated near the Craft Shop has been removed.
  - The state of the road past Duirinish Lodge is rapidly deteriorating.
  - Speed bumps at the corner on the northside of Duirinish are a necessary safety measure.

- Sign at Duirinish still needed.

- g) Church of Scotland Glebe – This will be put on the market for sale in February.
- h) Stromeferry Bypass – Iain Matheson has attended the last two meetings, and the Chairman will attend the next one. Certain meeting protocol has to take place before any final decision is made on the way forward.
- i) Ewen Cameron – The CC wished to show its appreciation to Ewen for his major contribution to both Bonfire Night and the New Year Bonfire event and felt he should be recompensed for fuel (£100), together with a meal voucher for The Shores. This would be paid out of the Fireworks Fund.
- j) Church of Scotland – Following a request for clarification from the CC to the General Trustees, a letter had been received from David Robertson, Secretary and Clerk, confirming no final decision had been made with regard to the disposal of the churchyard separately from the church building. However, subsequently, it has been agreed that the churchyard will not be included in any sale and be transferred to the HC. Should, however, the Free Church purchase the building they would need an area of ground around three-quarters of the church, primarily for wheelchair access. The church has still to be put on the open market.
- k) Challenge Fund – The HC has set up this fund which will provide £1,000,000 per annum for community projects currently provided by local authorities, at a lower cost. It was hoped this could be a possible source for helping towards village maintenance.
- l) Village Maintenance – The CC expressed many thanks to the anonymous donor of £500 towards the employment of a Village Officer.

## 2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Following the lodging of a Planning Appeal by Scottish Sea Farms as a result of the HC's refusal of their application for a fish farm to be situated south of Airigh-Drishaig, the HC Reporter had decided to make an accompanied inspection by boat of the site, inviting representatives of interested parties to attend. The CC wished to make it clear that it is wholly supportive of the local fishermen's objections to the proposal, and the Chairman had written to Scottish Sea Farms to that effect.
- b) Jo Scott, Heritage Planning and Interpretation, has been employed to produce a Visitor Experience Plan for Balmacara for the Forestry Commission, and CC members have contributed their comments to questions asked, i.e. re what contribution the woodland makes towards tourism in the area; what functions

could it provide in the future; possible community role in management; any key improvements and any other issues regarding Forestry Commission woodlands in the area. The resultant comments will be forwarded to Jo Scott.

- c) HC Community Council Scheme Evaluation 2013. It was felt nothing had changed in relation to this.
3. AOB
- a) The rubbish bin had been removed from below Station House resulting in a litter problem. *Chairman to action.*
  - b) A request from a local resident had been received asking if the PSBSC could arrange for the masts of the boats near the green shed to be brought down. A letter would be sent to the Secretary.
  - c) The Duirinish/Duncraig railway fencing is in need of repair.

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, 11 March 2013 at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall.**

Gill James  
Secretary











