

MINUTE OF MEETING OF PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025

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

Councillor Biz Campbell (BC), Jimmy Fergusson (JF), Alex Townend (AT), Morag Mackenzie (MM), Jo Scott Moncrieff (JSM)

Apologies: Fiona Mackenzie, Ewan Cameron

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute was approved by MH and seconded by MB.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balances in the 3 accounts are as follows:

Treasurer's (General) A/C £4438.43 after receiving the car park fees and paying out £1500 to PHCIC, £5000 to Lochalsh Leisure Centre, £60 for defib pads

Fireworks A/C £5741.27 after paying related expenses and donating £1000 to LLC

Special Projects A/C £1917.52

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND MINUTE

- a. Work has started today on repair of the lights on the all weather pitch (AWP). The contract for relaying of the surface would be going out to tender shortly. BC was thanked for all her work in getting to this point.
- b. Communications with HC seem to have dramatically improved, thanks again to BC.
- c. PM will remind Andy Bone that we want sight of the report on the sea wall following his visit.
- d. There was still no progress with the housing development at the Janitor's house.
- e. The ditches on the brae have not been cleared. AT said he was awaiting a quote for the work.
- f. The Area Place Plan had been passed at a meeting of HC today.
- g. It is intended to have a local joiner erect the new noticeboard at Ceann and Uib and the car park sign. The other two signs at Achnadarach and Dubhard will be erected by MH and TM.

LOCAL REPAIRS PLAN

- a. PM has carried out a survey of all picnic tables and benches in Plockton. There are a few which are beyond repair. It was decided to use the money in the Special Projects account and then close this account plus some money from the Fireworks account to purchase three new benches and three picnic tables for distribution in the area. PM has sourced a good supply of RE-Cycled plastic, wood-effect furniture and will place an order. BC suggested there may be some money in the Ward Discretionary Fund to help with purchase.
- b. The causeway still awaits repair. PM has contacted a local contractor for a price to carry out the work. All materials will be provided.

- c. PM will ask the same contractor for a price to repair handrails on the steps from the Brae to Harbour St.
- d. Concern was expressed at the lack of progress of repair to the main pier. BC will write to Joe Mackay, HC head of marine infrastructure. PM will also write to him.
- e. Concern was also expressed about the road from Duncraig to Achmore. There are three main areas of concern: just beyond Duncraig Nursery where trees came down last year; the bridge just after the red roofed house at Craig; and, at the highest point of the road, approximately 1 mile towards Achmore, the wooden barrier has disintegrated – if any car went off here it would lead to a drop of approx 50m onto the rail line below – this is felt to be an urgent matter. IH will draw and forward a map of the road to BC who will write to the HC Roads Dept.

ALL WEATHER PITCH (AWP) AND SCHOOLS UPDATE

- a. As previously stated the lights are being repaired and the work to resurface will go to tender.
- b. BC said there is a meeting coming up at HC to discuss charges for the pitch, games hall and assembly hall. Many communities had expressed anger at the charges levied for facilities by HC.
- c. It was still unclear as to the chain of command for entry to the AWP and games hall. At a previous meeting MB had volunteered to be a key holder but so far we have heard nothing back from HLH. BC will write to ask for an update on progress and also to clarify the process for obtaining access for the various groups if they do not hold a key.
- d. A HC maintenance team has emailed the CC confirming that they intend to visit the school to ascertain the repair work required in the primary school toilets. It was felt that this work is urgent.

PHONELINES SWITCHOVER

- a. PM stated that it is the intention of BT to change over from analogue to digital phonelines in the next few years. PM has spoken to residents at Achnadarach where there are 18 properties, all in the same postcode, with poor broadband. He will submit a community application to Openreach. It is also hoped to look into the same work getting done in Duirinish and Drumbuie where there are approximately 22 and 24 properties.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- a. There had been no feedback from the community.
- b. MM requested a bottlebank at Duirinish now the government bottle return scheme had fallen through. PM will make enquiries.

PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. It was pointed out that there had been a lot of problems with gritting in the previous few weeks with lack of manpower and the poor condition of the vehicles. The work done under the circumstances by the crews was commendable and all the grit bins were kept full.

- b. IH asked for a new grit barrow to undertake gritting on the footpaths in the village. There may be some help available from the Ward Discretionary Fund and our own sources.
- c. JF stated that the cornerstone at the dyke just beyond Bank Street had been dislodged by a vehicle and needs to be repaired before further damage is done. PM will notify Roads Dept.
- d. JF requested that the potholes on the road between the toilets and the start of the Bank St houses be repaired with cold tar at the next available opportunity.
- e. AT said that the road edges on the approaches to Dubhard had not been cut back last year and gorse bushes were now causing damage to vehicles.
- f. PM has replaced out of date Defib pads at the High School, PSBSC Boatshed and the Village Hall.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025