

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday, April 10th 2012 at Portmoak Hall

1. **Attendance:** Cllrs M. Parkin (Chair) R. Cairncross, T. Smith, R. Williamson, and M. Strang Steel.

Ward Cllrs: K. Baird, W. Robertson and M. Barnacle. And seven residents.

Apologies: Cllrs S. Forde and J. Bird. Ward Cllr Sandy Miller.

2. **Previous minutes:** Were approved and signed.
3. **Police Report:** Constable Sadie Allan reported the theft of equipment from the allotments at Scotlandwell.

The CC enquired about the detection of thefts of heating oil previously reported, but no result as yet. Constable Allan advised residents to report any suspicious activity near oil storage tanks, as oil was now an attractive target for thieves.

4. **Treasurers Report:** There was £191 in the general account, following some operational expenditure, and £755 in the MBW account. There was still expenditure to be accounted for in the year to 31st March 2012.

Mr George Lawrie was then invited to provide the CC with an update from TRACKS

Concerning the A911, he reported that there was 50% funding potentially available from Sustrans from their Linking of Communities Scheme, in conjunction with Safer Routes to School, and after discussions with various landowners, it emerged that the landward (east) side of the A911 from Wester Balgedie to Easter Balgedie was the favoured option for a 1.8 metre wide whinstone covered path running parallel to the A911. Meetings with various organisations and one further landowner were in progress to advance this project.

Mr Lawrie also reported that the Loch Leven Heritage Trail was scheduled for completion by October 2013.

He also reported that there might be assistance via the Lomond Hills Project to improve various walkways, including that from Portmoak Hall to Scotlandwell, but this Project is still in the early stages of investigation and evaluation.

These matters were discussed in some detail, and the Chairman thanked Mr Lawrie for the information about these projects.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings:

Mini Roundabout or Build Out at Wellside Park.

The CC was aware of the need for either a mini roundabout, or a build out and bollard at this location, and a site visit last year with Ms Jill Robinson of PKC Roads, and the CC, had centred on the latter option. Ward Cllr Willie Robertson however advised that the developer of Wellside was required to build a mini roundabout under the terms of planning obligations for the site. The CC would therefore speak to Ms Robinson at PKC Roads to clarify the position, and to prevent duplication of works.

Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

PKC had promised to undertake some remedial and maintenance work on the bus shelter after April 2012, in conjunction with Kinnesswood in Bloom. The Chairman agreed to progress this.

Dog Waste at Grahamstone

Although it had been agreed that the CC members would conduct their own survey as to the need for a dog waste bin at the top of Grahamstone, this had not been done. It was agreed that this matter should be closed.

Flash flooding at Wester Balgedie

The reasons for this were discussed at length, and a solution was suggested by a resident, which was the replacement of a broken clay pipe running from a water storage tank at the head of the village. The resident, himself a farmer, explained how the existing drain had become broken by tree roots, and that the cure was the laying of a new plastic pipe. Cllr Cairncross undertook to pursue this possibility.

Blocked Ditch on B919 at Newlands Farm

The owner of Newlands Farm was present, and he reported that Tayside Contracts had twice tried to cure this problem but without success. The owner felt that the work undertaken was inappropriate, and a different approach was needed. Cllr Baird, who had been dealing with this problem, undertook to pursue this again. The CC suggested that PKC should not pay Tayside Contracts until the work was satisfactorily completed.

Water Leak on West side of A919

The CC had reported this suspected water main leak on 13th March this year, and it had been immediately identified and inspected by Scottish Water. It was reported that the water main in question had been repaired on 10th April.

6. Reports

Roads and Paths

It was agreed that a list of Core Paths in Portmoak, but only those identified as priority paths, would be submitted to PKC for their consideration of funding for items such as signposting and maintenance.

PKC would then decide which of these paths deserved attention from their limited funds.

It was noted that PKC Access Officers had already asked for this information, and this would now be provided urgently by CClr Tom Smith.

It was also agreed that Mr Dave Stubbs, Access Officer at PKC, would be asked to clarify the responsibility for the clearance of Core paths overcome by vegetation, and thus rendered impassable. It was noted by CClr Malcolm Strang Steel that while PKC has the power to keep Core Paths free from obstruction, it is under no obligation to do so.

Planning

The Community Council had considered, and had no objection to the following applications;

12/00221/FLL Loch Leven's Larder, Wester Balgedie, Kinross; Modification of previous consent – Formation of extension.

12/00300/FLL East Brackley Steading Cottage, Kinross; Alteration and extension to dwelling-house.

12/00364/FLL Land 20 metres east of Climpy Cottage, Leslie Road, Scotlandwell; Erection of dwelling-house.

12/00521/FLL Avalon, Main Street, Kinnesswood; Alterations and erection of a balcony.

12/00404/FLL Land 200 metres south west of Loch Leven's Larder, Wester Balgedie; Change of use of agricultural land to form cricket ground, erection of pavilion, formation of access road, car parking, and associated works.

The Community Council objected to the following application;

12/00261/FLL Land at Young's Moss, Scotlandwell; Erection of a dwelling-house.

CClr Cairncross reported that the CCs response to the Draft Local Development Plan had been submitted to PKC, and a copy was available on the CC website. It had also been circulated to Ward Councillors. The Chairman thanked CClr Cairncross for the considerable

work that he had done preparing this submission and also thanked Cllrs for their valuable input.

A resident from Queens View raised the question of effective screening of the now larger development at Loch Leven's Larder, to protect his own view, and after some discussion, it was agreed that the CC would respond to his individual concern with another site visit.

7 Ward Councillors Reports

WCllr Barnacle gave the CC a copy of his own submission to the Draft Local Development Plan.

He also spoke of the PKC Tree Warden scheme, designed to protect the environment through the care of trees, following the severe loss of these during recent gales.

WCllr Robertson gave an entertaining account of his work to find the owner(s) of Well Road, Scotlandwell, in connection with the Well and Wash House restoration project. This had so far uncovered the possible owner as being a British Doctor, now resident in Saskatchewan. Cllr Cairncross, himself a Doctor, offered to assist further by contacting the Records Office of the General Medical Council.

7. AOCB

It was noted that bushes had been removed from part of the east side of the Causeway (B920) and this led to a discussion regarding the stability of the Causeway, and also to the danger of the soft verges, which had contributed to a number of accidents. After discussion, it was agreed that signage to warn of these verges would be appropriate, and Cllr Baird undertook to investigate this.

It was noted that during the heavy snow on 3rd April, a PKC snowplough had cleared Gamekeepers Road, but had not entered Bruce Road to clear Whitecraigs. The Chairman undertook to investigate the reason for this.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 8th May 2012, at Portmoak Primary School.

This meeting will also be the Annual General Meeting of Portmoak Community Council.