

MINUTES OF PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 12 DECEMBER IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Peter Mackenzie (PM), Ian Hay (IH), Martin Bliss (MB), Fiona Mackenzie (FM)  
Mary Gollan (MG)  
Alex Townend (AT), Morag Mackenzie (MM), Michael Hay (MT)  
Alasdair Mackenzie (AM) – Plockton & District Community Trust  
Councillor Biz Campbell (BC)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

IT highlighted that Debbie Sutton had already been contacted and requested that this be amended in the minutes. The minutes were then approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting by Martin Bliss and seconded by Fiona Mackenzie.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

The general account had received a grant of £414.33 from Highland Council. A new laptop and accessories had been purchased.

The fireworks account stood at £3842.78.

The Special Projects Account had paid out to the Achnadarach community for expenses incurred in setting up the defibrillator. Replacement pads for the defibs had been purchased. The account stood at £1871.51.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. Michael Hay was welcomed to the meeting as a co-opted member.
- b. IT again highlighted the long time experienced in a call to the HC emergency number being answered and expressed concern that a real emergency would not be answered in a timely manner.
- c. Rights of Way. Mr Averne had been contacted re the ROW to/from Campbells house. This is an ongoing matter. Mark Crowe (MC), HC is visiting this week and will be appraised of the situation. MC had told PM that the causeway is a 'core path' and therefore it is a council responsibility for the repair of maintenance. MC will also look at the steps from the Brae to Harbour Street which are in urgent need of repair.

4. PENSIONERS' BUS

The bus will be available in the new year. A meeting is scheduled for this Thursday and a day will be decided – hopefully a Monday or Friday when the bank is open. The charge is £1 each way and if the bus is required for a private hire, the rate is 65p/mile + refuelling.

## 5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- a. The janitor's house development at the high school is ready for submission once it receives council approval.
- b. The development at the end of the shinty pitch. This application is progressing through the council pre-application process and will be the subject of a public consultation.

## 6. PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST – SHORT TERM LET CONTROL AREA

IH voiced his concern that the STLCA was not the correct approach to deal with the problem of houses being bought up and turned into tourist accommodation by companies and individuals. In his opinion, this would mean that a person being left a house in the village would be unable to rent it out in the manner that is currently done without having to apply for a change of use from residential to commercial and may lead to houses remaining unoccupied.

IH felt that by not allowing houses to be used in this manner, this would be to the detriment of the village facilities – i.e. there would be less people using the shop, the cruise boat, the pubs and the eating facilities. FM pointed out that if there were no places for people to stay then who was going to work in these businesses? PM stated that the thrust of this proposal is to prevent property being bought at extortionate prices, coming out of housing stock and being turned into 'whole house AirB&B'.

FM stated that this was a way ahead and while not perfect, was a starting point for putting the brakes on houses being bought solely for commercial purposes. A survey undertaken by P&DCT approximately 2 years ago had identified that of last 9 houses which came up for sale, 5 had gone to buyers for commercial use. These figures need to be updated. It was pointed out that the situation applies particularly to Plockton and the outlying district was not so badly affected, either by the high price of property or the change of use from residential to commercial.

## 7. PLANNING

There were no new planning applications.

## 8. TRAFFIC, PARKING UPDATE

Shane Manning, HC had been asked for an update. PM had written with the concerns of the CC seeking clarity on several topics, notably HC intentions for parking at Coral Beach and the distribution of parking income from the car park. It was again emphasised that the donations to the upkeep of the public toilets had been adversely affected by the collection of parking fees.

BC was asked to approach Malcolm Macleod on how the extension to the main car park can be progressed. IH had done a lot of ground work on this.

## 9. KISHORN PORT LIMITED AND PLOCKTON FISHERMEN

The meeting agreed that there would be a hold put on the purchase of benches by KPL for the village until the concerns of the local fishermen have been addressed satisfactorily. PM will write to KPL.

MB again emphasised the severe disruption to the local fishermen and the knock on effect this will have to other fishermen in the neighbouring areas.

The fishermen are anxious for a genuinely independent arbiter to be present at future meetings to hear the very real concerns of the fleet as, at the moment, they feel they are not being heard by the KPL appointed liaison officer. The next meeting had been arranged for 1500 on 20 December – a time when fishermen are working. This timing was not acceptable.

## 10. DEFIBRILLATORS

BC stated that a grant had been awarded for upkeep and maintenance of the defibs of approximately £1300. PM had sent a letter to the 6 parties with an interest in the defibs – PHS, PHCIC, PVH, PSBSC, Duirinish Grazings and Achnadarach community – asking for a commitment but NO money at present – for the continued maintenance. In light of the award of the grant, this would not now be an urgent matter as, once the new battery had been bought, the defibs were all in good working order for the foreseeable future.

## 11. AOB

- a. IH stated that a new bench for the village had been offered. IH will write and accept this kind offer.
- b. BC was disappointed by the lack of Christmas cheer at the meeting, unlike that at her attendance at the recent Achmore CC meeting!
- c. PM will chase up the whereabouts of the gritter and salt.
- d. 2 more grit bins were requested for Achnadarach.
- e. Street lights: not working at 29 Harbour St and Duirinish footbridge – IH to action.
- f. FM said there was a community Christmas get-together on Wed 21 December in the hall from 4pm until 5.30pm – ALL ages most welcome.
- g. Martin had undertaken a survey of the cattle fences and the only 2 breaks were identified – IH to action.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023