

Plockton & District Community Trust

Urras Coimhearsnachd Sgìre a' Phluic

Note of Open Meeting, held on Zoom – 7pm, Wednesday 14th April 2021

Present

Lenice Townend	John Maclean	Donald Mackenzie
Mary Jane Campbell	Rhona Sharp	Graham Sharp
Terry Kitching	Suzie Burt	Alasdair Burt
Lynn Bruce	David Skilling	Jo Baker
Margaret-Ann Matheson	Morag Mackenzie	Sam Bilner
Malcolm Mackenzie	Dave Horrocks	Jane Buckley
Ann Mackenzie	William ??	Sheila Harvey
Brian Harvey	Isabelle Taylor	Sarah Bruce
Jimmy Fergusson	Maggie Byrne	Johnda Byrne
Alaisdair Mackenzie	Alanna Row + Grant	Ian Hay
Morven Mackay	Anna Rowe	Jane Mackenzie
Sandra Holmes (notes)	Alexander Mackenzie	Catherine Will
Dave McGhie	Johanna Maclean	James Krisp

1 Welcome

Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how to use the Zoom functions; raise hand, mute, chat function.

2 Background and why we set up the Trust

Sandra explained we organised the open meeting for two reasons:

- To provide some background to the Trust and what we've been doing, and
- To prepare for the forthcoming AGM

Why set up the Trust?:

- Grew as an idea, following the Community Council's consultation exercise in 2017.
- Growing awareness, both locally and across Scotland, that more and more communities are stepping up, setting their own agenda and delivering on local priorities.
- There were a few open meetings in 2017/18, and a core group of about 8 continued to meet. This group set up Plockton & District Trust last summer (July 2020).

Do we need a new organisation as we have a community council, the Harbour CIC and also KLCT?

- We did consider all this and felt there was a gap.
 - o CC: representative body; providing a link with Highland Council
 - o Plockton Harbour CIC: It's interests are centred on harbour-related activity

- K&LCT: covers an extensive area so just doesn't have the capacity to lead on local projects in each of the 7 community council areas.
- Our Trust will lead on local projects, working closely with the Community Council and the Harbour CIC.
- We'll also work closely with KLCT on strategic, pan-Lochalsh matters such as the Lochalsh Collaboration.

What have we been doing?

- Lots of meetings – minutes are on the website.
- Lead on the community profile and promoting the roadshow as part of the Lochalsh Collaboration [special thanks to Malcolm and David]
- We've submitted to consultation responses:
 - Scottish Govt regarding Short Term Let proposals
 - Highland Council: regarding the impact on local fishermen arising from proposed developments at Kishorn
- Developed a website
 - Some issues that are being ironed out – these arise from Plockton.org and Plockton.com being closely associated in the past.
 - Thank you to the Bruce family who are letting us use Plockton.com free of charge.
 - Admin stuff: forms, systems, policies
 - We're in the process of registering an interest in the Old Post Office building in Plockton. If successful, if ever offered for sale we get first option to buy

Future Plans:

- This is up to us. The Local Development Plan for P&D will be really helpful to us once its finalised.
- Once we have elected Trustees it will be easier for the Trust to press on, make decisions and do stuff.
- The Old Post Office is an exciting opportunity, but we don't yet know what the NTS's future plans for it are.

3 Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust

Maggie, Chair of KLCT, provided some background to the work of KLCT which was set up in 2012. The Trust took ownership of the Plock in 2019 which was previously owned by the Hamilton Park Trustees. Access has been improved and it has been brought back into community use. Work is underway to explore its Viking heritage and possibly create a Viking Village visitor attraction. The Trust also owns and runs the Kyle public toilets and pontoon and co-ordinated the Covid-19 response in Lochalsh, working alongside the community council's and local Trusts. A key focus of the Trust's work has been the Lochalsh Collaboration which will lead to the delivery of a Community Action Plan for the Lochalsh area.

Maggie also mentioned some of the work being undertaken by other local community Trusts including Sleat and Applecross.

4 Question and Answer session

The meeting was opened to the floor for questions and comments. The following potential projects were raised:

- **Astroturf pitch, Plockton:** Could community access/use be improved? Brief discussion about the history of the pitch and its current use and management. As this is a Highland Council facility, possibly managed by HighLife Highland, a charity set up by Highland Council, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate for the Community Council to follow this up.
- **Airstrip:** Could more be done with the airstrip? As this is owned by Highland Council, if we had a proposal to make better use of it, we could seek to lease or purchase it through Asset Transfer legislation.
- **Plockton Car Park:** Suggestion to extend the car park and provide a facility for public access to computer facilities. The Trust, Community Council and Harbour CIC are engaged with Highland Council regarding car parking and traffic management in Plockton and Duirinish. This is at an early stage and once more advanced there will be full consultation with the community and key stakeholder groups.
- **Derelict barns in Duirinish:** The National Trust for Scotland will not invest in them. What could be done. Brief discussion regarding the crofting status of the barns – appears they are on a tenanted croft/s. This could be looked into as a potential project as the status quo is not ideal.
- **Could we buyout the estate?** A number of communities have done this however, as Balmacara Estate is owned by the NTS a strong case would need to be made. There is legislation to support buyouts of croft land but this has not been used to date. Such a buyout is very complicated. Purchases of smaller areas could be considered also.
- **How can we improve and speed up dialogue with the NTS?** It was suggested that representatives from local groups may wish to request a meeting with the NTS.

It was agreed that the forthcoming Local Development Plan for the Plockton & District area, as part of the Lochalsh Collaboration, would be a good starting point to identify local needs and priorities.

5 Next Steps and AGM

Sandra explained that the paperwork for the AGM has been sent to members and is also available on the Trust's website. When the Trust was incorporated we had to have a minimum of three charitable Trustees. These are Mary Jane Campbell, John Maclean and Sandra Holmes, and all three will stand down at the first AGM.

At the AGM the ordinary members will elect up to nine ordinary members to serve as Charity Trustees. Any ordinary member can stand for election. Nomination forms have to be returned by 21st April 2021.

- If more than nine nominations are received an election will be required. This will be a postal ballot of the ordinary members. In this scenario our AGM will be on 12th May 2021.
- If up to nine nominations are received, these individuals will be elected unopposed. In this scenario our AGM will then be on 28 April 2021.

Arrangements for the AGM will be confirmed by email by 23 April 2021.

6 Working Together

David McGhie, chair of the Plockton & District Community Council, and Jimmy Fergusson on the Plockton Harbour CIC, both addressed the meeting. They each outlined the role and work of their respective organisations and the commitment of the CC, Harbour CIC and Trust to work together for the benefit of the area.

End of meeting