

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 17  
SEPTEMBER 2013 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT :	C.M.MacRae (Chair)	G. James (Sec/Treas)
	M. Jones	C. Will (Crofters' Rep)
	I. Matheson	Const. S. MacKenzie
	M. MacKenzie	
	J. Sanderson	R. Bain (Ward Manager)
	J. Storie	

1 Resident

APOLOGIES were received from J. MacKenna and Cllr. I. Campbell.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Robbie Bain, Wester Ross Ward Manager and Const. MacKenzie and thanking them for their attendance.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM were proposed and seconded by M. Jones and I. Matheson, respectively.

Matters arising

- a) Police Matters – It was noted with satisfaction that instances of petty crime had been considerably down during the summer months compared to previous years. Const. MacKenzie highlighted the meetings being held in the area next week to inform the public of appropriate security and safety measures recommended by the police for property owners, etc, Information on dates and venues has been placed on local notice boards.

It would be appreciated if the police could be informed of the registration numbers of any vehicles which were regarded to be suspicious.

- b) Burnside Safety Issues – The new 20 mph speed limit between Camus An Arhair and Burnside is advertised about which comments can be made until 7 October. Comments on the proposed safety measures made by members of the CC had been forwarded to the Roads Dept. but no changes were being made to the present plans.

New street lights had been installed.

The Plockton village sign had yet to be re-sited at the cattle grid at the start of the Burnside development.

- c) Village Play Area – The CC were pleased to know that the plans for the play area have been passed, the request for the entrance gate to be moved having been agreed.
- d) Station Road – A letter had been received by residents of Station Rd. from Jim Holden, Asst. Housing Manager, North, HC, advising them that the HC had obtained prices for re-surfacing Station Road and stating that, whilst the road is owned by the Council, adjacent property owners have maintenance responsibilities for the road detailed in their legal Titles. Subsequently the Council is requesting the property owners to contribute individual shares to the cost of the road's maintenance. It was suggested that individuals may wish to seek solicitor advice.

Previous correspondence related to Scotrail's responsibility for the area up to the Station, and its input.

The Chairman had spoken to Jim Holden expressing the CC's opinion that the cost of the maintenance of the road should no way be the responsibility of the property owners, and it was agreed to write to him stating that, whilst appreciating this road has never been adopted, a considerable length of time has elapsed since the houses were built and in all that time the matter has never been brought to the residents' attention. The CC, therefore, totally supports the tenants in this matter.

- e) Outfalls into the Loch – As there are still two properties without septic tanks the problem remains, several recent complaints having been received. The Chairman had spoken to SEPA who could offer no solution, and it was agreed that photos of cases of evidence of pollution should be sent to them in the hope that some action could be taken.
- f) Village Tidiness – During this summer there have been three people employed for village maintenance, the overall cost being £2200, £1500 of which was donated by Moorings CIC and a private donor, which is much appreciated, the remaining £700 coming from CC funds.

With regard to the ongoing untidy state of Ard a' Mhorair, no progress has been made.

The Chairman had asked Mark Crowe re the HC input into village grass cutting and had been told that the area around the school was its responsibility and would require too much input from the Village Officer..

- g) Village Clean-up – A further village clean-up is arranged for 1 November.  
  
Robbie Bain confirmed that whilst appreciating the request and the need for a recycling plant to possibly be sited at Auchtertyre, there were no plans for this facility at present.
- h) Village Seats and Tables – Still work to be completed. £500 had been received from the HC Discretionary Budget which was much appreciated.
- i) Church of Scotland Glebe – The request for Planning Permission on this land has been withdrawn.
- j) Sale of Church of Scotland – The Free Church were making an offer to purchase. A meeting of interested local parties had also been called to discuss the possibility of a local buy-out to ensure the Church remains within the community.
- k) Stromeferry Bypass – Although there have been no public meetings since April/May Robbie Bain assured the CC that preliminary work was ongoing.
- l) Proposed New Skye Hospital – No further information is available but the CC will be invited to future meetings on the matter.
- m) NTS Craft House, Cooper Street – This is now on the open market for offers over £195,000.
- n) Ward Forums – This will be held at Dornie Hall on Monday, 23 September, when there will be a presentation by the Police and Fire Services on their plans for the area.
- o) Planning Applications – The Chairman had queried the absence of the availability of plans in the local library to be informed that, on a cost basis, these were now only available on the HC web site.
- p) Roads - The Chairman had enquired about the possibility of work being carried out on pavements in a poor condition to be informed by Mark Crowe that, owing to lack of funding, no work had been carried out on these for the past three years in Skye and Lochalsh.

- q) Lochalsh Sports Asscn. Agreement – Meetings had been held with John MacDonald, HC, re improvements to the High School all-weather pitch and some work has been carried out. A query was raised as to why there was no longer a gate by the cattle grid
- r) Dog Litter Bins – Stickers have been placed on the present litter bins requesting owners to put the bags in them. Whilst there are no new bins available it was felt that it would be beneficial if the CC acquired one to be placed on the beach and another at the end of the Brae.
- s) Proposed Steps between 13 and 14 Harbours St. – The owner of No.13 Harbour St. has asked that there should not be steps between the two houses.

## 2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Requests had been received for a Bank ATM to be made available in the village It was agreed to write to the Royal Bank to ask if this could be provided.
- b) A letter had been received from Duncan Ferguson, Rector of Plockton High School, announcing his intention to retire from his position at Christmas. The CC wished to express its appreciation for all his invaluable service to the school and the village and a letter would be sent to him expressing these sentiments.

## 3. AOB

- a) The Horticultural Society had kindly offered to organise the Bonfire Night again this year. This offer was much appreciated.
- b) The seat at Dall in memory of Christopher Gillies is to be replaced by the family.
- c) Two perches are to be removed from the loch to be replaced by a more modern construction.
- d) Jan Storie informed the meeting that she would have to stand down from Community Council as she would be away from the village for the majority of the next 12 months at university in Glasgow and would, therefore, not be available for meetings. The Chairman expressed the CC's appreciation of her last 6 years as a Community Councillor and the work she had carried out in that office.

This resignation necessitated a co-option and the Chairman had spoken to the next-in-line from the election results and George Glasgow had agreed to be co-opted. This would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

- e) The continuing deteriorating state of Sgeir Buidhe was commented on and it is very much hoped that progress will be made to complete these building works and that the portakabin on the road will be removed as soon as possible.
  - f) The Duirinish sign has still not been replaced and the bridge has recently incurred damage. *Chairman to action.*
  - g) Complaints have been received about the dangerously sharp edges on the Achmore Rd. causing vehicles to regularly go into the ditch.
- 4) DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
- . The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29 October, 2013, at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall.









