

PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2024 IN VILLAGE HALL

Present: Peter Mackenzie (PM), Ian Hay (IH), Ewen Cameron (EC), Michael Hay (MH), Martin Bliss (MB), Fiona Mackenzie (FM), Mary Gollan (MG),

Jo Scott Moncrieff (JSM), Alex Townend (AT), Morven Mackay (MM)

Apologies: Councillor Biz Campbell (BC), Jimmy Fergusson – PHCIC

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute was approved by MH and seconded by EC.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

There had been no movement on any of the accounts.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. New 'Welcome to Plockton' sign. The PDTA had stated that there had been an agreement, a few years ago, that the CC would pay for this sign. PM will check the records and if so, then we will honour this arrangement.
- b. Two members of the public had approached IH with concerns about allocation of social housing. The CC is not certain as to the criteria for allocation – this is a HC matter, administered by Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association. PM will ask for clarification as to the previously stated "priority for essential workers" criteria.

4. CAR PARK INCOME ALLOCATION AND SPEND

It had been agreed by the CC that the 3 areas for spending the £4700 received for the 2022/23 season would be as follows: repair of causeway – undertaken by volunteers with some professional help, repair of steps from Brae to Harbour Street between No 26 and 27 – the steps are okay but a new handrail is required and IH will look into this, shortfall in income at public toilets since the 'invitation to pay' was installed in car park – the PHCIC had detailed their figures and the meeting agreed to give £1500 to assist with this shortfall.

PM stated that without the help of Councillor Campbell, it would have been unlikely that this share of the income would have come to the village, for which we are very grateful. It was noted that the income for 2023/24 would be made available soon.

5. TRAFFIC PLAN

An update from Malcolm Macleod HC in response to an email from BC had been received. IH reiterated previous statements that the traffic management was the responsibility of HC and the HC should be reminded of this. The tourism place plan is a separate matter and the meeting felt that the traffic plan must take priority and must be addressed immediately. IH will ask HC for a progress report on action to be taken at the railway bridge and also the HC's intentions for parking at Coral Beach.

6. PLANNING

There had been no new planning applications. It was noted that permission for a new road to Duncraig Station had been approved.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. MB will speak to the owner of the caravan parked in the turning area opposite the windsock at the airstrip and request that it is moved as it prevents the bin lorry turning.
- b. There is an overflow of water from a manhole on the street at the top of the hill opposite the war memorial. IH will check with HC and Scottish Water to ascertain responsibility for repair.
- c. The fence from 14 – 18 Frithard Road has collapsed PM will write to HC to inform them of their responsibility to repair.
- d. A reply had been received from the owners of 13 Harbour Street re the collapsed fence on the right of way. They are going to attend to this asap.
- e. The broken manhole cover on the pavement at 16 Harbour Street has still not been repaired – IH will chase this up.
- f. All Weather Pitch, Plockton High School.

The Plockton Football Club had been refused permission to use the pitch on Boxing Day. MB outlined the history of the pitch – when the new High School was built in 1965, PFC agreed to give use of the pitch to the school. Also, the wooden pavilion was knocked down. In return, the football club was given FREE use of the pitch and changing rooms. In the 1990s the club was approached for agreement to change the surface to an all weather pitch. Again, this was agreed, on the understanding that the previous arrangements were kept in place. Until now, this almost 60 year agreement has worked with little or no problems. PFC are very concerned that the HC appear to be reneging on this arrangement and want urgent clarification and reinstatement of the status quo.

The meeting was also very concerned at the state of the AWP. The CC had received an email from the Kinlochshiel Shinty Academy along with photographic evidence of the huge amount of litter on the pitch – this had all to be cleared before a training session could take place. It is very unclear who has responsibility for ensuring that users do NOT leave empty food and drink containers lying around. The High School offered no solution to the problem. In conjunction with this, the key was not available for access to the pitch. This is completely unacceptable.

The extortionate price charged for young children to use this 'community facility' is proving prohibitive for some clubs and the CC want the HC to urgently address this matter.

The Plockton Drama Club has been quoted £1200 for use of the high school assembly hall for a two evening drama festival at the end of February – again, this fee makes holding the festival totally uneconomical.

The local Bowling Club had been refused access to the school the previous week because a janitor was not available to open the school. They too also pay an extortionate fee for use. This, again, is unacceptable and must be addressed by HC.

- g. Winter Gritting – the CC are disappointed with the level of gritting carried out and request that HC reinstate gritting along Harbour Street to at least the village hall.
- h. A suggestion was made to have a donations box at the Coral Beach car park.

## **POST MEETING NOTE**

The roof of the Tourist Information building in the car park, owned and run by National Trust for Scotland, had sustained severe and dangerous damage during the easterly gales, pre Christmas. Part of the roof has blown away towards Bank Street and it is requested that the NTS clear this away as a priority.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 19 February 2024 at 7.30pm