

Minutes of Plockton & district Community Council meeting on 2nd May 2016

Present:

Mary Jane Campbell (Chair), Tristan Southall (minutes), Morag Mackenzie, Alexander Mackenzie, Alex Townend, Audrey Sinclair, Catherine Will (Crofting Representative).

Public:

Brian & Sheila Harvey, Denis & Kate Havard

Apologies:

Thomas MacLennan, David Skilling, Ewan Cameron

1. MINUTES OF 16TH MARCH

Adopted (proposed by MJC, Seconded by AT).

2. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

Railway Bridge Signage:

DS has e-mailed the Council, but no response. Andrew Hunter from the Council has indicated that there is an intention to work on pot holes around the village and the speed bumps. However, signage remains important with a need to move the Plockton pictorial beyond the cattle grid at Burnside. Denis Havard highlighted a recent newspaper article from elsewhere in the Highland region which referred to a new £3m fund to support safer roads to school. Action: AS to follow up with Highland Council about potential for funding to be used for Plockton railway bridge.

Duirinish bridge:

DS has e-mailed the Council, but awaiting response.

Painting Number 14:

It has been confirmed that this is not planned for this year, but that it may be scheduled for 2017.

Lochlash Sports Association:

No further update.

Glass Recycling facilities at Duirinish:

A request was put to the Highland Council, who responded indicating that the glass recycling provision in the area was already adequate.

Dog Fouling:

The CC declined to 'name and shame' offenders, but suggested that an additional bin at Duart may be helpful.

Gorse clearance:

AT has cleared gorse at the cattle grid and cut back the hedging at the railway bridge to improve visibility. It was noted that the gorse on the straight between Plockton and Duirinish is also in need to cutting back.

Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust (KLCT):

TS attended a meeting with the Kyle & Lochalsh Development Trust, along with 3 representatives of the Plockton Harbour CIC. At this meeting it was confirmed that KLCT Articles of Association

include the Plockton district (IV52 postcodes) and the whole of Lochalsh. However, no consultation was undertaken with the Plockton & District CC, prior to formation. The KLCT Development Plan is entirely focused on Kyle of Lochalsh. KLCT are currently recruiting a Development officer, so there is recognition that part of this role should be to increase engagement with the Community Councils of the wider Lochalsh district. There was brief discussion within the CC about the benefits of engaging with the KLCT and whether there were projects which could benefit from the support and expertise of the Trust. However, it was also noted that the Plockton Harbour CIC may be a potential partner in any future projects. Details about the trust are available at: <http://www.kyleandlochalsh.org.uk/>

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE:

The Treasurer provided an update CC Finances, reporting that there was £1,796 in the Treasurers account, £2,882 in the Fireworks account and £5,487 in the special account (originally from a bequest). In terms of outgoings and expenditure it was noted that the village maintenance for the last year amounted to £2,060, with roughly half of this covered by a contribution from the Plockton Harbour CIC. However, the remaining amount still exceeds the annual financial provision from the Highland Council.

£100 was donated to the Plockton Primary School Gaelic Medium to support a school trip to Edinburgh. This was taken from the Special account.

4. PLANNING MATTERS:

It was noted that there had been some planning applications for Plockton since the last meeting but that no one in the CC had received any notification of this. Action: DS to follow up.

5. WEBSITE:

Martin Allan is continuing to work, on a voluntary basis, on a Plockton Community website (Plockton.org) to provide an on-line presence for the Community Council and perhaps also any local clubs or societies which do not have a dedicated website and which are no longer provided for by <http://www.plockton.com/> . The website of the Kyleakin and Kylerhea Community Council (<http://www.kyleakincommunitycouncil.co.uk>) was highlighted as a good local example.

It was also agreed that a print out of the minutes should be available to view. It was agreed that these should be made available in the Plockton Library: Action: DS.

6. GRASS CUTTING

Given the financial constraints noted above it was agreed to reduce the number of grass cuttings to 4 (April, June, August, October). AT has also sought to clarify which grass the Highland Council is responsible for cutting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. AOCB

- Charlie Macrae has been commended as a Civic Champion following his long service as Chair to the Plockton & District CC.
- The West Highlands & Islands Development Plan has been published. The “Main Issues Report” is currently open to consultation (closes 10th June). As part of this, local events are scheduled – including Wednesday 16th May in Kyleakin (2-5pm) and Kyle (7pm). This document does not include any detailed plans for Plockton.
- There was discussion about the fenced off area of land at Àird a' Mhorair (Cooper St),

noting that this land is no longer in use and querying whether it may be possible to make use of this land for recreation, or simply requesting that the ground remains tidy. There was discussion about possible approaches but no action was agreed.

- There was also a discussion about the building works being undertaken by Mr Boyle at both 12 Harbour St and Sgeir Buidhe. With particular focus on the fact that much of the construction works, including temporary buildings, are straying onto the public highway and land not owned by Mr Boyle. It was also noted that the property on Harbour St was being used as accommodation for builders – presumably in advance of a completion certificate and without appropriate Council tax being paid. The Crofting Committee had specifically requested that Mr Boyle did not move boats on the common grazing land adjacent to the green shed, but that this had been ignored, with a trench and electricity now running across this ground. It was noted that PSBSC and the Crofting Committee had previously informally agreed to allow boat storage in this area. In addition, no permission has been sought or given to use the land leased by the Crofting Committee to the Plockton Playpark. However, a counter view was also expressed in support of the works being carried out, noting that good clearance work had been undertaken of some land and progress was at last appearing to be made.

Date of next meeting:

13th June (AGM)

Future meetings:

5th September, 10th October, 5th December.