

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, October 11th 2011 at Portmoak Hall.

1. Attendance : CClr's M. Parkin (Chairman) J. Bird, R. Cairncross, T. Smith, S. Forde, D. Williamson, M Strang Steel, WClr's Baird, Robertson and Miller and 8 residents.

Apologies : were received from WClr Barnacle.

2. Previous minutes: were approved and signed.

3. Police Report

The Police report had been sent via email prior to the meeting.

Their corporate message was, "Tayside Police - Making a Difference"

- Putting communities at the heart of everything we do
- Fighting crime, bringing criminals to justice and protecting the vulnerable
- Showing that we care and delivering a good quality service
- Working together, respecting each other and doing our best

2011 Be Safe for Autumn Campaign

"Tackling vandalism, youth related disorder and alcohol related crime to reassure the public and reduce alarm and distress in the community"

This campaign will run in Western Division from 29th September until 13th November 2011

The aims of the campaign are similar to previous divisional initiatives such as Homesafe, Operation Dry Up and After Dark.

Analysis has shown that vandalism, youth related disorder and alcohol related crime peaked during October last year and the 'Be Safe for Autumn Campaign' will give sections the opportunity to plan preventative measures.

The objective of the 'Be Safe for Autumn Campaign' is to increase community confidence by providing a high visibility police presence in the communities of Perth and Kinross, and to reduce vandalism, alcohol related crime, youth disorder, weapon and knife crime, and hate crime."

Recent crimes

29/09/2011 (overnight) – theft of construction and DIY equipment – Country Holdings, Wellside Park – three persons arrested.

4. Treasurers report:

There has been an increase in funds of 9p, being interest earned on the total account balance of £1506.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings

1. Stephens Field : The CCs solicitors are presently in touch with solicitors acting for A & J Stephen Ltd., and the acquisition of the field is proceeding, albeit very slowly. The secretary has written to Stephens regarding the broken five bar gate straining post, although users of the field are finding it easier to enter the field without the gate in place.

2. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter: The bus shelter was inspected by Mr Moray Fraser of PKC Transport Department, without any prior notice, because he had been passing through Kinnesswood, and thought to take the opportunity. He had subsequently telephoned the Chairman to say that he did not think that the roof was leaking, but it had not been raining at the time. Mr Fraser however thought it would now be unlikely that there would be money available for a new roof in any event, but PKC might undertake to remove moss from the roof and paint the internal beams with a wood treatment. At the Chairman's behest another visit is planned, with a CClr present.

3. Bus Stop at Scotlandwell : The Chairman had spoken to Margaret Roy at PKC Transport Department, and she will make a site visit to discuss possible re-positioning of the bus stop, as raised by CClr Forde at the September meeting. This visit would be combined with that of Mr Moray Fraser when he returns to view the Bus Shelter, as they work in the same office at PKC.

4. Build Outs : No reflective tape has been installed as indicated by Cllr Baird at the September CC meeting, and the signage on the Scotlandwell build out on the A911 has been demolished by traffic, and requires replacement. It seems unreasonable that the community has to wait so long for things as simple as reflective tape or a replacement bollard.

CClr Smith had received information that a replacement for the demolished bollard had been ordered by PKC.

Cllr Cairncross raised the question of whether the build outs were indeed as successful an idea as first thought. He had initially been in favour of them, but the problems experienced since their completion had led him to question their benefit. The solar powered lighting for the build outs was not evident in the dark.

After a lot of discussion WClr Robertson suggested that P&KC Roads dept should be asked to visit the sites in question. It was also agreed that the Community Council should consider all the alternatives and arrive at an agreed position regarding the viability of the build outs.

5. Water Level in Loch Leven : The response from Mr Keith Miller, Clerk to the River Leven Trustees, expected by the end of August has not been received, but Mr Miller has apologised for this, and has said that he was still awaiting the information he needs to respond.

6. Wall Opposite Portmoak Hall : The grey cement rendering, chosen by residents, has been applied by PKC contractors. The Community Council would like to thank P&KC for following up the suggestions of the community in this matter. Item closed.

7. Proposed Kinross-shire Community Council Network : On 27th September, the Chairman and Cllr Robin Cairncross attended an exploratory meeting in Kinross, organised by Ward Cllr Michael Barnacle, to discuss the possibility of the formation of a Network of Kinross-shire Community Councils, the purpose of which would be to exchange information, to discuss best practice, and to provide mutual help for the benefit of all Kinross-shire Community Councils, thereby improving procedures and practices, and to provide different perspectives for consideration, all for the benefit of the County of Kinross-shire.

This meeting was attended by Community Councillors from five of the six Kinross-shire Community Councils, plus Ward Cllr Kathleen Baird. Sufficient common interest was shown for a second meeting to be held on 18th January 2012. It was noted that PKC approve of this proposed Network, and will kindly pay for the hire of a meeting room at the Campus.

8. Community Council Elections : These were organised by PKC, and nominations closed on 29th September. The present seven Portmoak Cllrs were nominated, and will therefore be re-elected on Thursday 3rd November 2011 for a period of four years. There were no other nominations received.

9. Pedestrian Footpath along A911 between Easter and Wester Balgedie : This matter is presently in hand on a number of fronts, and the creation of this footpath is a Portmoak CC objective. A suggestion that Dryside Road could be used was considered inappropriate. WClr Robertson said that TRACKS were currently in discussion with the three landowners beside the A911.

WCllr Robertson also informed the meeting that TRACKS were in the process of finalising the part of the walkway between Portmoak Moss and Grahamstone. It was considered that the Heritage Trail brought a lot of business to the area through visitor numbers.

10. Lomond Country Inn : The Chairman had contacted the owner of the Inn, who indicated that it was to be included in a sale by property auctioneers based in Edinburgh, at the beginning of November.

11. Gritting and Snow Clearing : In response to CC input, and requests for information, the PKC Area Roads Engineer (South) had e-mailed on 5th October to say that a full reply would be provided for Portmoak CC by Area Roads Engineer Mr Stuart D'All. This had not been received at 11th October, but information printed in the Kinross-shire Newsletter would indicate that steps are being taken for 2011 / 2012, that include some of the Portmoak suggestions made to PKC Roads.

There was discussion relating to the lack of response to date from P&KC Roads. Despite local businesses preparing for expected bad weather, it seemed that P&KC were still not discussing with Community Councils plans which would improve services over last winter's response. One of the suggestions made by the Community Council was a self help scheme, whereby the CC could immediately contact suitable snow clearing contractors in the area when they were required.

6. Subcommittee reports

Paths, Pavements and Roads

The culvert on the Michael Bruce Way might be repaired by the contractors presently working on the Heritage Trail.

CCllr Tom Smith also reported that he would be attending the official opening of the Kinross Mill Section of the Heritage Trail, on 31st October.

Planning

There had been 34 applications to date for the planning year 2011.

Since the last meeting there had been 4 applications. No objections would be made by the CC to 11/01533/FLL, proposed new build at Channel Farm, Pittendriech. 11/01484/FLL, proposed new build at Newlands Farm. 11/01574/FLL, proposed extension at Clunes, Scotlandwell.

However the CC had reservations about 11/01388/FLL, proposed new build at Levenmouth, and has submitted an objection.

There had recently been an approval by P&KC for 3 windmills, 1 km NE of Glenlomond.

Cllr Cairncross, on behalf of the CC, participated in the twice yearly meeting of the Planning Forum hosted by P&KC. The areas covered included an update on the proposed Local Development Plan and how it was to be taken forward; a number of matters relating to planning conditions including the role of Section 75 Agreements; and specific matters relating to the planning process such as pre-application consultation, and errors on the PKC website. This was a constructive meeting with contributions from developers, Community Councils and PKC officials.

Ongoing issues that the CC is discussing with P&KC, include problems associated with the back dating of information, and errors on the P&KC website planning portal. However there has been a recent important change to public access of the Council's planning website. Early experience suggests that this change could meet many of the concerns raised by the CC.

One issue in the planning cycle that still created problems was the acceptance of material changes by the planning officers, without further consultation. The rules regarding this were still considered to be unclear. Wllr Robertson described this area of the planning process as a democratic deficit.

Although not directly associated with the planning process, Cllr Forde raised the problems that were now associated with the building site at Scotlandwell due to the lack of purchaser interest. Wllr Robertson suggested that the CC write a letter to the builder setting out the concerns of the community, and the Chairman asked Cllr Forde to list the problems, and he would write to the builders.

With regard to the building plots at Kilmagadwood, a resident asked if they could be alerted to any changes to the present proposals for this site. Cllr Cairncross suggested that the residents would have certain safeguards because of the way the Development Control Committee report granting approval for this development had been minuted.

Ward Councillor Reports.

Wllrs Baird and Robertson had previously spoken on a number of issues. The Vane Farm Road would be closed for a short period in November, while a new water pipeline was laid across the road.

Wllr Miller suggested that residents should consider the use of winter tyres. His experience last year was that they increased road holding especially on slopes in icy weather. He was aware of the cost of these items.

The recycling centre at Kinross was having a trial period with polystyrene products.

A survey had recently been undertaken on what visitors thought about the area in terms of facilities, especially around the Heritage Trail, and what improvements could be made. Wllr Miller also noted a planning application adjacent to the Gliding Centre.

WCllr Miller also asked the public to support the Friends of Portmoak Primary School request for their vote in the RBS Community Force competition, to support the creation of a new and inspiring library experience within the school. Some residents had experienced problems with following the details on the website, <http://communityforce.rbs.co.uk/project/961>

WCllr Robertson was aware that a number of proposals for additional parking places in Portmoak were associated with the Heritage Trail, but said that it should be remembered that the original concept of access to the Heritage trail was via 5 access points, and these had not changed. It was also important to recognise that there was a bus route serving the Heritage Trail. Although parking spaces were important in each of the Portmoak villages, these should not be automatically associated with the Heritage trail, but should be considered for the benefits they brought to specific areas.

WCllr Barnacle had submitted his report via e mail, as follows;

“I made representation to the Roads dept on 14 May 2011 regarding the Speed Limit Review of A & B Class Roads, and said;

Point 5 of my letter relates to the A911, and I am unhappy with your response: I suggest your proposed variation under 2(p) at Scotlandwell, should be extended further north-west to a point before the junction by Fairview House, following a recent planning approval for housing development there. Also your variation under 3 © at Wester Balgedie, should be extended west, to the Channel Farm / Pittendreich junction.

Your proposal for a 40 mph limit on the B919 at Mawcarse is welcome.

I remain unhappy that my requests for a 50 mph limit between Scotlandwell & Auchmuirbridge, and an extension of the 50 mph limit south of Hatchbank, to Gairney Bridge, have not been agreed.”

7. AOCB

1. Letter received from Kinross-shire Civic Trust re Planning Aid Scotland training event.
2. It was discussed how best to limit the speed of vehicles on the south side of Scotlandwell. CCllr Forde would set out the problems and the Chairman would write to P&KC Roads dept to seek a solution.
3. A resident raised the issue of speeding traffic between Auchmuirbridge and Scotlandwell. Although this area was not part of the recommendation for a restricted speed limit, there was a clear indication that drivers were travelling at excessive speed.

It was suggested that the CC could hire and operate speed detecting devices to quantify and qualify the problem. The Police say that when they use speed detecting devices it is usually local residents who are to blame.

4. Election of Community Councillors.

Following the nationwide review of Community Councils and the elections now administered by P&KC, the next meeting of the Community Council will be called by a Ward Councillor, and will be held on November 8th 2011. A Ward Cllr will chair the first part of the meeting, to elect officers of Portmoak Community Council, and thereafter the Community Council meeting will proceed as normal.

5. A resident at a previous meeting had raised the issue of a partially obscured double bend sign on the road from Scotlandwell to Auchmuirbridge. The CC could now report that the undergrowth has been cleared from the sign.

8. Communications since last meeting

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

Any new subjects received are raised under AOCB.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday November 8th in the Primary School and will be an Extraordinary General Meeting, held in accordance with the recently updated Rules for Community Councils in Perth and Kinross.