

PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022

Present: Peter Mackenzie (PM), Ian Hay (IH), Martin Bliss (MB), Ewan Cameron (EC),  
Alex Fergusson (AF), Fiona Mackenzie (FM), Mary Gollan (MG)  
Councillor Biz Campbell (BC)  
Alex Townend (AT), Morag Mackenzie (MM), Morven Mackay (MM)  
Alaisdair Mackenzie (AM), Sandra Holmes (SH): Plockton & District Community Trust

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were approved by Martin Bliss and seconded by Mary Gollan as being a true and accurate reflection on the meeting.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

MG reported the following payments:

From Special Projects - £241.06 paid out for the installation of defibrillator at Achnadarach.

From General Account - £50 to secretary.

From Fireworks Account – the request to various clubs and associations for a donation had been a success and £980 was raised. The collection buckets on the night had generated £1388 and the profit on food and drink was £1051. The bonfire night had been very wellattended and the fireworks account now had a balance of £3475 after all expenses had been paid.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Bike Course: MB reported that Alex Glasgow and Iain Mackay had agreed to hold a bike maintenance course, probably in the village hall, at a mutually agreed date. It will be advertised for anyone interested to attend. PM will liaise with Alex and Iain.

Septic Tank: There had been no progress on the planning application for a new septic tank at Rhu despite the CC being assured that this was in hand. PM will write to the gentleman to move this forward.

Bottle Bank at Duirinish: PM had contacted HC on this matter. HC now have a policy of no new bottle banks as they are awaiting the introduction of the Scottish Government's scheme to return bottles for a small remuneration to come into effect.

#### 4. PENSIONERS' BUS

Previously, probably about 10 years ago, there had been a bus provided but this service had ceased due to lack of use. PM had been in touch with the Kyle Community Trust (KLC) as they now have an electric people carrier which may be used for trips to Kyle once the insurance for drivers and other minor issues have been addressed.

#### 5. CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR GAZEBO, GRILL AND BAIN MARIE

EC has agreed to keep the grill, bain marie and gazebo in his yard, under lock and key, and any clubs or any community member wishing to use them can do so. They will be free to use and a cleaning and maintenance schedule will be drawn up so they are returned in the condition which they were received.

#### 6. BENCHES

IH reported that Fergusons at Kishorn Port Ltd (KPL) has agreed to pay for two new benches for the village. IH has identified suitable benches and will progress their purchase.

#### 7. PLANNING

Lighthouse – approved

Duncraig Castle – 2 applications approved

Food Trailer at Rhu Mor – approved

Nanyuki, Drumbuie – have applied for change of use for a holiday home – committee has no objections

Pontoons at Duncraig Boat Shed – the CC had received an official approach from a member of the public expressing concern about the development. The CC has no such concerns or objections to the proposal.

#### 8. PARKING, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, POTHOLE, ROAD CONDITION, SIGNAGE

Car Parking and Toilets: Since the car parking charges in the main car park were introduced, the Plockton Harbour CIC has noted a 50% drop in donations for the upkeep of the toilets. Shane Manning, HC, had suggested that 50% of the takings from the charge point would be returned to the ward. Despite requests, the CC has not been informed of the takings over the summer months, except for the first month of operation. IH will ask once again for these figures. The grant for the 'comfort scheme' had been reduced from £300 per month in previous years to £200 and Kelly Hall, HC, was unable to confirm if this grant would continue at this level if indeed at all. She will be unable to confirm until March 2023. PH CIC expressed doubt that they would be able to continue maintenance of the toilet facilities without this grant and a portion of takings from the car park charges. IH will email Debbie Sutton, HC, as a matter of urgency.

Extension of Main Car Park: there had been helpful discussions on this matter but no progress.

Car Park at Dubhaird: IH informed the meeting that HC have stated that because a car park in this area is deemed "on street", mandatory car parking charges would apply. The approach road to the site will be improved. IH and PM will write to Shane Manning, HC, about this matter because at the meeting held on site 18 months ago, mandatory charges were never discussed. The meeting expressed grave concerns about the lack of facilities at the site, especially the disposal of human waste from camper vans.

Bus Shelter at Duirinish: HC confirmed that a new one would be installed but were unable to give a date.

Junction Signs: HC had been informed that a junction warning sign at the turn off to Duncraig/Achmore was required.

Duirinish Bridge: repairs had been successfully carried out.

20mph Signs: HC were aware of the requirement in Duirinish but they have a backlog of 100+ schemes.

Cow Ingress at Plockton High School: two areas of fencing had been repaired and the success or otherwise will be monitored.

Pot Holes: a number of holes had been filled and these and others will be monitored over the winter. Concern was expressed at the pot holes which had developed in passing places between Duirinish and Drumbuie and the HC will be informed – IH to action.

Roy Ham's Corner, Drumbuie: concern was expressed about the narrowness of this part of the road and it was agreed to ask the HC to put lines on the road warning drivers of the narrowing – IH to action.

The meeting wished to note their gratitude to Douglas Cameron for the work undertaken in and around Plockton. It was felt that he should be recommended for recognition for his work. IH will progress.

## 9. FIREWORKS

The fireworks display and refreshments provided had been a great success this year with an estimated 500+ people attending. The following people (in no particular order) are all thanked for their efforts: June Sanderson, Alex & Milly Griffiths, Iain & Dasha Griffiths, Gavin & Wendy Bell, Alison French, Lynn Kennedy, Mardi Wood, Katie Davies, Tristan Southall,

Harry and Isabelle Taylor, Debbie and Mick Gray, Fraser and Shona Jackson, Alex and Lenice Townend, Gareth and Jill Morgan, Gus Loudon, Christine Gilchrist, Sue Atkinson, Mary Gollan, Susan Trowbridge, Jimmy Fergusson, Ewan and Douglas Cameron, Iain Dobson, Thomas MacLennan and Brian Harvey.

A refresher course is required for the license for Ewan Cameron and Thomas MacLennan. They feel they need more volunteers for island duty. Douglas Cameron has agreed to be trained and one other person is required. The CC will pay for these courses.

The cars at the event were parked as far as the high school and in their car park. It is thought that some temporary passing places for the night should be introduced to allow access for emergency vehicles. This will be addressed by the fireworks committee next year.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KPL – MB detailed a very impassioned statement on the plight of the local fishing fleet as a result of the development of the Kishorn site for the dismantling of obsolete oil rigs. He stated that in the past year there were 8 boats fishing out of Plockton employing 11 people. There are now 4 boats employing 5 people and he felt that this situation will only get worse.

KPL's activities has led to a huge loss of fishing grounds. Each time a rig comes to port, the fishermen have to move gear costing them time, money and lack of fishing.

The planning for this development in 2013 had no socio economic report and there was no consultation with local fishermen.

A fishing liaison officer (FLO) and a Marine Users License and Mitigation Action Plan (MULMAP) has been set up by KPL as part of their planning application conditions. To date there have been 3 meetings and none of the fishermen's grievances at these meetings have been minuted. When this has been highlighted at the following meeting, it has been ignored.

MB and fellow fishermen feel their concerns are being completely ignored. The FLO and MULMAP were appointed by KPL so there can be no impartiality.

There is no known pollution prevention plan and few if any of the promised jobs have been created.

The fact that Plockton fishermen are having to move their gear because of oil rigs is causing a knock on effect to other ports, e.g. Kyle, Kyleakin, Applecross, etc.

Boats in the Car Park – they will be allowed to remain there over the winter and the situation reassessed in the spring.

Council Services and Call Centres – IH expressed concern at the difficulty in accessing the HC by phone.

Right of Way at Duncraig – the meeting was informed that there had always been a right of way down to the slipway at 'Campbell's House' below the castle and access from the slipway from the sea was also a right of way. This has been reported to Mark Crowe, HC.

Steps to Harbour Street from the Brae Path – the HC said it was the responsibility of the NTS. The CC are now looking to install a new handrail as the current one is very unsafe.

Morrisons' Delivery – a Morrisons' van will now drop off orders in Plockton from 6 December.

Artwork for 'Jewel in the Highlands' – AF reported that Angie Campbell has this in hand.

Co-Option of Member – as previously agreed, Michael Hay has been co-opted onto the CC.

The date for the next meeting was set for Monday 12 December at 7.30pm.

SHORT TERM LET CONTROL AREAS – AM and SH attended the meeting to explain the Plockton and District Community Trust position. AM had prepared notes on their understanding of the STLCA which were distributed.

A lively discussion ensued on this topic. It became apparent to the meeting that there were many members of the public who were not aware of the government's proposal to have these STLCA's.

The P&DCT is looking to ask HC to have Plockton designated as a pilot STLCA, in light of the proliferation in the very recent years of houses being bought by companies or individuals for the sole use of short term holiday lets and therefore being lost as residential homes.

There appeared to be some confusion as to what was involved. SH attempted to reassure the meeting that they were acting on behalf of the community and would only take this forward if it were the wish of the community.

It would only apply to new purchases and existing businesses would not be affected.

The P&DCT was urged by the CC to make more public the details of the STLCA so that the general community have a better understanding of what is proposed.

It was highlighted that a STLCA was NOT the licensing of current properties which is now underway and will have to be in place by April 2023.

The Chairman closed the meeting but asked the CC committee to remain to have a further discussion.

After this informal discussion, the CC agreed to support the P&DCT in their efforts and representation to HC to establish the STLCA in Plockton.