

MINUTE OF PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Peter Mackenzie (PM), Ian Hay (IH), Martin Bliss (MB), Ewen Cameron (EC)
Fiona Mackenzie (FM), Mary Gollan (MG)
Councillor Biz Campbell (BC)
Alex Townend (AT), Morag Mackenzie (MM), Julia Aseidu (JA), Morven Mackay (MM)

Apologies: Alex Fergusson

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were approved by EC and seconded by MB.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

The general account had been used to buy paint for the phone box and benches. Title deeds for the airstrip and also been purchased. A new notice board at the shop has been put in place and the poo bags and notices appear to be making a difference. The balance in the account now stands at £956. The other two accounts were both unchanged.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- a. The zoom meeting, attended by PM and IH, on 13 June had been fairly constructive. This had led to a visit from Hamish Bennet, engineer with HC, on 17 August and the following matters were discussed: junction at railway bridge – this is now an urgent matter concerning child road safety, the ongoing problems at the airstrip with parking for Coral Beach, traffic management in the village.
- b. The new 20mph signage in Duirinish is now in place.
- c. There had been no word back from Scottish Water about disposal of waste in Loch Achnahenich and the requested signs were still awaited.
- d. Airstrip – the FOI had not been fulfilled.
- e. Janitor's house – work was expected to commence by the end of this year.
- f. Development at shinty pitch – this would be out for consultation by the start of 2024.
- g. PM had spoken to Andy Bone, HC, about the cattlegrid bolts work was still to be undertaken.

4. FIREWORKS

Bonfire night this year is on Saturday 4 November. Sue Atkinson has agreed again to manage the logistics of the catering. We are needing new volunteers for letting off the fireworks and training, paid for by CC, would be required – two volunteers had been identified and would be approached. Volunteers for building the bonfire in the preceding week would be

advertised. A new licence from HC costing £400, is required from 5 November and PM would pursue this.

5. CAR PARK MONIES

- a. PM had submitted a claim for our share of last year's proceeds and had identified 3 projects for the money to be spent: £1500 for repair of the causeway, £1500 for repair of the Brae to Harbour Street steps and £1500 to make up the shortfall in takings at the public toilets in the car park which is a direct result of the start of the 'invitation to pay' meter being installed.
- b. No updates from HC had been received, despite being promised, on the monthly takings from the car park meter.
- c. Councillor Campbell was thanked for insisting and ensuring that the half share of the car parking takings came directly back to the CC.
- d. PM would write to Willie Mackinnon, HC, about our Annual Grant which has still not been received despite the accounts being submitted some months previously.

6. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations must be received by Monday 3 October. If there are more than 7 nominations then an election will be held on 27 November.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The temporary traffic order, i.e. the village yellow lines, was up at the end of the year and this would need to be made permanent.
- b. Members of the community had expressed their disappointment at the ongoing problems with the road from the High School to Dubhard which includes the approach to Coral Beach. The road is in an appalling condition and urgently needs repair.
- c. It was highlighted by PM that the person employed to empty dog waste bins was also clearing up human waste which was very much NOT part of her job. The meeting expressed its disgust at this state of affairs by a small number of the public – more bins and notices of toilets would help. PM to write to HC again.
- d. Dead Deer – there has been 8 instances in the village in gardens in the last few months. If there is another occurrence, NTS would like to carry out a PM on a carcass so please contact Ian Turnbull, NTS on 07713786295.
- e. Skips. Management and oversight of skips had become much stricter in recent years. PM read out the list of items NOT allowed in skips which include: construction rubble, all white goods, carpets, furniture, wire, batteries, oil, paint, animal carcasses. All large amounts of wood can be collected by CC for the bonfire. The CC agreed unanimously not to ask for a skip.
- f. It was pointed out that there is a collection point on the last Wednesday of every month from 9-11am, at Kyleakin for all white goods, computers and electrical items which is FOC.

- g. Signs at Railway Bridge – the recently resurrected Plockton and District Tourist Association (PDTA) had procured a new village sign which has been put in place and there is also a village sign at Achmore. AF will liaise with the High School for design of a t shirt as they had been approached to design the new village sign.
- h. PM asked for permission to use his discretion to delete the extraordinary amount of non Plockton and District CC specific emails which he receives and the meeting agreed.
- i. Pollution on the Shoreline – an email had been received from a visitor about what she thought was a concerning downturn in the healthiness of the shoreline. Morag Mackenzie highlighted the shoreline at Barleyport which was significantly badly affected following the transit of the fish farm chemical barge from Portree Harbour to Loch Reraig – there appeared to be a direct correlation. This will be monitored and PM will reply to her.
- j. Tourist Levy – this was in the consultation stage and would be implemented soon. IH spoke on behalf of the PDTA, members of which were very concerned about the administration of this scheme and the ‘workability’. There appears to be very little detail on the scheme and each local authority would administer their own levels of levy.
- k. PM had printed off minutes from other local CCs – all had very similar issues to our own – i.e. parking, roads, toilets, etc.
- l. There was a scheme for a nationwide database of defibrillators and it was hoped this would be better co-ordinated than at present.
- m. The person who maintains the area around the war memorial and has done a wonderful job, all voluntarily, had expressed his disappointment at the way the cows had been allowed to make such a mess. AT agreed to ensure that the cows would not be allowed onto this area in future.
- n. Insurance – concern was expressed at the possible refusal from insurance companies due to the possibility of flooding in low lying properties near the sea. The situation will be monitored.
- o. Pot Holes – there had been many representations to the CC about potholes. IH said that people should contact HC direct on 01349 886601 or go to the website FIX MY STREET to highlight the problems.
- p. Another bench had been refurbished and would be back in place this week.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9 October 2023 at 7.30pm