

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON 19 APRIL 2010.

PRESENT : C.M. MacRae (Chairman) M. MacKenzie
J. MacKenna (Vice Chair) I. Matheson
G. Glasgow G.R. Webster
K. Leiper G. James (Sec/Treas)
J.D.F. MacDonald C. Will (Crofters Rep.)
Cllr. A. Sinclair
Const.R. Macrae (Kyle Police)

5 Residents

APOLOGIES were received from J. Storie.

On opening the Meeting, the Chairman wished to clarify the fact that members of the public present at a CC meeting should only be able to provide input when invited to, and not enter into the general discussion of the Council.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting were proposed and seconded by J. MacKenna and G.R. Webster respectively.

Matters arising

- a) Police Matters – The Chairman welcomed Const. MacRae to the meeting.
- It was decided, following a discussion the Chairman had had with the Chair of Broadford Residents' Watch, that at present there was no necessity for such an organisation being formed in Plockton, and that residents do already provide relevant information on cases of vandalism, etc. Const. MacRae confirmed that the Police were grateful to receive any such information.
 - It was felt that instances of vandalism had greatly diminished since culprits of previous cases had been identified and reprimanded.
 - The Plockton Harbour CIC was still progressing the idea of installing CCTV on the Car Park pending a final NTS decision on the future of the garages, which at present the NTS were proposing to retain. Alternative siting would be identified.
 - There had been a lessening of the litter problem, and it was hoped that this trend would continue.

- b) Ward Forum – This was held in Ullapool on 12 April, the next one scheduled for 21 June in Lochcarron Village Hall. The promised £500 from the Discretionary Budget had been received and three new seats purchased, with present ones being refurbished. The location of the new seats had yet to be decided and it was suggested one of these should be situated on the railway station, although it was felt that this was the remit of Scotrail.
- c) Roads Dept. –
- The CC had written to Charles Kennedy MP and J.F. Munro MSP, with regard to the ever-deteriorating condition of the roads, further exacerbated by the extreme winter weather conditions experienced. J.F. Munro had received a letter from Neil Gillies, HC Dir.of Transport, who confirmed that patching works were being carried out on the Plockton/Durinish stretch of road, and that the structural maintenance programme for 2010/11 will shortly be put together and that the works programmed for this areas will then be notified to the CC.
 - The CC felt that the temporary filling-in of potholes was a pointless exercise, re-surfacing being the only solution.
 - Real concern was expressed at the deteriorating state of the dip in the surface of Duirinish bridge, which it was felt was in danger of becoming a major problem.
- d) Plockton Railway Station – It was confirmed that the public shelter would remain open, and it was noted that Scotrail had cleared the litter. Repair work had been carried out on the Duncraig Station platform, but to a poor standard. *Chairman to follow up.* It was noted that the siting of the new sign for Duncraig Station was poorly positioned when coming from one direction.
- e) Village Play Area – No reply had yet been received from John Ritchie, HC Principal Officer of Education, regarding a suggestion that the grassed area adjacent to the Primary School could be considered for such a project.
- f) Plockton Car Park – In reply to a request for an update on the progress of this project, John Leiper, Secretary of the Harbour CC had confirmed that little progress had been made as, having carried out a Risk Assessment, various safety improvements had taken priority which had made serious inroads into finances and time.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the lack of progress in the last 12 months-plus since it was first initiated. G.R. Webster highlighted the

delays caused by awaited NTS decisions on the future of the garages, and also the ongoing negotiations with the HC to purchase and subsequently refurbish the public toilets.

As there had been no real advance in producing plans for the project, it would be much appreciated if more detailed plans could be drawn up.

- g) Loch Lundie - A reply to the CC queries re Loch Lundie had been received from Joanna Peebles of Scottish Water, one of which was to ask why the CC had not been informed in 2006 with regard to the plans for the loch. The disappointing reply was to the effect that it is not Scottish Water's policy to inform CC's of what their intentions are for their assets. The estimated cost to decommission the loch is £85,000.00.
- h) Housing –
 - At present there have only been 6 applications for the 9 Shared Equity properties on Burnside. With regard to the allocation of Burnside properties, John Lamont, Development Officer, L&S Housing Asscn., had stated in a letter "I am unable to discuss specific cases with a third party as this will infringe confidentiality under the Data Protection Act 2003".
 - The Highland Housing Register had produced an Allocations Policy on which Jan Storie had made relevant comments.
 - It was confirmed that the Church of Scotland Glebe had been taken out of the Local Plan, and therefore could not be sold by the church for housing.
- i) Pontoon Ownership – The legalities involved in this process had still to be looked into.
- j) Tigh Beag Plans – In reply to the CC's letter to the Directorate for Planning expressing concern that owing to the late arrival of the Reporter on site some of the interested parties were not present, it was confirmed that the Reporter cannot justify a repeat site inspection and that his report is approaching completion.
- k) Village Clean-up – This took place, as arranged, on 16 April. Many thanks to Plockton Primary School for all their assistance and to those who helped in the evening.
- l) Duncraig Castle – The meeting was informed by the owner that plans for a stone wall bordering Duncraig Square had been submitted, Planning having requested that the proposed wall be lower.

- m) Buckies Pier – Graham Sharp had now completed approx. 90% of the work, which was much appreciated, and it was agreed to give him a £100 voucher.
- n) Scottish Water – Disappointment was expressed at the failure of Scottish Water to carry out the necessary repair work on the road at both Frithard Rd. and Cooper St., and also on the overflow pipe opposite 36 Harbour St. A letter of complaint would be sent.
- o) Repairs to the Causeway – These were expected to be commenced very shortly.
- p) Hydro-Electric Transformers – This work was scheduled to take place on 22 April.
- q) Sgeir Buidhe and 12 Harbour St. – The owner of these properties was present at the meeting, an email having just been received from his Planning Consultants confirming progress was being made to further the necessary work on these houses, both of which had for some considerable time remained untouched and in real need of renovation completion. As considerable time had elapsed since Planning details had been resolved, it was hoped that progress could now be made.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Donald Kennedy, S&L Access Officer, re Core Path Signage, CC comments having been noted.
- b) NHS Highland re Skye & Lochalsh Services Reference Group meeting to be held on 10 May, 2.00 pm at Mackinnon Country House Hotel.
- c) Role description for Members of Voluntary Sector Service Providers serving on the Main Committees of the Community Health Partnerships in NHS Highland.
- d) Review of CC's - 2nd Phase.

4. AOB

- a) Charles Kennedy MP would be holding a meeting in Plockton Village Hall on 26 April at 11.00 am.
- b) PSBSC were planning an Open Day on 15 May in the Village Hall.
- c) Lynne Metcalfe, who performed the duties of Village Officer last season has

expressed her willingness to carry out similar duties this year, which comprised of approx. 10 hrs. per week. As there is no HC finance available for this service it was agreed that the matter of raising the required funding would be discussed at the next CC meeting. The amount paid to the Village Officer last year amounted to £1458.74.

- f) Concern was expressed at the deteriorating state of Ard a'Mhorair, and it would be much appreciated if this area could be tidied up before another year's growth took its' toll.
- e) Cllr. Sinclair suggested that an up-to-date Financial Report should be included on every CC agenda and this was agreed.

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be the AGM and will be held on Monday, 7 June 2010, at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall.