

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2011

- 1. Attendance :** Cllrs M. Parkin (Chair); D. Williamson; R. Cairncross; T. Smith; M. Strang Steel.
WClrs W. Robertson; S. Miller; M. Barnacle; and six residents.
Apologies : Clls J. Bird; S. Forde; and WClr K. Baird.
- 2. Previous Minutes :** The Minutes of the Meeting held on June 14th 2011 were approved and signed.
- 3. Police Report:** In the absence of a representative, a written report was provided. The police are running "Operation Homesafe" until the end of July, aimed at reducing violent crime, antisocial behaviour, alcohol related crime and disorder, weapon carrying, and knife and hate crime. They are concentrating on the time between 10pm and 2am each Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

'T' in the Park caused few traffic or crime issues. There were complaints about excessive noise from the main stage, which will be examined by the promoters.

There was an attempted Housebreaking in the Kinnesswood area on 28th June.

Action is being taken to address a spate of thefts of Satellite Navigation systems from unattended vehicles. The public is asked to remove or hide these items when leaving their vehicles.

- 4. Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported that the annual PKC Community Council grant had been received. There was no expenditure on the CC account. Donations of £670 in response to a fundraising effort for the Michael Bruce Way had been received, and maintenance costs of £170 had been paid out. Total funds in hand within the two CC bank accounts at 12 July 2011 were £1,549.17p

Matters Arising From Previous Meetings

1. Stephens Field, Kinnesswood

The CCs solicitors had written to solicitors acting for A & J Stephen Ltd on 2nd June 2011, to start proceedings for the acquisition of the field by the CC. As there had been no response, apart from an acknowledgement, a reminder has been sent.

2. Road Signage

As suggested by a resident at the June meeting, a survey of road signs throughout Portmoak was completed, and this showed that signage is inconsistent, sometimes inappropriate, sometimes missing, sometimes damaged, and on three occasions redundant. Rather than consume the time of the Meeting with details, the Chairman undertook to work with WCllr K. Baird to consider any appropriate action, and this was agreed.

The errors with the sign to Kilmagadwood have been corrected.

3. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter Area

As previously reported, CC action to replace the roof, and possibly make other improvements in conjunction with local groups and with PKC, will be considered in September 2011.

4. Build Outs

No progress to report.

5. Water Level in Loch Leven

The Chairman had received no response to his letter to the River Leven Trustees in May 2011, and had therefore written again on 5th July 2011.

6. Convention of P&K Community Councils

The Chairman would be attending a meeting of the Convention in Perth on 20th July.

7. Wall opposite Portmoak Hall

In a written report because of absence, WCllr Baird said that the short masonry bolts will be replaced by longer bolts, and that PKC now required guidance as to whether the community would prefer the wall to be painted or harled. There was concern about ongoing maintenance, whichever option was pursued, and the Chairman would discuss the matter further with WCllr Baird, after consulting with residents.

6. Sub-committee Reports

Paths Pavements and Roads

As previously reported, fund-raising by the CC for maintenance of the Michael Bruce Way had so far realised £670 from local organisations, residents, and businesses.

The Chairman had received a letter from a Glenrothes walker with various suggestions for improvements to the Michael Bruce Way which were being

considered. As there are now funds in hand, Cllr T. Smith agreed to investigate the cost of repairing of the path above the golf course, where drainage pipes have become exposed.

The Chairman reported that the Michael Bruce Way would eventually become a Core Path, but that P&KC had indicated to him that they would probably not be taking responsibility for its maintenance due to budget constraints. This would leave the Community Council to raise funds for that purpose.

Planning

Cllr Cairncross reported on a meeting with Mr Nick Brian of PKC planning. A number of procedural deficiencies in dealing with planning applications within Portmoak were pointed out to Mr Brian, who undertook to investigate them. Cllr Cairncross together with Cllr Strang Steel, had also met with Mr Ian Innes of PKC Legal Services to discuss issues arising from the Wellside development, and Mr Innes promised to consider these issues with the appropriate PKC officials. Both meetings were held in a constructive and co-operative atmosphere, and there would be further discussions on all the issues raised.

The CC considered the following planning applications;

11/00817/FLL Installation of roof lights at Stewart Place, Kinnesswood. No objection.

11/00878/FLL Erection of a garden studio at Townhead Cottage, Kinnesswood. No objection.

11/00738/FLL Installation of solar panels at Kingsbank, Scotlandwell. No objection.

11/01032/LBC Installation of replacement windows and doors at Dunhoy Kinnesswood. No objection. It was noted that Dunhoy was within a Conservation Area and was a Listed Building.

The Community Council had objected to an application for a dwelling house and garage at Sandy Lane Scotlandwell 11/00685/FLL

7. Ward Cllr reports

Ward Cllr Barnacle had previously written to the CC to propose a Kinross-shire Community Council Forum whose membership would consist of representatives from the six Community Councils in the Kinross-shire (Ward 8) area of Perth and Kinross (Cleish; Fossoway; Glenfarg; Kinross; Milnathort; and Portmoak) plus the four elected Councillors for Kinross-shire, and he was invited to make a presentation on this proposal to the meeting. He suggested that each Community Council would send no more than three of its members to meetings proposed to take place twice yearly, in September and May. With this combination, the maximum number of attendees at each meeting would be twenty two. The purpose would be to discuss mutual issues and present a united voice. Kinross CC had already decided not to support a formal arrangement, but was open to an informal liaison with other Kinross-shire CCs.

The CC replied that WCllr Barnacles proposal had been considered, and it was felt that any forum would have limited impact unless recognised by PKC, and that it would be inappropriate to create such a forum without PKC agreement and recognition, and that the Convention of Perth & Kinross CCs was presently the recognised means of communicating matters of mutual CC interest to PKC, and that CCs and the Convention were both funded by PKC.

The CC did not therefore think it appropriate for another body to be placed in the line of communication between it, the Convention, and PKC. However, Portmoak CC was very willing to collaborate with other Kinross-shire CCs on an informal but organised basis, provided that this was CC led and managed, probably with a rotating CC Chairmanship, with Ward Councillors in attendance, and provided that the existence of such a body was conveyed to PKC as a matter of courtesy.

WCllr Barnacle also reported that he had referred the Kilmagadwood planning decision to Cllr Baird's scrutiny committee, and was due to have a meeting with her.

WCllr Barnacle drew attention to the consultation on Tayplan. The CC was already aware of this and might make a submission. WCllr Barnacle also drew attention to the possibility of an appeal to the Local Review Body against a refusal of a planning application using delegated powers.

He had had a meeting with Mr Nick Brian, who had confirmed that no consent had been granted which might compromise the possibility of the Levenmouth road being recognised as a core path.

He also considered that the PKC developer contribution required for a single two bedroom house, built for use by an agricultural worker, was inappropriate, and he was working to have the developer contribution abolished in such a case.

WCllr Baird submitted a written report in her absence, as follows;

Spraying of Herbicide

A PKC officer had met with some Portmoak residents the day after the June CC meeting. PKC has now written to all who made a complaint about this spraying. A landowner had also received a letter regarding spraying on the part of his land that is a SSSI.

The PKC spraying contractor confirmed that his operatives applied the chemical throughout the village, and accepted that some of the overspray was carried out by one of his employees.

The chemical used will not inhibit new growth and is not a residual herbicide. PKC has asked the contractor that this operative be removed from future spraying duties. It has been agreed with residents that soft landscape areas will be removed from future work schedules and site plans, and only hard surfaces / pathways will be sprayed in future. The PKC Environment web page gives information regarding ground maintenance and a list of FAQs.

Verge Cutting

There will only be one cut this year by PKC, and this had started at the beginning of July.

The Wall at Portmoak Hall

The contractor remains responsible for the wall for a year after completion. The inadequate short bolts will be replaced by long bolts. At the moment, the short bolts are tightened as required. With regard to the finishing of the brickwork it was stated by PKC that harling would last much longer than paint. P&KC would only paint once, and the community would have to re-paint thereafter. This was considered unreasonable as maintenance of PKC property should not be passed on to residents. The CC made the point that if the harling were to require maintenance, would this also be passed to the residents.

A decision on either paint or harling is required in any event.

Condition of B920 (The Causeway)

A P&KC engineer had inspected the road in response to the concern of some residents about its condition, and a number of recent accidents caused by vehicles running off the road. The engineer had reported that no remedial work was required. The camber on the road was correct, and is needed for water to run off. In his opinion, accidents have been due to driver error, and the carriageway is wide enough for two vehicles to safely pass. WCllr Baird had considered the option of *Soft Verge* signs, but was aware of the CCs view on excessive signage.

Revised Speed Limits on A911

These were approved by Committee in May 2010. Traffic Regulations Orders are being processed and should be in place early next year.

WCllr Robertson reported that he had asked George Lawrie of TRACKS to consider making a safe pedestrian route between Easter and Wester Balgedie as part of the circular route including the Lochside track and Loch Leven Larder. Land would have to be acquired to do this. Funding for this is a difficulty.

WCllr Robertson had also asked for Police speed checks at the entry to Scotlandwell from the South, in response to complaints about speeding.

AOCB

The Chairman reported that Scottish Government funding had been partially withdrawn from the Association of Community Councils, and the Association was going to be wound up as a result.

PKC Environmental Services had been in touch with the CC to advise that their regular tests on water from the Well, at Scotlandwell, had revealed the presence of bacteria. Accordingly they were going to erect the following notice at the Well; "Cautionary Notice - As this water is not treated, the quality cannot be assured for human consumption purposes."

Communications since last Meeting

Jul 05 2011 P&KC Weekly List
Jul 05 2011 Response to invitation to Convention from Comrie CC
Jul 04 2011 P&KC decision list
Jul 04 2011 P&KC Review of Community Councils and details of elections in November
Jul 04 2011 Trading Standards, Better Business Partnership
Jul 1 2011 Response to Invitation to 65th meeting of Convention from earn CC
Jul 1st 2011 Response to invitation to Convention from Burrelton CC
June 30th 2011 Response to invitation to Convention from Blair Atholl CC
June 30 2011 P&KC Room for Youth Work
June 30th 2011 Letter from P&KC re Michael Bruce Way.
June 30th 2011 P&KC Letter re Better Business Partnership Scheme
June 28 2011 Invitation to 65th meeting of Convention of P&KC CC's
June 28th 2011 P&KC Weekly List
June 27th 2011 P&KC Decision List
June 27th 2011 P&KC Portmoak CC changes on P&KC website
June 27th 2011 P&KC Heartland FM
June 23rd 2011 P&KC Update alert from Funding Scotland
June 23rd 2011 P&KC Minutes and agenda for next KCLDG meeting
June 22nd P&KC Zero Waste Planning Forum
June 21st 2011 P&KC Weekly List
Jun 20th 2011 P&KC Decision List
Jun 17th 2011 Community Councils and Green Deal workshop
June 15th 2011 P&KC Planning Weekly List
Jun 15 2011 P&KC Decision List

The meeting ended at approximately 8.30 pm.

Due to the absence of several Community Councillors there will be no Meeting in August.

The September Meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 13th September in Portmoak Primary School.