

Portmoak Community Council

Minutes of Council meeting held on Tuesday, May 12th 2009 at Portmoak Primary School.

1. Attendance: Ian McGrattan, Jim Shepherd, John Bird, Mike Hally, Stuart Garvie, Robin Cairncross, Charles Weedon, Cllr Willie Robertson, PC Graham Stephen, and 15 residents. Apologies: were received from K. Baird, M. Barnacle and S. Miller.

2. Previous minutes: were approved and signed.

3. Elections: There were three nominations who were duly elected.

The Chairman introduced himself to the meeting.

4. Police Report.

-There was a reported incident of deer poaching in Scotlandwell, however, on further investigation by the Police no evidence was found to substantiate foul play.

- There have not been any reported cases at Burleigh Sands since the last meeting and the police are asking the public to remain vigilant.

(Ed note: Burleigh Sands is out with the boundary of Portmoak CC)

- Tayside Police have acquired a 'mobile' Police Office which will be used to visit various locations on a one day per month basis. This will allow members of the public to be able to interact more closely with the police.

- Statistics show a slight increase in domestic break ins.

- Extra personnel in police control rooms has decreased the average 999 call time which is now 92.3% within 10 secs. The national average is 90% within 10 secs.

5. Treasurers report.

The Accounts for the past year have been audited and available for inspection. Signatory changes would be made in accordance with the Constitution and Banks requirements.

6. Matter arising from previous minutes

6.1. Mail box at Post Office.

The Collections and Planning Manager was reviewing the situation. Should the Royal Mail consent to a new box it was important to ensure the correct siting of the new box.

Action: Await latest report from Royal Mail.

6.2. Youngs Moss.

Cllr Barnacles sent the CC a copy of a letter from P&KC planning dept. dated April 23rd 2009 detailing their response to a new application. The application was not validated for a number of reasons. The letter suggested that against a background of local concern the applicant submit a comprehensive proposal.

A resident raised a number of issues concerned with the status of the planning applications for the site and it was agreed there was a difficulty in determining the present status.

Action: Cllr Robertson agreed to request an up to date paper trail of the applications

6.3 Single Plan

The Chairman gave a summary of the impact that the new single plan could have to the local area and highlighted the previously expressed concern that in its conception the plan could be thought to lose the importance of those things that matter a great deal to the residents of Kinross-shire. With regard to the new document it was noted that the period of initial consultation ended in June 09 although pleased to note the theme of consultation and communication throughout the document.

Action: Write to Peter Marshall giving invitation to attend CC to give presentation.

6.4 Convention of PKC Community Councils

This committee met twice a year and was attended by the previous Chairperson.

Action: Chairman to maintain links and report as necessary.

6.5 Bee hives in Kinnesswood

Following the concern raised at the previous meeting two issues were explored.

1. Harm to the public. The law is quite clear. If there is a problem with the little beasties, Community Councils do not have the power to apply for a Court order to have the hives removed. Any action rests entirely with the residents. It was noted that the primary school have made parents aware of the beehive situation highlighting any possible problems.
2. Access to the property. The general access arrangements to the site, including servicing the beehives, the condition of the site and property on the site are a concern of the CC.

Action: The CC would seek answers relating to responsibility and access.

6.6 Windfarm at Westfield

The secretary has written to Fife Council requesting any further information on this subject, also contacted the respective Chairman of the Cardenden CC explaining the information received from Defence Estates.

Action: Item closed

7. Subcommittee reports

Paths Group

The information boards for the Michael Bruce Way were nearing completion. It was thought that a 'nominal' group of people could get together to discuss all the paths in the area. An 'event' might be arranged to publicize the completion of the boards.

Water damage had still to be repaired on the Way and it was hoped to receive some financial assistance.

A path between the villages on the high side of the road had been discussed for a long time and there was money available from P&KC. The Woodland Trust would want to start planting the recently acquired ground by September this year so it was important to start / finalize negotiations.

The Gliding Union Plans included having a path way from the Loch Access Route to the Farm shop and money was possibly available from Perth and Kinross Trust.

A member of the public said he noted that path ways were appearing within Perthshire joining up small areas of habitation and asked if this was a Council standard. He was advised to write to Cllr Robertson.

Planning Group

Two points were made, first, there were times when the CC received copies of planning applications and required to comment before the next CC was due to meet and there was not sufficient time for the CC members to fully justify a decision. In these cases a formal objection would allow further time for discussion. Second, it was not thought appropriate for the CC to make any comment with regard to householder applications.

Applications discussed at the meeting:-

1. 09/00561/FUL Extension to house, Burnside Cottage, Easter Balgedie, Kinross.

Action: No Comment

2. 09/00377/FUL Erection of general agricultural storage building, Kirkness Farm

Action: No comment

3. 09/00583/FUL Erection of replacement farmhouse and alterations to barn, Levenmouth Farm, Kinross.

Action: Objection, more information required including right of way.

4. 09/00696/FUL Erection of dwellinghouse and associated works, Wester Balgedie Farm, Wester Balgedie, Kinross.

Action: Objection, subject to plans

5. 09/00701/FUL Erection of a single 15kW wind turbine, Glenvale, Kinross.

Action: Request a formal consultation.

6. 09/00720/FUL Erection of dwellinghouse, Mid Bowhouse, Leslie.

Action: Request a formal consultation

A resident informed the meeting that she had received the Appeal Decision Notice, P/PPA/340/747, from the Scottish Government on land at Kilmagadwood, Scotlandwell based on application 08/01102/FUL dated 23rd May 2008. The decision was to dismiss the appeal and refuse to grant planning permission.

Management Group

1. The Chairman spoke on the vision statement of the new Community Campus and the impact that the new facilities would have on the community as well as the school children. One problem which shows no improvement is the public transport arrangements to and from the campus from the Portmoak area especially out with 'normal' hours.

2. Perth Heritage Trust is highlighting the number of 'famous bridges' in our area.

3. Post Office Van, the driver of the van is aware that the facility is not being used very much and has asked the question how he could provide a better service. He has also requested time to speak at the next CC meeting.

3. Traffic calming.

An accident (luckily no one was seriously hurt) was reported on the morning of the CC meeting at one of the build outs. Police were still taking evidence when the Chairman visited Kinross Police Station in the afternoon and very little detail was available.

There had been problems and there had been a number of suggestions to overcome these problems. There had also been reports of important improvements to the numbers and size of vehicles using the roads and a suggestion that the build outs had reached the software manufacturers of Sat Nav equipment to provide alternative routes for larger vehicles. These reports were anecdotal and for every one against the idea there was probably one for it.

Once the agreed works have been completed, P&KC Roads dept. have asked for a 'settling' time, a period when these problems can be monitored and if necessary substantiated with hard evidence such as a mobile camera.

A resident raised issues regarding signage and resiting of the build outs. It was agreed that all complaints, concerns and comments would be forwarded to the P&KC Roads dept.

8. There were no PKC Councillor Reports

9. AOB

1. Kinnesswood in Bloom

E mail received from KIB asking for continued support of CC. Kinnesswood entered in the Beautiful Britain award competition. The main projects this year are:-Community

Composting facility at the Lomond Inn, a new memorial garden at the War Memorial and a wild flower garden in Gamekeepers Road. KIB are looking for funding for 3 projects, widening of the pavement between Bruce Road and the Golf Club, utilisation of the land adjacent to Golf Club (possible gateway to Michael Bruce Park. The owners, Stephens, has intimated a willingness to gift this piece of land to tie in with the current Stephen's field) and the making safe and landscaping of the Water Board Site, corner of the Park car park.

2. Community Councils Webpage

P&KC had now established a website specifically for Community Councils. The e mail address, PortmoakCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk was up and running although work was still required on the website. It was agreed to take advantage of the Council's offer of space within their website. It was agreed to thank Paul Haslam for his assistance in the past in maintaining the Portmoak CC website.

Action: With secretary

3. P&KC Corporate Plan, 2009-2012

The Council are inviting responses to their plan (May 29th 2009) A copy of the plan is with the secretary.

Action: Response by secretary, May 29th 2009.

4. Conservation areas.

In view of the impending development of the Scotlandwell conservation area, a question was raised as to the management of the area in terms of permitted development etc.

It was noted that individuals within the area have a responsibility to ensure that any developments are within the limits of the conservation area.

The meeting finished at approximately 21.50 hrs.

The following communications are with the Secretary.

1. Notice of AGM, The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, 23rd May 2009.
2. The Nature of Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage
3. Military Flying Activity, 11-22 May 2009
4. Spectra, staff magazine for NHS Tayside

The next meeting of the CC will be on June 9th 2009 at the Primary School.

The new e mail address is PortmoakCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk