

Minutes of Plockton and District Community Council Meeting

23rd January 2017

Present:

Mary Jane Campbell (Chair), Tristan Southall, Ewan Cameron, Morag Mackenzie, Thomas MacLennan, David Skilling, Alexander Mackenzie, Catherine Will (Crofting Rep), Iain Turnbull (NTS), Cllr Audrey Sinclair (H.C)

Apologies:

Alex Townend

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Short discussion on minutes and the adopted. Proposed MM, 2nd EC.

Matters Arising:

Installation of Septic Tanks: Following representations made at the last meeting by Mr J Greer on work to modernise his septic tank AS confirmed that Building Control officers were involved and undertook to get a further update. Action: AS to seek update.

Whins / Gorse clearance: Roadside whins on straight between Plockton and Duirinish still to be cut. Action: AT to request this is cut.

Community Payback: MJ is still in discussion with Highland Council regarding people undertaking community payback and the possibility of them doing some work in Plockton. Action: MJ to contact David Livingston.

Fireworks: TS has researched possible gazebo solutions to provide cover for the BBQ at fireworks events and also that it could be used for the outside area at the hall. It was agreed that he should proceed with this and initially approach the Hall Committee to discuss and seek contribution. Action: TS to approach Hall Committee

Planning

Short discussion on the planning application being considered for an extension to Campbell's House and agreed no comment. No other significant applications.

Finance Update

This item will be rolled over to the next meeting as Alex Townend (Treasurer) was not present.

Roads

- Cattle grid at Burnside, Plockton: Continued need to dampen noise.
- Duirinish Bridge: Still in need of urgent repair.
- Plockton Airstrip: 3 residents have raised a complaint with the Highland Council about a number of bad potholes on the road at the airstrip.
- Sign at junction at foot of 'Strathie': This sign was removed and has not been replaced.
- 'Wee Strathie' (i.e. hill from Plockton to Duncraig): Lack of roadside drainage leading to surface water and ice on road.

- School Railway Bridge safety: Continued concern about the safety of the school railway crossing, noting the lack of action on speed bumps, green 'pavement' and signs warning of on-coming vehicles in road, when exiting the village.
- Seek update on lowered kerbs in Plockton for wheelchair access.

Action: DS to invite HC roads rep to next meeting and compile rolling list of issues.

Street Lighting

Ian Hay (IH) attended the meeting and set out a number of issues with street lighting at Rhu and on Cooper street including faulty lights and safety concerns with overhead cables. Ian has already been in touch with Highland Council and SSE and they are currently considering options to run a cable along Cooper street and down to Rhu. Consideration also being given to repairing and upgrading lighting at either end of the causeway. Ian will continue discussions with parties involved and at the appropriate point the Community Council will write in support of this work to SSE and Highland Council.

Action: DS to liaise with IH on progress.

Village Plan

Iain Turnbull (IT) from National Trust for Scotland (NTS) attended to talk about proposals for a Village Plan that would seek views on what people want for the village and from the NTS over the coming years. This could range from major things such as work to identify further housing sites to one off projects such as improvements to toilets, improved shore facilities and a village composting site for example. It was agreed that the best way forward was for the Community Council to seek views from residents possibly using another leaflet campaign and then for a meeting to be held with NTS, the Community Council and the Harbour Assoc. There would also be the opportunity for a wider open meeting at an appropriate point. Action: CC to produce another leaflet once IT has provided further information on the proposal.

A number of other issues were also raised with IT including:

- Partially removed village information boards. NTS are chasing this up with contractors.
- Info board at open air church. IT said this has been vandalised 3 times and no budget to repair again currently.
- IT confirmed the information centre has been repaired and is about to be painted ahead of the season.
- Had land near war memorial previously been considered as a housing site? IT confirmed it had but that it was technically very difficult and would only provide 3 sites.
- Discussion on challenges presented by second home ownership and IT recognised the difficulties in tackling this. Action: AS will check HC powers on increased Council Tax for second homes.
- Query had been raised with NTS regarding scattering of ashes. NTS Policy confirmed - scattering is ok but burying or interring casket of ashes is not permitted.

Correspondence

A number of pieces of correspondence had been received:

- Letter received from Charlie Macrae. This set out issues on roads, grass cutting, bonfire night, septic tanks, planning and streetlights all of which were noted and are being taken forward. Also raised painting of seats and tables and it was agreed Ewan Cameron should go ahead and do this. Query also raised about the plans to extend carpark and build new toilets. Update will be sought from Harbour Assoc. Action: Ewan Cameron to paint seats and tables.
- Rev Rankin re disabled access to the church. This is now in hand with Highland Council.
- Ian Matheson had written raising a number of road safety issues and these will be added to the 'roads list' to raise with Highland Council.
- Donald Mackenzie had been in touch to raise the need for future housing to be considered, including the war memorial site (discussed at meeting). He also raised the need for improved large item recycling facilities. Action: DS to raise with HC
- Letter received from Jan Storie setting out concerns about Highland Council plans to cut Highland Council Ranger Service. All present supported Jan's points and it was agreed the Community Council would write to the Highland Council Leader. Action: MJ to write to HC enclosing Jan's letter.
- A number of people have been in touch to raise concerns about Ard a Mhorair and are keen that the community council seeks solutions to allow this to be used or potentially even purchased by the village to be used as a village green again. Action: Community Council to look at options. DS/TS
- Meeting to be set up with project officer from Kyle Development Trust to look at possible projects. Action: TS to set up meeting.

AOCB

- Duirinish: bridge repair, street lights out and cattle grid needs repaired.
- Leaf clearing needed on Frithard hill.
- Roadside gulleys needing cleared on road down from High School into village to prevent standing water on road.
- Standing water on Harbour street outside Rod Macleod's house (Struan).

Future meetings:

13/3/17

1/5/17

12/6/17 (AGM)

28/8/17

9/10/17