Plockton & District Community Council

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held in Plockton Village Hall on Tuesday 13th December 2011

Present: Councillor Biz Campbell Iain Matheson

Charlie M MacRae June Sanderson

Joy MacKenna Morag MacKenzie

Mike Jones Jan Storie

3 Residents

1. Councillor Campbell welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies.

2. Election of Officers: There were two nominations for chairperson –

Joy MacKenna – proposed by Charlie MacRae & seconded by June Sanderson Charlie MacRae – proposed by Joy MacKenna & seconded by Jan Storie

Following a ballot, Charlie MacRae was duly elected as chairman.

It was intimated that Gill James had very kindly agreed to continue to act as secretary/treasurer for the CC, as before, and this was unanimously accepted. However, because of some changes to the CC constitution, it is now necessary for two elected members to fulfil the roles of secretary and treasurer in an official capacity, albeit in name only. There were further proposals for two positions of Vice Chair to satisfy this requirement, although Gill James will continue to perform the duties of secretary/treasurer.

Joy MacKenna (Finance) – prop. by Charlie MacRae & sec. by Jan Storie June Sanderson (Administration) – prop. by Charlie MacRae & sec. by Iain Matheson

These proposals were unanimously accepted, but until the new constitution is scrutinised by all members, these roles will be temporary and non-executive until confirmed at the next full meeting.

It was suggested that we continue to have a member of the local Grazings Committee attend the meetings as a liaison officer, and Catherine Will was duly proposed by Morag MacKenzie and seconded by Iain Matheson. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

3. Charlie MacRae thanked Councillor Campbell and took over as Chairman. He expressed appreciation to former members Geoff Webster, John MacDonald, George Glasgow & Kally Leiper for their input and all their hard work over the years. He then welcomed new members Mike Jones and June Sanderson & wished them well.

- 4. Date of next meeting Tuesday 28th February (**PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE**)
- 5. Minutes of the last meeting on 8.11.11 were proposed and seconded by I. Matheson and J. MacKenna respectively.

Matters arising

- a) It was agreed to send flowers to Gill James on her return home after her hospitalisation. (C. MacRae)
- b) Road tarring in Duirinish was to begin on Wednesday 14th December.
- c) Plockton Play Area The NTS is happy to explore the possibility of leasing land at Ard a'Mhorair rather than selling it, as it would be easier to obtain approval for this. It was proposed that the Plockton Playgroup take this forward, although it was recognised that numbers were small at present and the CC would be willing to support them if required. The chairman will enquire about the cost of a lease and report back.
- d) There is still no price quoted for the footpath between nos. 10 and 11 Harbour Street.
- e) Plans for the property at 20 Harbour Street The Community Council has had a full discussion with the Grazings Committee and both bodies have been supportive of these plans. However, the existing access rights (acknowledged by all parties including the owners) preclude the sale of any access land adjacent to the property, unfortunately. On a more positive note, right of way laws should in no way inhibit the progressing of these plans. (Chairman to communicate with the owners.)
- f) Road Safety A letter had been received from Niall MacKinnon, Head Teacher of Plockton Primary School, regarding the school's concern re cars failing to slow down sufficiently whilst passing the school, especially at the start and end of the school day. Mr MacKinnon's letter is to be forwarded to Gordon MacDonald, TECS, and the Police. With regard to the Burnside road safety matter, Councillor Campbell has already spoken to the Plockton High School Parent Council which will take this forward. There have been numerous complaints about road safety at Burnside, but there has been no further discussion since February of this year. Members expressed a wish for a speed restriction of 20 mph for the whole village.
- g) Achmore Road Closure A letter was received from Gordon MacDonald advising the community that a further extension to the closure of the Duirinish-Achmore road had been applied for. While the road will remain open from 23rd December 9th January, it will be closed again for a further ten weeks, four weeks more than the original extension application. This is to allow for completion of works and to ensure against any further weather-related delays, especially for resurfacing work. Apologies were expressed for the frustration this will cause, but there is a silver lining to this cloud. A total of 4.5 km of road will be completely resurfaced.
- h) Achmore Road A letter had been received from Joanna Peebles informing the CC that residents had complained that some people are knocking down the barriers and driving along the road when the contractor is not on site. This is a dangerous practice and the road should not be used under any circumstances.

- i) No reply has been received re the possible sale of the Plockton Church of Scotland.
- j) Station Road It is not possible for the material skimmed from the road through Duirinish to be used to fill the potholes here as it would not last.
- k) Duncraig Castle The six spruce trees which were cut down were felled by the machine operator in the best interests of the site and safety. They would have been left very exposed as the surrounding crop had been felled.
- l) Loch Lundie The draining of the loch began on Monday 12th December.

AOCB

- a) Duirinish station road nothing will be done to this before 2012.
- b) The area adjacent to Duncraig Square has been left in an untidy mess after the tree-felling.
- c) A request was made by a member of the public for a letter of concern to be sent to the Roads Department expressing concern about the Duirinish bridge. Heavy timber lorries & trailers are using the bridge regularly and water is leaking out from under the bridge. A safety check should be made and a weight restriction considered.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

J. MacKenna

Acting secretary