

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, November 8th 2011 at the Primary School.

1. Attendance: Cllrs M. Parkin (Chairman) J. Bird, R. Cairncross, T. Smith, S. Forde, D. Williamson, M Strang Steel, WClrs Baird, and Barnacle, and 5 residents.

Apologies: were received from WClr Robertson.

2. Previous minutes: were approved and signed.

3. Police Report (part 1)

The Police were not in attendance when their report was read by the Secretary.

Farm Security

There have been thefts from farms in the Bridge of Earn and Kinross area. Thieves use the opportunity of rural locations to steal vehicles, plant, tools and fuel.

Access roads to farms should be kept to a minimum and main access roads should be secured by locking gates. If suspicious people or vehicles are seen, the Police and neighbouring farms should be informed. Farmhouses, steadings and outbuildings, should be alarmed and secured.

Farm machinery should be kept out of view and locked away when not in use. Consideration should be given to property marking and keeping keys in a separate location.

Quad bikes, motor bikes, and 4x4 vehicles are often stolen. They should be locked away when not in use, and be kept close to occupied farm buildings where possible.

Farm tools are easily stolen and may not be missed for some time. It is advisable to mark all tools and lock them away when not in use. Keep an inventory for insurance and police purposes. Fuel tanks should be kept locked.

Recent crimes

Vandalism in Kinnesswood Main Street was being investigated.

4. Treasurers report:

There was £512.69 in the general account and £730.40 in the MBW account.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings

1. Stephens Field: Although there was no progress with the transfer of the field to the community, Stephen's had recently visited the 5 bar gate site at Bishop Terrace in preparation for repairing the supporting post.

2. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter: No further news to report.

3. Bus Stop at Scotlandwell: No further news. Some parents from Scotlandwell have spoken to the Head teacher. There was a suggestion of high visibility vests being worn.

4. Build Outs: Still awaiting remedial work to the build out at Scotlandwell. It has now been over four months since this problem was reported to P&KC.

A resident had e-mailed the CC to say that the traffic flow through Kinnesswood was slower since the introduction of the build outs.

The question of whether the build outs were correctly designed was raised again, but the CC would wait for the response from WCllr Robertson, who was arranging for an inspection by P&KC Roads, as agreed at the October meeting.

It was also noted that it had been agreed at the October meeting that the Community Council would arrive at an agreed view regarding the viability of the build outs.

5. Regulation of Water Level in Loch Leven: There had been no information received in spite of this having been promised several times. The Chairman would now try to obtain this information via The Freedom of Information Act.

6. Pedestrian Footpath along A911 between Easter and Wester Balgedie: An e mail from WCllr Robertson stated that a pathway between Channel Farm and Wester Balgedie had been agreed, but plans for the path from Wester to Easter Balgedie were still to be made.

7. Gritting and Snow Clearing : Despite assurances from P&KC that a response would be given to the CC regarding this winter's gritting and snow clearing programme, nothing had been received to date. WCllr Baird would raise this issue.

WCllr Barnacle informed the meeting that he had raised the issue of Turfhill's remaining as a storage site for the gritting and snow clearing machinery used in Kinross-shire. He thought it inappropriate for him to be discussing help from Kinross-shire farmers with P&KC Roads Department in Blairgowrie.

Police report (Part 2)

Sgt Williams joined the meeting and gave an update on the current position within Central Scotland Police force. In Tayside, the three divisions were being amalgamated, with officers being lost from the top, as opposed to policemen on the beat. Section Inspectors would have more autonomy. The police would continue to prioritise community responsibilities.

There was to be a trial in Crieff, where volunteers from the public would use vehicle speed detectors. It was asked if a similar trial in Cupar had been evaluated, but no report had been received.

Mud on the road was due to be raised under AOCB. However, the question of responsibility for clearing up mud deposited on the road by farm vehicles was put to the Police. It was clear that during farming operations, when mud was being left on the road, notices should be put up to warn traffic of the hazard, and the responsibility for clearing mud from the road by sunset, was that of the farmer.

There was a range of opinion from sympathy for the farmers trying to work in adverse conditions, to concern that farmers were showing a disregard for their responsibilities. Although mud on the road was considered a common problem in the area, there were few accidents recorded because of this.

There was no report of the recent accident which had destroyed the bus stop at Wester Balgedie, although the issue would be raised at the next Police/P&KC road committee meeting.

During the cold weather last winter, ice had formed on the A911 Scotlandwell to Auchmuirbridge road, due to blocked drainage from the road into the adjacent fields. It was considered that with cutbacks in P&KC spending these events could become more prevalent.

6. Paths, Pavements and Roads

The latest part of the Heritage Trail was officially opened on Oct 31st 2011 and a route through the RSPB land has been agreed in principle. Repair of the culvert on the Michael Bruce Way is still outstanding.

A resident asked about progress with the 40 mph changes. WCllr Barnacle reported that following the Speed Limit Review there had been a number of comments and these were now being considered by P&KC. The suggested changes at Auchmuirbridge had been completed by Fife Council, on the Fife side of the road.

The south side of Scotlandwell had still to be agreed.

Planning

There had been five planning applications received since the last meeting. No objections would be made in respect of;

11/01637 Pittendreich Farm Cottages, installation of waste water treatment plant

11/01626 Wester Bowhouse, Leslie; extension to form accommodation and double garage

11/01745 Benarty, Wester Balgedie; installation of Solar panels

11/01726 The Napix, Cobbles, Kinnesswood; formation of replacement driveway, replacement wall, and parking spaces

The Community Council is presently considering 11/01780/FLL; land to the East of Drovers Way, Easter Balgedie; erection of a dwelling house and garage.

Ongoing issues that the CC are discussing with P&KC regarding Scotlandwell are expected to be resolved by the end of November, and problems with the P&KC planning website have been overcome by the introduction of a new planning portal.

It was mentioned that reductions are to be made to solar panel feed-in tariffs and anyone wishing to take advantage of the present level of tariff would need to have solar panels installed before 12th Dec 2011.

Ward Councillor Reports.

WCllr Baird reported that P&KC would not be taking up the offer of free turf from Turffit, which could have been used in the vicinity of the new path between Kinnesswood and the Hall, due to the higher price of laying turf compared to seeding the area.

The Chairman would write to Turffit and thank them for their kind offer.

WCllr Barnacle was asked by the Chairman for his opinion on the proposed P&KC ten year moratorium on the right of tenants to buy their council houses, as the Community Council had recently been asked by P&KC for their view of this. It was apparent from the following discussion that there were differing views on this policy.

WCllr Barnacle said that he was meeting with other Ward Cllrs and P&KC Planning dept. to discuss the issue of material change.

The question of the developer contribution for the purchase of trees at Wellside Park was raised, as this money has not yet been received. WCllr Baird would investigate.

7. AOCB

Dog Waste.

It was agreed to ask P&KC for a dog waste bin to be placed at the A911 end of Grahamstone Track, because of complaints from residents and landowners regarding the disposal of dog waste in private refuse bins, or in fields. WCllr Baird agreed to progress this.

(Post Meeting Note: The ownership of the land where the dog waste bin is to be sited will be ascertained and relevant permission will be sought)

8. Communications since last meeting

The secretary has a list of communications received since the last meeting.

New subjects received are raised under AOCB.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting finished at 8.45 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday December 13th 2011 in the Primary School.