

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL on
MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2015 at 7.30 pm.**

PRESENT : C. M. MacRae (Chair)
M. Jones (Vice Chair)
G. Glasgow
J. Sanderson

M. MacKenzie
G. James (Sec/Treas)
C. Will (Crofters' Rep)
Cllr. I. Campbell

**APOLOGIES were received from J. MacKenna, I. Matheson and Constable
Cameron MacRae.**

1. Minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded by M. Jones and G. Glasgow, respectively. It was noted that the CC's AGM was scheduled for 22 June and not the 15 September as stated in the Minutes.

- a) Police Matters – Inspector Lynda Allan, Portree Constabulary, had apologised as she had not been able to attend the meeting as intended.
- b) Village Playpark – A copy of the Minutes for Friends of Plockton Playpark meeting had been received and a Coffee Morning arranged for 28 March to be superseded by the AGM.
- c) War Memorials – Work is due to commence this week, weather permitting.
- d) Roads – The general deteriorating state of the roads and pavements was highlighted, potholes being a major problem, including Duirinish and the ones in the vicinity of the new speed bumps approaching the railway bridge. Donnie MacLeod of HC TEC Services had inspected the area and noted the problems. It was hoped work would start this month.

Mark Crowe, TEC Services, on 26 February had informed the CC that blocked gulleys would be cleared within 3 weeks. No progress as yet.

Requests had been made that dropped down kerbs in the village to facilitate wheelchairs would be extremely beneficial and it was agreed this suggestion should be followed up with Keep Clear areas being the most suitable options.

The overgrown whins bordering the road between Duirinish and Plockton were in need of cutting back.

The CC expressed its grave concern at the ongoing excessive deterioration of the infrastructure in general, due to lack of funding..

- e) All-weather Pitch – A meeting had been held but as there were no representatives present from the HC it had not been possible to further matters. Contacts have since been acquired.

- f) Garden Area of Railway Station – Following a request from the CC to the High School for the tidying-up of this area by the pupils, clarification has been received from the Transport Police that the responsibility for this was entirely with the pupils and not the school. As those who were originally involved have left and no successors appointed, the Rector has arranged that the Support for Learning pupils, who carry out some horticultural activities, undertake this work. This is much appreciated.
- g) Strome ferry Bypass – An invitation to a meeting updating the Options Appraisal to be held at the Strathcarron Hotel on 31 March has been received, at which the Chairman and I. Matheson will represent the CC.
- h) Skips – These will be ordered for 24 April for Plockton, Duirinish and Drumbuie.
- i) Keep Scotland Beautiful – An application by the CC for a Community Grant had been turned down.
- j) Ward Forum – The Chairman had attended this meeting in Plockton Village Hall on 22 January when the Ward Police Plan, Ward Fire Service Plan and West Highlands & Islands Development Plan were discussed..

2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Following the receipt of details of an historic case of Lyme's Disease being brought to the CC's attention, a long discussion took place, and it was agreed that a suitable poster/leaflet highlighting this tic-related problem and how to deal with it, should be sought, to be placed on notice boards with copies being made available for businesses, etc.
- b) Details of a meeting held on the Wester Ross Biosphere Project recognising Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve as one of the world's first Biosphere Reserves. I. Matheson had attended this meeting.
- c) West Highland & Islands Local Development Plan – Call for Sites and Ideas. This had been circulated throughout the village and the Chairman had received the following ideas/requests, which would be forwarded to the Highland Council for inclusion in their Local Development Plan ::

Harbour CIC is progressing a project to extend the main car park towards the south west to provide facilities for the fishermen of Plockton as none are available at present.. It is planned that the extension would also allow for the storage of visitors' trailers in the summer, which presently occupy 12 spaces in the car park. It was suggested also that if funding could be secured a building extending out from Bank St. level with a structurally reinforced turfed roof could provide a seating area/viewpoint.

The reclamation of the area at the new pontoon/pier (Cooper Street) between the car park wall and sea, and green shed. This would create a space to build a storage facility for the fishermen for bait, diesel, etc. and subsequently free the pier and grassy area for tourist/recreational use.

With regard to affordable housing, it was suggested the NTS area below the War Memorial should be considered for development.

A query was raised as to what happened to the proposal that a small businesses area should be sited behind the High School.

It was noted the closing date for the Call for Sites and Ideas is the end of March www.highland.gov.uk/whildp

- c) Donnie MacLeod, Acting Community Works Officer, regarding a Burnside resident's complaint about the ambiguous nature of the green area on the railway bridge where the signage does not make clear the usage. The CC agreed that this was a problem and there should be a better solution. However, as the new signage provision had been agreed and directed by the Safer Routes to Schools, it would be difficult to resolve. It had been suggested the resident should contact the Safer Routes to School Officer personally.
- d) Confirmation had been received that Kyle Service Point would remain open, but it was noted, with regret, that both Lochcarron and Broadford would be closing..
- e) The proposal by Transport Scotland for a speed limit on a length of the A8 has now been withdrawn.
- f) A letter had been received from the owner of the Old Manse regarding the Planning Application for houses on the Old Manse glebe and expressing real concern at the underlying problems connected with access, with restricted sight lines being a potential danger. It was agreed that as these potential problems remain unanswered, the CC would write to the Planning Officer and HC Tec Services to enquire if the Senior Roads Officer had yet visited the site (as promised) and for feedback to be supplied.

3. AOB

- a) An offer had been received from the Woodland Trust to supply trees.
- b) The greenery on the edges of Bank St. was again in need of cutting back and it was hoped to gather a group of volunteers to carry out this work.

4. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday,, 12 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall.

