

Portmoak Community Council

Draft minutes of Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 8th 2009 at Portmoak School

1. Attendance: I. McGrattan, J. Shepherd, J. Bird, R. Cairncross, S. Garvie, M. Hally, C. Weedon, Cllr W. Robertson, Cllr Baird, Cllr Miller, PC Stephen and 19 residents.

2. Previous minutes: were approved following an addition previously notified by a resident.

3. Police Report. (This was given after the planning presentation)

- two reported break ins, both at Lochend Farm shop, weekends of August 15/16 and 21/22

- theft of scaffolding at the stables, entrance to the Moss. Police would be pleased for any information.

- replying to a question from a Cllr, the Police had no knowledge of a dog being caught in a snare trap at Portmoak Moss.

4. Treasurers report. £409.74 in the bank account.

5. Planning presentation

Mr Peter Marshal, Planning and Sustainable Development Manager gave a presentation on the planning services provided by P&KC.

He outlined the planning services and discussed in detail, the new Planning Act, Strategic Development Plans and the Local Plan. Recently the planning team had been increased to include more enforcement officers and a new post of Affordable Housing Enabler.

The first stage of the preparation of the new local Development Plan has just been completed and as part of the process of keeping the public better informed the 500+ initial comments received from people and groups within the area will shortly be available on the P&KC website.

Part of the new approach to a local plan included representations from people and groups from within the area (approx 500 submitted) and these can shortly be seen on P&KC website.

The increase in housing in the Portmoak area, 2001-2009, has been around the P & K average of 10%.

Generally for Kinross-shire, 2008-2020, there is an expected increase of 855 houses. Taking into consideration present planning consents there is an expected increase of 460 houses, 400 for Kinross and Milnathort and 60 for the 'landward' area of Kinross-shire.

Due to different accounting techniques the quoted figures are for developments of 5+ properties, however, single or less than 5+ (windfall) add some flexibility into the system.

Following the presentation there were a number of questions on the following topics:- enforcement conditions, standards of developers, neighbour notification, local roads, streetscape design, amending plans once agreed, permitted development rights, independent review bodies.

Peter closed his presentation by informing the meeting of further training events on the new planning system and introduced 'Planning Aid for Scotland', a body set up to assist anyone with planning problems. Their helpline number is 08456037602.

The Chairman thanked Peter for his presentation.

6. Matter arising from previous minutes

Mail box at Post Office.

Following the report sent to Edinburgh Office, one letter received to say that the letter had been sent to London Office and second letter received from London office acknowledging letter.

Website

Webmaster on holiday until September 14th 2009 so current minutes will be late.

Notice Board

Minutes at Kinnesswood notice board regularly removed.

Cleaning of roads

The B9097 between B996 and B920 and the A911 between Easter Balgedie and Burleigh Sands were reported as needed cleaning. Mechanical Cleaner is presently broken.

7. Subcommittee reports

Paths Group

There is not generally a problem raising money to create new paths but there is a problem raising money maintaining them. As a community if we want to keep the walks in our area then we need to come up with an idea to raise the money to maintain them and one way would be to ask for sponsors. This would be especially useful for those areas out with any other area of responsibility which is approx 2 Kms of the Michael Bruce Way.

Maintenance for this part of the MBW works out to approx £500 and if sponsorship could be arranged for 25p/metre it would require 25/30 people who would be given a certificate of sponsorship as a receipt.

People who might wish to participate are businesses and people who use the paths for pleasure and dog walkers.

Posters on the MBW could also be used to advertise for sponsors. The signage for the MBW should be ready in the next couple of months.

Cllr Robertson added that the Countryside Trust was looking at the problem of maintaining walks and had asked for a paper to be prepared on the subject and was keen to keep in touch with this proposal.

A resident stated that the lack of maintenance on the walk meant that the bracken was nearly taking over the path in certain areas. The owner of the land could apply for a maintenance grant but it was not known whether he had done so.

A resident raised the question of responsibility of the path from Gamekeepers to the Cobbles which was used by school children to keep them off the busier roads. It was suggested that this should be maintained by P&KC. Action required.

Cllr Robertson suggested to the meeting that since this was the last winter when a commonly used weed suppressing chemical could be used by anyone (now a Government banned substance) it was likely that path maintenance would become more of an issue.

Planning Group

The following planning applications were discussed.

09/01465/FLL Change of use from disused farmyard area to garden ground for dwelling units 1 and 2, Former Hay Store, West Bowhouse Farm, Leslie

(Action: No objection)

09/01487/FLL Erection of an agricultural shed, Wester Balgedie Farm, Wester Balgedie, Kinross KY13 9HE

(Action: The CC had previously objected to this proposal and found no grounds to move from their previous position. The applicant was present and queried the decision by the CC. It was agreed to write to the applicant setting out in summary the reasons for the objection)

09/01436/IPL Erection of a dwelling house for an agricultural worker (in principle) Kirkness Farm, Lochgelly, KY5 0HH

(Action: No objection)

There was no further news on the planning application at Friar Place.

Management Group

The Chairman gave an update on the Traffic Calming situation. An e mail had been received that afternoon explain that the new bollards were not in stock and new ones were not available until later in September.

The CC had informed the P&KC Roads dept that they would support the request of local opinion to move the 'Gamekeepers' build out.

Cllr Robertson informed the meeting that he had asked P&KC to have a speed restriction placed on the road between Mawcarse old railway bridge towards Balgedie.

A resident asked if build outs were the best method of traffic calming. The Chairman explained despite everyone having an opinion on the subject the build outs were the chosen method by the experts.

Further questions on the build outs were asked by residents concerning benefit to the community, lighting and drivers continually speeding.

8. Cllr reports

- Cllr Miller informed the meeting that the Wester Balgedie hearing would be taking place shortly.

(Ed Note: The CC had not received notification and were not involved with the hearing)

9. AOCB

(Ed Note: The constitution states, "meetings of the Council shall be open to members of the public who shall have the right to raise matters to be put on the agenda for the next meeting and who shall have right of audience subject to 7 days written notice having been given to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting"

1. A resident raised the issue of the poor standard of signage at Scotlandwell around, what was called, the Well Green. The signs would be identified and the problem raised with P&KC. Action Required.

2. A resident raised the issue of dog fouling in Bruce Road and was advised to contact the Dog Warden.

3. A resident raised the issue of a 30 mph sign being missing and was advised to contact Clarence either by telephone 0800232323 or e mail, Clarence@pkc.gov.uk

(Post Meeting Note: After leaving the meeting Cllr Baird noticed a number of street lights not working which she reported to Clarence)

10. Communications

1. 12.8.09 E mail in support of proposals for build outs and P&KC suggestions. Agree that CC should take community/majority view and not minority.

2. 12.8.09 E mail, Build Outs would not stop bad driving; new bollards and signs detract from visual appreciation of village scene, consideration of other methods such as rumble strips

3. 13.8.09 Licensing Board applications

4. 13.8.09 E mail from resident, various complaints re: planning etc. Reply sent 30.8.09

5. 14.8.09 P&KC Local Development Plan, comments will be made available on PKC website

6. 19.8.09 Planning enforcement re: fence at Gamekeepers, agreed in 2008.

7. 20.8.09 P&KC Traffic and Road Safety, confirming what was suggested at previous meeting re bollards etc.
8. 20.8.09 E mail, complaint re: minutes, no vote, wrong statistics. Reply sent, 20.8.09
9. 20.8.09 E mail from P&KC "Better at Funding" session on Sept 17th 2009.
10. 24.8.09 E mail, re Round Table Quiz challenge, Sept 18th 2009.
11. 24.8.09 Letter from Royal Mail, Edinburgh, CC report sent to Head of Customer Services
12. 25.8.09 Letter from Royal Mail, London, receipt of letter, Assistant to Board Members
13. 28.8.09 E mail, proposal for moving build out and reply sent 29.8.09
14. 28.8.09 Information on the National Older Peoples Day, 1st October 2009, Dewars Ice Rink.
15. 1.9.09 E mail from Clarence, Sweeping of roads, mechanical breakdown of sweeper.
16. 2.9.09 E mail from P&KC Enforcement re: burial site and open space piece of ground at Friar Place.
17. 2.9.09 E mail, request from resident for information on apparent difference in meetings, minutes etc. Reply sent 4.9.09
18. 4.9.09 Completion of application for school accommodation
19. 7.9.09 E mail, received from resident detailing information on pollution caused by slowness of traffic due to build outs.
20. 7.9.09 E mail from P&KC re training meeting, update on new planning system
21. 8.9.09 Telephone call, re: problems with building site behind Wellside Motors and communication with P&KC enforcement officer.
22. 8.9.09 E mail, P&KC Roads detailing waiting time for new bollards
23. 8.9.09 E mail, P&KC Roads detailing information on accident statistics. (Received after meeting)
24. 8.9.09 E mail, Kinnesswood Bus Shelter, would it be possible to consider replacement with smaller shelter to open up area as village space. (Received after meeting)
25. 8.9.09 E mail confirming problem on land behind Wellside Motors. (Received after meeting)

The meeting closed at approx 21.40 hrs.

The next meeting will be held in Portmoak Hall at 7.00 p.m. on October 13th 2009.