

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 16 APRIL, 2012  
at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT :	C.M. MacRae (Chair)	G. James (Sec/Treas)
	J. Sanderson (Vice Chair)	Cllr. I. Campbell
	M. Jones	Cllr. A. Sinclair
	M. MacKenzie	Const. C. MacRae (Kyle Police)

APOLOGIES were received from J. MacKenna, I. Matheson, J. Storie, I. Turnbull (NTS) and C. Will (Crofters' Rep). An apology was also received from PC Matt O'Neill of British Transport Police who had hoped to attend the meeting.

*The Chairman wished to record his concern that the reduced number of elected Councillors from 9 to 7 was a problematical shortfall when there were absentees.*

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded by M. MacKenzie and M. Jones, respectively.

- a) Plockton Play Area – The Committee chaired by CC members had met and a pre-planning application had been submitted for the project.
- b) Roads Dept. – A letter re the road safety issues in the Burnside Housing Development and Plockton Primary School areas, had been received from Gordon MacDonald, Senior Engineer, S&L, making the following points :

- Re Plockton Primary School, a permanent order would be promoted for a 20 mph limit commencing from the same position as the existing 20 mph sign and encompassing the streets within the village beyond.

*The following works had been previously agreed by Gordon MacDonald but had yet to be implemented.*

- An order will be placed to extend the 30 mph limit to encompass the Burnside development; a new sign "Welcome to Plockton, Please Drive Carefully" will include the 30 mph limit sign. All new signing will be bilingual, an equivalent Gaelic sign being placed on the opposite side of the road.
- Provision of a short section of footway infilling the existing gap between the end of the footway from Burnside and the railway bridge would be made.
- All non-authorized signage on the approach to the railway bridge will be removed.

Cllr. Campbell confirmed that she had suggested that Plockton High School Board should complete an application form to Safer Roads to School with a view to obtaining their input and consider the possibility of the erection of traffic lights at the railway bridge, which it was felt would be of great benefit. A further essential safety issue is the acquisition of additional streetlighting in the area, the police making the point that the 30 mph limit should extend beyond the Burnside cattle grid in which case streetlighting was required by law. *Const. Macrae agreed to progress this matter.*

The CC was pleased to see that work on the sides of the road at Strathie was being carried out, and hoped that the rest of the area up to Burnside would also be resurfaced. The greatly improved Plockton/Achmore road was also commented upon.

Further approaches had been made to Mark Crowe, Roads Dept. re the ever-deteriorating condition of Harbour St. and once again concern expressed at the ongoing situation with Station Rd, Cllr. Campbell having made several approaches to the Roads Dept. on this matter. It was still hoped that some repair work on the increasingly dangerous potholes, etc. could be carried out by Roads. The condition of the Plockton/Balmacara was in urgent need of attention.

- c) Church of Scotland – The Chairman had heard from the Free Church Minister expressing his Church's pleasure that the village is backing their effort to buy.
- d) Loch Lundie – The dam has been bridged entailing another two weeks work, after which the future of the loch will be decided.
- e) Plockton Public Toilets – These are now being renovated by Plockton Harbours CIC.
- f) Village Clean-Up – This will take place on Friday, 20 April, when there will be three skips in the village.
- g) Duirinish Sign – This has still not been provided. *Cllr. Campbell to action.*
- h) Steps to Brae – Thanks to John Taylor, the barbed wire had been removed from the side of the steps leading up to the Brae.
- i) Police Matters – Regarding the recent case of vandalism, etc. in the village, the Chairman expressed his disappointment at the lack of punishment allotted by the Court, but PC. Macrae made it clear that this was entirely a matter for the Court and out of the hands of the police themselves

- j) Path between Nos.13 and 14 Harbour St. – Dan MacPhee had agreed to repair the fence in this area.

## 2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Highland Council Community Schemes 2012/2013 – Zurich Municipal Insurance Cover received.
- b) A Planning Application for the erection of workshop/garage and formation of yard at land adjacent to Plockton airstrip hangar has been granted.
- c) HC Hearing Support Scheme – Following representations made by the Chairman, a “Drop-In” scheme similar to that now in Portree, will be available at Aird Ferry Resource Centre, Dornie, commencing May or June. This service will be much appreciated.
- d) Copies of correspondence have been received written by Jane MacKenzie regarding “Off The Rails” at Plockton railway station owned by Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie and converted to letting accommodation, the letters addressed to the High School Rector and Jim Craig, Customer & Stakeholder Liaison Manager, Scotrail.

Considerable concern is expressed at the continued unacceptable and discourteous behaviour of High School pupils on the railway platform which is certainly not conducive to visitors to the accommodation and bona fide railway passengers. The amount of litter dropped is also totally unacceptable.

PC Matt O’Neill, British Transport Police, provided notes in his absence from the CC meeting in which he also expressed concern at this problem and suggests a meeting with all parties concerned to try and rectify the problem,

The CC feels that whilst agreeing a meeting should take place, the ultimate solution would be for the school to make the station “out of bounds” to the pupils unless travelling as passengers.

It was agreed to write to the High School rector regarding this problem.

- e) Funding Opportunities for Coastal Communities in the Highlands and Islands – This information has been passed on to the CIC Harbours.

3. AOB

- a) A complaint had been received re abandoned cars at Ceann an Uib. *Chairman to action.*
- b) Network Rail had still not repaired the line fencing at Duirinish. *Chairman to action.*

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next Community Council Meeting will be the AGM to be held on Monday, 28 May, 2012, at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall. ***Meeting dates for the rest of the year will be 2 July, 10 September, 16 October and 27 November 2012.***

Gill James  
Secretary

