

MINUTE OF PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024

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

Councillor Biz Campbell (BC)

Bill Taylor (BT) - PDCT, Alex Townend (AT) - Crofters, Jo Scott Moncrief (JSM) – PHS

Apologies: Ewan Cameron, Jimmy Fergusson, Morag Mackenzie

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute was approved by MB and seconded by IH.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

There had been no activity on the accounts.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. Item 9d - BT stated that the HC did not have a legal responsibility to make a traffic management plan for Plockton. It was pointed out that the HC, since 2020, had agreed to undertake this work whether it was a legal requirement or not.
- b. There had been no application from Wester Ross for national park status.
- c. AT said there had not yet been a crofters' meeting to discuss flooding from the brae.
- d. Andy Bone, HC had looked at the sea wall and felt there was not serious damage.
- e. The CC had replied to HC Planning re the proposed development at the Janitor's House.
- f. There is a STLCA zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday 21 March.
- g. The work on repair of the manhole at 16 Harbour Street has been completed.

4. LOCHALSH LEISURE CENTRE

MG updated the meeting on the current status of the LLC. There had been a very well attended meeting on 5 March in Kyle Hall. The chair of the LLC, Bill Mitchell, had outlined the problems. It was thought that once the insurance money is received, £110,000, this would be used to do a complete rewiring of the building. There is also a requirement for an extra £40,000 per year to make the building safe and usable for approximately another 5 years but there was an urgent need to start now on funding for a new building.

A further meeting was held 2 weeks later with a smaller group of people where some of the ideas put forward were discussed.

The CC will write to the Lochalsh Collaboration, part of the Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust, to suggest that all the local trusts in Plockton, Dornie, Balmacara, etc collaborate to put a plan together to assist in getting this absolutely vital community asset reopened and functioning again.

5. TOURISM PLACE PLAN

At a recent meeting in the village hall, called by PDCT, and attended by various parties in the village – CC, PSBSC, PDTA, Fishermen, PHCIC, etc – it was stated that a grant had been received from North Highland Initiative for £3500 and a further £500 from Highland Coast Hotels, to be spent with SCOTO (Scottish Community Tourism) to undertake a report on the current state of play of tourism in the village. It is

intended there will be a lot of input from relevant parties in the village and it is hoped this will take place by the end of April. The PDCT has also secured a grant of £15,000 from the HC Regeneration Fund to undertake further unspecified consultation work and this is subject to collaboration with CC on the traffic management plan for the village. PM acknowledged the success of the yellow lines at Tigh na Fhaing, where there had been problems. It was noted that the 'temporary traffic order' had expired in February 2024 and as far as the CC is aware, no permanent order was in place. The traffic problems and the short term solutions must be compatible with the long term aims.

6. SAFETY MEASURES AT PLOCKTON STATION RAILWAY BRIDGE

PM had received 2 calls from parents concerned about access to the PHS now that the PPS has moved there. There are now an additional 9 children crossing from Burnside to the school daily bringing a total of 16 children. Preliminary work appears to have started but the meeting was not aware of the exact nature of the proposed safety measures. BC agreed to speak to the chair of HC Education to get an update.

Parents of PPS pupils are also concerned at the lack of information regarding the assessment of work required at the PPS. The CC will write to Lochalsh Collaboration who is meeting with Kate Forbes MSP raising their concerns and asking for a regular update. The CC supports the parents of pupils in their wish to return to the primary school in the village.

7. PLANNING

There were no new planning applications.

8. AOB

- a. Repair to the causeway. PM, EC and John Stewart had discussed the proposed repair. It was estimated to be a 3-4 day job. IH will look into possible lighting for the causeway.
- b. There was concern expressed at the proposal for more domestic rubbish bins in addition to the 2 bins per household at present.
- c. Defibrillators – PM will check that the 5 units all have face masks provided. There is a new database to which all details will be passed.
- d. IH will contact HC to say that the street lighting in Duirinish has not been reinstated since the recent power cut.
- e. A parking ticket had been issued recently to the owner of a vehicle parked on the large pavement at the side of the village hall – a site used for many years. There had been no prior warning that this might happen. BC suggested that the CC contact Tracy Urrey, HC, to ascertain the exact position with regards to this.
- f. There was concern about the timings of the upcoming drama festival booking at PHS. The booking is done through Highlife Highland, not the school itself. AT and JSM will liaise.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.30pm – THERE WILL ALSO BE AN AGM OF THE CC