MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER, 2011 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: C.M.MacRae (Chair) I. Matheson

J. MacKenna J. Storie K. Leiper G.R. Webster

J.D.F. MacDonald G. James (Sec/Treas)

Cllr. I. Campbell Const. B. Chalmers

3 Residents

The Chairman opened by welcoming everybody to the final meeting of the present, outgoing Community Council.

**APOLOGIES** were received from G. Glasgow and M. MacKenzie.

### 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded by K. Leiper and G. Webster, respectively.

# **Matters arising**

- a) Well North Kally Leiper reported on progress, walks having taken place twice in the last three weeks. These walks were programmed to take place on Mondays at 2.15 pm. the initial response having been good.
- b) Police Matters It had been reported that the wing mirros had been removed from the cars of two visitors to The Haven Hotel. A police investigation was ongoing.
  - Const. Chalmers requested that people be vigilant as there had been several instances recently of the theft of metal in the area.
- c) Roads Dept. Resurfacing work in Duirinish was about to be commenced. With regard to the proposed layby parking facility in Duirinish there had been one objection to this proposal . Planning permission is awaited.
- d) Ward Forum The main topic at the Ullapool forum was Community Trust Development.
- e) National Trust Matters Iain Turnbull, NTS, in reply to having been asked if it was possible for the NTS to release an area of land on Ard a'Mhorair for a village play area, expressed his doubts as to this being the best location as the area is

liable to flooding and is very prominent. The CC felt that flooding was not a problem. Mr. Turnbull confirmed he would pass this request "down the line" for attention.

With regard to the proposed improvements to the footpath between Nos. 10 and 11 Harbour St., the NTS expressed its wish to have final approval of the specification for the works. The CC proposed this work should be carried out and a quote was awaited.

It was suggested that the owner of 20 Harbour St. would be asked to clarify the plans for his extension with regard to the effect on the access between properties 19 and 20.

- f) Housing .With regard to the possibility of obtaining funding towards safety-related streetlighting in the Burnside area, Cllr. Campbell confirmed that there would be no money available from the "Safer Roads to School" Fund until April. Cllr. Campbell would ask the Plockton High School Board to further an application for assistance from this fund.
- g) Car Park Public Toilets Harbours CIC had purchased the toilets for the sum of £1.00 from the HC, who would be paying the legal fees. John Leiper, Harbours CIC Secretary and Geoff Webster would be progressing possible funding sources.
- h) Plockton Library It was confirmed that the library will remain open in the Village Hall until at least 2014.under a Charitable Trust but still run by the Highland Council. Cllr. Campbell's contribution to this resolution was much appreciated; also the co-operation of the Village Hall Committee.
- i) Skips It was agreed to organise two village clean-ups next year in April and September.
- j) Raw Sewage A reply had not yet been received from the owner of the remaining property in Rhu still without a septic tank.
- k) Installation of New Water Pipe The Chairman had been in contact with the Chief Engineer of Works and Joanna Peebles, Scottish Water, and is awaiting an update on the works. There is a possibility of the work being extended into the New Year. Concern was expressed at the effect that this project was having on businesses in the locality.
- 1) Possible Sale of the Church of Scotland The Free Church had approached

the Church of Scotland with a request that the church should remain open and the Free Church continue to use and maintain it. They were informed, however, that the matter was in the hands of the National Trustees of the Church of Scotland. The CC wished to express their disappointment at this decision and would write to the Clerk of the Church of Scotland to that effect.

- m) Camper Van Access to Harbour St. It was felt the sign was not in the best position and this would be rectified.
- n) Duncraig Castle The owners of Duncraig Castle were submitting a Planning Application to the HC for the demolition of the modern teaching block with a view to replacing it with a courtyard-style development, comprising garages and a single apartment, the garages to house machinery required for the maintenance of the grounds. The proposed building would be constructed in stone in keeping with the castle and a slate roof. The present CC was unanimous in its support of this proposal and wished the owners every success with the plans.
- o) Community Council Election Results would be known 17/18 November.
- p) Bonfire Night Many thanks were expressed to the Primary School Parents Council for its part in the running of this very successful event, and also to all those who helped with the bonfire and fireworks. Thanks were also recorded to all the Clubs and organizations who kindly donated to the cost of the fireworks.
- q) Duirinish Sign This has still not been replaced.
- r) Overhead Costs for Election of new CC's The Chairman had contacted the HC Chief Executive to enquire as to the cost of the administration of this election, and was informed that no finite figure was available.

## **2.** CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Joanna Peebles, Scottish Water, re Loch Lundie project. SW now in process of selecting contractor with a proposed initial start date mid-November..
- b) Information received re Round Britain event, comprising 50 cars, 50 powerboats and 50 light aircraft planning to stop in Kyle on Monday, 25 June 2012.
- c) Iain Turnbull, NTS, re S&L Environment Forum, NTS and Scottish Crofting Federation conference re the future support for crofting agriculture to be held in Plockton on 12 December.
- d) An anonymous letter had been received by the CC re a planning matter which it

was felt the CC could not respond to without there being a signatory.

### 3. AOB

- a) A snow clearer had been purchased for the village.
- b) The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the Harbours CIC plans to extend the village car park had been put on hold for the foreseeable future.
- c) It was suggested that the material skimmed from the road through Duirinish could possibly be used on Station Road potholes. *Chairman to action*.
- d) Following fireworks being let off by visitors near the playing fields, live rockets were found, constituting a danger.

Geoff Webster, having loyally served the CC for 36 years was standing down and wished to thank everybody for all their support.

Thanks were expressed by Iain Matheson to the Chairman and Secretary for their work and seconded by the members.

The Chairman wished to record many thanks to Geoff Webster for his excellent 36 years of service, and also thanks to the Secretary, members of the CC and Cllr. Campbell for their support and assistance. A small gift as a token of appreciation was presented to Geoff Webster.

### 4. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the first meeting of the newly-elected Community Council, chaired by Cllr. Campbell, and held on Tuesday, 13 December 2011 at 7.30pm in Plockton Village Hall.